Calendar of Events January - June 2022

While it’s taking us a little longer than usual to plan, we are very excited for our burgeoning 2022 calendar of events! The calendar below is only the beginning of what we’ll have to offer. Please be sure to check www.WoodMemorialLibrary.org and www.Nowashe.org for additional calendar offerings and subscribe at either site to receive email notifications!

VICTORIAN FORM: NATIVE AMERICAN STORYTELLING
Thursday, February 24
5:00 – 6:00pm, Fee $10
Join Native American storyteller and author, Jeffrey L. Rogers, as he speaks about his newest children’s book. This program is best appreciated by audiences in 3rd grade – adult.

VIRTUAL FORM: NATIVE AMERICAN STORYTELLING
Thursday, February 4
7:00 – 8:00pm
Free
Fee $10 per household
Young audience members enjoyed a peek into Native American history to learn about nature, traditions, and, of course, food! View several stories by northeastern Native Americans and answer questions in meaningful discussion.

ANNA MASI MEMORIAL GARDEN LECTURE
Wednesday, April 13
7:00pm
Connecticut botanist’s interest in our state’s native plants and wildflowers. Join the Assistant Director of the Rosary Brook Nature Center to discover why they bloom in the spring, where to find them, how they got their names and what makes these plants so special.

PERFORMANCE LECTURE SERIES: LIZZIE BORDEN
Wednesday, April 27
1:00pm, Fee $20
On a scorching hot day in Fall River, in August of 1892, a heinous crime occurred. Spinster Lizzie Borden was accused, tried and acquitted for the vicious ax murders of her father and stepmother. This true unsolved mystery has fascinated people ever since.

GARDEN TOUR AND PLANT SALE
Sunday, June 12
9:00am – 4:00pm
$20/$25 day of tour
Gaze upon row after row of creative and colorful gingerbread creations, all made by regional artisans and bakers, students and community members, expert and beginner alike.

Gingerbread House Festival
Free & Open to the Public
Celebrate “Happy Golden Days” this year at one of the largest gingerbread house festivals in New England. The Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum’s 11th Annual Gingerbread House Festival opens Friday, November 26th and runs thru Saturday, December 19th, 2021. We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Friends with a “Happy Golden Days” theme.

This year we’re bringing back the friendly competition element of the festival. Our team of three, local celebrity judges, will choose the best gingerbread creations in four categories: Most Creative, Most Unique, Most Decorated, and Most Traditional.

For more details about the festival visit www.WoodMemorialLibrary.org.

‘Happy Golden Days’ The Wood’s 11th Annual Gingerbread House Festival
FREE and Open to the Public
November 26 thru December 19, 2021
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Thursdays & Fridays 10am-7pm, Saturdays & Sundays 10am-5pm
January - June 2022
Archive Activities

In 2020, a plan was developed for a comprehensive inventory of the Friends’ archives. A two-year project, when completed it will produce an improved master list of all our collections. This is a major accomplishment for any institution and puts us in a strong position to improve online access. Volunteers are systematically examining all collection items in archival storage areas and throughout the building. In the short term, we will have an updated item location list, and for longer term planning, we will be able to assess the reallocation of space, collocate separated collections, and establish priorities for future processing and description projects.

Educational Experiences

This year we celebrated the inaugural season of Nowashe Village, welcoming more than one thousand visitors from all over New England. Nowashe was supported by longtime docents, many new volunteers and Native American presenters from several northeast tribal nations. Many patrons and Native Americans have donated artifacts and hand-made objects to support our educational mission, including a bear pelt with paws, a copper knife and a Susquehanna bifurcated point that is approximately 8,000 years old.

The immersive setting of Nowashe sparks an understanding of and appreciation for the Indigenous culture that flourished along the Connecticut River for thousands of years. Many elements of Native language and culture permeate our everyday lives, often without us realizing it! Nowashe Village is available for private group tours, field trips, homeschool groups, scout troops and more. Virtual and hybrid programs are also available. Visit Nowashe.org for more information.

A Community of Collaborators

This year, the Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum celebrated 50 years of serving the community as a public library, museum, archives, education and cultural center. The organization has touched so many people over the last half century from the very young to the not so young anymore. There have even been successive generations of “Friends” gathering and celebrating, learning and exploring.

Popular E-Mail Series Closing in on 150 issues!

On March 26, 2020, we launched our first Daily Dose email. The topic of this brief email changed daily, usually highlighting our collections and other local history. All of our staff took turns writing content, and topics ranged from such things as the Spanish Flu (4/3/20) to the Three Sisters Garden (5/27/20). What we thought would last a couple of weeks lasted 72 consecutive days! From there we emailed only a couple of times per week.

Then, beginning on Friday, September 18, 2020, Musings from Main began. This weekly e-series has grown in length and complexity. Some featured guest writers, video or audio links, and some have been republished by organizations in other parts of the country. Email open rates remain steadily high compared to industry standards, and our email list has grown substantially. We are thrilled to have found a way to connect with the community, both near and far, in a both educational and entertaining way.

Not receiving Musings from Main but would like to? Visit the “Get Involved” section of our website and subscribe today!

Late to the party? Visit our website to view an exhibit collection of a variety of Daily Dose and Musings from Main emails.

Thanks for Being a Friend!

Did you know that less than 6% of our annual budget is supported by the Town of South Windsor?

As a private nonprofit organization, the Friends rely on individual giving, earned income, grants, sponsorships and fundraisers to do our work. A small annual stipend from the Town of South Windsor helps to subsidize a portion of our archival budget to provide research support for residents, developers, retail outlets and even the town itself. When you support the Friends with gifts of money or time, you are helping to preserve history and allowing thousands each year to learn, explore, be inspired and enjoy.

Proud sponsors of the Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum