



Kent Historical Society Newsletter

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Kent, Connecticut

May 2022

Meet Our New Directors!



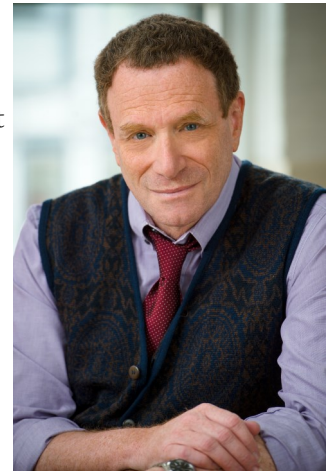
Before moving to Kent in 2015, Logan Wheeler was Director of the Writing Center and Instructor of English at Augusta University in Augusta, GA, where she managed the day-to-day operations of her program, including public relations and marketing, strategic planning, and educational programming and events.

In addition to running programs, Logan has a passion for teaching. She has taught primarily English composition and professional and technical writing, but she has occasionally had the joy of teaching history-heavy literature courses abroad (complete with museum visits!), as well as high school world history. She understands the importance of connecting with our past and passing that sentiment on to the next generation, and she is excited to rebuild KHS's educational programming.

Logan has experience working with non-profit organizations, as well, having partnered with nearly a dozen different organizations in her university writing courses to develop usable, real-world documents for those organizations. A native of Tuscaloosa, AL, she is also a former volunteer for the Literacy Council of West Alabama, having organized events and author talks.

Logan lives in Cornwall Bridge with her husband, David Clark, their daughter, Helen, and their two mischievous dachshund mixes, Izzy and Penny.

Ron Marasco, Ph.D. was a professor for 27 years in the College of Communication and Fine Arts and Department Chair of Theatre at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles where he produced and directed numerous productions. As an actor he appeared in dozens TV shows: from *West Wing* to *Freaks and Geeks* to *Entourage* to a long stint on the police show *Major Crimes*.



Ron's first book, *Notes to an Actor*, was named by the American Library Association as an "Outstanding Academic Book of 2008," and cited in an interview by screen legend Kirk Douglas as "the very best book on acting." Ron's second book, *About Grief: Insights, Setbacks, Grace Notes Taboos*, published by Rowan and Littlefield, has been translated into Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese for publication abroad and is used by hospices and grief groups across the country. Ron's historical novel, *The Dog Who Was There*, published by Harper Collins, reached the Christian Bestseller List in 2017.

Most recently, Ron worked as a story producer for a documentary about Dean Martin that aired on Turner Classic Movie channel.

He has a B.A in English from Fordham University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Theatre History from UCLA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4 - July 5: "Faces of Kent" exhibit. Open weekends. Above the House of Books.

Join us for an exhibit of some of our contemporary Kent limners, and look for some faces you recognize. The exhibit showcases Scott Bricher, Edward Martinez, Susan Grisell, and Robert Lenz. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on having their portraits painted by their favorite artist.

THE TOWN OF IRON TOYS: THE MECHANICAL BANKS OF THE J. & E. STEVENS COMPANY BY RICHARD FRANKLIN DONOHUE



In 1869, the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell Connecticut began making iron banks that performed an action when coins were deposited into them. Mechanical banks quickly became popular with both children and adults throughout America and beyond. Today, mechanical toy banks are highly collectable and sell for thousands of dollars at auction. Join Richard Franklin Donohue, Historian for the Town of Cromwell, as he demonstrates his collection of mechanical banks and explains their history and the amusing tales that inspired their design. Witness Boss Tweed take kickbacks, one coin at a time. See William Tell shoot an apple from the top of his son's head with a penny! Watch a gentlemanly game of 1880s Baseball from the third base line and help to feed a menagerie of animals, from frogs to bulldogs.

This presentation involves a power-point slide show and an interactive demonstration of twenty banks.

Richard Franklin Donohue rfranklindonohue@gmail.com (860) 271-5771

www.rfranklindonohue.com

September 30: Ammi Phillips exhibit. Seven Hearths. Come see some early faces of Kent painted by the original Kent Limner, Ammi Phillips.



FACES OF KENT



Scott Bricher, Edward Martinez
Susan Grisell and Robert Lenz

June 26: Sunday Series. "The Town of Iron Toys: Mechanical Banks of the J. & E. Stevens Company" with Historian Richard Franklin Donohue. Town Hall. 2pm.

September 3: KHS will be at Kent Memorial Library's Kent Carnival. Join us for historic games and crafts. Golden Falcon Field. 12pm - 4pm.



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Kent Historical Society

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**Please remember the Kent Historical Society
in your will or estate plan.
We are incredibly grateful for the visionary
donors who have remembered us.**



Our Mission:

We are a donor-supported nonprofit organization. Our mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and present the rich history of Kent as well as to provide educational and research material to enrich the public understanding of Kent's artistic and cultural heritage.

Kent Historical Society

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Officers

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Managing Director ~ Logan Wheeler
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Hours at Tallman House at 10 Studio Hill Road
Tuesdays 9am - noon, Fridays 1 - 4pm
or by appointment.

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