

CHEQUAQUET LOG

The Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM** www.centervillehistoricalmuseum.org

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER LUNCH AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Centerville Historical Museum's Volunteer Lunch and Annual Meeting of the Membership was held in the museum's Ayling Room on Tuesday, May 23rd. Thirty members and volunteers attended. A delicious lunch was served, consisting of soup, salad, a variety of sandwiches and several delicious desserts, including four kinds of pie. All was courtesy of Chip's House, a Centerville village based home that provides care for adults with permanent brain injuries.

Each year, the museum strives to honor its longtime and newer volunteers by recognizing and appreciating the many types of work, whether greeting visitors, helping with displays, thinking of ideas and working together to aid in the many events open to the public.



This year's meeting was attended by one of its youngest volunteers, who is nineteen and one who is the young age of one hundred and one. Altogether it was a spirited group who gathered together at this time to again meet and greet each other. With new

volunteers each year and with volunteer hours scheduled at different times, this is an occasion to meet everyone.

The museum has hosted a luncheon for its volunteers for decades. In recent years, Roy Richardson of Chip's House, suggested that Chip's provide the lunch. That tradition has continued for over a decade and the current Chip's director, Fred Chirigotis, has generously continued to provide the lunch for the museum. Thank you, Fred, from the museum and our many volunteers.

Following the lunch is the museum's annual meeting

of the membership. All members are welcome to come and listen in on the health and well-being of the museum they support with their membership. Board officers and directors are updated and voted upon by the membership. Next was the financial report for the previous fiscal year. Then general information on the activities and hopes for the future, are presented to the members. This is followed by a period of questions and answers. Lastly the meeting is ended for another year.



NEW EXHIBIT

JAPAN AND THE INFLUENCE OF UKIYO-E WOODBLOCK ART

Opening in June the museum is pleased to be exhibiting thirty-three wonderfully colorful and unique 19th century Japanese woodblock prints known as Ukiyo-e art. On display are some of Japan's most important 19th century Ukiyo-e artists such as Hiroshige, Kunisada, Toyokuni, and Kunichika, to name a few.

Until the 1860's, Japan was a closed country and dying within itself. Led by weak emperors and the Shogunate, the warrior class, there was no trade with other nations, feudalism remained, and citizens were assigned to one of four classes: warrior, farmer, artisan or business.



In 1867, three hundred warlords, the Daimyo, overthrew the emperor and brought the Meiji (Enlightened Rule) and a new emperor to power. New laws allowed the country to open its borders, travel abroad, to modernize. In just forty years, Japan was transformed from an insular society to a global one.

One Japanese art form, ukiyo-e, or "Pictures of the Floating World," had an influential role in the change of Japan's status. Ukiyo-e is a unique style of woodblock art and painting. Artists chose to idolize the Samurai and to capture the life of commoners, romantic landscapes, courtesans, Kabuki and Noh actors and folk tales. Sold cheaply to the public, their popularity is comparable to American Currier and Ives prints. Today perhaps the most famous ukiyo-e artwork is by Hokusai (whose print The Great Wave is considered one of the ten best art creations in the world).

Woodblock prints were difficult to make. It took four artists to produce the finished work: the publisher, the artist designer, the carver, and the printer. After the artist drew his design on transparent paper, the paper was pasted to a block of cherrywood. An engraver chiseled a negative design into the wood. Ukiyo-e prints could have one to twenty colors, so a separate woodblock was made with a raised area for each color. Thousands of prints were made until the woodblocks themselves were too worn to use again.

By the 1860's, Japan had opened itself to world trade. Ukiyo-e prints, named Japonism, were displayed in Paris. It influenced such artists as Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, and Toulouse-Lautrec. By 1912, as Ukiyo-e styles of painting changed towards more western influences, this popular art form died away.



E V E N T A T T H E M U S E U M

August 2023 - Save the Date

Annual Vintage Car Show, Saturday, August 12, 8AM - 2PM, free
Arts, Crafts and Collectibles Sale, Saturday, August 12, 9AM - 2PM, free

3rd Annual Vintage Car Show

The 3rd Annual Antique and Vintage car show will feature those wonderful treasures from the past. Cars will be on display in the front and the rear of the Recreation building and outside the museum.



Arts, Crafts and Collectibles SALE!

The museum is hosting a gathering of local vendors to set up and sell their art, crafts and vintage collectibles for visitors. They will be outside and inside the museum. Come see what treasures they have to offer.



THOUGHTS FROM OUR WRITER

SOME STATEMENTS TO WONDER AND PERHAPS GIGGLE ABOUT

We've all seen these types of quips - here are a few of my favorites.

Why does the sun lighten hair but darken skin?

Why doesn't a psychic ever win lotteries?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why is the person who invests people's money called a 'broker'?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called 'rush hour'?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why are needles sterilized for lethal injections?

As to that indestructible black box in an airplane. Why isn't the whole plane made of that stuff?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is safe, why are airport buildings called terminals?

Employment applications ask who is to be called in an emergency. Instead of a person, how about 911 or an ambulance?

The older one gets the tougher it is to lose weight. Maybe it is because one's body and fat have become really good friends.

The easiest way to find something around the house is to buy a replacement.

The sole reason a child has a middle name is so he knows when he is really in trouble.

Notice that the two words 'the' and 'IRS' together spell the word 'theirs'.

Eventually we all stop lying about our age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their 'odometers'. Not me. I want others to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and a lot of roads were not paved.

We know when we are getting old when everything dries up, sags or leaks. Being young may be beautiful but being old is comfortable.

It is always best when one has: Love to share.

Cash to spare.

Tires with air.

Friends who care.



From the desk of newsletter writer Lois Lane
Volunteer

V O L U N T E E R P R O F I L E

TRACY TEBBETT-HER INTERESTS LED HER TO THE CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

She is slender, with expressive eyes and pronounced cheekbones. She is humorous and has many stories to relate. Being an antique clothing restorer at the museum has happened in, you could say, a roundabout way, the “round” in roundabout linked to a bicycle.

Having answered the museum’s need for clothing restorers in a newspaper notice, Tracy has spent Tuesday afternoons repairing items ranging from baby bonnets to lacy dresses. She enjoys the work and the company of the other clothing restorers as they hand sew in an upstairs room at the museum.

Originally from the Albany, New York area, Tracy has since lived in New England. She, who shared her mother’s interest and appreciation of art, went to college to study art and become an art therapist. Somewhere along the way, her plans changed.

“I have had a varied career,” she says. That is a true statement. Through the years she has been a copy editor, who proof-read copy for regulations and rules in the Massachusetts statehouse, which she enjoyed. She also has been a salesperson in Filene’s department store and a makeup artist for customers choosing their personal makeup look. These occupations taught her how to read people, their varied personalities, quirks and characters and helped her in her jobs.



Tracy was also employed as a receptionist for a corporate real estate firm and for a software firm that was eventually scooped up by the software giant IBM.

One of her pleasures has been bicycling. Not just around the block rides, no sir! Tracy’s bike rides were often long distance, including a New Hampshire to Maine ride or a trek from Boston to Cape Cod. Another was a bike trip from Boston to Osterville to meet a friend. She has also ridden in the PanMass Challenge and other organized lengthy bike events. However, on one jaunt, she was hit by a truck and was badly hurt. It took Tracy a year to recover from injuries that included a coma. While recovering, she was introduced to a fellow, whom she says was a good talker and very interesting. He was a video producer and he asked her to help with makeup for those in his video productions. She and Andy have been together for 20 years.

“Andy loved Cape Cod,” she says. Although Tracy had seen the ocean as a young girl, it was drives to Cape Cod that led the couple to decide to move here. From Boston, they moved to Southport and Tracy says it was the right move for them. She swims in the complex’s pool and is on several Southport committees. On Tuesdays she is at the museum. One unusual sewing task of hers has been to restore a woman’s black dress with a hem that had been glued together.

Tracy is an appreciated volunteer who uses her sewing skills at the Centerville Historical Museum. She is happy to be able to bring back the past so that its unique clothing, whether a baby’s, child’s or adult’s, can be saved and shown as part of the museum’s fine clothing collection. Hats and bike clips off to Tracy Tebbett!



Brocade black silk dress with Mandarin collar and fabric star shape buttons, 1960

I N T E R E S T I N G H I S T O R Y

WHO WAS MARY SEARS? A BRILLIANT WOMAN WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

World War II was raging and the Pacific Islands were the next hurdle to overcome before victory by the Allies. In November 1943, marines in landing craft, fully expecting success, were thwarted by an unknown neap tide, an abnormally low tide. Investigators found that attack planners relied on outdated nautical charts. They also found that knowledge of the ocean was glaringly absent.

Mary Sears was born in Wayland, Massachusetts. Her career is virtually unknown, but her expertise, learning and ability to work well with others, led to her being named the Navy's first official oceanographer, an appointment which overcame the prejudice of hiring women at the time.

Luckily, as her love of the ocean led her to study marine biology, her mentor at Harvard, Henry Bryant Bigelow, saw her genius and worked with her to achieve her doctorate in 1933. Bigelow was also instrumental in founding the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) and hired Mary Sears to travel around the globe to collect data and meet other eminent career guides. Ancient beliefs by sailors and officers from the past and present almost dashed Mary's job. Tradition said women were unlucky creatures on board ship and most were banned from them outright. Mary had to settle for male colleagues to bring her information from their trips at sea.

Mary studied barnacles and vegetation that attached to ships, causing drag and less efficiency; her discoveries on ship fouling cures saved millions of dollars. In 1943, while at WHOI, she accepted a position with the Women's Naval Reserves (WAVES). While studying naval charts, she discovered the charts themselves were hopelessly out of date, their local tides, currents, beach conditions and overall lack of knowledge pitiful, especially where the Allied war vessels were headed. In addition, Mary's report on her recalculation of drifting airplane wreckage helped rescue hundreds of pilots lost at sea and changed much of the old ideas of the sea and those who sailed it.



By July 1943, Mary and her team submitted data that helped point out military targets in the Pacific. Unfortunately, no oceanographer was used in planning the November Tarawa assault.

A new invention, the bathythermograph, provided information on ocean depths, crucial in finding enemy submarines most perceptible to sonar. WHOI was involved in this work from the beginning and the work done was also extremely successful in overcoming newer submarine evasion tactics.

Mary Sear's reputation grew as the combined war effort used her updated information. All Pacific action after Tarawa incorporated her findings. After the war, she was named the first officer-in-charge of the now permanent Oceanographic division. She retired from the Navy in 1946, still disbarred from American research vessels. Her work never ceased as she took on new responsibilities back in Woods Hole, managing to organize the research community into a more cohesive, recognized field. She passed away in 1997 at the age of 92. Admiral Nimitz, former Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet in WWII, was known to have praised Mary, saying that someday the whole world would know of her contributions. In tribute to Mary Sears, a singular, brilliant, friendly woman who helped so assiduously to reveal the secrets of the sea, in 2000, an oceanographic survey ship, the USNS Mary Sears, was christened in her honor.

S U P P O R T E R S

Centerville Historical Museum BUSINESS MEMBERS

**We wish to acknowledge our current business members and business sponsors
and ask you, our members, to support these businesses that support us.**

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