

# CHEQUAQUET LOG

Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE**  
**HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

CHM is named #1 Hidden Gem Museum in Massachusetts.

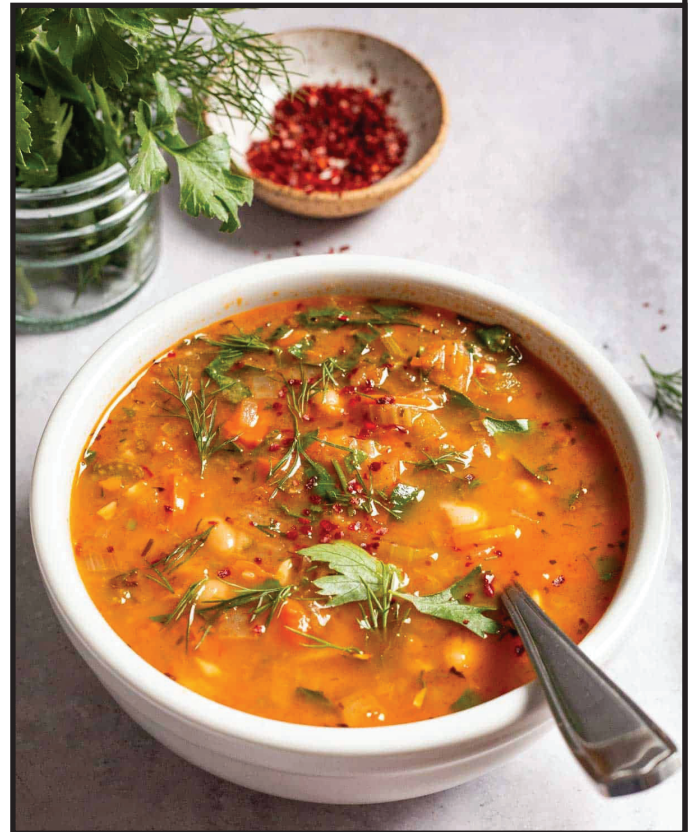
## Eat, Chat & Learn

If you have not already come to visit the museum for our monthly lunch and talk, you have missed some interesting people. It is not too late to come and check us out.

Eat, Chat & Learn was a concept developed last year by volunteer and board member Jane Hattermer-Stringer. If her name sounds familiar, she is the writer and producer of our annual Murder Mystery event.

Jane wanted to create an informal setting where people could pop-in on any given 2nd Wednesday of the month, sit with friends, have a bowl of delicious soup and listen to someone talk about their career experience.

A seat at the table for \$5 is nominal. I challenge you to find a better deal anywhere. You are given a bowl of vegetable soup provided by the owner-operator of Cape Cod Lobster Roll, chef Missy Clements. After you eat and chat with friends and new acquaintances, the learning part of the afternoon begins.



The luncheon usually runs about 90 minutes, depending on the questions the audience asks. It starts promptly at 12 noon; and as there is seating for 18 people, it is on a first come, first served basis.

This year's lunches featured recently retired photojournalist Steve Heaslip; then came the musical script / score writer and singer Celeste Howe. This month is Janet Milkman, the executive director of the Barnstable Land Trust. She champions the protection of open spaces vital to our community and the health of our natural environment.

For July and August and beyond, you are going to have to come here, have a bowl of soup and be surprised by the entertaining people Jane has lined up for the monthly Eat, Chat, and Learn.

See you at the table!

# COMING EVENTS

## Sailor's Valentine Workshop for Kids - July 10



Children will learn the history of Sailor's Valentines and actually make one out of construction paper and shells to take home with them. Contact the museum for more details.

## Centerville's Vintage Car Talk - July 31



Car restorer and collector Dave Farnham will be hosting a talk about finding, collecting and restoring vintage classic cars. He will be joined by fellow car collector, Scott Peacock. If you are a car enthusiast, this is the event for you. This talk covers the nuts and bolts of finding, evaluating and economizing when it comes to all things regarding vintage cars. Friday, July 31, at 4 pm, admission \$10 per person.

## 7th Annual Vintage Car Show - August 8

Centerville Museum is hosting its 7th annual vintage car show, featuring up to forty antique and vintage classic cars for the public to view. Saturday, August 8, 8 am to 2 pm, Free



## Celebrating America 250



In the spirit of our nation's semiquincentennial anniversary, we thought we would look through the collection for items heralding from that time. Surprisingly, there are several and as always, a bit eclectic.

We start with a wonderful damask 2-piece wedding dress, Redingote style with full length skirt. It was worn by Anne Mears at her wedding to William Blaney, c. 1760. It was then altered a bit for the 1783 wedding of their daughter to Thomas Boyle. Thomas was the secretary to Massachusetts Governor John Hancock. Hancock's finest moment may have come in 1788 when he offered support for the ratification of the United States Constitution by Massachusetts. The silk damask was shipped from France on the Blaney family ships. French fabric was woven 23 inches-wide by decree. This standard 23 inch width was dictated by the physical limitations of historic, pre-industrial handlooms, which were restricted by the arm-span of a seated weaver who had to throw a wooden shuttle across the loom.

This wonderful wedding gown was given by George (Colonel) and Edith Blaney.

Next, we examine a 1770's Calash Bonnet. The calash is an expandable or collapsible bonnet, green silk shirred on hoops with flounce at base, designed with a concertina-like frame made of cane, reed, or whalebone channels. It could be raised or folded down without ruining the wearer's hair. Its utility was both to expand for the hair style size as well as protect from wind and rain.

A calash was fashionable in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It originated around the 1760s, allegedly popularized by the Duchess of Devonshire to protect towering hairstyles and elaborate updos. The design comes from the folding convertible roofs on horse-drawn "calash" carriages, where the hood extends over the head and face. It was usually made of silk and adjusted using a cord or ribbon held in the wearer's hand.

It was given to the museum by Dorothy Waterhouse, one of the founders of the museum.



# C O M I N G E X H I B I T

## Back to the 50's A decade of innocent!



We are planning a new exhibit scheduled to open in September and will focus on that time when American society was more innocent, hopeful and naive. It was the start of the baby boom, the development of suburban neighborhoods, fast foods, modern appliances, engineering innovation and a whole new form of entertainment and recreation.

Our exhibit will be concentrating on topics like domestic life, consumerism/commercialism, fashion and matrimony. The department store was without a doubt in its zenith during the 1950s. The 1950s are widely considered the “golden age” and the peak zenith of the traditional department store. It was an era defined by massive urban flagship stores, bustling downtown shopping trips and the initial expansion of branches into emerging suburbs. In the 1950s, shopping was a formal, social affair. Shoppers dressed in their finest attire often skirts, dresses and hats for women, and suits or tailored jackets for men even for casual grocery runs. Storefronts were defined by large, ornate glass displays, striped awnings and prominent signage that defined the bustling Main Street. Home life in the 1950s centered on the post-World War II core family, which was generally described as a one-income household with distinct division of occupation: an income earning father and homemaking mother. Stimulated by economic prosperity, daily life was characterized by suburban expansion, the rise of modern household appliances and strong community ties.



Matrimonial life in the 1950s was defined by customary gender roles, strong societal pressure to conform to the core family ideal and a framework that placed the husband as the head of the household. Marriage was viewed as a life milestone, with divorce containing negative stigmas.

# F R E E & F O R M E M B E R S O N L Y

## Members' Gathering

Wednesday, June 17th, 2026 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Light finger food and wine. Come socialize, visit with fellow members, view our 2026 exhibits and explore the museum you support. Exhibit curators will be on hand to share their expertise. Join at the door. Membership forms will be available. RSVP appreciated but not necessary.

## Not a member? Membership expired?

The Centerville Historical Museum is a special place. Consider becoming a member. If you have visited our museum, read our newsletters, viewed our website or seen our posts on Instagram, Pinterest or videos on YouTube, you will agree that we have many interesting things to offer.

JOIN NOW - REAP THE BENEFITS!

Centerville Historical Museum \* 513 Main Street \* Centerville, MA 02632  
508-775-0331 \* [chsm@centervillehistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:chsm@centervillehistoricalmuseum.org)

## Your friend, relative or neighbor not a member?

Consider giving a gift membership

Fill in the form below with the information of the person(s) receiving the gift membership. Let us know it is a gift membership. We will send them the gift announcement as coming from you.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & BENEFITS

**INDIVIDUAL** (\$35) annually. Free admission, museum store discounts, newsletters, free or discounted admission to events, discounts on workshops, lending privileges of library books.

**DUAL/FAMILY** (\$45) annually. All the benefits of an Individual membership extended to 2 adults and children under 18 yrs living in the same household.

**PATRON** (\$80) annually. All the benefits of Dual/Family plus free museum admission for up to 6 guests, (\$42 value).

**BENEFACITOR** (\$125) annually. All the benefits of Dual/Family plus free museum admission for up to 10 guests, (\$70 value).

**BUSINESS GOLD** (\$150) annually. Business acknowledged in newsletters, website and web links, plus free museum admission and member rates to any museum events for up to 12 guests, (\$84 value).

**BUSINESS PLATINUM** (\$200) annually. Business acknowledged in newsletters, website and web links, plus free museum admission and member rates to any museum events for up to 15 guests, (\$105 value).

**SPONSOR** (\$200) annually. Recognition in newsletters, printed exhibits material, website and web links. Free admission to museum and member rates to any museum event for up to 15 guests, (\$105 value).

**SUSTAINING** (\$240) annually or min \$20.00 monthly. All the benefits of Dual/Family, and free museum admission and member rates to any museum events for up to 20 guests, (\$140 value).

### Please Print

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (newsletter and events announcements) \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

INDIVIDUAL (\$35.00) \_\_\_\_\_ DUAL/FAMILY (\$45.00) \_\_\_\_\_ PATRON (\$80.00) \_\_\_\_\_ BENEFAC-  
TOR (\$125.00) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS GOLD (\$150.00) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PLATINUM (\$200.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Centerville Historical Museum

# 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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BK Real Estate Inc., Centerville

Cape Cod 5 Saving Bank, Centerville

Cape Cod Package Store, Centerville

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Carol Travers Lummus Prints, Barnstable

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Centerville Civic Association, Centerville

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La Tanzi, Spaulding, & Landreth, Orleans

Margaret and Carl Hill, Centerville

Scott Peacock Building, Inc, Osterville

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