

History gives us many things:  
a sense of who we are, a sense of pride, an opportunity to showcase our heroes,  
perspective of the struggles we have endured and the knowledge that  
together we will get through this.

### EDUCATOR'S NOTE

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new Museum Educator. I'm a thirty-three-year resident of Brewster, and a recently retired fifth grade teacher with the North Salem School District. I received my Doctorate in Education from Walden University in 2009.

My first local historical fiction book, set in Brewster, Carmel, Mahopac, and Manhattan, was originally self-published on Amazon in 2017. Since then, I've signed a five-book contract

with Roan and Weatherford Publishing. My first title, *The Girls of Haviland*, will be re-released by this publisher in hardcover edition this November. This will be the first book of a five-book series about three generations of independent women in a fictional Brewster family spanning the years 1917 through 1977. Following the November release of the first book, Roan and Weatherford will release a new book in the series every eight months.

My passion for Brewster history began when my husband and I met John and Jane Palmer, the original owners of our house, in 1990. John's family was featured in the 1988 Bicentennial book, which he was gracious enough to lend me once I expressed interest in the profiles of residents. I was particularly intrigued by the article on Edith Diehl, book binder, Women's Land Army Experimental Station Director, and one of the original founders of the Brewster Library. I researched her life by taking a tour of her home and interviewing her niece, Melissa Fitzgerald. I gave a presentation on Edith's many accomplishments at the museum in 2000. Prior to this research, I had been the museum educator in 1996 under the direction of Danielle Cyllich before returning to teaching at Putnam ARC Preschool, and later, joining the faculty at North Salem Schools.

I now look forward to the many exciting events we have in the works here at the museum. They will all be outlined in this issue of the newsletter. Looking forward to meeting all of you. I'm here Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM and would love to have you stop by.

— Deborah Oswald, Ed.D, Museum Educator

### PROGRAMS CALENDAR

#### MORE PROGRAMS ARE COMING....

#### OCTOBER HISTORY EXCHANGE

October 11, 12:30pm, Brewster Library Meeting Room

Topic: Tilly Foster Mine

Register online at the Brewster Library website:

<http://http://brewsterlibrary.org/calendar/#/events/TjrB758o-Va/instances/LWWfaAS9uN/>

#### HISTORY BOOK CLUB

Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 2:00 PM

Joint program with the Brewster Library. (See page 2 for more.)

Registration is required to order books. Register online at <http://brewsterlibrary.org/calendar/#/events/GcGwNxdqp2/instances/XzDfMew1Rc/>

#### PICTURESQUE PUTNAM ART EXHIBIT

November 4 – 19, 2023. Please check each venue for times.

At the Southeast Museum and the Belle Levine Art Center in Mahopac. [www.putnamartscouncil.com](http://www.putnamartscouncil.com)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please cut out this form, fill out the appropriate information and send to:  
Southeast Museum 67 Main Street Brewster, NY 10509

Sr. Citizen/Student – \$15

Individual – \$25

Family – \$35

Friend – \$50

Contributor – \$100

Sponsor – \$250

Supporter – \$500

· Name: \_\_\_\_\_

· Address: \_\_\_\_\_

· City State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

· Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

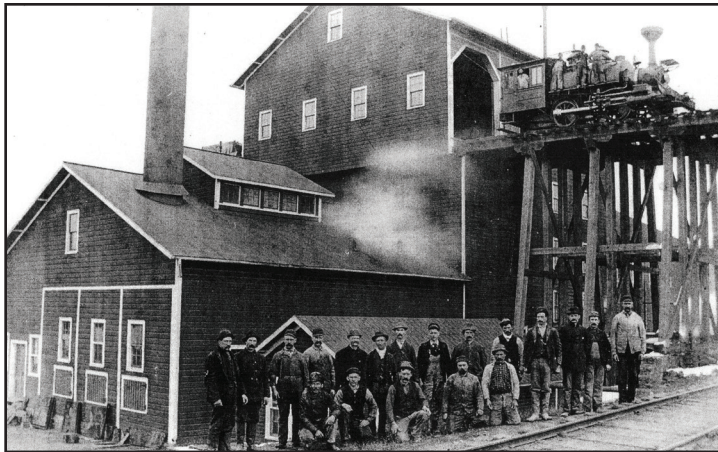
· Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If a gift membership, card should read: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the **Southeast Museum**.

*All donations to the Southeast Museum are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.*





TILLY FOSTER RAILROAD



WORKERS AT THE TILLY FOSTER STORE

## OCTOBER HISTORY EXCHANGE *Tilly Foster Mine*

**Date:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 12:30 P.M.

**Place:** Brewster Library Meeting Room

**Facilitator:** Deborah Oswald, Ed.D, Southeast Museum Educator

Register online at the Brewster Library website:  
<http://http://brewsterlibrary.org/calendar/#/events/TjrB758oVa/instances/LWWfaAS9uN/>  
or Brewsterlibrary.org, click calendar button at search by date

The September History Exchange was very well attended! Alexandra Johnson, niece of Marjorie Addis, spoke of her family's running of *The Brewster Standard* newspaper. Please join us on Wednesday, October 11 at 12:30 in the Brewster Library Meeting Room for a fascinating talk on Tilly Foster Mine, the local industry that was instrumental in Brewster's early prosperity.



TILLY FOSTER CHURCH

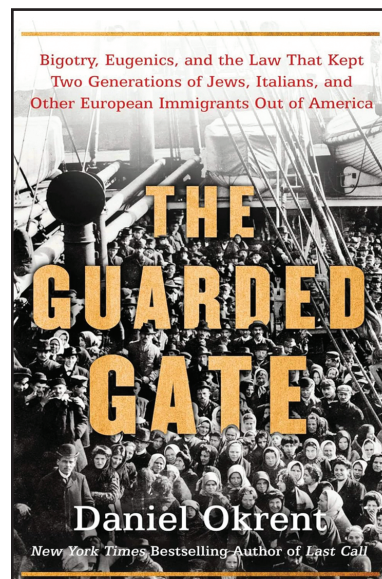
## *The Brewster Library in collaboration with The Southeast Museum invites you to join us for* **THE HISTORY BOOK CLUB**

For our September History Book Club, we will be reading *The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics and the Law That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America* by Daniel Okrent. Deborah Oswald, Ed.D, Southeast Museum Educator, will be facilitating this meeting.

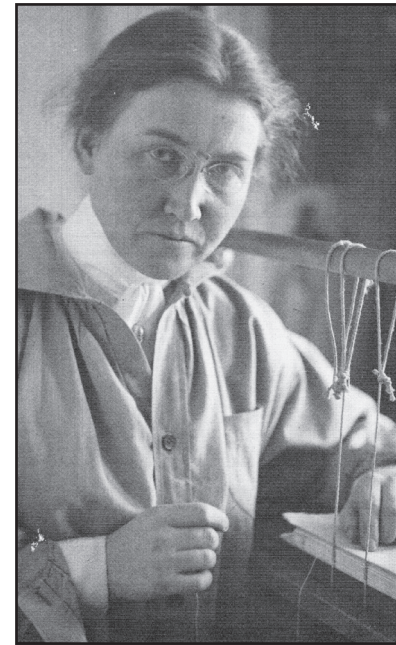
As books must be ordered in advance, please register your participation online at <http://brewsterlibrary.org/calendar/#/events/GcGwNxdqp2/instances/XzDfMew1Rc/>



*Happy Reading!*



**The September History Book Club meeting will be held at the library on Thursday, September 28, at 2:00 P.M.** Please use the library registration link to register for this event as well. <http://brewsterlibrary.org/calendar/#/events/GcGwNxdqp2/instances/XzDfMew1Rc/>



EDITH DIEHL, FROM 1988 TOWN OF SOUTHEAST BOOK

## COMING IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS:

I've been researching the life of Author, Bookbinder, Inventor, Suffragist, Women's Land Army Experimental Camp Director, and Brewster Resident Edith Diehl from the moment I saw this image of her in the 1798-1988 Town of Southeast Bicentennial Book. This Renaissance Woman has fascinated and inspired me as a writer and a teacher, and I hope to bring my research of her extraordinary life and accomplishments to you in future editions of this newsletter. My goal is to work with the Putnam Historian's office to have a historical marker erected in her honor, as she started the Brewster Library in 1896, above a butcher shop on Main Street of all places, according to a family member. Stay tuned for more on this historic community member.

## WELCOME SUPER VOLUNTEER, PATTI FRISCHE!

We here at the museum are so very fortunate to have Patti Frische, retired Brewster School teacher, on board to share her knowledge of archival preservation and storage. Patti brings museum experience with her as a volunteer, and as such is our "go to" person with regard to recording, organizing, and preserving antique fabrics, shoes, dolls, and much more.

What a treasure we have in her! Patti is currently working on an exhibit that will showcase hats, gloves, accessories, and doll clothes. She is also working on a permanent exhibit, using some of the larger artifacts in the museum, to recreate a typical front parlor and kitchen that would be found in nineteenth century Brewster. Stop by the museum on Wednesdays to meet Patti and learn about her skills in preserving Brewster's history.historic community member.

## PROGRAMS ON THE HORIZON

I met with Barbara Leichter, the new Program Director at the library, and together we came up with some exciting children's programming ideas as well as the return and expansion of **Colonial Kids**, a favorite summer camp among the community.



PHOTO: THE SMITHSONIAN

Barbara and I discussed piloting **Colonial Kids**, a history and craft program, during the February school break, and then offering again in the summer of 2024. I will provide a brief history of the pastimes and chores children undertook in the past, and Barbara will demonstrate crafts such as churning butter and making colonial toys.

We'd also like to offer a "**Tween**" History Book Club. I presented at the Mahopac Library "Tween" Book Club when they read my first book in 2019. I was impressed with the size and the interest level of the club, and I'd like to try this here in Brewster. I'll be reaching out to the school district for ways to attract members in this age group. Barbara and I also discussed the current popularity of the **Who Was and What Was** biography and historical event book series for fourth and fifth grade students. We'd like to explore book clubs for this age group as well.



## CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Are you a Southeast resident who enjoys local history? As Uncle Sam says, "We need you" to join our board of trustees! We are also looking for volunteers to greet visitors and help out at the museum. Please contact James Nixon, Board President, or Debbie Oswald, Museum Educator, to find out about how you can become involved in the museum as a board member and/or a volunteer.

Email:

[deborahoswald@southeastmuseum.org](mailto:deborahoswald@southeastmuseum.org)

Thank you!