

November 2020



MANSION HOUSE NEWS

WESTPORT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

November 14, 2020

1855 Harris-Kearney House
Upper Gallery

**Wine Social at Noon
Luncheon at 12:30 pm**

Society updates, election, and
speaker at 1:15 pm

Speaker: Ms. Alisha Cole

**19th Amendment & Women's Suffrage
Up the Women: The Fight for
Women's Voices**

Women have fought for decades for the right to be more than the property of men, to live outside the domestic sphere, to earn and retain their own money . . . basically, to matter. Society determines who matters by granting those who do, the right to vote.

\$14

RSVP to 816-561-1821 or
westporthistorical@gmail.com
Reservation deadline is Nov 7, 2020

Please let us know
of any dietary restrictions.

1855 Harris-Kearney Christmas Open House

You are invited to celebrate the Christmas Season with friends, family, neighbors, and fellow members of the Westport Historical Society at a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 6 from 1 pm to 4 pm. There will be informal tours of the beautifully decorated Mansion Houses; chance to visit with 19th century re-enactors; listen to music performed by Fine and Dandy, our museum musicians; and enjoy some holiday refreshments. We hope you will join us!

**HAPPY FALL!
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

GO BACK TO KANSAS

Does your heart go back to Kansas
When the Harvest Moon hangs low?
Where the air you breathe is mellow
And the bold wind is rarely slow?

Then pack your bag and travel
From wherever you may roam.
If you were born in Kansas,
Then Kansas still is home!

~Camilla Walch Wilson

Aunt Minerva's Kitchen

Oven Fried Turkey

- 3 cups seasoned stuffing
- 1 4 to 6lb. turkey, cut-up
- Salt and Pepper
- ¾ cup butter, melted (add tablespoons of butter as needed)

Crush dressing, finely to 1 ½ cup. Sprinkle turkey with salt and pepper. Brush with melted butter; roll in stuffing. Place pieces, skin side up in a large shallow baking sheet. Drizzle with remaining butter. Cover pan and bake in a moderate oven for one hour. Uncover and bake in moderate heat for 30 to 45 minutes or until tender and juices are clear.



UNCLE MARK'S CORNER

With a freeze warning in the forecast, it was finally time to take down the vegetable garden and harvest the last bits of summer for the season.

The end-of-the-season harvest signals the end to this year's crop. The fall vegetable garden prep you do now will lead to an even better garden, with more fertile soil, next year. Here's how to get started:

Harvest all the remaining produce and pull up all the plants. Compost healthy plants: discard plants that had any problems with insects or plant diseases.

Rake the garden clean of all vegetable plant leaves, Diseased leaves left on the vegetable bed.

Layer fallen, compost and fertilizer in the garden bed and turn under the soil. You could also dig trenches in the garden, pile in the leaves and compost and cover with soil. These organic soil amendments will decompose over winter and leave the soil more fertile when spring rolls around.

Another option is to plant a cover crop, like winter rye, hairy vetch or clover. These plants act as a green manure for the garden soil. Till the plants into the soil early next spring several weeks in advance of planting, and before they start to form seeds.

~Farmer's Almanac



**Joe's
Pizza**
Buy the Slice

KANSAS CITY ATHENAEUM



EVENT SPACE RENTAL

The upper and lower galleries of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum may be rented for luncheons, parties, celebrations, receptions or meetings. The parlor or dining room may be rented for small weddings, and the Mansion House grounds may be rented for outdoor events.

For more information pricing, and availability, please send an email of inquiry to:
westporthistorical@gmail.com

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER

November 2 is ALL SOUL'S DAY. The souls of the dead are remembered and prayed for on this day. During the Victorian era, families would visit cemeteries; reflect on sweetness, and often the brevity of life; and offer prayers.

November 11 is MARTINMAS. Martinmas is a very old European winter celebration dating back to the Middle Ages. The day is dedicated to helping those who are less fortunate.

November 11 is VETERAN'S DAY. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on Veterans Day.

November 26 is THANKSGIVING. Thanksgiving Day in America is a time to offer thanks, of family gatherings and holiday meals: turkey, stuffing, roasted corn and pumpkin pie.

November 29 is STIR-UP SUNDAY. This day is set aside to begin preparations of the family's favorite Christmas foods. Traditionally, Christmas pudding was "stirred up" so it had time to "age."

REVIEW OF NAPKIN ETIQUETTE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Whether the napkin is cloth or paper, it is always a show of good manners to properly use a napkin while dining. Below are some rules you might review:

Rule 1: Use your napkin. Don't let it sit beside your plate. It was given to you to wipe your face and fingers when needed and it protects your lap from spills. Leaving the napkin beside your plate is a display of bad manners.

Rule 2: Wait for your host to pick-up and unfold his/her napkin before you do the same with yours.

Rule 3: If seated at a table with no host or hostess, open your napkin and place it on your lap before the food is served. If your napkin is still on the table when the food arrives, the server may have to create space to set your plate.

Rule 4: Don't wildly shake the napkin to open it. Just unfold it.

Rule 5: If the napkin is larger than your lap, fold it to just cover your lap.

Rule 6: When you wipe your mouth, gently dab at your mouth.

Rule 7: Should you have to leave the table during the meal, leave the napkin, loosely folded, on your seat or on the table to the left of your plate.

Rule 8: Place the loosely folded napkin to the left of your plate when you're finished with your meal. Never leave the napkin on the plate.

Rule 9: The place for your napkin is in your lap! Do not tuck in your slacks/pants. Do not tuck in the front of your shirt. Exception to the rule: the napkin may be tucked when eating spaghetti topped with marinara sauce, or sea food with drawn butter to protect splattering on your blouse/shirt.

Rule 10: Enjoy the holidays!



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CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING WITH NEW AND OLD TRADITIONS

- Heirloom plates:** Use inherited vintage china from Great Grandmother for a nostalgic feel of Thanksgiving dinners past.
- Celebrate guests:** Create a memory table runner by asking guests to sign the runner with a disappearing ink pen, then embroider over the signatures.
- Place cards:** Celebrate the warm spices of the season with a cinnamon stick. Simply wrap the ends of the cinnamon stick with festive ribbon and insert the place card in the natural opening.
- Something new:** Traditional Thanksgiving foods are wonderful, but this try some new recipes. You may find some new traditions.
- Set the table:** Give your kids a sense of responsibility and a role in helping with the Thanksgiving meal by having them help with setting the table. This can be the start of special traditions to share every year.
- Family games:** Hosting game night is an excellent way to keep your family together after the meal.
- Centerpiece:** Make a centerpiece or purchase fresh flowers for your table; Thanksgiving isn't complete without a centerpiece.
- Wishbone:** Weird as it may seem, wishbone splitting is an age-old Thanksgiving tradition. And the kids love it—and so do we!
- Make it a tradition:** before your Thanksgiving meal, go around the table and have everyone say what he or she is thankful for. At the end, raise a glass to toast to food, family, friends, those who are not in attendance and fun.

COVID-19 DISCLOSURE

Depending on the state of the COVID-19 in our communities, events may be postponed or cancelled. Check our Facebook for the most current, up to date information. Or email westporthistorical@gmail.com.

ORIGIN OF “OK”

The mid-19th century term “OK” originated as an abbreviation of *orl korrekt*, a jokey misspelling of 'all correct' which was current in the US in the 1830s. Its use was copied when “OK” was used as a slogan by the Democratic party during the American Presidential election of 1840. Their candidate, President Martin Van Buren, was nicknamed 'Old Kinderhook' (after his birthplace in New York State), and his supporters formed the 'OK Club'. This probably did the most to help popularize the term.

The Thanksgiving Turkey

Alexander Hamilton once remarked that, “No citizen of the U.S. shall refrain from turkey on Thanksgiving Day.”

As all things seem to happen, Turkey does grace most Thanksgiving tables today, in accordance with Hamilton’s proclamation. But where did the idea of turkey being served as the centerpiece of Thanksgiving Day originate? Most people believe the Pilgrims at Plymouth began the tradition.

In Pilgrim, William Bradford’s journal, he wrote of how the colonists had hunted wild turkeys during the autumn of 1621 and since turkey is a uniquely American (and scrumptious) bird, it gained traction as the Thanksgiving meal of choice for Americans after Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

But beyond the first Thanksgiving serving turkey, there are reasons for eating turkey rather than chicken or beef at a feast like Thanksgiving. The turkey is large enough that just one can feed a table full of hungry family members and still provide left-overs. chickens or cows, they didn’t serve much utilitarian purpose like laying eggs or making milk.



Westport Historical Society seeks volunteers:

- Treasurer
- Board member
- Executive Director

-Docents and other volunteers **FOUR HOURS A WEEK;**
we practice safe social distancing 😊
(Th, F, or Sat, 1-5 p.m.)

If you are interested, or you would like more information, e-mail Alana Smith
westporthistorical@gmail.com, or call (913) 648-0952



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