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# History Alive!



The Providence College History Club Newsletter  
Vol. II No. 3

December 15, 1998

*Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

- **Events to look forward to...**

- January Meeting* to choose movie, discuss other issues

- Genealogy Workshop*, to be presented by Andy Boisvert, club member and Rhode Island Historical Society staff member.

- Lecture Program* resumes with Dr. Paul Quinlan on a topic/date/time TBA, prospective programs with Al Klyberg, Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society, and Park Ranger John McNiff, who led our evening at the Roger Williams National Memorial in October.

- History Club Movie Night 2*: movie choice to be made

- Family History Night*: come and share a part of your family's unique past--over break get in touch with older family members and find out something interesting--like how your family came to America, Native American heritage, military experience, what people thought of big events of the time (Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt, Sacco and Vanzetti, bootlegging) anything interesting!

- **History Club Service Day--A Review by Brian Daley '01**



On November 21, the History Club joined forces with Urban Action to help prepare two dilapidated homes for restoration as single or two-family housing. The two homes, found in the Elmwood section of town and dating from the late nineteenth century, have been in great disrepair for several years. The renovated homes will supply affordable housing while also maintaining their historical value and appearance.

Tom Lyman '99, President of the History Club, was informed by the Providence Preservation Society of the old properties and saw them as a perfect opportunity for a service project. Through the joint leadership of Joseph Creamer '01 and Jay Ranucci '00, a large group of volunteers was assembled. The group, totaling about 40, consisted of a small number of students from the History Club, but received a big boost when Urban Action stepped in to offer assistance.

Demonstrating cooperation and hard work, the crew spent the afternoon cleaning out debris from the homes and discarding it into dumpsters. Upon arrival, the homes were old and filthy. By the time we left, the houses were still old, but at least they were clean.

Joe Creamer, who was instrumental in organizing and leading the work, says, "It was wonderful to do something for the community and by working together we really accomplished a lot in a short period of time. The project left me with a great sense of overall satisfaction."

Jessica Sault '00, who also volunteered, adds, "I had a lot of fun and it gave me a chance to get to know many kids within our History Club and also Urban Action."

Dr. Grzebien, History Club Moderator, comments, "I was especially impressed with the spirit and generosity of the History Club volunteers who participated in cleaning out the abandoned properties for the Revolving Fund of the Providence Preservation Society. The work was not easy, and our troops tackled a very messy job with enthusiasm and a great sense of humor. Urban Action was great in providing transportation and so many eager and energetic volunteers. A word of praise and thanks to all those involved is in order."

On behalf of the History Club, we would like to thank Urban Action again for helping to make this project a resounding success.



▪ **Bon Voyage to Liz Kirby '00—Scotland Bound for Spring '99**

Best wishes to Club Secretary Liz Kirby as she prepares to travel to Glasgow, Scotland to pursue studies for Spring semester at the University of Glasgow. Be sure to turn to History Alive next fall for the exclusive interview with this world traveler. Happy Trails to you, Liz !



• **History in the Cinema**

Dr. Grzebien would like to recommend for members to see the recently released film "Elizabeth."

He gives the film a thumbs up: "From the standpoint of chronology and historiography, it has many flaws, but as artistic cinema it is great fun and a must for anyone who loves English history."

• **History Alive! Want to be a reporter?**

If anyone would like to help in the production of "History Alive!" we are always in need of people to write reviews of club events. There is also the possibility of an expanded edition on-line, which could include more varied content. Call History Club President Tom Lyman at 865-4136 with any ideas for the club or the newsletter.

