

Town of West Hartford/Elmwood Senior Center



"Experience the Energy"

HISTORICAL HARTFORD



An Educational Series Presented by Daniel Sterner, Author & Historian

Daniel Sterner majored in history at Wesleyan University and earned a master's degree in Middle Eastern studies at the University of Chicago. He has been a guide at the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses in Hartford and the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield, Connecticut. His website, Historic Buildings of Connecticut, won an award from the Hartford Preservation Alliance in 2008. Due to the popularity of his "Great Buildings of Hartford" presentation at Elmwood Senior Center and by request of attendees, we have created a series to highlight a variety of Hartford's neighborhoods.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASYLUM STREET

Wednesday, January 23rd, 10:30-11:30 am

This program will feature the lost architecture and businesses such as Savitt Jewelers, Frank's Restaurant, and numerous clothing and furniture stores, as well as grand hotels such as the 19th century Allyn House and the Bond and Statler Hilton in the 20th century. Also included will be views of the site where J.P. Morgan was born, the train station and the old Hartford High School.

AWALK THROUGH HARTFORD'S OLD EAST SIDE

Thursday, February 21st, 10:30-11:30 am

Enjoy a visual walk through the vanished neighborhood around Front Street that was destroyed in the late 1950's and replaced with Constitution Plaza and the Phoenix Building. In 1910, the population of Hartford was 14% Italian, and more than 60% lived in one small section of the city: the Front Street neighborhood. The neighborhood was built of three- and four-story brick tenements, with stores on the ground floors and businesses such as groceries, bakeries, fruit stores, and saloons filled these spaces.

NOOK FARM

Wednesday, March 27th, 10:30-11:30 am

Learn about the neighborhood of Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe as well as other literary figures. In the early 1850s, brothers-in-law John Hooker and Francis Gillette purchased 140 wooded acres just west of Hartford's last trolley stop on a bend, or nook, of the winding Park River. The men built their homes and parceled out land to family members and friends. What evolved in the years after the Civil War was Nook Farm, a tightly knit community of intellectuals, political leaders, and reformers who together and individually wielded an outsized influence on the country's intellectual and social development.

Tasty refreshments and beverages will be served.

COST: \$3 M per event, \$4 NM per event

BONUS! Register for all three: \$8 M, \$11 NM

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