



# Fort Nathan Hale BULLETIN

## *A Note from the President*

An active and productive season has passed and now we are on to new challenges. Citing plans are underway to begin the third phase of the FNHRP's original plan: the building of a museum on our site!

We have had planning meetings all summer at the home of Beth Bernardo, and have elected Bill MacMullen and Len Adams Sr. as co-chairs of the Museum Committee. As you may recall, Len was one of the original founders of FNHRP more than 30 years ago and Bill brings a wealth of experience from his work in developing the museum "Salem" in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Architectural plans for the 13,000 square foot, 2 1/2 story Georgian Colonial style barracks have been drawn up and it will be built opposite the pavilion. In addition to artifacts from Fort Nathan Hale, we may also have artifacts from other historical groups dating back to 1779. Collaborating with other historical non-profits will enable us to have a wider base to raise funds for the museum. We will share more information at our Annual Meeting on November 18. Details regarding this meeting can be found within this newsletter. We will begin to plan a major capital campaign to raise the estimated 2 million dollars to build the museum. More on that to follow; watch your mail!

Although a city park, this historic site's maintenance, restoration and preservation is managed by our non-profit board. The day to day operation of the Forts include the fort keeper's duties (maintenance), the pavilion information center and gift shop (volunteers), planting and watering flowers (Morris Cove Garden Club), Educational articles and pamphlets, special programs, historical events, fund raising and the on-going historic restoration of bunkers, gun carriages, cannons, flags and flag poles, security and monitoring vandalism. Few people realize how much is involved.

Thanks to our loyal board members and volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and talents to promote and maintain this historical site. We couldn't do it without you!

*Marge Ottenbreit* President, FNHRP

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## Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 18

**WHEN**  
Sunday, November 18<sup>TH</sup>  
2:00 PM

**WHERE**  
Center Church Meeting Hall  
311 Temple Street, New Haven  
(Behind New Haven Library)

**SPEAKER**  
William MacMullen

**TOPIC**  
Fort Nathan Hale Museum et al

Bill MacMullen, architect, will tell of his experiences as Executive Director of the Navy museum "Salem" at Quincy, Mass. From just an idea to a fully staffed, operating museum, Bill was instrumental in helping raise 1.5 million dollars to create this historic museum in just over six months.

He brings a wealth of experience in public building construction with the recent building of new schools and libraries in New Haven.

Bill will unveil architectural renderings, plans and mechanicals of the 1812 Colonial style barracks building planned for the new museum at Fort Nathan Hale. This is a most exciting time for the Fort as we go forward with this ambitious plan to build our museum. Please join us! The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

Please see Bill MacMullen's bio in this newsletter to see more on his background and accomplishments.



As a reminder.....  
Membership Dues  
are now due!!

## Meet Our New Board Members

The FNHRP is proud to welcome several new board members.

**Elizabeth A. Bernardo (Beth)** is a lifelong resident of Morris Cove as were her parents. She attended Nathan Hale, Fair Haven and Wilbur Cross High School. Beth received her BS/MS from Southern Connecticut State University and UCONN. She majored in education with a minor in History.

For the first 14 years of her teaching career Beth taught in Branford at the Intermediate School. While there, she was a tour coordinator for week long visits to New England, Mid Atlantic and Southern Revolutionary and Civil war battlefields.

History has been Beth's life passion. For 25 years she led tour groups around ancient and medieval sights of England and 30 years served as a guide throughout Italy, Austria and Switzerland.

Beth has volunteered to be on FNHRP because of her roots here in the Cove and her love of local treasures, the Fort Morris House and Lighthouse.

**Len Adams, III** is from West Haven and has been around the Fort since around the age of 6. His father is one of the founding members of the board. In addition to loving history, Len teaches 5th grade in Stamford.

A welcome also to **Rafael Rodriguez** of North Haven. Rafael has been a New Have Police Officer for the past 16 years and has an extensive knowledge and love of history. His random site visits all summer helped reduce vandalism and illegal fishing off the Fort.

He is busy planning an Indian Pow-Wow for June and a 4th of July concert—two exciting events we haven't seen at the Fort in over 20 years!

**William MacMullen** has also joined the FNHRP. Bill was educated in Meriden Public Schools, Yale University, Architecture & Naval Science, (last Navy ROTC class at Yale), and has completed graduate work at Harvard University, Museology, Urban Planning and Boston University, Interior Design & space planning.

Bill worked for many world class architectural firms ranging projects as diverse as hospitals, schools, hotels, office buildings, residences & public housing. Has won numerous design awards and has been published 5 times. In 1989 he founded his own firm WMA Associates (MacMullen & Devine, Assoc., Inc.) and developed affordable housing for HUD prototype program. This won a sustainability award in 2000. He is presently working as City Architect/Consultant to the City of New Haven.

He is responsible for the organiza-

tion of three Historical Museums, USNSM in Massachusetts which features the Heavy Cruiser USS SALEM as it's center artifact, The New Bedford Military Museum at Fort Taber, and the China Lake Museum, a Naval Museum in California. He is a member of many Museum Professional Organizations and Associations.

He was appointed Rear Admiral of the Mass Naval Militia by Governor William Weld in 1994, and is a re-enactor with many New England Military organizations from the Revolutionary War to the Viet Nam War.



## Daring to be Different: Harriet Wood

Having enjoyed the appearance of Deborah Sampson at our Annual Meeting last November, the woman who disguised herself as a man and enlisted in the Revolutionary War, we learn that she was not the only woman to be so daring.

Harriet Wood, a New York actress whose stage name was Pauline Cushman also served in the Civil War. In 1863 she was appearing in a play at Wood's Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky, where she became friendly with two Confederate Officers. Louisville was under Union control at this time, but the area was filled with many Confederate sympathizers.

Two of these sympathizers offered her \$300 to propose a toast to Confederate President Jefferson Davis while on the stage. She immediately reported this to the local provost

Impressed with her loyalty and passion, he urged her to do the toast and to pretend to be a confederate sympathizer. She agreed and was sworn to the US Service.

In the middle of her performance, she held up her wine glass and said "Here's to President Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy, may the South maintain her honor and her rights". Where upon, in the audience pandemonium broke out with cat calls and loud boos from the Union people and loud and boisterous cheers from the confederates.

She was fired from the theatre and evicted from the Union lines, but was now established as a confederate sympathizer, a perfect cover for her activities as a spy.

Her brave action would allow her to get behind the enemy lines.

She was able to gain and pass on information on the confederates movements in Kentucky and Tennessee. Charming and attractive, she claimed she was

looking for her officer brother. She gained more and more trust and was able to discover many confederate secrets, including how they sent messages inside dead chickens and bags of flour.

She was caught by Rebel forces while resting at the home of a local farmer. Hidden in her shoes was a detailed map and drawings of confederate fortifications in Shelbyville and Tullahoma, Tennessee.

She was taken to the headquarters of General Nathan

Bradforest, where she faced charges of espionage that could cost her life.

She was found guilty, but because she became seriously ill, was spared the hangman's noose. If her sentence had been carried out, she would have been the only female spy to be executed during the Civil War.

Although she worked as a spy for only a year, she was too well known to continue in that capacity. She became a lecturer, dressed in Union uniform, and traveled about the country relating her experiences, embellishing the stories along the way. She died in 1893 at the age of 60, and was given a full military funeral. Her epitaph bears the words "Federal Spy and Scout of the Cumberland."

**FORT NATHAN  
HALE  
RESTORATION  
PROJECTS INC.**

Marge Ottenbreit  
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New Haven, CT 06512-3603

<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>



**A Special Thanks**

Long time member **Dodie Cummings** will be retiring from the **FNHRP** board. We are happy that she has chosen to continue as a volunteer. We appreciate her long service and dedication to the Fort.

Thanks Dodie!

**WELCOME**

This year's visitors came from...

53 Connecticut towns

29 States

7 Countries including:

**England, Ireland, Ecuador,  
Canada, Germany,  
Denmark  
and Mexico**



*A Note from the Volunteer Coordinator*

As Volunteer Coordinator, I am very pleased with the cooperation I received this summer from all of our loyal helpers. Thanks to them we had a very successful season this year. We opened on May 19 with our Flag Dedication program and music by the Fife and Drum Corp of Betsy Ross Magnet School. It was so nice to hear the children playing colonial era music.

The staffing for the Information Booth/Gift Shop went very well. We added three new volunteers this year, giving us a total of 23—all who did a great job. We received visitors from several states and countries. Everyone was very interested in all the information we had about the history of the Fort and

Several came back and brought their friends. The website has also attracted many new visitors.

The Park Ranger, Terry McCool, provided several school classes on compass reading and the history of the fort. The teachers were also given information to give to other teachers, including our literature and information about the Fort.

People are always so impressed when they realize that this site was a real fort and that a battle against the British was actually fought here. They feel like they are standing on a piece of living history. We all enjoy that too and hope that many more people will visit us next year.

*-Tina Doyle,*

Volunteer Coordinator



If you are interested in becoming a FNHRP volunteer for our upcoming season, please contact us at:

[info@fort-nathan-hale.org](mailto:info@fort-nathan-hale.org)

*Volunteer Celebration*

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the faithful summer volunteers at the fort were rewarded with a luncheon, a tour of the crypt under Center Church and a look at the Nathan Hale statue in front of Connecticut Hall on the Campus of Yale University.

The guide explained that the gravestones in the church basement were among those located in the upper Green in back of the third Meeting House. When a new Meeting House was built in 1812 (the present one), it was constructed over this portion of the early colonial cemetery.

The oldest marker is dated 1687. Many notables were buried here, including Margaret Arnold, the first wife of Benedict Arnold, and the kin of President Rutherford B. Hayes. In 1990 the new Haven Crypt Association replaced the ce-

ment flooring with bricks to allow the moisture to escape rather than be siphoned up into the stones and deface the inscriptions.

The group then walked across the Green to Connecticut Hall, the oldest building on the Yale Campus. Nathan Hale, Connecticut's state hero, lived and studied here. No one knows in what room, however. It is no longer a residential dorm.

In front of the hall stands a statue of Nathan Hale, designed in 1914 by Bela Platt, a Yale Art School graduate. With Yale University's permission, FNHRP hired Hamilton Studios of Hamden to replicate the statue. A mold was made on site and then a fiber glass casting was made from the mold. In 1987 Nathan Hale took center stage in Fort Hale's flag court.

Other statues of Nathan Hale are in the Hartford Capitol, Williams Park, New London, New York City near Gracie Mansion and the CIA building in Washington, D.C.

After the tours, the 25 volunteers had lunch at Brazi's at Long Wharf Terminal. The arrangements for the day were made by Tina Doyle, volunteer Chair.

Our volunteers are looking forward to next Summer and being part of the Fort Nathan Hale experience.



**We're on the Web!**

<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org>

**Special thanks to RECOL, located at the Maritime Center on Long Wharf, the company who created and updates our web site.**

**Partner at RECOL, Jake Epstein, is also a dedicated member of FNHRP's board and usually completes all of our promotional materials.**

**We appreciate your partnership!**



## *Membership Application*

What is Fort Nathan Hale?

- \*A 30 acre City Park located on the east side of New Haven Harbor
- \* A reconstructed Revolutionary War Fort – Black Rock Fort
- \* A Civil War Fortification – Fort Nathan Hale
- \* A designated New Haven Landmark
- \* An historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- \* A source of educational programs for thousands of students
- \* A site visited annually by tourists from around the world.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE( day/evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership      Renewal

\$20 Lieutenant      \$25 Captain      \$30 Major      \$50 Colonel      \$100 General

I enclose payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the category indicated above. Payable to FNHRP  
 Does your company match employee gifts? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contributions are tax deductible within the limits permitted by law.

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** originated on Columbus Day, 1893 and contained no reference to God. On April 22, 1951 the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution to amend the Pledge by adding the words "under God." At their next annual meeting, copies of this resolution were sent to the President, Vice President and Speaker of the House. They rallied long and hard for this change.

By Flag Day, June 1954, President Eisenhower signed the change into law. He proclaimed, "these words remind Americans that we must remain humble."

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