



Port Chester Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2024

portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



REMINDER!

It's time to renew your membership! We've made it easier than ever with a "donate button" on the Historical Society website (Port Chester Historical Society). You can also send a check to PO BOX 1511, Port Chester, NY, 10573. Please consider making an additional donation to support all the activities we are engaged in. A future researcher or history enthusiast will thank you!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Thursday of the month via Zoom at 7:30 PM. The 2024 upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

May 2nd – June 6th – July 11 (Note Exception)

The information on how to attend will be included in an email before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings! Contact us to receive the link to our next Zoom meeting at...

portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

BUSH LYON HOMESTEAD CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, the Port Chester Historical Society held a Bush Lyon Homestead Clean Up Day. We consider the event as a "spring cleaning" day to organize the contents of the homestead. We have a long-term project of cataloging and organizing the contents of the Homestead so having good spaces to work in will help us quite a bit with that daunting task. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers, including those from the "other PCHS" (Port Chester High School) for their assistance with this event! We hope to have a similar event soon!

LISTENING AND DISCUSSION GROUP How Did We Get Here?

JOIN US!

How Did We Get Here?

A discussion group based on the "Amended" podcasts
by The Port Chester Historical Society • Read, Talk, Act Book Club



7pm Thursdays
virtual + in-person:

- April 25
Episodes 1 + 2
- May 9
Episodes 3 + 4
- May 23
Episodes 5 + 6

Reserve Your Spot: PortChesterHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
Location: Bush-Lyon Homestead, 479 King St., Port Chester, NY

We are very excited to announce that we have started our Reading and Discussion Group funded by a grant from Humanities New York. Our series is called "How Did We Get Here" and is based on listening to and then discussing a podcast entitled **Amended**, "a podcast series from Humanities New York, travels from the 1800s to the present day to show us a quest for women's full equality that has always been as diverse, complex, and unfinished as the nation itself."

The first meeting was on April 25th and focused on the first two episodes, "Myths and Sentiments" and "Any Woman."

"Myths and Sentiments" is an introductory episode which covers what many know as the history of suffrage and points out that the story is much, much more complicated and nuanced than most people think.

"Any Woman" focuses on Charity Castle, Celia [last name unknown] and Harriet Jacobs, three

enslaved women who wanted to control their lives and bodies at a time when no woman controlled either. Legal historian Martha S. Jones, “makes the case that all three women were part of the “vanguard” of women’s rights activism.”

If you didn’t make it to the first meeting, all is not lost [except you missed some great snacks]! The second and third meetings are on May 9th and May 23rd at 7pm in the Bush Lyon Homestead [please park on Putnam Avenue]. More info on the podcast here: <https://humanitiesny.org/our-work/amended-podcast/>

Thank you, Humanities NY!

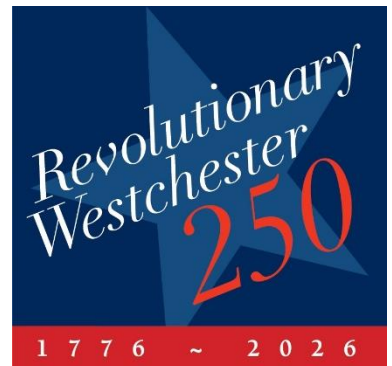


Screen shot and photo of the April 24th Amended podcast.

REVOLUTIONARY WESTCHESTER 250 MISSION AND PROGRAMS

The Historical Society thanks Constance Kehoe for this information about *Revolutionary Westchester 250*.

RW250 is a not-for-profit corporation with the mission to build awareness and appreciation for Westchester’s Revolutionary War Era History. Constance Kehoe, president, serves as the liaison to Westchester County for the 250th commemoration of the founding of the United States and as a commissioner to the New York State 250th Commemoration Commission. With the big anniversary year coming up soon – in 2026 – local communities are gearing up to plan for this national commemoration year. Setting up a community taskforce or committee of community leaders and residents is recommended.



RW250 can lend support and helpful advice to local communities. The **RW250** monthly newsletter provides a listing of county-wide and local community organized programs in the region. Videos on the **RW250** YouTube channel (click [here](#)) can be viewed and used freely. If scheduling permits, a free overview slide presentation can be arranged virtually or in person to stimulate and encourage

enthusiasm for Westchester’s critical role in the American Revolution and the founding of the United States. The slide presentation is described below...

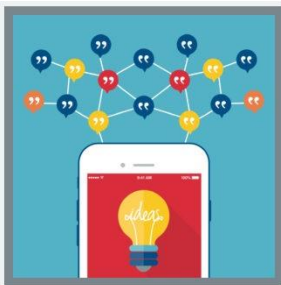
The American Revolution in Westchester: From the Hudson to the Sound

From July 9, 1776, when the Provincial Congress of the Province of New York took the vote that made the Declaration of Independence unanimous in White Plains, to the last day of the war seven years later, when the defeated British evacuated from New York City, Westchester County played a pivotal role in the American Revolution. **RW250** President Constance Kehoe will highlight some of the Revolutionary War events – including plunder, battles and spies – in a fast paced thirty-to-fifty-minute PowerPoint presentation.

To learn more and to sign up for the **RW250** newsletter click [here](#) or visit <https://www.rw250.org>

President Constance Kehoe is a former high school social studies teacher and educational consultant. In 2014 she helped move the Irvington Historic District application through to successful State and National recognition. In 2017, she championed renovation of the Irvington Veteran’s Memorial Plaza. A granite plaque was added to the plaza recognizing the service of Irvington residents who served in the War for Independence. In 2018 she became the president and a director of Revolutionary Westchester 250 (**RW250**) to build awareness and excitement for the events, places, ideas, and people – both the famous and the unsung – of the Revolutionary War period in Westchester County. You can contact her at **RW250** at this email address: 1776RW250@gmail.com.

STORYCORPS RECORDING



The Port Chester Historical Society is excited to announce an interview for **StoryCorps**. In their own words, “StoryCorps is committed to the idea that everyone has an important story to tell and that everyone’s story matters. Our mission: to help us believe in each other by illuminating the humanity and possibility in us all – one story at a time. Since our founding in 2003, we’ve helped nearly 700,000 people across the country have meaningful conversations about their lives. These recordings are collected in the U.S. Library of Congress and in our online archive which is now the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered.” Director Kikki Short had a fascinating interview with Director Emeritus Norm Davis. The interesting interview about growing up in Port Chester and the intriguing historic architecture in Port Chester can be found at:

<https://archive.storycorps.org/interviews/norm-davis/>.

Thank you, Kikki and Norm! We are working to make this a part of our regular community work. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this project, please let us know! It takes about 45 minutes to do one interview and we can walk you through the process. Happily, the interviews are stored on the StoryCorps website and are accessible to anyone around the world. Please get in touch with us if you would like to be interviewed or if you would like to do an interview!

APS REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Port Chester Historical Society is currently reviewing the APS report on the Bush Lyon Homestead and prioritizing the various maintenance requirements of the homestead. Additionally, we have asked and are trying to obtain copies of the APS Report for anyone to review when they visit. In considering how to better maintain the homestead, the Port Chester Historical Society has been researching and applying for grants for the homestead. These grants will help preserve the Bush Lyon Homestead for future generations!

OPEN HOUSE AND PORT CHESTER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

You are invited to come to an **Open House / Happy Birthday to Port Chester celebration** on May 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bush Lyon Homestead. We will have artwork from local artist

Happy 156th Birthday Port Chester!

*Port Chester was incorporated as a village
in the Town of Rye on May 14, 1868, 156 years ago.*

OPEN HOUSE

Bush Lyon Homestead in Lyon Park
Saturday, May 18, 2024
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Alison Nicholl's book, Painting 10573, a series of paintings she did all over the Village. You will definitely recognize some familiar locations and you might even recognize your own house. In addition, you will be able to peruse old Port Chester High School yearbooks. We guarantee some looks that will make you giggle. As part of our continuing work with documentary filmmaker Jill Yesko, we will display some information on High Point Hospital which was once on King Street. You may remember that we are helping her

to find memories and information on this venue - her mother was there as a patient in the 1960s and she is trying to understand more about her past. More information to be announced soon!

BRIDGE PLAQUES

A New York State Department of Transportation project will remove two structures (the Putnam Avenue and Hillside Avenue bridges) that carry US Route 1 in both directions over the Byram River to prevent flooding in the City of Rye and Village of Port Chester in Westchester County and the Town of Greenwich in Connecticut.

The current status of the project is "is in development" which means the Army Corps of Engineers is designing and NYS DoT is managing bidding & construction. The Bid Opening is expected to be in Spring 2026. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 2026. Construction is expected to be completed in Summer 2027.

The Port Chester Historical Society is advocating with the applicable authorities for the preservation of the historic plaques on the bridges. We hope to see the bronze plaque from the Hillside Avenue bridge and the Marble Dedication stone from the Putnam Avenue bridge saved and preserved for the future either here in Port Chester or at the Westchester County archives in Elmsford!

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 150TH ANNIVERSARY COUNTY WIDE FAMILY HISTORY HUNT

In honor of its 150th anniversary, the **Westchester County Historical Society** is creating a history hunt to encourage others to visit and learn about the abundance of fascinating historical sites in Westchester County. The Port Chester Historical Society is proud to have been included in this project. While Port Chester has countless historical sites, the locations in Port Chester which have been picked to be featured in the history hunt are the Bush Lyon Homestead, the Luigi del Bianco Memorial, and the Civil War Monument. More information to be announced soon!

LAFAYETTE DAY

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, The American Friends of Lafayette will be celebrating the 200-year anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour of America in 1824 and 1825. The American Friends of Lafayette have created a reenactment of Lafayette's tour, which passed through our area on August 20, 1824. Look for more exciting information which will be announced soon!

CURTAINS COMPLETED

Kudos to the Curtain Committee for completing the bottom floor curtains! These are not only functional because they screen out the sun and protect the interior of the house, but beautiful as well. And if you think making curtains for a house that was started in 1760 and then added on to for hundreds of years is easy ... think again! Every curtain had a slightly different set of dimensions, so it was like making about a dozen custom window treatments. Congratulations to the Curtain Committee! Next up, the second floor ...

PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGNETS



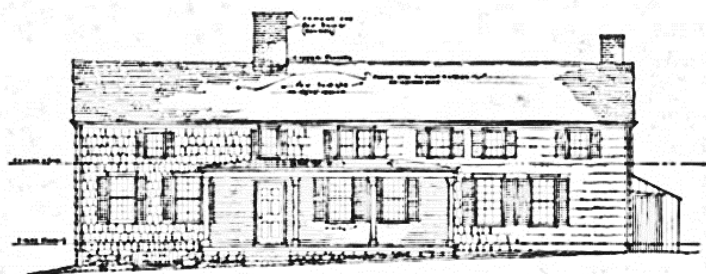
As a fundraiser, we are selling magnets with the logo of the Port Chester Historical Society. They are \$5 each. Buy some now for friends and family! Show everyone how much you value our local history and help us raise funds at the same time. Contact us at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com to order one today!

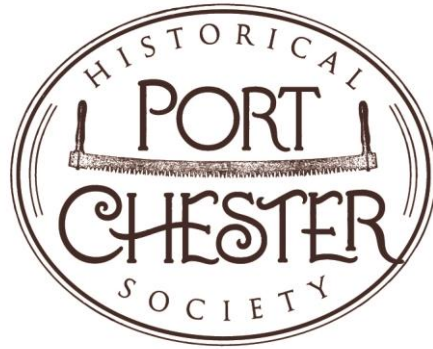
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED? WE NEED YOU!

We are inviting volunteers who are interested in Port Chester local history and making a difference in the community - WE NEED YOU! If you care about preserving and educating people about Port Chester local history, you will fit right in. All are welcome and encouraged to volunteer with us. We have many different projects and there is definitely a place for your skills in our organization. Email us at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com today!

FOLLOW THE PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONLINE

- Visit our web page at [Port Chester Historical Society](https://www.portchesterhistoricalsociety.com)
- Join us on Zoom at one of our monthly meetings
- Like us on Facebook [@PortChesterHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/PortChesterHistoricalSociety)
- ...and on Instagram [@PCNYHistory](https://www.instagram.com/PCNYHistory)
- ...tag your photos with [#PCNYHistory](https://www.instagram.com/PCNYHistory)
- Contact us/subscribe to our newsletter at portchesterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com





Join The Port Chester Historical Society TODAY!

Annual Membership

- Individual \$20.00
- Family (Household) \$30.00
- Senior (Over Age 62) \$10.00
- Student (Enrolled in HS/MS) \$0.00
- Commercial/Business Sponsor \$500.00

Lifetime Memberships

- Single Lifetime.....\$200.00
- Family Lifetime\$300.00

Please check the appropriate box
and return with your check (made out to *The Port Chester Historical Society*) to:

The Port Chester Historical Society, P.O. Box 1511, Port Chester, NY 10573

or sign up at **www.pcnhistory.org**

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Member Phone: _____

Member Email: _____

Member Benefits

Your membership to The Port Chester Historical Society entitles you to participate in the love of local history, all newsletters and mailings, advance invitations to public and member-only events and tours, and programs as we develop them. Commercial or business sponsors are eligible for recognition in our newsletter and other printed material, as well as acknowledgment at public events and gatherings.