



Sasquanaug News

SOUTHPORT BIRTHDAY BASH EVENT CELEBRATES 380 YEARS

Join the Sasquanaug Association in celebrating Southport's 380th birthday on Sunday, September 15, from 12-3 at the Pequot Library. This FREE event includes food from local merchants, live music, Southport history exhibit and walking tours, croquet, a silent auction and raffle and for the kids, touch-a-truck, face painting, craft table, and games. It's a benefit that supports the community work of Sasquanaug and will be held rain or shine.

A Big Drive-in Movie will kick-off the celebration on Saturday, September 14, at 6:30 on the Great Lawn at Pequot Library (if raining, it will be in the auditorium). *Big*, starring Tom Hanks, will entertain you under the stars; bring a blanket and a picnic and Sasquanaug Association will provide the popcorn. Suggested donation per family: \$25.

Sunday's events include:

Food: A variety of cuisines from local vendors, including ice cream!

Live Music: School of Rock, The Jovial Crew sea shanty band, and others will entertain throughout the event.

Walking Tours & Historic Exhibit: See historic Southport through walking tours which leave on the hour from the library's steps starting at noon. Enjoy the historic collection of old photographs.

Croquet: Meet Southport's U.S. Croquet Hall of Fame championship player Ruth Summers, who will introduce you to a fast-growing club sport, and have you playing and laughing on the lawn in minutes!

Stretch Lab: Free assisted stretch demos from the flexologists at Stretch Lab.

For the Kids: Touch-A-Truck, face painting, balloons, and a craft table.

MERCHANT PROFILE: FAIRFIELD WOMEN'S EXCHANGE

By Jennie Murphy

The first Women's Exchange began as a movement in Philadelphia in 1832 with the goal of providing an outlet for impoverished women to achieve economic stability through the consignment and sale of fine-quality, hand-crafted items. The Fairfield Women's Exchange (FWE) c. 1962 continues this mission by helping consignors and artisans earn a living in their respective industries and by supporting charitable organizations through shop sales, with an emphasis on entities that promote the mental and physical well-being of women and children. FWE is a member of The Federation of Women's Exchanges, a national organization of Women's Exchanges with locations in 20 cities in 12 states; it's located at 332 Pequot Avenue, Southport. Staffed entirely by volunteers, FWE is a unique marketplace for exquisite gifts and specialty food items.

Turn the page for an interview with FWE President, Deborah Kouzoukian.

**SOUTHPORT
BIRTHDAY BASH**
★ CELEBRATING 380 YEARS ★
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE SASQUANAUG ASSOCIATION

Read more about the
Birthday Bash Silent
Auction and Raffle
on page 3.



*Deborah Kouzoukian,
president of the Fairfield
Women's Exchange*

AROUND TOWN:

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

8/31-1: Blues & Views BBQ and Music Festival, 11-9 pm; Levitt Pavilion, Westport

1: Southport Historic Walking Tour, 12:30-2 pm; Pequot Library

14: **Big Drive-In Movie Birthday Bash Kick-off, 6:30 pm; Pequot Library Great Lawn**

15: **Southport Birthday Bash , 12-3 pm; Pequot Library Great Lawn**

22: Bike the Beach, 8-2 pm; Jennings Beach

29: 32nd Annual Bigelow Tea Challenge, 9 am; Wakeman Boys & Girls Club

October

4-5: Audubon Fall Nature Festival, 6:30-9 pm Friday, Noon-4 pm, Saturday; 2325 Burr Street

5: Southport Historic Walking Tour, 12:30-2 pm; Pequot Library

6: Chamber of Commerce Fall Market on the Green, 10-4 pm; Town Hall Green

13: Taste of Fairfield, 1-4 pm; Delamar Southport, 275 Old Post Road

19: 22nd Annual Art Show Opens, Pequot Library

26: Halloween Pet Parade, 2:30 pm; Five Corners Southport to the Pequot Library Great Lawn

27: Halloween on the Town Green, 12 pm; Fairfield Museum

MERCHANT PROFILE: FAIRFIELD WOMEN'S EXCHANGE (CONTINUED)

What is the longest continuous number of years of service by an FWE volunteer? How many years have you been involved with FWE and what is the typical tenure of a president?

"We had a few volunteers like Jan Perry and Mary Rousseau who worked here since the beginning and volunteered for 50 years or so! It's a fun place to work. I am a "newbie" - having been involved here for five years. The term of an FWE president is two years and I have completed one year of the two-year term.

"It might surprise you to know that most of our volunteers came through the doors as our customers. Having enjoyed the experience, they took the plunge with us. We encourage anyone who is interested to please stop in during shop hours. We'd be happy to have our volunteer coordinator get in touch."

FWE offers an impressive variety of quality handmade and curated goods for sale - plus gift wrapping! Is it difficult to find these consignors or do they find you?

"Both. We've had some consigners for a very long time. For example, the woman who knits the baby sweaters with little owl motifs has been supplying our store and the Greenwich store for many, many years. Another woman makes the teeny tiny music boxes and we have two gentleman consignors, one who paints Christmas ornaments and another who makes the Name Trains.

"We have wonderful hostess gifts. One of our best sellers in the food section is Crane Crest Salad Dressing. Two weeks ago, we sold out but have now restocked our shelves with this popular item. We also carry See's Chocolates and Louis Sherry Chocolates - which are sold in gorgeous pastel tin boxes. Our children's section has really become the go-to place for one-of-a-kind infant and children's gifts. We will soon expand our children's section to include more books and games."

It's not a well-kept secret that FWE also sells beautiful antiques such as estate silver & jewelry, china & crystal. Is there a loyal following of customers who check in on a regular basis to see what's new in the "back room"?

"Yes. People know that the ladies in charge of Antiques meet on Wednesday so dealers and collectors routinely come in beginning on Thursdays. When a man comes into the store and marches straight to the back room, he is usually a dealer! Martha Stewart has been a longtime customer. She recently bought a beautiful

set of French Provincial china. We get lovely things and younger people are starting to appreciate it. Jewelry is a huge draw and the people who know it's here come in to buy it."

Has online retail forced any changes in your approach to the FWE model or changed it in any way?

"We all feel the pressure of competing with the online marketplace but we all do it. FWE is doing well. We have such a variety of things and you don't find too many shops that cover all of those bases. We know our customers and really try to offer things that are unique. We want people to look around and say, 'this place is really fun!'"

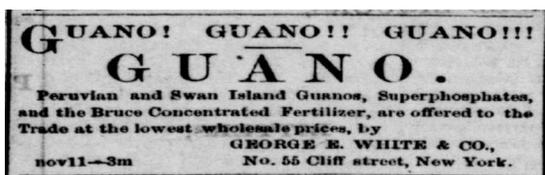
You are a beekeeper! One of the products that FWE carries is your wonderful locally produced organic honey. How many hives do you have at home?

"I have four hives. It's a lot of work so four hives are probably my limit!"

In the spring FWE had a beautiful trunk show featuring Derby Day hats and fascinators. Is there anything new that you would like your customers to know about? Such as an upcoming event or promotion?

"FWE has several new trunk shows planned. In September and October we will have a Jewelry trunk show and a 'Mad About Plaid' trunk show that will feature hats, gloves, scarves, and toppers. We have revived our traditional Holiday Tea which will take place after Election Day 2019 and after Thanksgiving we have 'Bubbles & Baubles' where we showcase new costume jewelry and Southport resident Ruth Franz generously donates French champagne. It's a very festive event which also incorporates a food tasting. For Derby Day 2020 we will have 'Hats Hats Hats' with fantastic fascinators and hats for adults and children. Next summer we will have a 'Summer Tunics' trunk show and plan to showcase our new lines."





Left: an ad for Guano, mid-1800s

Below: the Sloop Mary Elizabeth Journal artwork by Andrew Lockwood, 1858

HISTORY FROM CAPTAIN JONATHAN BULKLEY 'S JOURNALS

By Richard “Deej” Webb

From 1802 to 1858 Jonathan Bulkey kept a daily account of life in Southport. Alongside his poetry, philosophic ruminations and commentary on local and international events he assiduously logged the loss and profit of his maritime trade.

Whether hounding debtors — “Jan 1805: We are [...] owners of the Sloop *Juno* [...] your business [...] is due to us a large sum...[we] wish you immediately on the receipt of this letter to make out the account [...] on the first mail”, or white knuckling economic uncertainty — “1820: Cash scarce and in demand” “November 1855 : Borrowed \$20,000 [\$550,000 today] Broken and worn out”, his shipping business was a demanding one. His ships usually docked in New York City. In 1854 Bulkey described a dock fire there: “*The Great Republic*, largest Merchant Ship in the World with a full cargo for Liverpool burned to the water’s edge” — a \$20 million loss in today’s dollars. *The Joseph Walker* (\$5 million) *The White Squall* (\$3 Million) also perished for a total loss of \$28 million.

As well as Liverpool, the flagship of E. Bulkey and Sons traveled on regular routes to Asia and South America. His ships carried local agrarian goods and general freight —the major cargo in 1837 was consistently rum — coming back with rare items such as black sugar and guano. Highly desirable black sugar originated in the 17th century in Okinawa and is still a common ingredient in Asian cooking. The healthiest of all sugars, in tea it is still a remedy for fatigue, nausea, and colds. It’s also recommended during menstruation as a sweet iron supplement.

Due the exhaustion of soil fertility in Fairfield, guano, the superb manure, was highly prized. Prior use of seaweed for this purpose needed hauling from beaches with oxen and as it was wet and heavy, it took time to dry.

On March 16, 1853 he recorded “Ship *E. Bulkeley* sailed to San Francisco, freight about \$32,000 (\$1,045,00), chartered back with guano amount of 18,000” (\$588,000). Apr 19, 1855: “Mr. Sammy Godfrey arrived home today from a voyage to Callao [on the Pacific and Peru’s chief seaport] ... after guano in the ship *Annaaan*”. Such great profits resulted from the dangerous journey — Cape Horn has long been known as “the sailor’s graveyard” due to the strong winds, currents, large waves, and icebergs.

Captain Jonathan was a major investor in banking and railroads and was a four-time representative to the Connecticut Legislature.

Thanks to the extraordinary staff of the Pequot Library for access to their archives.



AROUND TOWN

November

- 18: Sasquanaug Association’s Annual Meeting, guest speaker Richard “Deej” Webb, 4-5 pm; The Southport School
- 28: Pequot Runners Club Turkey Trot 5-mile Road Race and 2.6 mile walk, 8 am; Wakeman Boys & Girls Club

December

- 6: Christmas Tree Lighting, 6 pm; Town Hall Green
- 6-8: Christmas Tree Festival, 10-4 pm; Burr Homestead, Old Post Road, Fairfield
- 13: Holiday Caroling Party and Open House, 5-7 pm; Pequot Library

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE:

- Vermont Ski House Weekend, sleeps 8
- Sunset Sail
- Metropolitan Museum of Art American Wing Behind-the-Scenes Private Tour and Dinner with the Curator
- Round of Golf at the Country Club of Fairfield
- Gift certificates and product from local merchants, including: The Horseshoe Café, Spic & Span, Hair, Dance Center, Shake Shack, Club Pilates, Kasson Jewelers, The Stand, Artisan, Southport Barber Shop, Switzers, Nest, The Southport Galleries, Barbara Barbara, Stop & Shop, and much more!

JOIN SASQUANAUG NOW!

As a charitable organization, we rely on membership dues to drive our efforts to protect and preserve the quality of life in Southport. Our work includes involvement in zoning, conservation, historic district and other town issues. Whether it means hiring an attorney to defend the community's position on development or sponsoring an event around town, our dues go directly back to the community.

We are also looking for your input and involvement. Please visit our website to join and let us know how you'd like to get involved.

WWW.SASQUANAUG.ORG

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WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT
THE BIRTHDAY BASH
SEPTEMBER 15TH!



FROM JACK IJAMS, SASQUANAUG PRESIDENT

The best part of being on the Sasquanaug board over the last 5 years is the opportunity to work alongside dedicated and caring volunteer board members and residents who are willing to speak up and help with the work that it takes to keep our community special. By working together we strengthen the bonds that make us a true community.

Your board has been engaged in a variety of pursuits over the last 6 months. We've helped negotiate a plan for improved public access to the shore via the Lower Wharf that also preserves privacy for the proximal neighbor. We recently began work on a plan to improve the care of the flora on the parcel of Southport Park that lies on the north side of the Post Road. And we've installed new kitchen flooring and proper dehumidification at Robinson Cottage, a Sasquanaug holding, and appreciate the patience of our fine tenant family during the process.

And in a further nod to working together, the Sasquanaug Association very much appreciates the work of a few dedicated members of our community for starting the *Southport Roundtable*, a convening organization of non-profits in Southport who meet periodically to coordinate local events and find ways to work together. Two examples stand out: a hardy group of strong men from the *Southport Volunteer Fire Dept.* joined a team of Sasquanaug board members on a rainy Earth Day last Spring to pick up and cart away a load of trash from around our village. In the mix was a large haul from alongside I-95 including at least 12 discarded tires that had been dumped over the guard rail; the second example concerns our good friends at the *Pequot Library* to whom we thank for providing their lawn for our upcoming 380th Birthday Bash and for use of the auditorium last spring for our community meeting concerning public safety. And thanks to the *Southport Roundtable*, as well, for organizing the participation of all Southport's non-profits in our annual Southport parade.



Fire department volunteers on Earth Day

We thank all our members for your financial support and I welcome your input on how we can better serve our community. Please email me at musicman8156@gmail.com.

ABOUT OTHER SOUTHPORT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS



The Southport Nonprofit Roundtable is a collaborative group of nonprofit and charitable organizations serving Southport and area residents; Sasquanaug is one of its 10 members which include: Fairfield Women's Exchange, Pequot Library, Southport Congregational Church, Southport Conservancy, Southport Volunteer Fire Department, Southport Park, The Southport School, Trinity Church, and Wakeman Boys & Girls Club. The Roundtable's mission is to support the work and growth of Southport nonprofits through sharing information and resources, and by encouraging residents and supporters to become active members of these community organizations..

"SOUTHPORT FROM 1742-1919" IS FEATURED TOPIC AT SASQUANAUG ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar: The Sasquanaug Association annual meeting will take place Sunday, November 18, 4-5 at the Southport School and features guest speaker Richard "Deej" Webb, author, award-winning educator, and documentary filmmaker. Deej will explore what life was like for the sailors, captains, and residents of Southport, once the largest commercial harbor between New York and Boston. All are invited to attend and learn more about Southport, and the community works of the Sasquanaug Association.