



The Preservationist

WINTER 2013

2013 – A LOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO

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The Preservationist

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2013 is looking great with many plans and activities to keep us all busy and involved with New London: its present and its future.



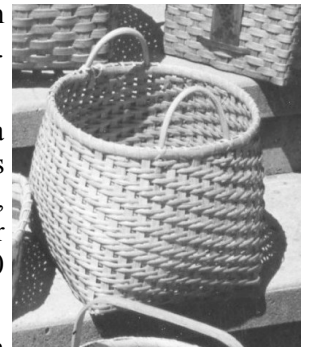
Corner of Bank & State could look like this!

We'll begin with ***Visions & Plans: New London 2013 & Beyond*** on January 16. This is an opportunity to think beyond the present to imagine the city as the 21st century gathers steam and opens new vistas for urban life. Envision a walkable city with attractive sidewalks; cafes; safe bicycle paths and residences in the upper floors of historic downtown buildings. Celebrate the contributions of the young artists and musicians who are enlivening our streetscapes and entertaining our evenings. Hear from architects, designers, planners and dreamers who visualize a great future for New London.

Join Landmarks on January 16 at the Fort Trumbull

Conference Center for a day of informative presentations currently in development, with a light lunch catered by Thames River Greenery. Reservations \$30.

Basket Weaving... basket weaving? Yes. Give this historic art form a try on Sunday, February 3, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Nancy Potter provides all materials and instruction in a fun afternoon in the Landmarks office, exploring and experiencing this ancient art. You will complete your own 12" tall basket, enjoy light refreshments and good company. \$60 includes materials. Call for reservations, space is limited to 10 people.



Get Plastered! A truly unique event to celebrate Valentines Day on Saturday, February 16! ***The Fine Art of Plaster*** is a fascinating story that begins in the very



shadows of history. Plaster in some form has been used in architecture since primitive man plastered mud over a framework, enclosing a space to keep out the elements. Ancient Egyptians used plaster surfaces in their palaces and pyramids, the brilliant colors on these 5000-year-old-walls survive today.

Centuries later in the 1800s decorative plaster elements embellished homes, churches and grand government buildings.

On the 16th you will hear from experts about the art, history, and preservation of plaster. Jenny Parker, Architectural Historian, provides the history; Amy Hollis, a Conservator

with Architectural Preservation Services, LLC, will review case studies on the preservation of elaborate decorative plaster, and both will demonstrate various plastering techniques.

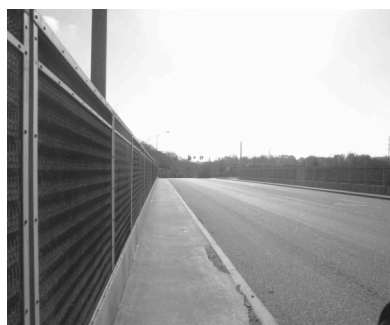
Come casual, come for fun; we're planning beer tasting, thought by some to be the world's oldest fermented beverage, and pretzels, which, according to Wikipedia, were invented in 610 AD by an Italian monk as a reward to children who learn their prayers. We'll meet in the ballroom of Harbour Towers from 5:30—8:00 for an interesting and unusual evening.

Cost: \$25. single tickets—2 for \$45—Members: \$20. 2 for \$35.

All Reservations: call Landmarks—860-442-0003 or [www:newlondonlandmarks.org](http://www.newlondonlandmarks.org).

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING — TO AND FROM HODGES SQUARE

A series of workshops are revealing eye-opening ideas and evaluations as friends and neighbors explore new visions for transforming the area. This focus is to make “getting there” more interesting and accessible as well as creating destinations that will bring more activity to the square.

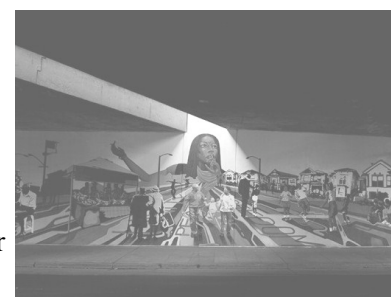


These are concepts, not final plans, but they provide a new way of looking at a place and imagining a transformation. Some ideas are simple and can be implemented easily, others will take time. Once we have ideas and designs in place and community support to advocate for these improvements—change can happen!

Which bridge would you rather walk over? . . . Or under?

The bridge at left is the Williams Street bridge over Route 32. Traffic lanes are wide, allowing plenty of space to reconfigure a buffer zone between traffic and pedestrians. At right, with added lighting and wider walks, views of the Coast Guard Academy or the Lyman Allyn Art Museum could make it a pleasant walk or bike ride to and from New London, Hodges Square and Connecticut College.

Art and lights could transform the dark and gloomy space under the bridges, enticing pedestrians to enjoy walking from the square or campuses to town.



While the twin bridges split the neighborhood off from the city many years ago, with thoughtful and creative planning it is possible to use these bridges as a new link, returning this neighborhood to the city.

Join friends and neighbors at the next two workshops:

Wednesday, January 9, 2013 with a focus on Hodges Square. 7:00—9:00 at the Polish American Veterans Club, 51 Central Avenue. Discussion, led by Art Costa, will include new business ideas and further discussion on how a “governance board” can be established to assure this project will continue. A presentation on landscaping with Brian Kent, Landscape Architect with Kent+Frost in Mystic continues ideas for making the whole area more attractive.

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 with a focus on Riverside Park. 6:30—9:00 at the Winthrop Magnet School, 90 Grove Street. Peter Miniutti, Director of Community Research and Design Collaborative, and project leader Madeline Schad, from the University of Connecticut, will lead this discussion bringing together the ideas discussed in previous meetings. We are beginning the final process of evaluating and selecting the most important, interesting, and popular ideas for the park. Brian Kent will broaden the discussion with a wider range of landscaping designs. Art Costa’s plans for Hodges Square will give everybody an opportunity to see how all the workshop planning is coming together to create a complete vision of this neighborhood revival.

RIVERSIDE PARK - TODAY AND TOMORROW



I'm not sure there was ever a dinosaur in Riverside Park until Derron Wood answered a little boy's "Wish" for a dinosaur during an Art Jam last summer. We are continuing to work on fulfilling the wishes of folks who are attending the workshops at Winthrop School this winter. Enthusiasm for designing "natural" play areas in the park dominate the thinking today.

- ◇ We're working on finding new ways to use the rock ledges for climbing, for creating slides and environmentally friendly drainage
- ◇ Where is the best place for picnic areas and playgrounds?
- ◇ Is the basketball court in the right place?
- ◇ Can we eliminate some of the auto traffic to provide safer play areas for children?
- ◇ Let's fix the stairs between Winthrop School and the park!
- ◇ How about a year-round picnic shelter? A "real" ice rink? Sledding down the hills?
- ◇ How can we get to the water?
- ◇ This is a great spot for small boats—kayaks, canoes, sailboats—the Thames is quieter and safer up above the bridges for small boats!
- ◇ We want an area for music and performances spaces.
- ◇ Signage so people can find the park!!!
- ◇ Do something interesting at the entrance on Adelaide Street to entice people into the park!

One thing is for sure . . . Friendships are made in the park and memories of childhood hours spent in Riverside Park are alive today in those who joined the Art Jams and are attending the Workshops.

Join us in workshops this spring and be part of the dream . . . Wishes can come true!



2012 ANNUAL APPEAL, DONATIONS AS OF 12-21-12

In another year of tight budgets and uncertainty for many in our community, Landmarks greatly appreciates the generous contributions we are receiving from friends and members. While we receive grant funding for various projects, including grants from the CT Department of Economic & Community Development, Basic Operational Support Grant and Office of the Arts, Creative Placemaking; and the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, most of this funding goes directly to the programs the grant is intended to support.

Your contributions allow us to match other grant funds; sustain member services, this newsletter, plan walking tours and other events. Our support advocacy for preservation and appreciation of New London's historic and cultural resources is often time-consuming. We maintain the Bishop House, (we just installed two new, large, glass windows on the front façade, replacing the Plexiglas that was installed when the building was first renovated). and represent preservation issues to New London City Council.

\$99—\$499

Mark Christenson
Jo Ann Church,
In Memory of
Rosemary Church Wagner
Kristin & Shane Clarke
J. D. & Kathy Diaz-Saavedra
Richard & Heather Grigsby
M. J. Sullivan Automotive Corner
Suzanne Maryeski
William Morse
Susan Munger
Martin Olson & Vivian Stanley
Jerry Olson

Robert & Ronna Stuller
Abigail Van Slyck & Mitch Favreau

\$100 and under

Frances Baratz
Armand & Elizabeth Beaudette
Marin Bodde
Sandra Chalk
In Memory of Rodney Chalk
Bill Cornish
Margaret Cotnoir
Barbara Dixon
Kevin Doyle
Lynda & Tom English

Edward M. Hammond

Anna & George King
Tek-Wah King
Peter Kreckovic
Carolyn Leuze
James & Louise Lubs
Morgan & Lisa McGinley
James C. & Ellen McGuire
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Moalli
Edward Murphy & Doris Edmond
Marian Shilstone
Sherry Turner,
In Memory of Phil Turner
Barbara Zabel & Thomas Couser

ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 7, 2013

New London Landmarks' 37th Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, March 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the new Washington Street Coffee House. This is a great time to visit our new neighbor and welcome Chris Sherman and his wife, Misha Lebell to the community. The space looks minimal—yet interesting, decorated with original art and many large historic photos of New London that Landmarks is delighted to have on display in this historic space. Originally it was a showroom for the display of Buick and Locomobile automobiles. The building was designed by Dudley St. Clare Donnelly, (1870 – 1937), who is noted for other New London buildings including the Manwaring Building (1914), 225 State Street, the Dewart Building, (1914) 310 State Street and New London Savings Bank (1905), now Citizen's Bank, at 63 Eugene O'Neill Drive.

We will present our annual awards for Restoration, the Clifford Stone Award, the Volunteer Award and add a name to the Most Endangered list. Board Member Brian Kent, who is deeply involved with our Creative Placemaking project, will give us a fascinating presentation on what Creative Placemaking is all about and what we are doing in the Riverside Park Neighborhood.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet with friends and neighbors and learn about all our activities for the year. We look forward to enjoying another successful year of preservation and expectations for the future.

THE FUSS ABOUT FACEBOOK

PATRICIA DADDONA

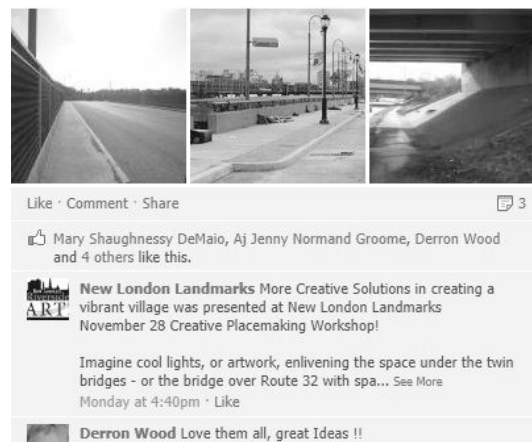
Or Why Social Media Matters to New London Landmarks

New London Landmarks is developing its presence on that ubiquitous social network, Facebook, aiming its business fan page at a growing audience that includes you.

Now, maybe you don't access the web much. Or you are web savvy, but feel you just don't have time for one more connection. Here's why you should connect with us here: Social media is here to stay because so many people do link to it and use it to stay in closer touch than might otherwise be possible. Relationships and business connections made here can and do convert to actual connections every day.

Social networks make it possible for people and groups who know each other to have nearly instantaneous interaction. Acquaintances can introduce one another on LinkedIn, a database for working professionals, or choose to follow a new friend on Twitter. On a Facebook business page, the endorsement of new content with a "like" heightens Landmarks' exposure to others.

Landmarks' page recently showed 167 "likes" by fans and news about a Hodges Square workshop.



People can and do track goings-on here, comment, or refer friends to the site. They *engage*.

In its infancy, Landmarks' Facebook fan page has the capacity to offer continuously updated content in real time, alerting fans to upcoming events and allowing exchanges of information. Use of social networks in the business world to attract followers to a brand is growing. Benefits are increased awareness and, potentially, support, for small nonprofits like us. Since today's young people spend more time online, a company or non-profit that doesn't make its presence felt in that world is missing out on opportunities to connect with a whole new audience.

The Hempsted Houses is a Landmarks peer that networks successfully on Facebook. "Allowing exchanges of information, with Facebook, is a different world," says Sally Ryan, Hempsted House's site administrator. "People can reply and make us aware of their questions. I think this is what young people want. It's a wonderful thing."

"If your Facebook page doesn't build relationships, you're not making good use of the medium," adds Barb Nagy, who volunteers with Hempsted Houses to promote activities on Facebook. "For example, we had a good turnout (one recent) Saturday for a hearth-cooking demonstration (Thanksgiving with the Hempsteds). Several people mentioned that they heard about it on Facebook. That is really ideal – converting online engagement into 'real world' engagement."

So, save www.facebook.com/newlondonlandmarks in your favorite tabs. Like us. Write us a note. Set up your smartphone for automatic Facebook alerts. Watch for Creative Placemaking and other projects. We'd like to be on your radar in as many places as we can!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SANDRA KERSTEN CHALK

Do you have room for a Guest House or In-Law home?**94 OCEAN AVENUE Needs a New Home!**

For several months we have been concerned about the future of a small house on Ocean Avenue that is slated for demolition. Richard Humphreville, chair of the Historic District Commission, is horrified that the city would allow this 1838 Greek Revival home to vanish from the city.



But the terrible problem is that we can't stop a property owner from doing what they decide to do for their own self interest.

In this case, the owner of Ocean Pizza purchased the house with plans to demolish it and create access to a parking lot behind the restaurant. All the Historic District Commission was able to do was delay the demolition for 90 days while we tried to find an alternative for the house. It was offered for sale for \$1 to anyone who could move it to another location. The Day was generous with its stories about the house, but no one came forward with the ability and location to move it.

Richard Humphreville and volunteers are now hoping to take the house apart piece-by-piece, numbering each part for eventual reconstruction. However, even that effort is hampered by liability concerns for the volunteers who would do the work.

As ever, money is a major problem with a project such as this: it doesn't pay for itself, it is a labour of love and there is concern for the historic value of the property. This house was constructed by Isaac Thompson on what was then countryside along Town Hill Road. An active entrepreneur in the city, he helped form the Savings Bank of New London, the Union Insurance Co., the New London Female Academy and one of the early ferry companies.

Landmarks will be a pass-through for donations to the project. Or call Richard to discuss your ideas for the home. His number is 860-442-5003.

We are also seeking a New London location. It could make an ideal guest cottage, rental or in-law home for someone who has a large enough property to permit construction of a 400-square-foot, 1 1/2 story house.

Dream about alternatives:

- ◇ Could it be a welcome center for the village development in Fort Trumbull?
- ◇ A meeting house for club activities?
- ◇ A one-room "after-school" house?
- ◇ Might Habitat for Humanities need a small home?

As New London continues to lose historic buildings, one by one or in a massive demolition, we regret each loss. These homes and their history can never be replaced and each one reflects the long history of our city and the people who have created what we have today.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, NEW LONDON

Is it possible that this beautiful building, designed by local architects Payne and Keefe, will be sold by the U.S. Government and the Post Office moved? We don't know, but will keep monitoring the situation.

Built in response to the depression to "relieve unemployment, the architecture reflected a new attitude governed by economic consideration of the period" according to its National Register listing. Also, according to the listing, in 1980 the "condition of the building and site is excellent, reflective of careful and thorough maintenance." Unfortunately, in the intervening years the Post Office has allowed the building to fall into great disrepair. An obviously leaking roof has allowed extensive water damage.

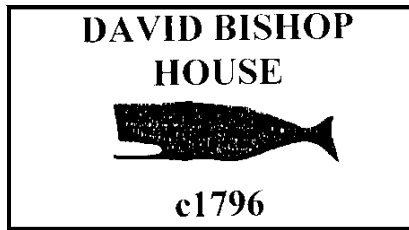
NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Meet Landmarks new Executive Assistant, Patricia Dadona, on page 5 with her story alerting you to the joys of Facebook—just in case you haven't yet ventured into that popular site in cyberspace. Follow us on Face Book.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our 2013 Membership drive begins in February and we hope everyone who receives this newsletter will renew or join New London Landmarks and support all our activities.

Historic Plaque Application



If your New London home/building is at least 50 years old, it may qualify to receive an historic marker listing its date and original owner. The information gathered in this process aids in neighborhood preservation efforts.

Our volunteer title researchers study land, tax and water records, historic maps, and city directories to establish your building's first

The researchers welcome any oral history or copies of old documents relating to your building you may have. Please allow at least 16—20 weeks for completion of the research and delivery of the durable, hand-lettered, sealed, hardwood plaque.

PLAQUE ADDRESS _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

DAY PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

LEGAL OWNER (IF DIFFERENT) _____

APPROXIMATE DATE PURCHASED BY CURRENT OWNER _____ APPROXIMATE AGE OF PROPERTY _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: YES ☐ NO ☐

PRICE OF PLAQUE: \$250.00 Non-member \$235.00 Members Re-Painting a Plaque \$100.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required with this application. Balance is due upon completion.

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMPLETED

Joseph Occhionero
1962
12 Farnsworth Street

Harold B. Dean
Miriam R. Dean
1957
28 Worthington Road

If you have a Landmarks Whale Plaque on your home and it is fading, chipping or wearing away, we can have it restored for a fee to \$100.00.

These are hardwood plaques, hand-painted with the historic information, but we realize they don't last forever.

The program began in 1985 so some of these plaques have been "out in the weather" for many years. Let us know if restoration is in order.



49 Washington Street
Post Office Box 1134
New London, CT 06320

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
New London, CT
06320
Permit No. 64

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 9, from 7 to 9:00 pm

Hodges Square Workshop

Polish Americans Veterans Club, 51 Central Avenue, New London. Art Costa leads discussion on new business and local governance; Brian Kent continues his presentation of landscaping ideas. Free.

Wednesday, January 16, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm:

Visions & Plans: New London in 2013 and Beyond

Fort Trumbull Conference Center, 90 Wabash Street
Hear from Architects, Designers, Planners and new New London business owners on their visions for the future.

\$30. includes light lunch catered by Thames River Greenery.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 3, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm:

Basket Weaving Workshop

New London Landmarks, 49 Washington Street
Led by Nancy Potter, learn the ancient art of basket weaving and take your own basket home after an afternoon of fun and friendship.

\$60 includes all instruction, material, refreshments

Wednesday, February 13, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Riverside Park Workshop

Winthrop Magnet School, 90 Grove Ave., New London
All the ideas begin to come together—don't miss this!

FEBRUARY, cont.

Saturday, February 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Get Plastered! . . . Or . . . The Fine Art of Plaster

Harbour Towers Ballroom, Bank Street, New London
Learn about the history of this ancient art, view demonstrations and hear stories of restoration work from Jenny Parker and Amy Hollis, two professional conservators of this decorative, practical and architectural art form.

MARCH

Thursday, March 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

2013 Annual Meeting

Washington St. Coffee House, Washington Street
Annual Awards; Speaker, Brian Kent, board member and landscape designer, will discuss "Creative Placemaking" and its local and national efforts to revive neighborhoods through arts activity and engagement with the neighbors.

MAY Date and Time TBA

Elegant Spring Evening in an historic home
Cocktails In Historic Waterfront Home. We're still finding the right date for this event, which will include a silent auction and activities to create a memorable evening.

JUNE Date and Time TBA

Final event of Creative Placemaking. Will be held in Riverside Park and Winthrop School presenting the Master Plans to the public along with additional programs, arts projects, walking tours: A Celebration!