SPONSORS
Dave Matlow, Chair

As Chair of the Westport Historical Society’s (WHS) sponsorship program I am pleased to report a successful 2011 with sponsorships surpassing $70,000.

To place sponsorships in a proper perspective it’s pertinent to recognize that the formulation for a focused and managed sponsorship program was created in 2006, the inaugural year that resulted in $55,000 of sponsorship funding.

The concept of the $5,000 full year sponsorship package was introduced in 2008. The full year sponsorships, combined with select sponsorships for the Hidden Garden Tour, Holiday House Tour, exhibit and educational programs generated over $70,000 for that year.

For the period of 2006 through 2011 sponsorships have generated well in excess of $400,000 of incremental income to the WHS which has, in effect, contributed significantly to the reduction of the looming debt that shadowed almost all aspects of WHS operational concerns.

As I complete this final year of my Board of Director service to the Westport Historical Society I thank many dedicated colleagues who worked diligently to attract and maintain corporate, foundation and individual sponsors and who unreservedly believe in the value of the Westport Historical Society.

A partial list of individuals who have successfully influenced the notable success of the sponsorship program include (in alphabetical order) Error! Reference source not found., Dorothy Curran, Susan Gold, Mary Ann Laurita, Elliott Netherton and the late Kathy Kincaid whose strategic vision sparked the creative efforts of many.

Submitted by Dave Matlow, Chair

VOLUNTEERS/GREETERS
Barbara Van Orden, Chair

Our dedicated greeters continue to donate their smiles and phone manners expertise to WHS. They are as follows: Joni Andrews, Sue Atkinson, Winnie Balboni, Mimi Burroughs, Janet Canning, Sue Crolius, Karen Eickhoff, stemmi Goldman, Gayle Ference, June Lurie, Susan Malloy, Nancy Mason, Pat Porio, Alice Siegel, Linda Smith, Vonnie Spies, Helenanne Willmott and Margaret Yingling. Many have volunteered for six years. Their loyalty to WHS is so appreciated.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Jo Fuchs for her gracious hostessing of WHS exhibit opening.

Submitted by Barbara Van Orden, Volunteers Director
ORAL HISTORY
John Hartwell, Director

New Interviews
Esta Burroughs, Harry Audley, Miggs Burroughs (at Rotary), Lee Greenberg, Jo Fuchs Luscombe, Dick and Paula Leonard, Sal Gilbertie, Caitlin von Schmidt (by intern Constance Chin), Ed Vebell, Matthew Levine (at Library event), Arcudi family; Laura Blau, Natalie Maynard, Bob Weingarten & Alex Stolpen re Frazier Peters Exhibit; Sally White, George Marks

New Equipment
We purchased an iMac computer for Oral History and transferred eighty of the over three hundred audio tapes in the archives. We plan to transfer the remaining audio tapes and also use this computer to edit/store all new video-taped interviews, with the goal of making all interviews available for on-line access using cloud storage."

Mission
The Oral History Program captures, annotates, preserves, and publishes the memories of those Westporters who have made significant contributions to the cultural, social, professional, religious, educational, and political institutions of our community as well as those whose lives as Westport residents have given the town its unique character. We provide a source of data for those who wish to know more about our town, and our video and audio repository is made freely available for use in person at the Historical Society or on the Internet through a link found on the WHS website.

Mindful of the rapid changes in recording and storage technology as well as the fragility of certain media, every effort will be made to maximize interested viewer accessibility while minimizing damage to the archived materials.

Volunteers
Several new volunteers this year, including Dave Soriano, Jo Shields, Kay Rundle, Mary Vickery, Susan Wynkoop

Interns
Constance Chin, Hope Korte, Kim Snow

Submitted by John Hartwell, Committee Chair
MEMBERSHIP-2011
Co-Chairs: Ed Gerber and Elizabeth Juviler

In 2011, we reviewed and updated all membership related correspondence including letters to new members and renewing members. We modified letters to Board and Advisory Board members noting that they should follow our lead by increasing their membership levels. Early in 2011, we worked with WHS staff to update the membership lists. Attendance by at least one of us at all exhibit openings was one of our goals. We met each guest and made certain that they signed in either with an e-mail or home address so that we can send the non-members a membership letter tailored to the event. We use exhibit openings as new member recruitment venues by inviting non members as our guests. The personal touch is best!!!

Ed wrote a membership section for the next issue of the WHS Newsletter emphasizing the ways that the Board can help increase membership levels. We attended off site events staffing the WHS table at several events notably the Downtown Merchants Association Holiday Party for Westport non profits. We provided WHS literature and explained the activities and benefits of membership. The same new membership efforts were undertaken at HHS venues. Late in the year, we meet with Advisory Board member and Media Guru, Mitchell Wein, to create interactive methods that the Board can use to promote membership in WHS. We will begin using them in early 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward F. Gerber
Vice President - Membership

Elizabeth M. Juviler
Advisory Board
HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR & TWILIGHT SOIREE
Susan Walton Wynkoop & Dorothy E. Curran, 2011 Holiday House Tour co-Chairs

The Westport Historical Society’s 25th annual Holiday House Tour and Twilight Soiree, held Sunday, December 4, 2011, was an outstanding success, with revenues and attendance up over 2010. It was the first WHS fundraiser since 2004 to have over 500 attendees. Tour ran from 11 AM to 4 PM and was followed, from 4:30 to 7:30 PM, by Twilight Soiree, a festive celebration of wine, hors d’oeuvres, live music and Silent Auction at a new contemporary farmhouse staged by Lillian August for the occasion. The mild temperatures in the 50’s on December 4th and wide press coverage for this event brought a surge of ticket buyers from CT, NY, NJ and beyond to Westport to enjoy 5 festively decorated homes plus historic Adams Academy—all for the benefit of the not-for-profit WHS. The five Tour homes for 2011, ranging in age from pre-Revolution to today, included:

BARN AGAIN! A CONNECTICUT YANKEE VISITS PROVENCE
Fooling by the serene Colonial style exterior, Westport’s 2011 Barn Survey Team missed counting this ingenious and stylish renovation of what appears, from the inside, to have been a Puritan-era bank- style barn associated with Westport’s oldest home. Tour the cozy, beamed “Calling Room”; then, warmed by exuberant, Provencal colors, ascend to the main, hilltop level’s stunning kitchen, dining room and living room and upstairs bedrooms. Don’t miss the guest house bath!

AT HOME WITH STONE & SUSTAINABLE FraZIER Peters
We requested tour goers to visit the Frazier Forman Peters exhibit at WHS during HHT so that this impressive and wonderfully sited 21st century stone expansion could be put in context. In a tear-down age, only one of Peters’ 38+ sustainable stone Westport homes has been lost to commercial, not residential, development-testifying to the timeless appeal and value of his technique. This grand, welcoming residence honors his re-imagine Peters’ design principles with great flow and articulate spacing for today’s living by a large, active family. Cherished work by legendary Westport artists dominates family collections.

GRACIOUS MANOR, CELEBRATING BLENDED TRADITIONS
This sumptuous, elegantly appointed, stone and clapboard manor offers a tour within a tour, orchestrated for us by the author of Holiday Decorating for Dummies. Architectural details and furnishings meld Old World grace and style with state-of-the-art home technology. Holiday décor celebrates this blended family’s dual holiday traditions with 20 separate displays, ranging from the grand foyer’s 14’ Christmas tree with 1500 lights to the kosher kitchen’s “Hanukkah Heritage”, the living room’s “Winter Wonderland” and the lower level’s “Vintage Candyland”.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK (AND THEY HAVE!)
Spared by the British during the Revolution, this home-a recent gut renovation and chic restoration, with passionate care for preservation detail, including a rebuilt barn—is a triumphant example of “less is more”. Beams whisper history while the floors gloat with pride. Vintage lighting fixtures and choice antiques complement the owner’s incredible custom carpentry and combed and faux painting.

EArLY GINGERBREAD! STUNNING 1865 GOTHIC REVIVAL
Dating to 1865, home to Henry Jennings’ son, Peter, and then to generations of Quinns, this rare American Gothic Revival has it all: cross-beams, pointed arches and decorative vergeboards fronting the gables. Its intriguing story includes Railroad & Turnpike setbacks, but this house lives to tell the tale. Select antiques and festive holiday décor complete the perfect picture!


Susan Walton Wynkoop 2011 HHT Co - Chair
HIDDEN GARDEN TOUR/TOAST THE TOUR PARTY

Joni Andrews, Deborah Gordon, Deborah Herbertson, Event Co-Chairs

Westport Historical Society’s 20th annual Hidden Garden Tour was themed “Discover Westport’s Farming Heritage” to complement the “Back to Our Roots” exhibit. Visitors toured gardens featuring farmhouses, barns, potting sheds, orchards, herb and vegetable gardens, and many fieldstone walls. An open house at the Westport Community Gardens was a bonus stop. Hundreds of tour-goers came from Fairfield County and beyond. Destinations on the tour included a garden lovingly tended by its owners for over 50 years, with extensive stone walls built with rocks found entirely on the property and over 140 varieties of trees, shrubs and perennials all carefully labeled; a farm with the original barn now residence to a goat and hens, flowering fruit trees, and a vegetable garden and raspberry patch; an original onion farm transformed into a natural version of an English garden; an 1879 farmhouse with symmetrical boxwood borders coupled with the informality of a cottage garden; and an home dated 1809 with one of Westport’s oldest barns and a garden designed with the quaintness of the Victorian era.

WHS partnered with Dragone Classic Motorcars and Fountainhead Wines & Distillations for the Toast The Tour Wine Tasting Party and Silent Auction. Live music by Nicole Pasternak and Carine Marino and an abundance of gourmet provisions and libations carried revelers through a numinous evening of enjoyment.


The Artisan Craft & Garden Marketplace was livelier than ever this year, abuzz with treasure hunters enjoying the abundant displays of vendors. Entertainment throughout the day, hosted by HSBC, featured Puppet Players Participation Theatre, Tom Hanford’s-In the Good Old Colony Days and singer-songwriter, Suzanne Sherman Propp. HSBC also hosted a champagne reception at their offices following the tour. It was a beautiful day with part sun and clouds, and perfect temperatures for garden viewing and Marketplace shopping.

A devoted volunteer committee pooled talents and resources to produce the 2011 Hidden Garden Tour event: Joni Andrews, Katie Chase, Jenny Clerkin, Leo Cirino, Mary Lee Clayton, Dorothy Curran, Maggie Feczko, Lorraine Feliciano, Rosanne Ganin, Deborah Gordon, Deborah Herbertson, Joan Isaacson, Sue Kirby, Mary Ann Laurita, Cynthia Lee, Paula Leonard, Anne Levine, Dave Matlow, Nancy Shorter, Hope Townbridge, Larry Untermeeyer, Pat Voris and Susan Wynkoop. We would also like to thank Graphic Design-In-Site Online for volunteering their services to produce the invitation and map.

Submitted by: Joni Andrews, Deborah Gordon, Deborah Herbertson, Event Co-Chairs
HERITAGE TREE

The Heritage Tree was started by the Westport Historical Society in 1979, led by the late Mollie Donovan and her sister Eve Potts, as a way to honor Westport artists and to celebrate the December holidays. Local artists were invited to donate hand-made ornaments of their choosing for the tree. In the earlier years different groups of artists were solicited: cartoonists (such as Mel Casson & Randy Enos), painters (such as Stevan Dohanos & Leonard Everett Fisher), sculptors (such as Hilda Kraus & Jean Woodham), and illustrators (such as Howard Munce, Hardie Gramatky & Jim Sharpe). As the years have gone by, other artists have donated unique, one-of-a-kind ornaments. About 125 artists are now represented and any local artists who would like to donate an ornament should contact Susan Gold at the Historical Society.

The Heritage Tree honors the artists who live and work in Westport and who give so freely of their time and talent to all facets of this community. Their enthusiasm and creativity help to make Westport special. Each December the tree is set up in the Town Hall lobby and hung with lights and these wonderful ornaments to be enjoyed by the entire community. This year, decoration was managed by Elizabeth DeVoll and Meghann Murray Smith.

Submitted by Katie Chase, with information from Mollie Donovan’s file in Archives.

HISTORIC HOUSE PLAQUE PROGRAM
Bob Weingarten, House Plaque Chair

Westport has just over 10,000 households. Only a few per cent of these have or are eligible to have Westport Historical Society historic house plaques.

As of January, 2012, there are 240 WHS plaques on Westport homes, dating from c.1683 (187 Long Lots Road) to 1935 (9 Gorham Road in the Gorham Local Historic District and 40 Valley Road, a Frazier Forman Peters house).

The plaque program started in 1978 but in 2005 new marketing program was established by Bob Weingarten for which 107 additional plaques, or 45% of the total plaques, have been installed. Last year in 2011 there were 22 plaques installed on houses dating from 1830 to 1935. Of the 22 plaques installed, 13 were for Frazier Forman Peters, 1 for a Charles Cutler house, 2 for houses in the Gorham Local Historic District and various other houses.

Submitted by Bob Weingarten, House Plaque Chair
GIFT SHOP
Olivia Yule, Gift Shop Manager

Innovation will be the focus of the Westport Historical Society’s (WHS) Remarkable Gift Shop. For that, an appeal to all involved with WHS to give us your suggestions and input to make sales soar. We are fortunate this year to have a consultant, Betsy Pollak donating her time, merchandising and display expertise to our shop.

The past has well-served the Gift Shop (GS). Books, pamphlets, maps, prints, photos, paintings, cards & postcards of historic Westport have always been available, as have golf shirts, T-shirts, sweats & caps, all bearing the name of Westport, or more subtly, the zip code 06880. The GS works in conjunction with town organizations, passing the profits directly to the cause. Wakeman’s Farm, Staples Cookbook, Project Return, Longshore, Cancer Research and Honey for Zimbabwe, to name a few.

The “NEW” includes mugs, trivets and paper weights of our most historic landmarks in town and handmade one-of-a-kind art cards of old Westport buildings, beaches and streets created by Education Director, Elizabeth DeVoll. An unusual new postcard, is a lenticular image of Main Street, designed by Miggs Burroughs has just arrived.

Also NEW was our second holiday ornament featuring a new beach scene with the word “Westport” done in a medium called “reverse painting”, along with music boxes and antique cars. What is old became new, as genuine antiques were offered for sale on consignment for the holidays, but so successful were the sales, the idea has been extended indefinitely. Have an antique you can bear to part with? See me!

To sum up, the GS also carries “gifty-gifts”....Kitchen towels w/ or w/o Westport printed on them. Add totes, tumblers, jewelry, sachets, travel clocks, toys, napkins, and the best combination of hostess gifts in one package, all cellophane-wrapped for your convenience, and you have a general idea of what graces our shelves. But that’s not all, as it all changes with the seasons. Drop in & see for yourselves!

Respectfully submitted, Olivia Yule
FACILITIES REPORT
Peter Jennings, Chair

The building and grounds at the Wheeler House and Barn at 25 Avery Place remain in good condition with no significant problems noted in the past year.

Our guideline for servicing the facility is a long-term Maintenance Schedule, which enables us to plan for repairs in advance. Utilizing this schedule, in 2011 we cleaned and applied preservative to the Wheeler House Barn roof and due to the economic times were able to save almost half of what we originally budgeted. This year we plan to replace one HVAC air conditioning condenser serving the second floor offices and work toward completion of the sidewalk in front of the house.

We were able to keep our facilities budget very lean this past year thanks again to the continued support of James Izzo Electric Service, and Ken Lozyniak of Hill ‘N Dale Services (Snowplowing) who have again generously donated their time. Their continued loyalty is appreciated.

Submitted by Peter Jennings

Fundraising, Major
Kristan Peters-Hamlin, Director of Major Fundraising

Coming in 2012: Art Auction Gala Event, in honor of Mollie Donovan

On April 21, 2012, the WHS will be hosting an art fundraiser in honor of Mollie Donovan, for the benefit of the WHS. The gala event will be held in the Westport Playhouse Barn, which we have already reserved. Cocktails, wine, and music will accompany an evening of silent bidding on the donated art from local artists. We also hope to have the appetizers and wine donated, as well as the live music. We are considering both classical musicians, as well as blues and jazz musicians.

The event will begin at 7 pm, and the entry fee charged will be $50 per person. Artists donating their art will receive forty per cent of the money collected from their art (unless they seek to donate the entirety of their receipts), and WHS will receive the remaining sixty percent. We have already formed a committee to work on the event, and have begun contacting artists to seek contributions. For instance, Susan Ullman, a local artist who sells annually at the Westport Arts Festival, has agreed to commit between six to ten pieces of her art. Another local artist is working on helping the Committee to attract other local artists to contribute their art. Our goal is to make the event a bit upscale in terms of dress, as a cocktail party, and to make it a memorable event that will attract at least 200 attendees, and 100 pieces of donated art. Our goal is to clear a minimum of $22,000 profit from this event.

Submitted by Kristan Peters-Hamlin
the creation of Westport’s township in 1835, Civil War onion farmers, shellfishers over the years, and up to our current Farmers’ Market.

**Wakeman Town Farm: Modeling Sustainable Farming in Westport** compared the Wakeman Family Farm’s legacy with its new role, developing a model of sustainable farming practices for Westport and other towns. Green Village Initiative (GVI) created the Wakeman Town Farm and Sustainability Center as a living model to serve and inspire the local community. (As the exhibit ended, the Wakeman Town Farm was temporarily closed and transitioned to new leadership.)

**Barn Again! Westport’s 2011 Barn Survey** comprised a map of nearly 250 “barns” in Westport. The CT Trust for Historic Preservation trained the Westport team that canvassed the barns, as part of a statewide survey. The map was surrounded in the foyer by photographs by Larry Silver, wonderful barns through his talented eye.

**Rock On! Westport’s Stone Wall Story** was presented through striking photographs by Larry Untermeyer, accented by a stone wall, built by Tim Romano Company, and accompanied by poems and excerpts from UConn Geology Prof. Robert Thorson—who also gave a well-attended lecture to share his expertise on our stone walls heritage.

**1846 Bradley-Wheeler Cobblestone Barn/Museum of Westport History** showcased our cobblestone barn, displaying authentic vintage farm tools, with a narration by Joanne Woodward.

Our final exhibit of 2011 brought together the extended Frazier Peters family for a reunion at the opening of our exhibit, honoring Frazier Forman Peters’ stone houses. Bob Weingarten curated a comprehensive exploration of his work, including a very authentic reproduction of exactly how the stones were secured by a wood frame.

**Frazier Forman Peters: At Home with Stone** showcased the known Frazier Peters homes in Westport. We highlighted key examples of his sitting and building principles and techniques, including preserving and incorporating each lot’s natural environment in his plans, using durable and sustainable design elements and featuring the beauty of stone.

**Earth, Air, Water, Fire: The Wit & Wisdom of Frazier Forman Peters**
Brian O’Leary of the WHS Exhibits Committee reviewed all Peters’ books and selected relevant quotes to illustrate his ideas, philosophies and insights in alignment with the four elements of earth, air, water and fire.
It was a very challenging year for the Exhibit Committee. We had a reliable and talented group of volunteers who tackled very important topics. The exhibits for 2011 were pertinent, thoroughly researched and creatively displayed. We are looking forward to 2012, with new and exciting exhibits, both historical and educational:

- Next Stop: Westport, The Inspiration for 1950’s TV and Film Writers; and The Cold War in Our Back Yard, featuring an Archival and Film Compilation by Lisa Seidenberg
- Long Island Sound, Then and Now
- U.S. Postage Stamps Designed by Westport Artists

We thank everyone at the Westport Historical Society, and the town, for their continued support. Submitted by Anne Levine and Larry Untermeyer
EXHIBITS
Larry Untermeyer, Anne Levine, Brian O’Leary, Sue Kirby, Janine Brown,
Elizabeth Juviler, Dorothy Curran

2011 was a year of transition for the Exhibits committee at the Westport Historical Society. Our beloved Mollie Donovan, who had produced over 50 exhibits, was no longer able to participate in the committee. Ellen Naftalin, who had contributed amazing talent and expertise for the past five years, decided to move her talents to more personal pursuits.

Larry Untermeyer (creative photographer) took over the lead of the committee, with a few continuing committee members: Brian O’Leary (our tireless researcher), Lisa Seidenberg (our film expert), Sue Kirby and Anne Levine (ideas, programming and production). Janine Brown joined the committee, bringing her art talent and exhibit expertise from other volunteer experiences. Elizabeth Juviler helped with the first few exhibits. Dorothy Curran, president of the WHS, was invaluable as an idea person, creator of all our exhibit text materials, and source of many valuable contacts to bring our exhibits to life. And thanks to Katie Chase, constantly at the ready to dig into the archives for our varied requests. And special thanks to Ellen Naftalin, for coming on board again to help us mount our current exhibit. And none of these exhibits would be possible without the ongoing expertise of Miggs Burroughs, our friend who is always willing to lend his time and creative talents to our exhibits.

Susan Gold has made our efforts possible with her ongoing fund-raising. Barbara Brauner has always made herself available to help us in any way she could and always ready with a fresh cup of coffee. And Peter Jennings response is always, “of course I can help.” Lorraine Feliciano assisted with publicity placement. Thanks to you all.

The exhibits that opened our year both featured artists who had lived and worked here and in surrounding communities, whose talents and creativity helped give our communities their reputation as thriving art colonies.

The Sketch Class: A Westport Tradition featured the work of artists who participated in a weekly sketch class – and looked back at Westport’s early sketch classes. Since the 1900’s, the Westport art colony has supported groups of professional and beginner artists who met to work from live models.

Art from the Heart took a fascinating look at the lives of two Westport artists – expressed via a collection of unique valentines and other anniversary missives designed by Naiad and Walter Einsel for each other.

We also had an interesting panel, led by Howard Munce, discussing the relationships of these artists, and issues facing them as painters.

Valentine Celebration with Songs from the Heart featured original music celebrating life and love, by Lisa Bastoni, Naiad Einsel’s granddaughter.

Our second exhibit of 2011, Back to Our Roots, covered a lot of “ground.” Partnering with Wakeman Town Farm and the Westport Farmers’ Market, we produced this summer-long festival to explore and celebrate 350 years of Westport’s farming heritage. Local barns, stone walls, artifacts and archival records link generations of Westport farmers to our current community gardens.

We were fortunate to have the help of Helen Klisser During and Tom Reilly, from the Westport Art Center, as our consultants and supporters, to bring our vision of Back to Our Roots to reality on the gallery walls.

Back to Our Roots
Westport Farming: Then and Now presented a timeline running from the pre-Contact through early Puritan settlers, beyond the Revolution, Saugatuck’s maritime traders, including farmers active at
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth DeVoll, Director of Education

The educational programs are a key component of our outreach efforts to attract youth and young families to join the Westport Historical Society. School holidays and vacations have been an opportunity to run many successful workshops for school age children. Each one connects the past to the present through dramatic play, storytelling, and creative projects.

In addition to Election Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day, and a special holiday gift-making workshop, we continue to offer a cartooning class Monday afternoons.

We have been a strong presence at many town wide events in an attempt to spread the word about our organization. In September, we were extremely popular at the annual Fairfield County Concours d’ Elegance with our car treasure hunt which involved both children and adults. We received many positive accolades for creating a project that was engaging and interactive. Through events such as these, we successfully increase our visibility within the community.

An important and popular program is the scout fulfillment activities we offer local Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops for badge fulfillment requirements. We tailor programs to meet their needs and this has been a great way to introduce them to our rich local heritage.

Our projects are designed to tie in with our exhibitions and key historical events. For example, when we had our exhibit called Frazier Forman Peters: At Home with Stone last fall, we made mini stone houses. When we talked about the British landing at Compo Beach in 1777, we constructed tri-corner revolutionary hats. One scout dad commented “I was fascinated by Westport’s role in the Revolutionary war, and we all had fun learning about it at WHS.”

We hosted 100-second graders as part of a’ getting to know Westport’ program. Each child had a brief tour of the Wheeler house, learned about toys of the past, and went home with a self-made version. For many of the children, this was their introduction to the Westport Historical Society.

Publicity for our programs continues to be challenge, yet our programs are gaining in popularity. It seems once a family discovers our programs, they continue to join us on a continuous basis. We are gaining momentum and word is spreading about what we do. We feel it is important to keep lines of communication open with our members and the feedback we have received has been positive and helpful.

As I reflect on this past year, my goal moving forward is to offer as many programs as I can that involve the entire family. I want to make the Westport Historical Society a fascinating and fun destination for all ages.

Submitted by Elizabeth DeVoll
COLLECTIONS/BARN
Barbara Van Orden, Chair

Historic Collections: 2011

In February, we displayed one of our rarest items "The Washington Dinner Invitation" The framed invitation to a Mr. Sprague is dated December 10, 1790 and signed on the back by George Washington. We plan to display the invitation, annually in February, in celebration of President's Day.

Gifts of special interest that we received this year include two miniature doll houses, a large milk pan a small spinning wheel. All of which are on display.

As a farewell gift to Westport, departing 34 year resident, Fay Wright, a long term connoisseur, collector and designer of miniature doll houses, donated two Award Winning Miniatures. A small Colonial bedroom doll house is on display in the Victorian bedroom. This ornate and fully crafted miniature, entirely designed, built and decorated by Wright received national recognition in 1999 from "Miniature Collector Magazine" A large Colonial dollhouse with a Victorian interior is temporarily located in the front hall. Each dollhouse is a unique treasure and will be of interest to both young and young-at-heart.

The milk pan dates back to 1850 and is used to skim cream from milk. The pan belonged, at one time to the Jennings family and was a gift of Elizabeth Jennings Northrop. It is on display in the Victorian kitchen.

A small family spinning wheel was most recently donated by Kathy Rockwood and is on view in our Victorian bedroom.

Of equal importance, but not on display at the moment are a miniature Victorian iron stove and a miniature iron cannon.

We remain grateful to our many donors for their wonderful gifts to the Society.

Submitted by Don Draves, Registrar & Barbara Van Orden, Collections Chair

COSTUME COLLECTION
Kathleen Malloy, Director

In 2011, the Costumes Department continued their efforts to assess the collection for future exhibits. We have decided to focus on Bridal Fashion and Handmade Textiles as we move forward. We are happy to report the addition of several committee members who will bring fresh eyes and enthusiasm to our work.

Several donations were made throughout the year: infant and children’s clothing from the 1940’s, a pair of children’s wooden shoes, a dress worn by Sandy Dennis in the film “Three Sisters” and a dress circa 1940 worn by Mollie Donovan made by her mother. We continued to display Victorian women’s clothing in the Wheeler House parlor, dining room and upstairs bedroom.

The Costumes department is grateful for all the donations we received in 2011 and welcome those who would like to join the committee in 2012.

Submitted by Kathleen Malloy, Costume Department
ARCHIVES
Katie Chase, Archives Chair

The Archives Department volunteers replied to about 60 requests for information in 2011 (interesting that it was about the same number in 2010!). Requests came in via e-mail, phone, and personal visits, and the subject areas included families, houses, businesses, events, and the like. The Archives volunteers meet almost every Tuesday morning, 10-12 noon.

As a result of instituting (in late 2010) a research fee of $10 for nonmembers of WHS, we garnered income of about $200 for our efforts. People who come to WHS to do research pay only for copies made ($1.00/page for nonmembers; $.50/page for members). These monies are used to purchase archival-quality boxes, folders, and other supplies used in the Archives.

In 2010 we were awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to pay a conservator to review our collections and give feedback on how we could improve our system. We have been instituting new procedures as we have time to take on these tasks. A requirement of the grant was that we had to provide a report to NEH as to what was recommended and how we have been following the guidelines. Cheryl Bliss and Katie Chase turned in this report in the fall, to meet the requirements.

We received several donations, among the most interesting: a ledger belonging to a Charles Allen who seemed to have a ferry business on the Saugatuck; binders of materials prepared when the new addition to Wheeler House was done in the early 2000s; recordings of a war bond drive at the Fine Arts Theatre in 1943, along with a description of the event (a CD was made of the old records); and manuscripts by Frazier Peters, the subject of the fall 2011 Exhibit in the Sheffer Gallery. Peters had published a number of books, but these manuscripts remained unpublished among his effects.

The small, unsung, dedicated group of Archives volunteers includes Kathy Ciuci, Robert Didomenico, Hope Hickok, Alice Lamberson, Sven Selander, Fran White, and yours truly,

Submitted by Katie Chase, Archives Chairperson
kayak tour on the Saugatuck River in collaboration with the Westport Arts Center was also a successful journey on the river.

One of our most popular walking tours in the summer was in the Saugatuck area. Its rich Italian heritage was explored with Loretta Santella, a native of the area who shared memories of growing up in Saugatuck.

On a community level, we were involved in some exciting events. In August we hosted a concert by Suzanne Sheridan & Co at the HSBC branch in Westport, co-hosted with the Westport-Weston Chamber of Commerce. It proved to be a successful collaborative event to support local talent. In December, we were asked by the Downtown Merchants Association to serve hot chocolate to nearly 200 residents who came to the town’s tree lighting at Town Hall. That same evening we participated in a holiday celebration at Christ & Holy Trinity Church for many of the town’s non-profit organizations and solicited support as well as raised awareness in the community.

Our annual two pillar fundraisers are the Holiday House Tour in December and the Hidden Garden Tour in June. Each of these tours drew over 500 participants and a very involved group of volunteers who staffed each event. Local businesses were asked to support these events with sponsorships, which are key to their financial success.

Additional community events offered were: the Garden Marketplace, in collaboration with the Hidden Garden Tour; a local Artisan Sale in the gallery in November (now in its fifth year), which invites area artists to sell their crafts; the seventh annual Mary Ann Hall’s Music for Children concert for families. This concert includes the playing of small instruments, singing and dancing.

Our community events reached over 1500 people throughout the year.

The flexibility built into the programming at WHS allowed us to embrace many talented individuals and engage in dialogue among residents. We continue to look forward to a bright and inspiring future.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Gold, Executive Director
Executive Director’s 2011 Annual Report
Susan Gold, Executive Director

The year 2011 can be summarized in one word “collaboration.” With respect to the variety of programming offered at the Westport Historical Society, it all happened because people came together to share their talents, expertise and common goals.
As I review here the past year’s highlights, I can point to the dedication of volunteers who tirelessly worked on our committees, some of whom recorded or cataloged our history as well as others who worked on our fundraisers and created a true community by bringing people together to celebrate and enjoy what makes Westport special and memorable.
WHS is a place that embraces interest, desire and determination and we’re grateful for the energy of our membership.

A summary of our accomplishments this past year includes:
Three major exhibitions that drew approximately 5000 people throughout the year to view or participate in one of our special gallery events. These exhibitions included: *The Sketch Class: A Westport Tradition & Art from the Heart, A Glimpse into the Lives of Naiad & Walker Einsel (January-April); Back To Our Roots, a display about Westport Farms, Stone Walls and Barns (May-September); Frazier Forman Peters: At Home with Stone (October-December.*) The exhibits brought many groups to WHS for curator tours, including Y’s Women, Y’s Men, Westport Young Woman’s League, and Westport Center for Senior Activities. Scout groups came for badge fulfillment programs designed specially by our Education Director.

Our Education Department, led by Elizabeth DeVoll, an accomplished artist, expanded the programs offered to children ages 5 to 10. The activities included crafts, cooking, dramatic play, walking tours and guest speakers. Three of our programs met on school vacation days—Election Day, Veterans Day and Martin Luther King Day. School vacation weeks in February and April offered 4-day programs. And our Time Travelers Summer program attracted children to three one-week sessions in July and August.

These youth-oriented programs were an integral part of our overall programming, and introduced young children and their families to what WHS offers to the community. Each program averaged 15-20 children each day, with a total number served throughout the year about 500 children.
In addition to our special youth programs, the annual Wheeler House Tour brought an additional 500 third-grade students to view and learn about industrialization in a mid-19th century home.

During the past year our Oral History Department with John Hartwell at the helm grew to a dozen people who were charged with the following mission: to capture, annotate, preserve and publish the memories of those Westporters who have made significant contributions to the institutions in our community. The talented members of this committee videotape the interviews, which are made available for viewing at WHS or on the Internet through a link found on the WHS website. This repository of Westport residents who have given the town its unique character is what makes the job of this committee integral to what WHS is all about: preserving our town’s history.

Our Archives volunteers worked tirelessly on many different research projects of their own but also actively responded to many inquiries from Westport and all over the country. People seek information on relatives who grew up in town, homes and businesses, as well as requests for old photographs of Westport.

Our Destination Westport Tours continued to thrive this year. We creatively offered a variety of opportunities to discover more of Westport’s rich history: an annual kayak tour to Cockenoe Island with David Park, an avid kayaker who wrote a book “Kayaking around the Norwalk Islands.” David shared his expertise as a self-made naturalist and gave a wonderful ecological tour as part of this adventure. Another
# Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets

**Year Ended December 31, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Amounts in dollars)</th>
<th>OPERATING FUND</th>
<th>CAPITAL FUND</th>
<th>ENDowment FUND</th>
<th>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>110,760</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events, net</td>
<td>90,101</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Sales, net</td>
<td>7,315</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>7,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>11,572</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(5,416)</td>
<td>6,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>40,398</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>260,146</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(4,809)</td>
<td>255,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>197,566</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>197,566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td>11,761</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>25,871</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
<td>62,288</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>62,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>235,198</td>
<td>62,288</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>297,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>29,526</td>
<td>(62,188)</td>
<td>(6,961)</td>
<td>(39,623)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>(4,578)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,052</td>
<td>(2,526)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>24,948</td>
<td>(62,188)</td>
<td>(4,809)</td>
<td>(42,149)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSFERS TO/(FROM)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>(28,460)</td>
<td>28,460</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>69,199</td>
<td>1,440,924</td>
<td>278,941</td>
<td>1,787,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>24,022</td>
<td>14,009</td>
<td>59,786</td>
<td>97,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,100</td>
<td>40,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>93,221</td>
<td>1,454,933</td>
<td>376,827</td>
<td>1,924,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>70,265</td>
<td>1,407,196</td>
<td>269,980</td>
<td>1,747,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>19,444</td>
<td>14,009</td>
<td>61,838</td>
<td>95,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,200</td>
<td>40,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>89,709</td>
<td>1,421,205</td>
<td>372,018</td>
<td>1,882,932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Amounts shown for 2011 are unaudited.*
# Statement of Financial Position
## December 31, 2011

(Amounts in dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OPERATING FUND</th>
<th>CAPITAL FUND</th>
<th>ENDOWMENT FUND</th>
<th>TOTAL ALL FUNDS 2011</th>
<th>TOTAL ALL FUNDS 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>72,868</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72,868</td>
<td>56,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments, at market value</td>
<td>8,012</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>355,006</td>
<td>363,018</td>
<td>375,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Cost 2011:362,905; 2010:366,124)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Receivable</td>
<td>3,017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,017</td>
<td>13,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from/(to) Other Funds</td>
<td>(4,311)</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Inventory</td>
<td>9,708</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,762</td>
<td>22,470</td>
<td>24,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>3,979</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,979</td>
<td>3,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Collections</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,851</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,851</td>
<td>32,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, Buildings &amp; Equipment, net</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,354</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,354</td>
<td>1,562,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>93,273</td>
<td>1,533,266</td>
<td>372,018</td>
<td>1,998,557</td>
<td>2,069,311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |                |              |                |                      |                      |
| **LIABILITIES**            |                |              |                |                      |                      |
| Accrued Expenses           | 3,564          | -            | -              | 3,564                | 3,527                |
| Loan Payable-Mortgage      | -              | 112,061      | -              | 112,061              | 140,803              |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES**      | 3,564          | 112,061      | -              | 115,625              | 144,330              |

| **NET ASSETS**             |                |              |                |                      |                      |
| Unrestricted               | 70,265         | 1,407,196    | 269,980        | 1,747,441            | 1,787,064            |
| Temporarily Restricted     | 19,444         | 14,009       | 61,838         | 95,281               | 97,817               |
| Permanently Restricted     | -              | -            | 40,200         | 40,200               | 40,100               |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS**       | 89,709         | 1,421,205    | 372,018        | 1,882,932            | 1,924,981            |

| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |                |              |                |                      |                      |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | 93,273         | 1,533,266    | 372,018        | 1,998,557            | 2,069,311            |

*Note: Amounts shown for 2011 are unaudited.*
• Working for a non-profit is not easy. The hours are not regular, the work changes constantly, the job descriptions are only partly relevant, volunteers come and go, and our paid staff sustains us. What Susan Gold, Barbara Brauner, Elizabeth DeVolls, Olivia Yule and Mimi Burroughs accomplish for us every year leaves many other non-profit organizations, in and around Westport, in awe.

Westport is a special community, with an amazing, colorful history, but—for me— the Westport Historical Society is an even more special family of friends within that community. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president. Thank you all!

Dorothy E. Curran, President

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2011 the Westport Historical Society was very successful financially with unrestricted operating revenue exceeding expenses by $29,527 (12.6%) thanks to strong support by a solid group of sponsors. In addition we appreciate the strong membership support of the excellent programs offered by our Education, Exhibits, Archives, Oral/Visual History and House History departments. Excess cash generated by the increase in Operating Net Assets was utilized to reduce the mortgage loan leaving a balance of $112,061.

Our financial results are audited annually and those audit reports are available for review by foundations, trusts and other groups considering grant awards to the Society. Anyone having questions about our financial operations are invited to contact us for a prompt response.


Submitted by:

Elliott Netherton
Vice President-Finance

Sarah Menchaca
Treasurer
Family Reunion, a WHS book (in progress) about Peters’ work, and a donation, by his
granddaughter, Laura Blau, of two of his unpublished manuscripts.

- Our very active website traffic level and social media networking continue to provide an
attractive value proposition for sponsors (whose logos are displayed) and to drive traffic to our
fundraisers. Our larger goal for our website includes virtual tours of collections and historic sites,
as well as access for researchers to our Oral History collections.

- Given a shortage of Exhibit Space and the extended nature of Civil War and War of 1812
Commemoration, we have begun work on Web-based Exhibits that will showcase these events,
through the eyes of Westporters living here at the time.

- Our Exhibits are the face of the WHS. They are what attract new members and sponsorship, and
they are essential to fulfillment of our mission as an organization. The work of this year’s
Exhibits Committee Volunteers to rally past the loss of key volunteers, Mollie Donovan and Ellen
Naftalin, was nothing short of heroic. Hats off to Anne Levine, Sue Kirby, Larry Untermeyer,
Janine Brown, Lisa Seidenberg and our tireless researcher, Brian O’Leary.

- Sponsors are essential to our existence. Susan Gold and Dave Matlow again have done an
amazing job acquiring and renewing our Lead and Annual Sponsors and Exhibit Sponsors.

- Our two annual fundraisers, Hidden Garden Tour/Toast the Tour and Holiday House
Tour/Twilight Soirée, were up over last year, as was Annual Giving, thanks to the generosity of
our members and to corporate matching. There’s a special place in heaven for the volunteers who
work on BOTH those fundraisers! In particular, Joni Andrews’ contributions were vital to the
success of both events.

- Inspired by our quest to celebrate the work of Westport artists and our need to generate ancillary
revenues, Linda Gramatky Smith and her husband, Ken, most generously and ingeniously made it
possible for WHS members to purchase—at discount and with a substantial portion of the
revenues accruing to the WHS, museum quality giclées of watercolors of Westport scenes done
by her father, Hardie Gramatky (one of the top 20 watercolorists of the 20th century, according to
Andrew Wyeth). What a lovely gift to the WHS!

- Barbara Van Orden’s loyal Team of Volunteers who staff the front desk, greet visitors as they
arrive and provide for our security, are indispensable. Particular thanks to Gail Ferencz, whose
contributions this year even included first responder assistance for a klutz Board president.

- Thanks to Katie Chase and the Nominating Committee for providing us with a wonderful new
slate of Officers for 2012. I sleep well at night knowing that Susan Wynkoop—retired FBI
Special Agent and resident, with husband, Dutch and daughter Katherine, of the oldest home in
Westport—will be taking on the WHS Presidency for the next two years. Likewise, having Phillip
Johnson—retired senior financial executive for Georgia-Pacific—take over for that long-serving,
incredibly vigilant paragon of integrity, Elliott Netherton will ensure vital continuity for us at a
crucial time.
From the PRESIDENT...

Our Members, Donors, Sponsors, talented and tireless Volunteers and other supporters, in Westport and beyond, can take great pride in the work of our Westport Historical Society in 2011. The Reports that follow showcase achievements of each department. As you will see, 2011 was a very busy, productive and satisfying year. Highlights include:

- Under the vigilant oversight of CFO Elliott Netherton, Treasurer Sarah Menchaca and the Finance Advisory Committee, our endowment management costs have dropped significantly, we are upgrading our transaction processes and our audited financial statements show that the financial state of our organization is very sound. Near-term goals continue to be to grow our membership, annual giving and endowment, retire our mortgage on the Wheeler House addition and expand our volunteer base.

- Key to our success is expense management. Without the ever-handly, ever-available Peter Jennings and his Bayberry Property Management resources, our operating costs would be much higher. Thank him every time you see him.

- A very successful WHS partnership with the CT Trust for Historic Preservation in implementing a windshield survey of Barns still extant in Connecticut. The CT Trust was so impressed with our comprehensive initiative and enthusiastic teams in Westport—identifying some 250 remaining barns and mounting an Exhibit about our work—they gave us an Award.

- Expansion of the Oral History Committee and capability. Under John Hartwell’s leadership, the group—and interns—have been annotating our collections and preparing them for conversion to digital cloud storage.

- After service to the WHS Exhibits Committee that spanned 50 shows, our beloved Mollie Donovan retired, then passed away. Her memorial service, held at the WHS, attracted a large throng of friends and family. A number of initiatives are underway to honor her memory. In the fall, a “Daffodils for Mollie” drive (and mini-fundraiser) resulted in the planting of 1200 daffodil (her favorite flower) bulbs on the grounds of Wheeler House. This April, a major Auction of Art by Westport Artists—whose work was a particular passion of Mollie’s—will fund a WHS benefit in her memory.

- Thanks to Wally and Denise Woods, the unfinished manuscript, TV Neighbors (a catalogue of Television celebrities and where they lived in Westport), of their late friend, author Tom DeLong was completed and published by the WHS.

- Two new Westport History books are written and in the WHS publication pipeline: one on Frazier Forman Peters, and another on Leo Cirino’s remarkable collection of U.S. Postage Stamps by Westport Artists. The Eve Potts Fund is providing the underwriting.

- Inspired by Mollie Donovan’s house plaque inquiry on behalf of the expanded Frazier Peters stone home belonging to her son, Bob Weingarten began researching all of the extant Peters homes in Westport. The result was an Exhibit devoted to his findings that prompted a Peters