

A Heroic Tale and Yummy Treats Coming Right Up

AT THE ATWOOD

By Tim Weller

Two big events will be featured in November at the Atwood House & Museum.

Up first is a remarkable story of a World War I nurse, Edith Cavell. Her story is told by East Falmouth author Terri Arthur on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. as part of the Atwood's Sunday Lecture Series.

Arthur will tell how, haunted by the images on a set of vintage postcards, she started researching the life and death of Edith Cavell, a British nurse who was executed by the Germans for her role in helping the Resistance. A nurse herself, Arthur was surprised to learn that none of her colleagues were familiar with Cavell's story or how powerfully her death impacted World War I. Arthur also discovered that none of the books about Cavell had been written by a nurse and felt strongly that, as a nurse, she could throw fresh light on the life and career of this extraordinary woman.

After two years of research, which included visits to Belgium and the United Kingdom, Arthur wrote *Fatal Decision: Edith Cavell, World War I Nurse*, a novel based on Cavell's heroic career. Cavell was leading a nursing school she formed in Brussels when German forces moved in. She helped 200 Allied soldiers escape Belgium. When discovered, she was executed by a German firing squad. Her execution was condemned by the international community, and Cavell was perceived as a courageous martyr.

Arthur has served as a nurse in hospitals on Martha's Vineyard, Plymouth, and Cape Cod. She is a volunteer for the American Red Cross. Arthur also is an entrepreneur, creating and managing Medical Education Systems, Inc. a business that provides continuing education to nurses, doctors, and medical personnel.

Admission to the lecture is free to members; \$10 per adult. For details, visit www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org.

Then, on Tuesday, Nov. 20, the *Best Bake Sale in History* will be held from 10 a.m. until we're sold out.

Featured goodies are those baked from historical cookbooks, such as *American Cookery*, first published in 1796, or *New England Pie: History Under a Crust* by Robert S. Cox. Look for apple pie (1830), pumpkin pie (1830) and Christmas cookies (1796) among the holiday treats.

The museum Gift Shop will be open, and copies of *American Cookery* and *New England Pie* will be available, in addition to a wide selection of holiday gifts, many on sale!

The Atwood House & Museum is located 347 Stage Harbor Rd., Chatham, around the corner from Main Street. For details, visit www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org.

Tim Weller is a member of the Chatham Historical Society/Atwood House and Museum Board of Trustees.