



# Port Chester Historical Society Newsletter



May 2020

The Port Chester Historical Society wishes everyone health and strength at this trying time.

We invite you to join our most important current project.

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## COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

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The Covid-19 pandemic is a new set of experiences for everyone in our community. The Historical Society would like you to share yours with us so future generations can understand what regular, everyday people thought, felt, and did to make it through this time.

We've started with these questions...

*How are you and your family spending your days?  
What are the challenges and how are you coping with them?*

Here are some early responses:

"My wife is tele-subbing a 5th grade class. Although she is retired after a long teaching career and the work is endless, she is grateful to have something to organize her days and to give her purpose. Our biggest challenge is separation from our children and grandchildren. FaceTime helps, but we've missed a giant family trip to Disney World, Easter and three birthdays. Right now, it's hard to know how and when we'll be able to be together again. Technology is great, but it's not the real thing."

"I am the self-nominated grocery shopper and we have all taken turns with the cooking. We eat dinner as a family every night, which was more sporadic before the pandemic. The first week or two was the most challenging, because we had to adjust to a slower pace of life and resign ourselves to the idea that life was not going to resume as normal any time soon. We all look forward to the day when we can get haircuts, buy multiple rolls of paper towels, go out to dinner, and hang out in person with our friends. Most of all, we count our blessings that we are healthy and still employed."

"As essential workers, my husband and I go to work each day. I am a window clerk at the Post Office and Charles cooks in a day care center set up for children of essential workers. It certainly helps to have our usual routine in these unusual times.

"I have a Plexiglas barrier, gloves and a mask since I work directly with the public at less than the six foot allowance. I have no idea who is infected and that is frightening. Charles is usually the only one in his kitchen although at least twelve others are in the facility.

"We both are glad to be of use, have paying jobs and assisting with keeping America going and pray for continued health and strength."

The Historical Society would like to hear as many voices as possible. Over and over again we see people expressing gratitude, acknowledging struggles, and hoping for an end to all of this. Please help us compile this invaluable resource for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Please send your materials to [portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). We will be posting these to Facebook and our website ([www.pcnyhistory.com](http://www.pcnyhistory.com)) as we receive them. If you would rather send a letter, please mail it to: **PO Box 1511, Port Chester, NY 10573.**

## OTHER NEWS



The garden planted last year by Port Chester Middle School students is thriving!

The Jerusalem artichokes are just peeping up from the soil. If you remember, they grew to be well over 10 feet tall last year! We might be able to harvest some of the coreopsis for some dyeing projects; and we will let you know if we get around to trying that this year!



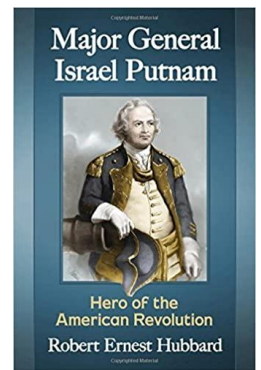
We will be removing plants from around the Homestead at some point in the future. Both a 1968 Historic appraisal and the more recent 2019/2020 Architectural Preservation Studio report recommended

putting in more historically appropriate plants. We have purchased - with the support of members and the community - lovely rose bushes to plant. We are currently on hold for a bit, but stay tuned for more information!

## GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM LECTURE



Our upcoming lecture, given by Professor Robert Hubbard, author of *General Israel Putnam, Hero of the Revolutionary War*, is sadly on permanent hold. We have, however, made a teaser trailer to pique your interest. (You can watch it on our Facebook page.) Residents of Putnam Avenue and Putnam Drive, we are talking to you! As well as anyone who has driven by the Putnam and Mellor Fire Company, or been to Putnam Valley, or Putnam County...actually, that's pretty much everyone. At some point we will learn more about this fascinating American Patriot!



## HISTORY FROM OUR HOMES

We continue to engage our community by posting pictures of "History From Our Homes." We've found that many Port Chester residents have all kinds of fascinating historical items at home. Please share them with us so we can share them with everyone! You can check out our **Facebook** page or **Instagram** feed (**pcnyhistory**) to see these interesting items. We've had



submissions ranging from pictures of old thermometers from long-forgotten stores to advertisements from shopping malls that no longer exist. If you are at home and going through old items anyway, send them along! We value the history that you have at home.

