

# The Marlborough Historical Society

Welcoming Spring

www.HistoricMarlborough.org

## 2009

### Monday, March 23

7:00 p.m.

**Meet Marlborough's Authors @ Marlborough Public Library**

**Williams Tavern** was the subject of the Society's first annual *Lost Landmarks* program on February 24



### Tuesday, April 28

7:30 p.m.

**Annual Meeting and Birthday @ 377 Elm St.**

→ Awarding of student scholarship

→ Birthday cake and ice cream for all

→ Want to bring a gift for the Homestead? Cleaning supplies, napkins, paper towels, and trashbags gladly accepted. (No gift wrap required.)

*See other side for highlights from Bob Kane's presentation.*

## Program Monday at 7 p.m. at the Library

Please join the Historical Society and the Marlborough Public Library to highlight authors who have at one time or another in their life called Marlborough home.

*Note the change in meeting day and time. The program is scheduled for Monday, March 23 at the Library and will begin promptly at 7 pm.*

The work of these authors covers a wide range of subjects. Some of those in attendance will include Robert Davidson, *The Bandwagon Murders*; Gina Gallagher and Patricia Konjoian, *Shut Up About . . . Your Perfect Kid*; Janice Lindsay, *The Milly Stories*; Arthur Noletti, *Reframing Japanese Cinema*; and Susan Alatalo, *Images of America: Marlborough*.

(This is a partial list.)

Noted authors to be discussed from past eras include Ella Bigelow and Horatio Alger.

We look forward to seeing you this coming Monday at the Library at 7 p.m.

*This event is free and open to the public.*

### May 2009

#### Special Spring Event

To be announced

### Tuesday, June 23

7:30 p.m.

**Made in Marlborough: From Marlborough Wire Goods to Renaissance Lofts**

409 Lincoln Street



**Salute to Veterans**  
November 8 – 9, 2009

"Wonderful tribute to our veterans . . . Makes you feel like a part of history. . . Quite an impact on our 9 year old.

Breathless . . . Thank you. God bless. Job well done. Terrific. . . Very impressive.

Thanks for remembering. Moving and heartwarming."

## Hello, Spring, we missed you. | Janet Licht

"Thanks for the great turnout at the programs and special events this year.

And a warm welcome to all the new members and thanks to all who have renewed your membership.

One of the highlights from the fall was the *Salute to Marlborough Veterans*, which took place on Veterans Day weekend and drew hundreds of people throughout the community. They came to

view the list of 2,300 men and women who served in World War II and the 1,000 photos and services announcements compiled and assembled by Society volunteers.

In addition to the these volunteers, our thanks to Marlborough's American Legion Akroyd Houde Post 132 and to the Italian American Veteran's Club Post 45 for helping underwrite this event, and to all who joined the Society, made donations,

and purchased items.

Remembering our veterans is a critical part of preserving Marlborough's history and based on the strong turnout in the fall, we are planning a *Salute for Veterans Day* weekend that will be expanded to include photos and service announcements from the Korean War. Please contact us to contribute items, including photographs, and to help plan and produce this November's salute.

*Continued* →

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## A note from Janet Licht, president of the Society (cont'd)

→ "Only a few weeks later, the Peter Rice Homestead was decked out for *Christmas at the Farm* with one-of-a-kind trees on both floors, crafts, warm gingerbread, hot chocolate, and good cheer. Thanks to board member Bob Kane and all of the other volunteers for creating such a magical day, and to all of those who came and supported the event with your purchase of raffle tickets, baked goods, and crafts. And to the sponsors (*see list*).

The addition of *A Festival of Trees* was such a hit, we're going to continue it next year. In fact, we're planning an even larger event. Please let

us know how you or your organization or company would like to participate in this annual event that kicks off the Christmas season.

These two special events, just like our programs, were free and were open to all. With your support, we are able to maintain Marlborough's archives and to produce programs and special events that educate and celebrate our community's history.

See you at the Library  
**Monday, March 23 at 7 p.m.**  
and bring a friend."

— **Janet Licht, President**  
Janet@HistoricMarlborough.org

### Festival of Trees Sponsors

Wal-Mart  
Marlborough Savings Bank  
Starbucks Coffee  
Margaret Dwyer  
The Hogan Family  
First Baptist Brazilian Church  
Cottage Children's Center  
Pets & Vets Compassion Clinic  
The Foley Family  
Walter Bonin Fin'l. Services  
The Foley Family  
D.v Francis Murphy Insurance  
Joan Abshire  
The Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Pauline Smith

Other supporters included  
Marlborough Girl Scout Troop  
7045, Trobetta's Farm,  
Marlborough Tree Farm, First  
Colony Development, Price  
Chopper, and Hannaford.  
This event was done in  
conjunction with Olde  
Marlborough.

## Connecting with upcoming Society events

### E-mail newsletters and event alerts

Sign up for our e-mail newsletter and event alerts in the Newsletter section of our site:  
HistoricMarlborough.org

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### On Twitter

Updates and alerts on Twitter: @marlborohistory.

→ *Note the spelling*

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### Genealogy Group

Jack Gracy leads this group and invites you to join him and others from Marlborough at the Peter Rice Homestead. Contact Jack (508-229-8813) for information about their next bi-weekly meeting.

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### Christmas at the Farm Committee Members

Planning and preparation is underway for this year's Christmas at the Farm, which will be the largest we've ever done.

Whether you have a few hours now or later, we can use your help.

Please contact Bob Kane at 508-579-0658 or by e-mail: Robert.Kane@historicmarlborough.org.

## Lost Landmark: Williams Tavern

Last month Bob Kane gave a very well-researched presentation on Williams Tavern. It was the first in our *Lost Landmarks* series, which we plan to make an annual event.

It was standing-room only in the Homestead as people gathered around the fire and enjoyed hot cider as they listened to Bob's presentation.

Here are some of the key dates in the life of what would have been the oldest tavern in America. ("Lost Landmarks" under the "Architecture" section online has more details.)

**1663:** Granted 34 acres of upland land adjacent to the lake and heavily-traveled routes.

**1665:** Lt. Abraham Williams opens his tavern to feed "Man and Beast."

**1675:** Used as a garrison and burned to the ground on March 26, 1676 in the King Philip's War. It is rebuilt in 1677.

**1772:** On June 24, stagecoaches begin running. The tavern is one of three stops between Worcester and Boston.

**1775:** On July 2, George Washington spends the

night on his way to Cambridge to take command of the troops.

**1789:** On October 23, President Washington dines at the tavern during his tour of the New England states.

**1822:** Under operation by Silas Gates, the tavern is rebuilt as a brick building. It flourishes during this period.

**1942:** After years of financial distress, the city seizes the property for non-payment of taxes and sells it to an abutter who razes the building in 1947. The chimney stands until 1969.