



Hearthside House Museum Presents a 1920s Rhode Island Experience in The Decade That Roared on Saturday, July 16

June 2016----The fascinating decade of the 1920s is center stage in the Hearthside Museum's newest theme event, *The Decade That Roared: A 1920s Rhode Island Experience* being held on the grounds and inside the museum on Saturday, July 16, 2016.

All the familiar aspects of the Roaring 20s come to life during this day & night event ... cool jazz, glamorous flappers, vaudeville acts, gorgeous fashions, live radio and speakeasies.

On a more serious note, Hearthside's exhibition also offers deeper insight into the complexities of a post-war America that was transforming into a modern society... with plenty of growing pains; rapidly changing values coming out of the Victorian age, women's right to vote, prohibition, racism and political isolationism. Throughout the *Decade That Roared* exhibition, Hearthside will be chronicling the national influences as they took place right here in Rhode Island, in Lincoln, and on the Great Road.

Throughout the day, a main tent will feature performances that bring the 1920s to life, including:

- Circus Dynamics Vaudeville Show
- Lloyd Kaplan, author-musician-authority on Rhode Island Jazz History; also signing copies of his book, "Who's Who in Rhode Island Jazz"
- The Aristocats jazz quartet playing songs from Duke Ellington and other jazz standards
- Providence Swings – Demos of 1920s-era dances
- Old-time radio broadcast by Dave Kane
- Performances by the Tropigals of Chifferobe
- Renowned actress and vocalist, Rose Weaver, bringing songs and stories of the Harlem Renaissance to life
- Vintage makeup sessions and demonstrations by LuLu Locks
- Fashions of the 1920s by Ren Antonowicz
- Songs of the 20s and Group Sing-Along

Also featured on the grounds are antique cars from the era, vendors of vintage clothing and accessories, and costumed interpreters add to the experience. Exhibits, displays, images and informational panels will be presented throughout the museum and grounds. Refreshments, including ice cream from the Maplehurst Diner, will be available to encourage all-day visits.

Inside the museum, several themes will emerge: *America in the 1920s*, *Rhode Island Life*, the *Golden Age of Travel*, *20s Through the Eyes of a Child*, *Old & Emerging Communications*, the *Gatsby Mystique*, *Everyday Life in the 20s*, and all the *Issues Being Discussed at the Dinner Table* such as big business and politics, the changing morality, immigration fear, the Florida land boom, and the stock market.

Featured among the exhibits are a collection of antique radios and radio components manufactured in Rhode Island from the collection of historian Len Arzoomanian. Fine Art Deco style jewelry hand crafted by local artisan Charles Tramontana, formerly lead designer at Gorham, will be on display as part of the story about the history of Rhode Island as the “Jewelry Capital of the World” during the early 20th century. Popular metal mesh handbags, the “flapper’s purse,” made by Whiting & Davis of Attleboro, along with hairstyles and fashions from the 20s are also on exhibit. Local newspapers from the 20s, silent movie clips, featuring some produced in Rhode Island, and recorded interviews with women who graduated from Pembroke in the 1920s will bring local stories to life.

In the evening from 5:00-9:30 p.m., Hearthside will present the Bootlegger’s Ball featuring a speakeasy, live jazz and dancing in the style and spirit of a night at the Providence Biltmore’s Bacchante Room back in the day.

To get everyone ready to dance 20s style, instructors from Providence Swings will provide lessons in the Charleston just prior to the dance. The Ball features Jessy Carolina and the Hot Mess, a New York City based old time jazz band with a fresh lively approach. Lead vocalist, Jessy Carolina, not only has one powerful voice which is described as if it were “coming through a scratchy old Victrola,” but she also plays the washboard. It’ll be a performance that will keep everyone, even the non-dancers, caught up in the music.

Tickets for the Bootlegger’s Ball are limited to 150 and must be purchased in advance by calling Hearthside at 401-726-0597. Ticket price is \$40 per person and includes two signature cocktails or beer. Championship Melt, recent recipient of the RI Food Truck Award, will have gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and more available for those wanting to purchase dinner.

General admission for the daytime event is payable at the door and is \$12 per person and \$6 for ages under 14. Hours for the event are 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The museum exhibit will remain on display until mid-September.

The Friends of Hearthside celebrates its 15th Anniversary with this spectacular exhibit and event. All proceeds benefit the continued preservation and restoration of Hearthside.

Sponsors of *The Decade That Roared* include major support from Navigant Credit Union, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, The Valley Breeze, Alphagraphics, Cinemaworld, and the Town of Lincoln.

Other sponsors include Twin River Casino, Pawtucket Credit Union, Lincoln Shopping Center, Luxury Cleaners, and Maplehurst Diner. Additional support from Retromedia, Dupois Oil, Henry Gonsalves Company, Ballard Farm, and Kirkbrae Properties.

