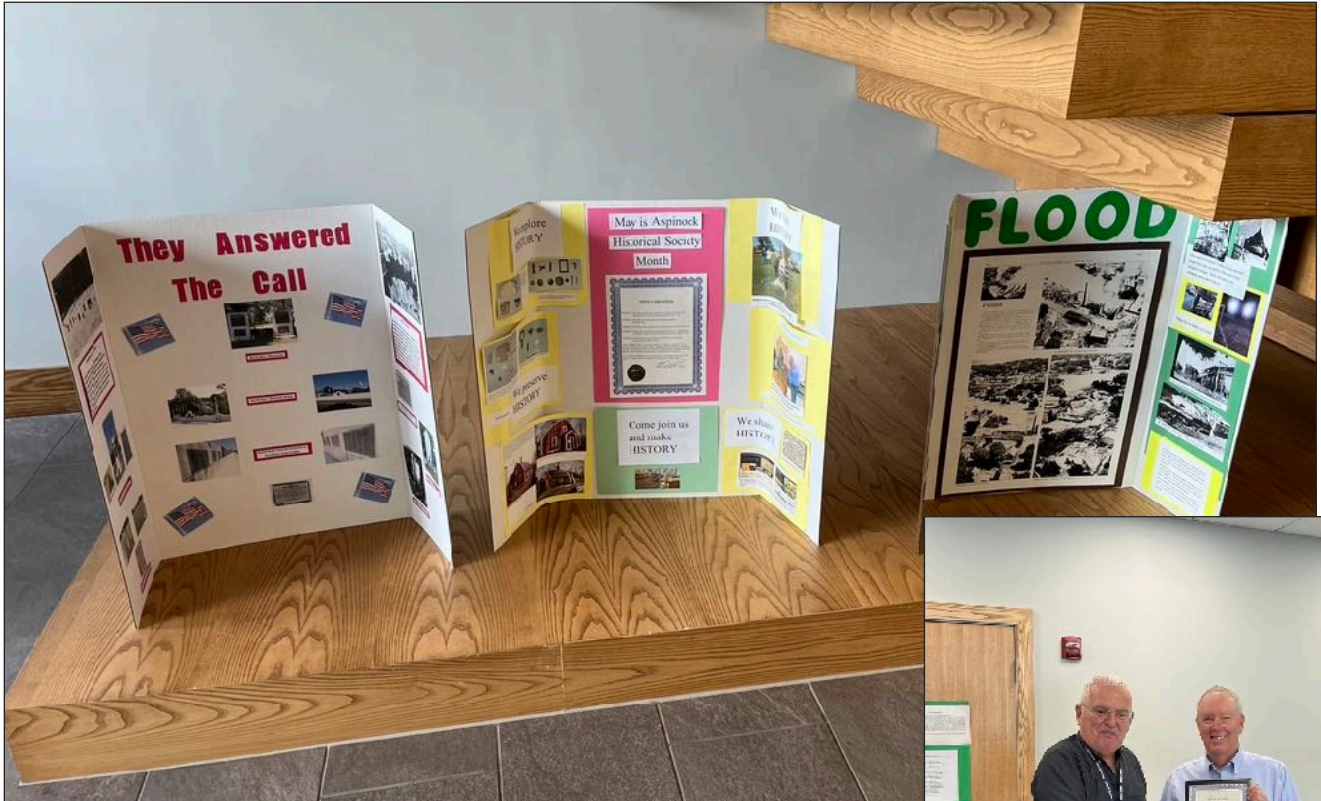


ASPINOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

**IT'S NOW OFFICIAL - MAY IS PUTNAM
ASPINOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTH!**



The Aspinock Historical Society display in the atrium entrance of the Putnam Municipal Complex. Inset: Putnam Mayor Barney Seney presents society President John Miller with an official proclamation designating May as Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam Month. Photo by Town of Putnam

May of each year will be recognized as Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam Month. The designation was granted by Putnam Mayor Barney Seney and the Board of Selectmen on April 17, 2023.

The month will be highlighted by events beginning on Tuesday, May 23 when the first of two groups of third graders from the Putnam Elementary School will tour the Boxcar Museum, the Aspinock Historical Museum, and Putnam's new Municipal Complex. A total of 80 students will take part. Following the tours the students will each be presented with a book, Gertrude Warner's "The Lighthouse Mystery," paid for by a donation from the Jewett City Savings Bank.

The Society's Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 24 in Conference Room 201 beginning at 6:30 pm. A program will be presented by Maureen Herrera titled "Rufus Malbone and his Horse, Dolly."

On Thursday, May 25 the second group of third graders will tour the Boxcar and Aspinock Museums and the Municipal Complex. And that evening our Scholarship in Honor of Gertrude Chandler Warner will be presented to a 2023 graduate of Putnam High School.

BOXCAR MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN FOR VISITORS



The Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Museum is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays, 11 AM to 4 PM now until mid-October. The museum showcases the life and legacy of Gertrude Warner, her books, and the history of her hometown Putnam, CT. Visitors will find children's activities, a collection of original signed books, photos and artifacts from Gertrude's life and career as a teacher in Putnam, and a recreation of the living space created by the Aldens—the Boxcar Children themselves.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR 2023 SEASON

Can you spare 2 1/2 hours once a month from May to October? The Gertrude Warner Boxcar Museum is looking for people to volunteer one shift per month from 11 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM on Saturday or Sunday. It's easy and training will be provided. Call Renee at 860-974-0325.



NEW! Interactive model of the boxcar and setting built by docent Barbara and husband Paul Scalise, inspired by docent Carol Boardman.



The newly refurbished doll house inspired by Gertrude Warner's early children's book, "House of Delights."



Opening day, May 6th, saw a gathering of Aspinock Society members inside the Boxcar Museum. Standing left to right: Roger Franklin, Barbara Scalise, John Miller, Ken Evans, Bill Pearsall, and Terri Pearsall. Kneeling left to right: Jeanne Benoit, Watch the dog, and Pat Hedenberg. Photo by Linda Lemmon

ASPINOCK WELCOMES MIKE BOGDANSKI

The Aspinock Historical Society of Putnam is pleased to announce that Mike Bogdanski has been appointed to its Board of Directors and becomes Chairperson of Public Relations. Mike is well-known in the quiet corner as the former owner of Midtown Fitness Center and Martial Arts. Although he has stepped back from full-time involvement, Mike still continues to teach a few martial arts classes on a part-time basis.

In his new role at Aspinock Mike is in charge of the society's online presence, including its webpage, Facebook page and the newly created Youtube platform.

Mike believes that the internet and our Aspinock Historical Society website can serve as a "door to the world," providing the opportunity to communicate with members and the general public. Photos and events that tie into history could be posted through social media sites such as Facebook and Youtube. Links with other local historical societies and State historical agencies can be established. Mike feels we need to push Aspinock through our online presence to remind people that we do, indeed exist.



IN OTHER NEWS

New lockers (left) have been installed in the corridor leading to the museum center for visitors to place personal effects, such as coats, handbags, etc. This to minimize the possibility of anyone removing articles from the center. The lockers were funded by a grant.

Thanks to a grant from the Putnam Area Foundation a new HVAC system has been purchased and will soon be installed in the Boxcar Museum. Hopefully this will mitigate the extreme heat in during the summer months which has bothered volunteers and visitors alike. It can also provide heat during cooler times.

Due to the generosity of the Miller family and friends, funds were available to help refurbish and provide new signage for the the Robert J. Miller Park at the corner of Kennedy Drive and Providence Street in Putnam. Robert Miller, who passed away in 2016, was former Putnam Municipal Historian and uncle of current Aspinock president John Miller.



New Members Joining the Society

January 1 to April 30, 2022

We welcome Barbara Scalise, and Richard and Kathy Naumann to the Aspinock Historical Society.

Come Visit Us

The **Aspinock Historical Society Museum and Research Center** is located on the 2nd floor of the Putnam Municipal Complex at 200 School St., Putnam, CT. It is open Tue, Wed, Thur, 10 AM to 2 PM; and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 10 AM To Noon. The **Gertrude Warner Boxcar Museum** is located on South Main St., Putnam, across the tracks from Union Square. It is open Saturdays and Sundays, May thru mid-October.

Both museums are handicap accessible.

Visit us to learn about Putnam's history through our displays and archives.

Submitting News - Ken A. Evans, Newsletter Editor

I encourage Aspinock Historical Society members to submit news and information to be included in our quarterly newsletter. You can email me at kaevans1969@sbcglobal.net or leave material for me at the Aspinock Historical Society facility at 200 School St., Putnam.

