

CHEQUAQUET LOG

Newsletter of the **CENTERVILLE**
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CHM is named #1 Hidden Gem Museum in Massachusetts.

August 2024 - Save the Date

4th Annual Vintage Car Show, Saturday, August 10, 8AM - 2PM, free
Arts, Crafts and Collectables Sale, Saturday, August 10, 9AM - 3PM, free
Author Jim Coogan talk on Joseph C. Lincoln, Wednesday, August 14, 7:00PM

50's SOCK HOP A NOSTALGIC BLAST

Last month the museum hosted a 1950's Sock Hop. There were 50's decorations, food, beverages, a light show, visitors in vintage outfits, trivia, prizes and a lot of wonderful memories. Music has the power to take us back to those precious times, perhaps a first date or fun times at the malt shop or drive-in theater or dances in the school gymnasium. Whatever the memories, they came flooding back as music DJ Norm Sawyer played one golden oldie after another.



Yes, we even had a few in their eighties out on the dance floor cutting the rug with the young ones. Although the younger generation couldn't personally relate to the era, the music is still presented in our current culture and very familiar to them, and besides good music inspires feet movement no matter the age.

The museum wished to thank the many volunteers who generously contributed the nicely made food trays and variety of beverages, and a special thank you to our 50's coordinators Norm and Lisa Sawyer.

Keep your eye out. We will be seeing this event again.



4th Annual

CENTERVILLE OLD HOME WEEK

CAR SHOW

Centerville Historical Museum



SATURDAY 10 AUG ✦ 8AM - 2PM

50/50 RAFFLE • LOTTERY GAME • FOOD & DRINKS

REC. PARKING LOT 524 MAIN ST, CENTERVILLE

**ARTS, CRAFTS
and**

COLLECTABLES FAIR

**ACROSS THE STREET @ THE MUSEUM
SATURDAY 10 AUG 9AM to 3PM**

A U T H O R T A L K

JOSEPH CROSBY LINCOLN: The Bard of Cape Cod

Joseph Crosby Lincoln was perhaps Cape Cod's most prolific author. With over forty novels, numerous poems, and many magazine articles, the nation came to have an image of Cape Cod that lasted well beyond his death in 1944. His literary characters featured colorful natives who displayed humor and common sense in solving a myriad of issues in the seaside towns and villages of the late 19th and early 20th century. A Cape Cod native and the son of a sea captain, Lincoln wrote what was familiar to him. He turned out entertaining and upbeat stories that appealed to a public that looked with nostalgia to a simpler time. At one time, his books were given to children as prizes for perfect Sunday School attendance. Today, the onetime "literary dean of Cape Cod" has largely been forgotten. Tonight's program will showcase an important writer and his work and his lasting contribution to the image of Cape Cod.

Author Jim Coogan will be giving a talk on Joseph C. Lincoln
Wednesday, August 14, 7:00PM admission \$5.00

Jim Coogan is a Cape Cod author. Raised in Brewster, he has lived on the Cape for more than 75 years. A retired high school history teacher, Mr. Coogan has spent decades researching and writing about Cape Cod's past. He was a regular columnist for the Cape Cod Times daily newspaper for almost two decades. A master storyteller, Coogan has entertained audiences of all ages speaking about the history and mystery of the Narrow Land. He is the author of thirteen books, five of them for children. He lives in Sandwich.



N E W E X H I B I T

WOMEN'S HATS FASHION 1755 - 2000

On exhibit are 65 hats which wonderfully illustrate several of the changes in hat fashion from the mid-eighteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Hats or coverings of a woman's head have been around since recorded time. They have been the symbol of wealth, society and religious custom. Pairing a nice suit or dress with a stylish hat is an easy way to make an ordinary outfit come alive.

In western societies, hats have been worn by lower-class members mostly for utilitarian purposes. During the Renaissance era, women's hats were seen as gains in economic prosperity. Eventually a hat was seen as a fashion accessory more than a utilitarian one. The well-to-do paired lavish outfits with beautiful head coverings. Velvet, silk, felt, taffeta and animal hides were materials most used. Portraits of women wearing hats, especially in the 17th century, showed their beauty while adding a tone of wealth and power to the portrait.

In the 1700's, Marie Antoinette, queen of France, was famous for her elaborate hairdos such as piling her long tresses atop her head. Her curls were accented with bejeweled hats, charms and feathers. She was the first to wear a fascinator, a small hat worn at the crown or to the front side of the head and accented

by a veil, feathers and ribbons. Society followed her lead. Though today hats are not as popular as in the day of Marie Antoinette, hats and fascinators are still worn to events such as weddings, society and royal functions.



In the 18th and 19th centuries, hats were again indicators of rank in society. While the upper crust wore the new and more stylish hats, the lower classes made do with mob caps which were linen coverings that kept the hair clean and covered while doing daily indoor chores. In the Victorian Era, wide-brimmed hats shielded the face from the sun. In summer, straw bonnets decorated with ribbons, flowers or feathers were the rage as they were light in weight. In winter felt hats kept women warmer and in style. Evening hats were made of silk or satin and were worn to the a high society party.

Eventually, wide hats gave way to smaller hats. One type was the "Doll Hat." Tall and narrow, it sat near the back of the head and did not interfere with a hairstyle. There was also a popular headpiece called "Fanchon," a hat which perched on the crown of the head and tied under the chin with a ribbon. Another style resembled a man's fedora. It had a high crown, a small brim and was decorated with feathers or flowers. In the Edwardian Era, the Merry Widow hat was favored. Introduced first by stage actress Lily Elsie, these hats were huge, eighteen inches in width.

By the 1920's, cloche hats were worn by flappers. They were bell-shaped with a dainty brim and small amounts of trim. These hats paired with the "bob" haircuts for women, the new hairstyle during the Jazz Age. Another style, the turban, made from rich fabrics, usually featured a jeweled piece on one side. The Depression of the 1930's and into WWII made hats less important. Women still wore hats, but they were smaller. Many had a military bent to them. The beret and the Tam Hat, both flat and unstructured were relatively plain and were adorned with a large hatpin or brooch.

After the 40's, hats were still worn, but less so than the earlier decades. One exception was the domed hat or pill box worn by Jackie Kennedy. It became popular all over the country. Hats today are rarely worn. A scarf or in cold weather a plain wool knit hat keeps the ears warm and is not considered a style but a practicality. Hats will probably still be worn here and there, but who knows whether they will be an important part of an outfit once more.

V O L U N T E E R P R O F I L E

NINA SAARKOVA HAS BROUGHT HER SEWING TALENTS TO THE MUSEUM

In the gift shop of the Centerville Historical Museum, sitting on a small shelf, are two or three small round items that resemble hats. They are for sale. They are very clever and bring a smile to visitors' faces. They were made by Nina Saarkova, one of the museum's Tuesday volunteers, who mend and repair very carefully the museum's antique clothing collection.

The work goes slowly. Antique cloth, as it ages, becomes more fragile, but the volunteers have done a fantastic job in what and how beautifully they make an almost impossible job possible.



Nina Saarkova heard of the need for clothing restorers at the museum from a friend. She has many sewing skills, crocheting, knitting, fixing lace among them. She thoroughly enjoys her time at the museum and has been able to use several of her sewing skills when repairing antique items. She has learned a couple of new ones as well. She has also become friends with her fellow sewists.

Nina also has a wonderful story to tell. She is from Armenia, a landlocked country that is part of the Caucasus region and surrounded by Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Iran. Its capital is Yerevan. She speaks Armenian, Russian, Ukrainian and English.

Nina has a grown son and daughter and grandchildren. Both her children immigrated to the United States and asked Nina to come and join them. She

decided to do so, obtained a green card and is now a resident of Centerville, close to her children and a loving grandmother who helps look after her grandchildren. All wish to become American citizens.

In Armenia, Nina attended Armenia's University. She majored in physics. After graduating, she taught high school physics and math. Her mother and grandmother had taught her how to sew and to make beautiful and fashionable dresses, copying many French styles of the day. She has always loved beautiful clothing and is glad that she has the skills to make her own.

At her children's urging, Nina arrived in America in 2020 after obtaining her green card. She is learning the history of her new country and is very happy to be a part of it. "I love America," she says, "I love the people. Then, with a smile, she quips, "I do not like the mosquitos."

Like her fellow sewists, Nina is proficient in all styles and types of clothing. At present she is mending the crocheted hem in a later 19th century muslin petticoat. She does not know what her next project will be, but whatever it is it will be interesting.

Restoring an antique item takes skill and patience and a respect for the item. Here at the museum the volunteers are valued, for without their work, the museum would not be able to show off its eighteen thousand item collection. A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers.

T H O U G H T S F R O M O U R W R I T E R

ARE YOU A ONE PERCENTER?

99% of people born between 1930 and 1946 (GLOBALLY) are now no longer with us. If you were born in this time span, your ages range between 77 and 93 years old (a 16-year age span) and you are one of the rare surviving one-percenters.

You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's. You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years. You are the last to remember ration books for everything from tea to sugar to shoes. You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into cans. You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" at the front door. Discipline was enforced by parents and teachers. You are the last generation who spent childhood without television and instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.

With no TV, you spent your childhood playing outside. There was no city playground for kids. The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like. Black-and-white TV arrived in the late 50's and had 3 stations and no remote. Telephones (if you had one) were one to a house and hung on the wall in the kitchen (who cares about privacy). Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked. Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon. INTERNET and GOOGLE were words that did not exist. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and your dad would give you the comic pages after he read the news. The news was broadcast on your radio in the evening. The radio network gradually expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were two lanes and there were no Motorways. You went downtown to shop. You walked to school. Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.

You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad you played by yourselves. They were busy discovering the postwar world. You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves. You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered. Polio was still a crippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.

You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our country. World War II was over, and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life. Only your generation can remember a time after WWII when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better. More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!" If you have already reached the age of 77 years old, you have outlived 99% of all the other people on this planet.

You are a 1% 'er



S U P P O R T E R S

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and ask you, our members, to support these businesses that support us.**

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