

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Discovering, Collecting & Preserving

The History of Columbia



*"Discovering History, Pride
of Place and Community"*

Volume 52, Issue 1

March 2018

"Harvesting Stones" Documentary Tells Timeless Story of Courage & Community

March 11, 2018, 2:00-4:00.



A still from the documentary, "Harvesting Stones."

The documentary tells the stories of Jewish farmers who came to eastern Connecticut from the 1890s to the mid 1900s. See page 2 for more description.

Where and When: Beckish Senior Center, 188 Route 66, Columbia, CT, March 11, 2018, 2:00-4:00.

Sponsored by the Columbia Historical Society, open to the public at no cost. Light refreshments.

Historical Society Mission

To encourage historical research.
To hold meetings on historical subjects for members & the public.
To discover, collect & preserve whatever pertains to Columbia's History.



Future Programs 2018

"Harvesting Stones" Documentary

March, 11, 2:00 – 4:00
Beckish Senior Center
188 Rt. 66. Columbia, CT



Katherine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood.

Also annual meeting
April 27th Dinner at 6:00
Program at 7:00
Columbia Congregational Church
325 Rt. 87, Columbia CT.



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Harvesting Stones, a documentary that tells a timeless story of courage and community

This documentary tells the stories of Jewish farmers who came to eastern Connecticut from the 1890's to the mid 1900s. It tells a tale of how Jewish families were able to escape religious persecution and Holocaust horrors. It follows how these families from Europe were able to establish new lives on farms in Colchester, Lebanon, Moosup, and Plainfield. The film makes a connection between the Jewish farm families, their impact on the towns and cities where they lived and worked, and the lessons and legacies they left behind.

The German-Jewish philanthropist, Baron Maurice de Hirsch created a fund in 1891 that was used to assist Eastern European Jews who were fleeing Russian pogroms, which refers to the outbreak of anti-Jewish violence by non-Jewish street mobs. He wanted to offer Jews an opportunity to learn farming so that they could support themselves and get them out of the teeming tenements of the cities. The Jewish Agricultural Society (JAS), a subsidiary of the Baron de Hirsch fund, was formed in 1900. The JAS acquired land in several states and provided agricultural training for the new farmers. The fund settled about a thousand Jewish farmers in rural Connecticut.

Please join us on March 11 as we view a compelling story about how people overcome adversity and prosper while learning new skills.

HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Did you know that you can:

- Contact us with questions or comments.
- Volunteer for specific jobs. See a list of choices where you can help.
- Read the current News Letter (as well as some past issues)
- Read research papers of interest.
- Donate. Money goes to future programs or you can specify a project.
- See gift items we have available at Town Hall
- View a variety of photos.
- Keep up with upcoming events for the Columbia Historical Society.

Check it out at **www.columbia-history.org**

UPCOMING PRESENTATION



Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood

With a stage and film career that spanned six decades, Katharine Hepburn is an American icon. Born and raised in Connecticut, Hepburn had a career in stage, film and television that reflected the changing role of women in broader society. The story of her life-long ties to Connecticut offers a complete picture of how Hepburn became the woman and the star she was.

ALSO

Columbia Historical Society Annual potluck, meeting and program.

Date: 4/27/2018

Time: Dinner 6:00 pm program at 7:00

Location: Columbia Congregational Church, 325 Route 87,
Columbia, CT

Natalie Belanger is an educator at the Connecticut Historic Society and will present information about Katharine Hepburn, from Hartford to Hollywood. With a stage and film career that spanned 6 decades, Katherine Hepburn is an American icon. She was born and raised in Connecticut, had a career in stage, film and television that reflected the changing role of women in a broader society. This story of her life long ties to Connecticut offers a complete picture of how Hepburn evolved into an independent woman and Oscar winning movie star.

Please bring a favorite dish to share with other Columbia Historical Society members. I am sure you will enjoy this interesting program.

Columbia Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 551
Columbia, CT. 06237

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Columbia Historical Society Membership – April 2018 through March 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____

City or Zip _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Type of Membership: Individual (\$10.00/year) Family (\$20.00/year) Life (\$100.00) In addition to the membership fee, I would like to make a donation (optional) to support the projects and programs of the Columbia Historical Society, Inc.

A payment for membership \$_____ and a donation of \$_____ is included on an enclosed check for a total of \$_____

Please make your check payable to: Columbia Historical Society, Inc. Please mail to:

Columbia Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 551, Columbia, CT 06237

Your gift is deductible as a charitable contribution only to the extent that it exceeds the value of goods and/or services you received in exchange for your gift. The above information should serve as a receipt in accordance with the Internal Revenue Services Guideline.