

# Contributions of Albert Benac, Fairhaven's Art Curator

1. Replaced 8 damaged **Captain Joshua Slocum** road signs.
2. Arranged for a new large outside sign for the **Fairhaven Historical Society's Museum** at the Academy Building.
3. Contributed funds for a survey of **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** at Cooke Memorial Park (a/k/a Oxford Burial Hill) which revealed the existence of 40+ burial shafts.
4. Contributed 60% of the cost of exterior painting of the south and west side **Academy Building**. This obviated the need to replace the facade and thus saved Fairhaven taxpayers the expense.
5. Raised funds to restore an oil painting by the Fairhaven artist **Charles Henry Gifford**. It now hangs in the Town Clerk's office.
6. Donated two large etchings by Fairhaven artist **Lemuel D. Eldred** to the town. One now hangs in the Town Hall's first floor main hallway; the second one hangs in the Tax Collector's office.
7. Donated an oil painting of **Mr. Akin**, a past Town Clerk. The painting hangs in the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall in Mr. Akin's memory.
8. Initiated restoration of the town's art works, historic artifacts, display furniture, and glass cases:
  - a. An abandoned round table, donated anonymously, was beautifully restored and is now a focal point on the landing on the grand staircase in the south side of the town hall.
  - b. A specially made table and glass case was procured to display the donated "Charles W. Morgan" ship model.
  - c. Oversaw the conservation cleaning, repairs, and framing of the town's art collection.
  - d. Framed photograph of the first two females to hold positions in town government: 1) Town Clerk, **Elaine Rocha**, and 2) Tax Collector, **Carol Ryan Brandolini**.
  - e. As a member of the Rogers Grammar School Committee, rescued the **time capsule** which had been left behind on a dusty basement shelf after the school department vacated. The original lead box, once part of the school's cornerstone, contained

artifacts from 1885 and they are now on display in the Rogers Room at the Millicent Library.

9. Acquired and personally donated several paintings by Fairhaven artist, **Elizabeth Terry Delano**, (b. 1845 - d. 1933) from the Colonial Club's holdings:
  - a. A very large painting of Chrysanthemums, a reoccurring favorite subject in the artist's many floral painting arrangements. The painting now hangs on the west side of the grand staircase in the town hall.
  - b. A painting of the artist's mother, named **Elizabeth Steven Terry Delano** (b. 1815 - d. 1899). The scene is a warmly rendered room-scape and depicts her mother in a comfortable-looking upholstered chair reading by the window. Several potted pink flowers line the inside window sill. This painting was featured in Mary Jean Blasdale's book entitled "Artists of New Bedford."
  - c. A portrait (unsigned but believed to be by Elizabeth Delano) of the artist's mother.
  - d. A large charcoal portrait believed to be **Frederic A. Delano** and signed by the artist.
  - e. Four freeze panels each 10 feet long and painted by Elizabeth Delano are now installed in the main hallway of the Town Hall. These ambitious art borders came from the artist's home at 91 Pleasant Street.
  - f. Arranged to have two Elizabeth Delano 19<sup>th</sup> century oil paintings from a private residence photographed and artistically reproduced to replicate the originals as close as possible. The subjects were her parents: **Jabez Delano and his wife Elizabeth Stevens Terry Delano**. The reproductions have been donated to the town and now hang in the Town Hall auditorium.
  
10. Gifts to the Millicent Library:
  - a. A granite block engraved with the date 1968 to mark the new addition to the library. This replica cornerstone is displayed in the children's section near the elevator.
  - b. A portrait by artist Elizabeth Terry Delano of **William Tallman**, her nephew. Young Bill is portrayed wearing a red rounded cap and sailor-collared shirt. He grew up to be a prominent architect with a notable portfolio including Fairhaven's Tripp, Anthony, and Hastings Schools. The portrait hangs in the Mark Twain room of the Millicent Library.
  
11. Erected memorials in memory of notable Fairhaven residents at locations that are historically significant:
  - a. A stone etched memorial to **William Bradford** at the location where his first Fairhaven studio once stood (Main Street & Church Street).
  - b. A plaque placed on stone boulder with dedication to **John I. Bryant** celebrating his numerous civic contributions and positions held in Fairhaven government (located near his original home on Bryant and Washington Streets).

12. Arranged for major restoration of the **Eldred family headstones** at Riverside Cemetery. The stones were toppled, broken, dingy and dejected-looking. The work done by Rex completely restored the white marble and now they stand proudly upright, shimmering and radiant.
  
13. Served for three years (1995-1998) as the Vice Chairman for **Captain Joshua Slocum Centennial** Celebration commencing at the Town Hall and ending at Cook Memorial Park. It took Captain Slocum three years to circumnavigate the globe (1885 -1898) on his rebuilt 36-foot sloop "The Spray."
  
14. Procured a small child's chair from the Rogers Grammar School and presented it to **Michael Coe**, a direct descendent of **Henry Huttleston Rogers**, in memory of Rogers first gift to Fairhaven.