

Eight speakers at Historical Society's Sept. 23 program

The Bedford Historical Society's 2015-16 season opens with an eight-speaker program that will touch on plans for a new Town historical museum, the results of Bedford High School students at the National History Day competition, and the latest happenings at the Historical Society.

This event will begin at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd in Upper Fellowship Hall of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 25 The Great Rd. After a refreshment period from 7:15 – 7:45 pm, and short announcements, the speakers for the evening will begin.

The Society's programs are free and the public is encouraged to attend.

With discussion about a possible Town/Historical Society partnership to operate a historical museum in Bedford on the agenda of the Bedford Selectmen, Society member and Selectman Bill Moonan will provide a status report on this subject. Moonan, chair of the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee that recently presented its final report to the Selectmen, will present an overview of the Committee's final report and describe the latest in the Selectmen's activities to re-establish a museum.

Selectman Moonan also serves as Chair of the town's Historic District Commission and is a member of a number of Boards, including the Bedford Housing Authority, Town Center, Inc. (which manages Town Center, Old Town Hall and the Depot Park railroad car), and the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation in Waltham.

Also scheduled to speak at the Sept. 23 program are six Bedford High School students who participated in this year's National History Day competition. The students -- Rachel Arnold, Sarah Nosal, Jaqui Hale, Nili Ezekiel, Otto Altmann and Haroon Bukhari -- competed as two teams, one in the Group Website category on the subject of Nellie Bly, and one in the Group Video category with a video on Abbie Hoffman.

They will briefly describe their projects and their experiences at the national competition at the University of Maryland, and receive honors for their love of history from the Historical Society. Each year the Society honors the Bedford students and teacher-advisers involved in the History Day program, a nationwide competition designed to promote the teaching and learning of history. Bedford High has participated in this program for 15 years.

The last of the eight speakers for the evening will be Historical Society President Don Corey, who will report on some new Society activities and projects, including an update on the Society's new webpage, a "virtual" museum using recently-acquired software, the latest news involving the Society's collections and a new PowerPoint presentation called "History of Bedford" that was developed to assist with the Society's participation in the Walk of Historic Bedford for the town's third graders.

He also will provide a select group of the Society's historic documents and artifacts for viewing.

Corey is serving his second year as Society President. He also serves as Chair of the town's Historic Preservation Commission, is a member of the town's Community Preservation Committee and is a Director of both the Friends of the Job Lane House and the Bedford Historical Society. Corey, active in town for several decades, is also a former Bedford Selectman, Planning Board member and Citizen of the Year.