

# WARWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 353, WARWICK, NY ~ [WWW.WARWICKHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.WARWICKHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG) ~ 845-986-3236

NEWSLETTER, APRIL 9, 2008

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Annual Meeting and Dinner**

**Friday  
April 18, 6 pm**

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### **Arbor Day Celebration**

**Lewis Park  
Friday, April 25  
10:30 am**

**Warwick Valley  
Garden Club**

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**Annual Bake Sale  
Saturday, April 26**

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**Wine, Cheese and  
Jazz**

**Sunday, June 1  
4 to 6 pm  
Lewis Park**



### **Baird's Tavern Gift Shop Hours**

**Wednesday  
10 am to 2 pm  
Saturday  
10 am to 2 pm**

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### **Office Hours**

**T, W & Th  
9 am to 2 pm**

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### **1810 Archives Office**

**Tuesdays 9 to 12  
(by appointment)**

## **ANNUAL DINNER SET FOR APRIL 18**

This year at our annual dinner the **Elizabeth Sanford Lewis and Madison Lewis Award** will be presented to **Barbara and the late Florence Tate**. Over the past year Barbara spent many months diligently sorting through the enormous collection of local records and historical materials gathered by her sister and donating it to the Society's archive. Florence's collection includes records gathered by others, as well--William B. Sayer, Grace Bennett, Grace Pelton, and Genevieve VanDuzer, to name a few. Many do not realize that Barbara was Florence's biggest helper, visiting many sites and research facilities and gathering information for her over the years. Florence also provided for the collection's future by leaving a memorial donation that has helped cover costs for archival storage materials. Together they have preserved an astonishing and invaluable treasure for our community.

### **REMINDER:**

If you have not sent in your money for the annual dinner please do so ASAP.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATED**

The nomination committee has entered the following names to serve as new members of the board: David Sherfey, first vice president: Gail Bates, assistant treasurer; Eddie Tucker, trustee for a 5-year term. Candy Ahrenholz and Elizabeth Hurd will also serve 5-year terms. Voting will take place at the annual meeting on April 18.

## **GIFT SHOP RECEIVES FABULOUS DONATION**

Thanks to the generosity of Barbara Gustainis, the GIFT SHOP at Baird's Tavern is offering green canvas tote bags imprinted with Warwick historic buildings. Last December Barbara wanted to wrap a special present of Warwick items in a Warwick tote. She came to the gift shop, knowing they would be in stock, but no. She then offered to have the bags printed at her expense and delivered them to the Historical Society last Saturday. She receives tax credit and we received tote bags to sell for \$10 each, all profit for the Society. Thanks, Barbara!

## **THE "PERFECT" GIFT**

Are you looking for something to commemorate a birthday, honor a special event or mark the passing of a relative or friend? Search no further. Make a donation to the Warwick Historical Society. An appropriate letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the recipient of your choice. All donations are tax deductible. Each one will help to preserve Warwick's past by remembering someone or something of today.

## **PATRIOTS ARE RISING FROM THE DEAD**

In response to the Archives committee's appeal last month for volunteers to help transcribe local Revolutionary War pension files, eleven Society members have stepped up to the plate to type out the handwritten accounts of their service. Five of the 80 or so files discovered have been completed now, and are posted on the Warwick History Database for all to see-- including scans of the original documents ( a link is provided at : <http://warwickhistory.blogspot.com>). You can find out why a man living in a stone house on Kings Highway that still stands today fled suddenly with a passing officer; which of his neighbors witnessed the execution of Major Andre; who was kept busy ferreting Tories out of the mountains, and many more accounts. Each will be posted as it is finished. More hands to help are welcome-- email [sgardner@rcls.org](mailto:sgardner@rcls.org) and we'll send you a file and instructions. You can work on them in the comfort of your home.

Huzzah! to Warwick's volunteers of the Revolution, and to those of the present who are bringing their stories to light!

## **ARCHIVE CREW UNCOVERS JUICY GOSSIP, MURDEROUS HATRED, AND CHARMING TRIBUTES**

The Archive crew has been working for many months on the Tate collection. Amid the toil, occasional treasures come to light. Archive volunteer Jeff Page, a professional reporter, has begun writing occasional stories to share some of them. Recently he did a piece on the charming autograph book of Grace Bennett (did you miss it? you can still read it on the Warwick Advertiser's website). Ivy Tulin uncovered a letter to a local family from back home in Ireland, horrifying in its clear descriptions of the violent conflict between Catholic and Protestant in the early 20th century. Pat McConnell has been poring for months over hundreds of new historic photographs and organizing them for our researchers. Femi Roecker is compiling a master name list of the obituary clippings, some of which are the only existing copy from local newspapers that were destroyed before they could be microfilmed. A few of our recent discoveries are posted on the Warwick History blog ([warwickhistory.blogspot.com](http://warwickhistory.blogspot.com)). The Archive, located in the 1810 House, is open to researchers by appointment, and our office hours are Tuesday mornings from 9 to 12.

## **HISTORY CAMP IN HISTORIC WARWICK**

A summer camp for kids, ages 9-11, will be held on July 23-25 at Baird's Tavern, culminating with George Washington Day on July 26 at Lewis Park. For those who enroll for three half-day morning sessions, their days will be enriched by hands-on activities, visiting local historical sites, and learning from historians to gain a better understanding of Warwick's rich local history. This program is sponsored by the Warwick Historical Society and made possible through grants from the Orange County Historians' Office and Provident Bank Charitable Foundation. For more information call Pat Reinhardt, retired WVCSD teacher and coordinator of the event, at 987-8508. Registration begins May 1.

## **BULK MAILING**

Did you notice? Jo Hull went to Monsey, NY established us as a bulk rate - nonprofit user, thus saving the Society huge amounts in postage. Thanks, Jo!



Members of the History Club who volunteered as servers at last year's annual meeting. From left to right: Tom Naples, Dan Tobin, Elizabeth Skinner, Melissa Bellantone and Steven DeBuck

Photo by Elizabeth Hurd

## Annual Meeting & Membership Dinner

Friday, April 18, 2008

Warwick Valley  
Country Club Oakland  
Avenue

Annual Meeting ~ 6:00  
p.m.

Cocktails at 7:00

Dinner at 8:00

Dinner tickets ~ \$45.00 per person

Cash bar

Please remit your payment with entree selection by April 11.

### The Historical Society of the Town of Warwick

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845-986-3236

[www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org)

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## PASTRY CHEFS GETTING BUSY

Volunteer chefs are urged to show off with their favorite baked goods – cookies, breads, cakes, pies, muffins, and other sweets as well as savorys – at the Society’s annual bake sale on Saturday, April 26, the first day of Springfest.

Our stand will be set up in front of the former Raynor’s grocery store on Main Street. Contributions can be dropped off after 8 am the morning of the sale or left on Friday at Peck’s Wine and Spirits. Anyone wishing to contribute is asked to call Dolores Simon (986-4442) or leave a message at Baird’s Tavern (986-3236) to make arrangements.



## SPINDLES AND THREADS ~ WINDSOR CHAIRS & ANTIQUE QUILTS

Have you visited your Society buildings and counted the Windsor chairs and quilts in the collection? What amazing treasures! This June, Bill Bartsch, Judy Harney and Michael Bertolini will be assembling the collection and will open the 2008 summer tour season with a show on June 27. Aided by a \$1000.00 grant from the Orange County Tourism, and commitment from Gary Randall, Peter Galbert, and the Warwick Valley Quilters’ Guild, the Society is hosting demonstrations and a gallery show. This is a truly a view into Warwick’s local history.

Of special interest is Major General John Hathorn’s hoopback Windsor chair, circa 1720, which was donated to the Society by the estate of Wilfred Raynor. This chair is being delicately restored by John Lawrence Period Restorations and will be featured at the gallery opening.

Educating the community is the thrust of the Board of Trustees’ commitment to the Warwick Historical Society. To achieve this, Peter Galbert, chairmaker ([www.petergalbertchairmaker.com](http://www.petergalbertchairmaker.com)), was invited and will hold a workshop on the construction of Windsor chairs at the Hasbrouck carriage house from 2 to 4 pm on the 27th. The Warwick Valley Quilters’ Guild has also been invited and agreed to demonstrate quilting techniques the evening of the gallery opening.

Footnote: Because of Raey Webster, who worked on the cataloging of the collection, we can now access the artifacts and have information at the click of a button. Thank you, Raey.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE LAUNCHES RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Membership renewal forms have gone out with a new enclosure this year: an extra envelope for a friend.

This recruitment effort was conceived at a series of weekly meetings by the newly formed Membership committee, consisting of Michael Newhard (chair), Candy Ahrenholz, Sandy Glazman, Cathie Heimbach, Debbie Iurato, Debbie Kennedy, Pat McConnell, Diane Mall Sammarco and John Sandfort. The Wine and Cheese committee has joined forces with Membership to offer the following incentives for your help:

- If your name is on the “FRIEND OF \_\_\_\_\_” envelope, and it comes back into the office with a new membership – you get a free pass to the Wine and Cheese party, June 1, 2008.
- If you bring someone to the Wine and Cheese party and they join the Society that afternoon, you get another pass.
- New members of the Society, starting January 2008, get passes, based on the membership level, to the Wine and Cheese party.

Membership invoices have gone out. Those who have not received theirs should give the office a call at 986-3236 and inform Jo Hull. Everyone is to ask friends, neighbors, and coworkers to join in the efforts of preserving our town by passing on one of the envelopes.

The committee has also adopted a new slogan: “Join our community – share our commitment.”