

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham  
Historical Society  
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 2014

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**Sanderson Lecture Series**

7:00 p.m., Tuesday Evening

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

RTN Federal Credit Union

600 Main Street

Waltham, MA 02453

*The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series*

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

# **Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and their Accusers in the Salem Witch Trials**

**Marilynne K. Roach**

Please join us as historian and author Marilynne K. Roach discusses her new book *Six Women of Salem* at our September Sanderson Letter. *Six Women of Salem* works to reconstruct the events of the trials, bringing to life this representative group of women, and examines the entire experience of the Salem Witch Trials through the eyes of those who lived through the hysteria. Roach delivers a historically intimate narrative that gives readers a front row seat to this desperate and dangerous time in history.

The lecture will follow a brief Society meeting. As always seating is limited so please arrive promptly. Doors open at 6:45 and close at 7:15. Please call 617-448-6706 or email [Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com](mailto:Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com) with any questions. Light refreshments available.

### **About the lecturer**

*Photo Joyce Kelly*

Marilynne K. Roach works as both a historian and illustrator. Her illustrations, how-to articles, and travel pieces have been featured in the *Boston Globe*. She's lectured to groups ranging in age from kindergarteners to senior citizens, and is the author of the classic *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege*. She is a lifelong resident of Watertown, Massachusetts. Books will be available for purchase (\$25) following the presentation.



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME HAS RETURNED!  
PLEASE RENEW NOW TO ENSURE WE CAN CONTINUE OUR PRESERVATION EFFORTS!**

## The Waltham Historical Society

# YARD SALE

The Historical Society Yard Sale held on Saturday, May 31 at the former Bright School was a great success! Through lots of hard work and heavy lifting the Society realized over \$1,000.00 for the sale of items donated for the Yard Sale. We made quite a lot of new friends and may have even increased our membership!

Thanks must be given to:

Carol and Joe DiFranco for their collecting, organizing, identifying, pricing and selling of donated items! Many, many hours of work and sacrifice for a worthy cause.

Joe Keefe, Sue Keefe, Mort Isaacson, Marie Daly and Angie Emberley for getting the word out by newspaper, Craigslist, Facebook, Twitter, and creating signs



Janis Marchese and Angie Emberley  
Photo courtesy Councilor Gary Marchese

their assistance as well! Nicely done!

Carol DiFranco, Marie Daly and Councilor Gary Marchese for providing refreshments at precisely the moment they were needed! THANK YOU!

Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, Councilor Kathy McMenimen, Councilor Dan Rormard, Councilor Patrick O'Brien, and City Clerk Russ Malone for their continued support of the Society in so many ways!

Louise Hamilton, Winnie Kriesel, Connie Koutoujian, Ruth Arena and other members generously donated items for our cause. The results speak for themselves!

We're certain we've neglected to mention someone. For that our apologies. If we have, please let us know. But as events like this go, we had a great turnout of volunteers, enjoyable camaraderie, and not just a little bit of fun!

For the Board of the Waltham Historical Society,  
Thank you for all of your efforts!

RTN Federal Credit Union's annual Walk to Benefit the Homeless of Massachusetts was held on June 8th. We received a Thank You note from Joe Connors indicating that the event has raised \$29,000, and the Society's participation was greatly appreciated!



Dr. Helene Day and Carol DiFranco discussing business!

and posting them around the City.

Joe Keefe, Ron Guertin, Jack Cox, Mort Isaacson, and Janis Marchese for arriving early and staying late, moving items (both large and small) and assisting with the clean-up!

Marie Daly, Marianne Keene, Dr. Helene Day, and Joan Sheridan for loaning tables and assisting in customer service!

Mary Selig for staffing the Yard Sale drop-offs for weeks leading to the Sale and for readying the Society exhibit space.

Sue Keefe for designing and supervising the exhibit setup, and Angie Emberley, Janice Marchese, Joe Keefe, and Mort Isaacson for

## The Waltham Historical Society Fundraising Committee Needs YOU!!

With the renovations at the Bright School moving right along, now is the perfect time to start thinking about fund-raising events. We are looking for volunteers to join our fund-raising committee.

We have had some very successful fund-raising campaigns in the past, including participating in community events, publishing books and calendars, cemetery tours and historic homes tours. Our most recent Fund-raising campaign was the Yard Sale which involved many volunteers and proved to raise not just funds—but FRIENDS!

Do you have special skills in event planning, marketing or advertising? Or are you interested in other aspects of fund-raising? This is your opportunity to share with us your unique talents.

We hope you will consider joining our fund-raising team! Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 5th at 1:00 pm at our new headquarters at the Bright School.

Please contact Sue Keefe, Fund-raising Chairperson at vze3q3d5@verizon.net or call 781-290-8412.

This newsletter highlights businesses and individuals who have made donations or contributions to the Society over the past year. If you are interested in helping us move forward please contact us at: 617-448-6706 or Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com .



## Curator's Corner

Fall is just around the corner and work continues at the Bright School as we process the collection and make new archival space ready for the upcoming move into a new home. In the last newsletter we mentioned we were beginning to process a collection of Grover Cronin Department Store photographs. This collection has now been processed, catalogued and housed. Donated by Roy McDowell, and consisting of over one thousand photographs it spans the history of the Grover Cronin Department Store. Cronin's was opened as



a small tea store by Jeremiah Cronin in 1885. Grover Cronin took over the store in 1912 and within twenty years had made it one of the premier department stores in the Boston area. Open for over one hundred years it closed in 1989. Today, only the façade remains, the store having been demolished in 1996 for a commercial/residential space now known as Cronin's Landing.



The collection consists of photographs and newspaper clippings spanning the lifetime of the store. Some of the more noteworthy photographs include the Easter and Christmas parades, the 1955 Weirs Waterski

Club show, the Miss Charm beauty contest, window displays, celebrity visits, photos of the front and back of the store, expansion and department updates, anniversary sales and the closing of the store in 1989. This is a great new addition to the Society's collection and will now be available to researchers interested in this staple of Waltham's downtown for over one hundred years.



We have had several very generous donations to our collection since our last newsletter. Joseph Tulley donated a small collection of Gallagher family mementos including photographs which include Nuttings on the Charles, Mayor Arthur Clark and elementary school class photos from several Waltham schools. It also includes newspaper clippings on Mr. Tulley's grandfather, Mr. William Gallagher, long-time principal of Waltham High School who was also an active participant in Waltham civic affairs.

Susan Burkhardt donated several registers of persons aided by the Waltham Welfare Department for the years 1910-1970. The volumes include one volume of material from the Waltham Alms House from 1910-1920, and three volumes from the Waltham Welfare Department 1920-1970. The volumes offer a glimpse into Waltham's social history and will also be invaluable for genealogists.

We also had two "anonymous" donations to our collection. The first is a wonderful book entitled, "A record of the dedication of the Statue of Major General Nathaniel P. Banks," September 16, 1908. This small book

documents the dedication ceremony of the statue of General N.P. Banks on the grounds of the Massachusetts state house in 1908. The statue originally sat on the State House grounds and was moved for construction in the 1930's. It was offered to the City of Waltham by the state in the 1940's. The statue now sits on the Waltham Common on the Moody Street side. The second "anonymous" donation was made of a small postcard showing the Waltham Training School for Nurses. The post card has been accessioned and placed into our Waltham Training School for Nurses exhibit at the Bright School. The photograph on the postcard shows the training school as it appeared in 1907.

We have also purchased and set up five new shelving units in our archival room at the Bright School. The new shelving will allow us to continue our move into our new space offering proper storage for our collection. As we move forward we are in need of more industrial style shelving to house and archive our collection.

If you know of any shelving, please contact Wayne McCarthy or Curator Joe Keefe who will evaluate and make arrangements to move it.

We would like to thank everyone for their donations and our members who have shown interest in volunteering. We remind members that if you find some Waltham related materials in your attic or basement to think about donating it to the Waltham Historical Society where we can preserve and protect our city's heritage.

Thank you,  
Joseph Keefe, Curator



*Images of Cronin's from the archives of the Waltham Historical Society*



# THE Weathervane

*The Board of Directors of the Waltham Historical Society wishes to express our appreciation for the support of the individuals and organizations listed on this page. They have been very generous to the Historical Society this past year and we encourage you to thank them for their generosity by patronizing the businesses identified, and by expressing thanks to the individuals. Without this type of support the Society would be unable to continue our work in the community.*

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