



Happy New Year The ICRC Insider

The Indian & Colonial Research Center

January 2011

Dear Member,

This newsletter will bring you an introduction to ICRC President, Robert A. Lecce Jr.; up-to-date on the Future of ICRC; all the Annual Reports; Memorials and other information.



President Robert A. Lecce, Jr.

New President

Robert A. Lecce, Jr., is a resident of Old Mystic. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Montserrat College. Robert's art background combined with his skills as a baker have produced many beautiful works for local organizations and deliciously decorated cakes and pastries for neighbors and friends.

Robert has worked as a certified therapeutic Recreation Director at local nursing facilities and is currently employed at the Watch Hill Apple Rehab Center.

Robert has two children, Anthony and Kaelyn.

Robert has a deep interest in history and is a member of the 6th Connecticut Regiment, a group that participates in reenactments and living history. He is also a member of the Mystic Lions Club; Old Mystic Community Association; Bed & Breakfast of Mystic Coast and Country; and the ICRC.

Robert brings his administrative experience, community spirit and talents and his interest in history to the ICRC.

The 2010 Annual Meeting/Luncheon of
The Indian & Colonial Research Center
held at Go Fish in the Old Mistick Village
November 13, 2010
Hosted by Jon Kodama

Opening Remarks by Joan Cohn:

Welcome to the 43rd Annual Meeting of The Indian & Colonial Research Center (ICRC). The first annual meeting was held November 28th 1967. The ICRC was incorporated on December 9th 1965. December will start the 45th anniversary of the ICRC.

I wish to thank Jon Kodama and his staff for their generous offer to host the Annual Meeting and Luncheon and for allowing all proceeds to go directly to ICRC Flood Fund.

This year we lost members and friends: Esther Goodwin; Frederic Lattin; Corinne Breed; Anita Thorp; Carol Kimball; Geraldine Bienkowski; Ann McBride, mother of member Dr. Kevin McBride and Grandmother of member, Dr. Jason Mancini; Alice Regina Kirchner, mother of members Bruce Kirchner and Barbara Poirier. Let us pause to remember those who are no longer with us.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
The Indian & Colonial Research Center
Secretary's Report

The year 2010 has been an eventful one for The Indian & Colonial Research Center.

- Board of Directors Meetings were held in January, April, July and October.
- We are grateful for all contributions following the appeals letter and photos of the flood damage and for the increase in membership levels.

The most dramatic and memorable story of the year was the flood on March 30. After more than 5 inches of rainfall in a short amount of time, the waters rose and rushed and churned through the village of Old Mystic, over the banks of Whitford Brook and into the streets and buildings including ICRC.

- Immediate and emergency actions were taken to rescue the historic collections and materials along with the equipment. From March 30th into April and beyond, volunteers, the Fire Department, Mystic Seaport, the Press, the Mashantucket Library directors and staff and many other helpers all participated in gathering the contents finally to be housed at Joan Cohn's house, at the Fire Company and at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. Corruption from mold and maximum damage to the contents had been averted.

- In the meantime, the ICRC building proper, was attended to and evaluated for inside structural weaknesses and extensive damage. Over the months many hours have been devoted by Joan and the Board to applying, requesting, discussing, contacting FEMA, State and Local entities for financial and practical help. More varied and myriad details and decisions regarding the flood and the restoration effort are still developing and the story continues.

ICRC WEBSITE: The ICRC received \$10,000 from the Connecticut Humanities Council. The funds were designated to update and improve the website. The redesign was completed and the new website was launched on July 12th. It continues to experience frequent visits.

LOCAL HISTORY EXPO: On March 20th the ICRC participated in the Local History Expo at the Church of the Latter Day Saints on Flanders Road in Groton. Along with other ICRC materials, the Civil War Book by Gloria Fowler, *Dear Mother and Sister...*, was exhibited and sold. More copies of the book have been printed and sent to various libraries and historical societies. The book remains on sale at Bank Street Books in Mystic.

ICRC BUSINESS:

- Members of ICRC who have email addresses will be sent ICRC information, including the newsletter, via email. This means of communication will save many dollars of postage and provide an efficient conduit to and from the members. Members that do not have computers or email or do not wish to receive email from ICRC will continue to receive information by regular mail.
- In June we lost Carol Kimball, one of the original founders of the ICRC. From the beginning she was a loyal and active member. We respected her vast knowledge, enjoyed her enthusiasm and will always be inspired by the legacy of this wonderful person.
- On July 19th the ICRC was represented at Old Mystic Day, a celebration of the return of normal business after the flood, with a booth outside the building. A copy of the history of the Old Mystic Store from 1815 to the present was provided for the Store's use.
- As indicated in the ICRC letter of July 29th, Joan has decided to step down as President. Her devotion and many contributions to The Indian & Colonial Research Center are impossible to describe. We are very grateful for her efforts and we thank her with deep appreciation.
- In October Joan gave a well received talk to the Mystic Lion's Club on the history of ICRC.
- On October 26th, Robert Lecce and Thomas Santos were elected directors. Robert Lecce was elected President of ICRC. Welcome Robert and Thomas!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Fontanella
ICRC Recording Secretary

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
The Indian & Colonial Research Center
Treasurer's Report

The fiscal year began November 1, 2009 with a balance on hand of \$12,801.10.

Income totaled \$31,455.52 in twenty-two categories making a total income of \$44,256.62. The largest amounts were: CT Humanities Grant for Website Development \$10,000; Flood Donations \$7,350.08 and Membership \$3,125.00.

Expenses totaled \$20,644.10. The largest expenses this year were: Website development \$10,000; Fuel Oil \$1,990.96; and Utilities \$1,962.14, which included: Electricity \$1,152.08; Telephone & Internet \$ 704.29 and Water \$105.77. There was a decrease in utilities of \$348.36 from last year. Telephone and Internet were disconnected in April. Water will be shut off over the winter. The back two rooms will not be heated.

The balance on hand as of November 1, 2010 was \$23,612.52. Restricted Funds for Memorial Donations of \$1,950 (\$1,255 for Wally Trolan and \$695.00 for Carol Kimball); Flood donations from Members and Friends \$7,350.08 ; FEMA payment of \$1,304.51 for (reimbursement for flood expenses) totaled \$8,654.59 making a total of \$10,604.59 for Restricted Funds leaving a total of \$13,007.93 for operating expenses or unrestricted funds.

There is a detailed Treasurer's Report with all categories listed on file at ICRC.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas A. O'Connell
ICRC Treasurer

Past President Update & Comments
Annual Meeting
November 13, 2010

I have been ICRC President since 1990. There have been many changes over these 20 years, too numerous to mention. I want to thank all past and present Board Members for their devoted service to me and to the membership. Many countless volunteer hours have been donated to keep ICRC moving ahead. I wish also to thank Michael Spellmon and all past and present docents for keeping the doors open and volunteers that have helped to enter documents, photos, and library books into the data base to move us into the computer age.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Indian & Colonial Research Center is to house, preserve and maintain, intact and in perpetuity, the collection of Eva Lutz Butler's early Americana and to acquire and preserve, in like manner, other collections of similar historic, genealogical, Native American, early colonial and education materials; with particular attention to making the collections accessible for the benefit and use of the local, national and international community.

Last but not least, I wish to thank ICRC Members for their cooperation, support and dedication to keep alive the mission of Mrs. Butler and ICRC.

Now we have a new President, Robert Lecce, and Board Member Tom Santos along with the existing dedicated board members to continue this mission and the much needed work to rebuild ICRC and set goals for the future.

I will continue as a volunteer and board member to work with Robert to make this an easy transition.

Now before I retire as President a final few words ---

What is in the Future for ICRC as I See It?

FUND RAISING EFFORTS

Treasurer Tom O'Connell reported as of November 1, 2010, ICRC received \$7,290.08 from the appeals letter to rebuild the two back rooms. On November 4th, The Old Mystic Fire District donated \$100 making a new total of \$7,390.08.

FEMA has sent one check in the amount of \$1,304.51 (reimbursement for flood expenses). A letter was received on September 29, 2010 from the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut stating a check for \$6,384.42 (for furnishings lost) would be received. On October 24th, I called Judy Pahl, State Public Assistance Coordinator to clarify that they were not waiting for any further paperwork from ICRC. Pahl said the state was late getting checks out but ICRC did not have to submit anything further and two more checks should arrive in November. I estimate FEMA will submit approximately \$16,755.99. This would bring the total for flood Restoration to \$24,146.07.

NEED FOR CLEAR TITLE OF PROPERTY

On October 22, Director Ed April met with Wayne Greene, the building official of Stonington to discuss required permits that ICRC would need to restore the facility in Old Mystic. The issue of the deed was discussed and although Mr. Greene could offer no comment he recommended the issue be resolved before any work could be done.

On November 5, ICRC Directors Cohn, O'Connell and Santos met with Town of Stonington officials: Mr. Edward Haberek, Jr., First Selectman and Mr. Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director at the Town Hall Meeting Room. Mr. William Satti, Director of Public Affairs, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation attended the meeting. (Mr. Satti acted as an advisor and interested party for ICRC). The deed clause was discussed and a brief history of the facility was presented. Mr. Haberek stated that Stonington was not interested in paying for maintaining the facility. Mr. Bragaw advised ICRC to write a letter stating what needed to be removed from the original deed and since ICRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, request a waiver of Town of Stonington building permit fees from the Board of Selectman. On November 10, the letter was sent to Mr. Haberek.

FUTURE FUND RAISING

After the Building Reconstruction Committee prepares a Bid Proposal and sends it to interested Contractors and the bids are returned a Goal can be determined for additional funds needed. Several members have suggested ideas for future fund raising to be held after the holidays. Committees will be formed in the future.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Since the new Website was launched in July, we have received over 10,000 visits. Some inquiries have been received even though the home page states that all materials were moved off-site and are not available at this time. The materials continue to be housed at Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center (MPMRC). The MPMRC personnel have been very cooperative by helping ICRC volunteers to complete an inventory of all materials transported to their facility. The materials have been packed in sealed boxes and stored in an MPMRC climate control facility. MPMRC, Collection Manager and member of ICRC, Meredith Vasta, has allowed me to access the materials when requests for copies of documents have been received. All requests have been copied and sent. The website was designed to allow the public direct access to documents. In the future, we hope to make more documents available on-line to help establish more income.

EMAIL DELIVERY SERVICE

Constant Contact was used to deliver 158 announcements of the 2010 Annual Meeting/Luncheon to members that supplied their email addresses. The other members received a letter with the information by regular mail. We hope that more members will supply their email addresses to receive correspondence by email. Members without email or those that do not wish to use this form of delivery will continue to receive correspondence by regular mail. In the future, the ICRC newsletters, events, and other announcements will be sent either by email or regular mail.

ICRC FUTURE

I'm sure President Lecce and Director Tom Santos will bring new ideas to the Board and ICRC will advance and become stronger than ever.

Any questions or comments? If not, then I wish to introduce President Lecce and pass the gavel to him.

President Lecce addressed the members and guests and along with Tom O'Connell conducted a 50-50 Raffle. Raffle tickets were sold for \$5.00 each and \$500 was raised. The winning ticket was drawn. Sharon Maynard, won \$250.00 which she immediately donated to ICRC. President Lecce said there was one more matter of business. At this time Vice President Allen Polhemus addressed the members and guests and then presented a certificate to Joan Cohn.



The certificate reads: Certificate of Appreciation
 This certificate is awarded to Joan Cohn
In recognition and appreciation of twenty years of dedicated involvement
and service as President of the Indian & Colonial Research Center.

A delicious buffet luncheon was enjoyed by all.



In Memoriam

Geraldine Bienkowski (2010)

On November 3, Joan Cohn received a note from Geraldine's daughter that she died in Sebring, Florida, where she had been living with her daughter for the past 16 years. Gerry was a volunteer in the early years of ICRC and remained a member even after she moved to Florida. There was no obituary in the local papers.

Esther Goodwin (1910-2010)

Esther Goodwin of East Haddam died April 1, 2010. She would have been 100 years old on September 20, 2010. In 1936, Ester married Richard H. Goodwin. In 1944, Dr. Goodwin was appointed Chairmen of the Botany Department at Connecticut and served until 1976. In 1960, Dr. & Mrs. Goodwin founded the Burham Brook Preserve in East Haddam by making a gift of forty-eight acres to the Nature Conservancy. By the time of Dr. Goodwin's death in 2007 the preserve included over 1,000 acres.

Dr. & Mrs. Goodwin were friends of Mrs. Eva Butler and members of ICRC for many years. They attended many annual meetings and dinners of the years.

C. Ann McBride (1919-2010)

Ann McBride of Gales Ferry died April 20, 2010. Mrs. McBride was the mother of member, Dr. Kevin McBride and grandmother of member Dr. Jason Mancini

Alice Regina Kirchner (1924-2010)

Alice Regina Kirchner of Mystic died April 20, 2010. Mrs. Kirchner was the eldest member of the Mashantucket Pequot Langevin family line. She was the mother of members, Barbara Poirier and Bruce Kirchner.

Frederic Lattin (1924-2010)

Frederic Lattin of Old Mystic died on April 26, 2010. Fred was a contributing member of ICRC for many years. His wife, Elysabeth continues to be a member.

Corinne Breed (1922-2010)

Corinne Breed of Mystic died May 31, 2010. Corinne was married to the late Edward A Breed, past treasurer of ICRC. Ed died in 1995. Corinne was a teacher in Preston and Groton school systems until she retired at age 70. Corinne had many hobbies and belonged to many local organizations. She and Ed were members of ICRC of many years. After Ed's death, Corinne continued her membership at ICRC.

Anita Thorp (1916-2010)

Anita Thorp of Groton died June 8, 2010. Anita was an accomplished genealogist and with her husband, William, traced and documented her family history as well as many other acquaintances establishing their roots. She was an active member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants and traced her ancestry to John Mason. Anita was a member of ICRC for many years and her husband, William continues to be a member. They attended many annual meetings and dinners over the years.

Carol W. Kimball - (1916-2010)

Carol W. Kimball died June 8, 2010. Carol was an original board member and first recording secretary of The Indian and Colonial Research Center which was founded and incorporated December 9, 1965. She worked as a docent and volunteer until 1994 (twenty-five years). When she could no longer serve as a volunteer, she was elected as an Honorary Director.

Carol played an integral part in the formation and organization of the ICRC and was a constant source of information and support. She continued to be actively involved with the ICRC and was always willing to help further its growth.

After forty-five years of devoted service in many capacities, we will remember her with affection, for her sense of humor, her enthusiasm and her charming way.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at The Union Baptist Church and attended by several ICRC Directors and Members.

After November 13, 2010 the following deaths occurred:

Helen Keith - (1928-2010)

Helen Keith of Mystic died November 29, 2010. Helen was a resident of Mystic since 1953. She was an avid gardener and active in the community. Over her lifetime she served as a longtime Mariner Girl Scout leader; a nursery school teacher and director; member and past president of Mystic Garden Club; Volunteer member, past president, and staff member of the Mystic River Historical Society; life member of Denison Society; ICRC contributing member for many years; and parishioner and altar guild member of St. David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry. A memorial service was held at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 18 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry. Memorial gifts can be made to the Mystic River Historical Society, Collections Conservation/Acquisition Fund or St. David's Episcopal Church.

Edwin M. Hanks, Jr. (1927-2010)

Edwin Hanks of Old Mystic died on December 2, 2010. Ed was a graduate of Norwich Free Academy; served in World War II; volunteered in the Old Mystic Fire Department from 1948; was the first paid Old Mystic Fire Chief in 1979; was Scout-Master of Troop 35 in the 1960's; and was employed by Bostitch for 32 years. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Old Mystic Baptist Church. A memorial service was held on December 4 at 2:00 pm at the Old Mystic Baptist Church. Ed and his wife, Millie were members of ICRC for many years.

We lost many members and friends this year, they will be deeply missed by many. Our sympathies are extended to all the families.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA HELD DECEMBER 18, 2010

Since Joan Cohn's house was filled with ICRC boxes, computers, etc. loyal member of ICRC and owner of the Old Mystic Inn, Michael Cardillo, said we could hold the tea at the Inn. It was a beautiful setting for the Christmas Tea which is held each year to thank all the volunteers that helped ICRC over the year. Twenty-two volunteers attended and enjoyed the Holiday Spirit. The singing of Christmas carols and holiday songs added to the festivities.

Membership Renewals - Important Notice

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2010-2011, please fill out the applications form and mail it with your check.

Thank you for your continued support

Please send an email to ICRC06372@yahoo.com if you wish to receive notices and newsletters by email.



