

OLD TOWN MUSEUM

353 Main Street, Old Town, Maine 04468
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 375
(207) 827-7256
www.theoldtownmuseum.com

Established 1976

The Old Town Museum is a volunteer effort dedicated to preserving Old Town's history.



Barbara Csavinsky is Old Town Museum benefactor

The Old Town Museum lost a valuable asset with the passing of Barbara Csavinsky December 25, 2017 after a long illness. Barbara's service to the Museum included long time service on the Board of Directors. When she resigned due to illness she was elected to Director Emeritus status by the Board. As the chairman or member of several committees she was involved in every aspect of the Museum operations. A regular volunteer at the Museum, Barbara was well aware of the service the Museum provides to the greater Old Town public and schools. She was also aware of the financial limitations of a non-profit and unfunded organization. During her life in Old Town Barbara was a generous financial supporter of the Museum and in her death has provided for continuation of this support through a financial gift in her Will.

Barbara Fraser Csavinsky was born in Turner Maine December 15, 1934. She attended Turner, Maine schools, Cornell University, the University of Maine and Pennsylvania State University where she earned a Doctorate of Education Degree. Her work career included being a buyer for retailer Jordan Marsh, teaching Home Economics at Cape Elizabeth High School, serving as a faculty member at the University of Maine School of Human Development, and being appointed Director of the School of Human Development from which she retired in 1995. Barbara was a member of several professional organizations relating to Home Economics and Education as well as community organizations including the Old Town Public Library, Riverfest and other non-profit groups.

Barbara was married to the late Peter Csavinsky who was a Professor of Physics at the University of Maine.

Contributions in Barbara's memory may be mailed to the Old Town Museum, PO BOX 375, Old Town, Maine 04468.

SEE BARBARA'S OBITUARY ON NEXT PAGE

This Summer at the Museum

The 2017 season of programs at the museum has begun and we once again have a great lineup of informative and entertaining programs prepared for you. We opened on June 4th with a presentation by Peter Stowell, the author of the new Images of America book about Old Town. We have also had the first of two Old Town Museum Chorus shows planned for this summer. If you missed this one, you'll have another chance to catch them in September.

Coming up on June 25th, Amy Morin will join us to revisit the Nos Histoires D'Ile project in which she has been involved since 1992 (see story in this newsletter). We will welcome UMaine President, Susan Hunter to the museum as our presenter on July 9, and later in the month Clair Shirley will give us a program.

On August 6, Desiree Butterfield-Nagy of Fogler Library, will present "Exploring Old Town's Sanborn Maps" and, later in the month, Betsy Paradis will share the story of Stillwater native Janie C. Michaels including some of her writing. In addition to the Chorus, we will also hear from Katrina Wynn of the Maine Folklife Center in September. The Center includes oral interviews of many Old Town residents and Katrina will be sharing some of those interviews and some images with us.

Finally, the season will close with a lively jazz program featuring the Six Basin Street All-Women Dixieland Band. Be sure to check the museum website (www.theoldtownmuseum.org) or look for us on Facebook to find out more about these programs and any changes or additions.

BARBARA F. CSAVINSZKY

OLD TOWN - Barbara F. (Fraser) Csavinszky, wife of the late Peter J. Csavinszky, died December 25, 2016, at a Bangor Hospital. She was born in Turner (Lewiston), December 15, 1934, the daughter of Oren Foss Fraser and Mabel (Smith) Fraser.

She attended Turner schools, graduating from Leavitt Institute in 1952. She received a B.S. degree in Home Economics from Cornell University in 1956, a Master of Education Degree (M. Ed) from the University of Maine in 1968 and a Doctor of Education degree (D. Ed) from Pennsylvania State University in 1976.

During Barbara's career she was employed as an assistant buyer for Jordan Marsh Co., Boston, taught home economics at Cape Elizabeth Junior High School and was an associate professor of home economics and health education in the school of Human Development at the University of Maine from 1969 until her retirement in 1995. During her career at the University, she served as director of the School of Human Development from 1976 to 1986 and taught in the merchandising program.

She married Peter J. Csavinszky, a Professor of Physics at the University of Maine. They enjoyed traveling, espe-

cially to Hungary, the place of Peter's birth. Peter died December 31, 1995.

Barbara was a member and served in professional organizations; The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, The Maine Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (a past president), Maine Home Economics Teachers Association (a past president), Kappa Omicron Nu, and Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society. She valued her experience as a charter member of the Order of the Rainbow Girls, Lewiston Assembly #14.

Survivors include her nephew, Michael De Groot, his wife Lorena and son Louis Carlos of Seattle, Washington; her step sister-in-law, Csella Ötvös, step brother-in-law, Antal Szabados and step nephew, Levente Szabados of Budapest; and many distant cousins.

Contributions in Barbara's memory may be given to the Old Town Museum, PO Box 375, Old Town, ME 04468. Barbara wishes to thank Loving Touch In-Home and their caregivers for compassionate care, also the doctors and staff of Boyd Dialysis Clinic.

Images of Old Town on sale now!

Copies of the newly released book

Images of America OLD TOWN

published by Arcadia Press and written by Peter Stowell are available for purchase now for \$21.99.

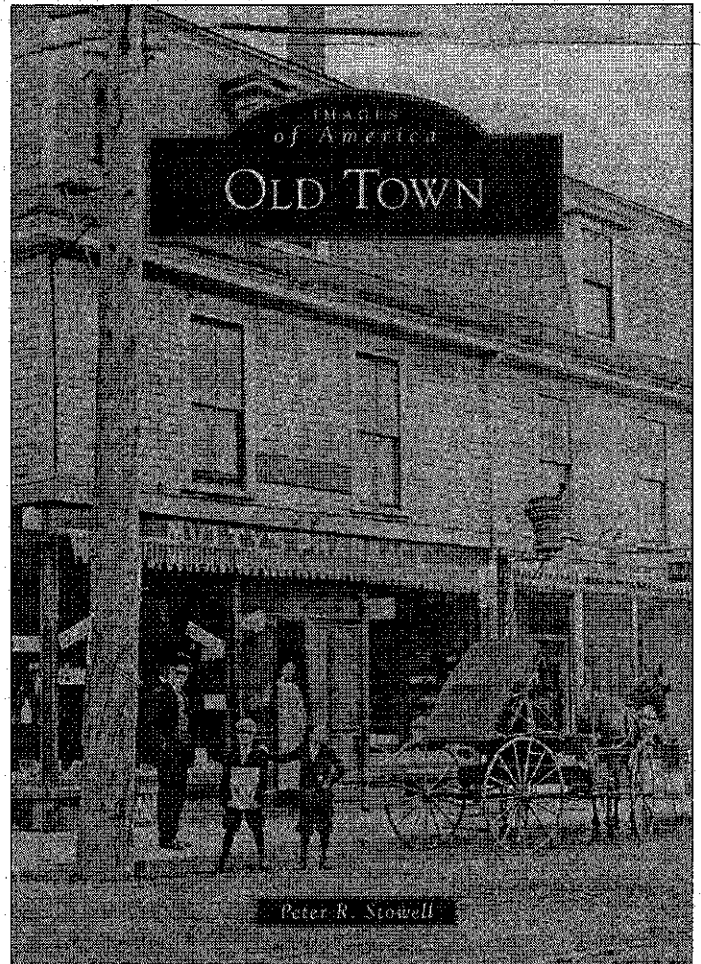
Books are on sale at the office of
The Penobscot Times
282 Main St., Old Town
and the Old Town Public Library
on Middle Street.

Cash or checks only.

In order to receive a copy of the book by mail (United States Only) a check for \$22 made out to

The Old Town Museum should be mailed to The Old Town Museum,
PO Box 375, Old Town, ME 04468.

Please include phone number and allow two weeks for delivery.

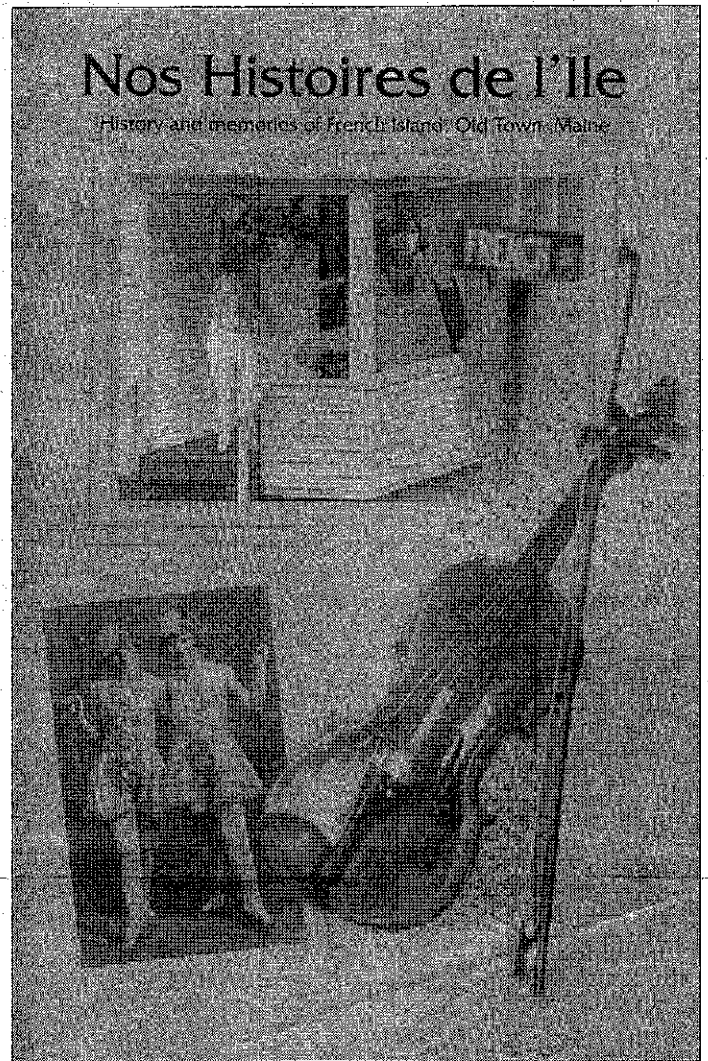


Amy Morin talks about *Nos Histoires de l'Île*

After the loss of our co-presidents, Al Michaud and Harold Lacadie, I was contacted by Harold's daughter about what we wanted to do with the books "*Nos Histoire de l'Île*" that were stored at her father's home. I contacted Lisa Michaud at the Franco-American Center to see if we could store the books at the Center, and she generously agreed to give the books a home. The group has given all the funds generated by the sale of the book to a scholarship at Old Town High School for a graduate with ties to French Island. Now the book will be housed at the Old Town Museum and monies from future sales of the book will go to the Museum which Harold loved and worked so hard for. This truly seems like a special home for this book which we worked so hard to produce for the people of Old Town.

When our group finally completed our project we decided to keep the price low at only \$10 per book so that people could afford it. We knew that many of the people interested in this book were elderly and on Social Security and many of them had large families and would want books for their children. In order to sell it at that price we had to find a way to earn some money as well as find sponsors since it cost over \$20 per book to produce. We gathered recipes and put together cookbooks which we sold at \$7.50. Many people and businesses donated generously including LaBree's Bakery, and Cyr Bus who started their businesses on French Island. Thanks to these generous people we were able to make up the difference and keep the price at \$10.

In early fall I spoke to a group at Old Town High School, and a group of Quebec Government officials about our project. We were telling the story of the people who came to town to find work in the mills and how Treat and Webster Island became known as French Island. One of the Quebec officials asked if a couple of our group would come to Quebec and tell this story. He made the arrangement for Al Michaud and I to do this. Now the initial printing of 1500 books was delivered in October and the following day Al Michaud and I went to Quebec City to speak to a class at Laval University, the Quebec Historical Society, and on the way back to Maine at St. George de Baucé, Quebec. We brought copies of the book which was hot off the press and the people



we spoke with said, "You are telling the story of what happened to our ancestors when they left here." The 1500 copies of the book sold out within two months. I had a phone call from the Quebec government official just before Christmas wanting to know how the book sales were going. I told him we were sold out and were looking into having a second printing. He asked how much the second printing would cost and I told him \$5000. He said, "A check will be in the mail." I never thought the check would be for the total amount but in two weeks I received a check in US dollars for \$5000. We were so thankful to the Quebec government as this paid for the printing and left all of the money we made from the sales of the book available for scholarships.

We have lost most of our dedicated workers but I really believe that they would all be happy to see our book in its new home at the museum. The book will still sell for \$10 each. I hope that those who read this book enjoy it as much as we all enjoyed putting it together.

~ Amy Bouchard Morin

