

From the PRESIDENT...

Our Members, Donors, Sponsors and other supporters, in Westport and beyond, can take great pride in the work of our Westport Historical Society in 2010. The Reports that follow showcase achievements of each department. As you will see, 2010 was a very busy, productive and satisfying year. Highlights include:

- 175th Anniversary of Westport receiving its Charter as a Town. The WHS staged a “Re-Enactment” at Saugatuck Congregational Church and received wide press coverage.
- Special 175th Anniversary Exhibit and talks at Adams Academy
- Publication of our newly-revised, softcover history, *Westport, Connecticut: The Story of a New England Town's Rise to Prominence*, by Woody Klein
- 100th Anniversary of the Minute Man statue at Compo. The WHS helped to promote attendance and participation at this event.
- 50th Anniversary of the Town’s acquisition of Longshore Club Park. The WHS helped a Town-appointed task force with space on our WHS website, acting as host for fund-raising, a special exhibit here and the debut of a special DVD/video documenting Longshore’s colorful history. Artifacts from our Archive were included in the work.
- 10th Anniversary of the Kids’ Wall at Longshore. Special exhibit and programs at the WHS
- Funded by a Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Walter Newman, Director of Paper Conservation at the Northeast Document Conservation Center, surveyed our WHS Archives and recommended new initiatives and best practices for management and organization of our collections
- A Strategic Planning off-site at Weston Woods Institute, involving Board and Advisory Council
- In partnership with the CT Trust for Historic Preservation’s Statewide “Windshield Survey” of Barns, documentation by a WHS-led team of all extant barns in Westport.

Driven partly by this surge in events and programs, traffic on our website this past year has grown geometrically (averaging over 16,000 visits per month!), to the delight of our sponsors. Wheeler House has a stunning new coat of paint, and numerous repairs to the facilities were done at cost or by volunteers.

Revenues from our two main 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. Gift size ranged from \$10 to \$5,000, and the mode was \$100! 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.

As always, what most amazes me about our Westport Historical Society is how much is accomplished each year--with our buildings, facilities, Archive, collections, exhibits, programs, tours, fundraisers, gift shop and special events--with just one full-time staff member, three part-timers, a shoestring budget, modest endowment, no taxpayer subsidy, and a group of the most wonderfully devoted, loyal, talented hard-working and generous long-term members and volunteers I have ever met.

Westport is a special community, with an amazing, colorful history. Thanks to you all, the story is *here* and continues to grow for all to discover and enjoy!

Dorothy E. Curran, President

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2010 the Westport Historical Society was very successful financially with unrestricted revenue exceeding expenses by \$23,865 (9.5%) 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 and House History departments.

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 is invited to contact us for a prompt response.

On the next two pages appear a Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2010 and a Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets for Year Ended December 31, 2010, prepared in mini-audit report format.

Elliott Netherton

Vice President-Finance

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like the lighthouses that grace my 2010 calendar, the Westport Historical Society has been a beacon this past year for the town of Westport in serving as its hub for the celebration of its important milestone birthday: 175 years as a town. May 28, 1835, is when the people of Westport received their Charter. But as I examine this past year's programs and celebrations, it has truly been a banner year for the Westport Historical Society. As the keeper of local history, it only seemed natural for us to host the website for Longshore Club Park as this landmark in Westport marked their 50th anniversary. We were able to provide a venue for information about Longshore's history, including a beautiful exhibit in the Little Gallery. In addition, through our website we facilitated the exchange of information from residents to the Longshore committee, presented the commemorative movie about the history of park and sold DVDs and posters for the Town of Westport

Our Oral History Department chaired by Ken Smith underwent tremendous growth in terms of the number of participants from 12 to 26 and has become important arm of the Historical Society, whose goal is to capture, preserve, annotate and publish the memories of Westporters who have made significant contributions to the community. Their immediate tasks are to digitize the old tapes onto the computer so they may be safely stored as well as creating a topic index so that knowing the content of the audio/visual tapes can facilitate research.

The 175th Birthday Celebration year enabled us to take a step back in time and applaud the town for making the most of all of its assets. Our lovely octagonal cobblestone barn that houses the Museum of Westport History has been a popular destination during this yearlong celebration. Scout and school groups visit this building often to see artifacts and a model of the town at the beginning of industrialization.

This past year we had a full schedule of events for youth and adults. In January, the Westport Modern exhibit opened and included a wonderful array of programs such as a film series at the public library, a play reading, a visit to a church recognized for its architectural design, lectures in the gallery—all of which attracted new people to the building. In the spring, guided tours of the Westport Modern exhibit were presented to local groups including the Y's Women, Y's Men, and the Westport Center for Senior Activities. Our exhibit sponsor, Catamount Wealth Management, hosted a lovely lunch for two of our exhibit tours.

Approximately 1,500 people came through to see this exhibition, a wonderful testimony to the efforts of Morley Boyd and Mark Halstead who were the exhibit curators. Allen Cramer hosted a beautiful cocktail reception for homeowners whose homes were featured in our modern exhibit. We also celebrated modern architects of the mid-20th century including the renowned Victor Civkin, well-known for his design of over 50,000 GE American kitchens throughout the United States.

Martin Luther King Day in January is a school holiday and 18 kids came to explore the ideals of this monumental civil rights leader with engaging crafts, readings and dramatic play. In February, we hosted a week of discovery, creativity and fun for 15 children ages 5-11 in our February Vacation Day program. Our central location makes us an ideal facility to host other group meetings and we proudly hosted the Westport Film Society meetings in March and April. Our bus tours to acquaint newcomers and realtors with the local history are very popular and we offered two tours for nearly 80 people in March. Municipal historian Allen Raymond, former Chief of Police Ron Malone and eleventh-generation Westporter Peter Jennings awe participants with gems of information like the former use of the Inn at National Hall as a banquet hall for high school dances and basketball games and that the Compo Beach cannons were a gift from the U.S. Army in 1901 to commemorate the British landing in 1777.

In April, we offered another popular Vacation Day program for over 20 children, three of whom came on scholarship referred to us by the Department of Youth Services. [In the spring, guided tours of the Westport Modern exhibit were presented to local groups including the Y's Women, Y's Men, and the Westport Center for Senior Activities. Our exhibit sponsor, Catamount Wealth Management, hosted a lovely lunch for two of our exhibit tours. At the end of May, over 500 Westport school children visited Wheeler House for their annual field trip, learning about the development of industrialization by seeing

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (continued...)

how a late 19th century family lived and worked in an agriculturally based community. In May, House historian Bob Weingarten facilitated a guided bus tour of the oldest homes in Westport to over 40 attendees and it was a wonderful way to showcase the lifestyle and preservation effort of homeowners. In June, our popular Hidden Garden Tour and Garden Marketplace again drew over 500 people to the Westport Historical Society and celebrated the beautiful garden landscapes of five private homes. The popular Toast the Tour wine-tasting party and silent auction was a terrific way to celebrate this annual event and help us raise additional support for the organization.

Our Destination Westport Tours are a popular way to get people to explore our town's history with our Town Historian Allen Raymond and other guides to uncover a bit of local lore. These areas include the historic Kings Highway District, Main Street and Long Island Sound in kayaks to Cockenoe Island.

In the summer, we celebrated all the anniversaries of Longshore Club Park (50th) and the Kids' Wall at Longshore Pool (10th) and the town's birthday (175th) with a special re-enactment at the Saugatuck Congregational Church with residents reading from a script written by the WHS Board President Dorothy Curran. This play gave everyone a great laugh and a taste of what it might have been like for our early townspeople to receive their charter as a town.

Our Time Travelers summer program, which reached nearly 30 children over the three one-week sessions, continued in its seventh year of offering youth an interactive experience of fun, games, walking tours and guest visitors. In September, we offered hands-on craft activities for nearly 200 children at the Concours d' Elegance car show at the FC Hunt Club, engaging children in activities that help support this annual fundraiser for autism.

In October, the Putting Westport on the Map exhibit opened to rave reviews from the community. This exhibit showcased the oldest recently discovered map (1812) and many others that tell a great story of what the landscape and population of our town was nearly 200 years ago. Presentations in the gallery by Robert Augustyn, Bob Weingarten, David Preusch and Leonard Fisher were engaging and powerful in providing residents with more in-depth, first-hand information and encouraging dialogue about the maps. Over 1,000 people visited this exhibit through January 8th.

Our fourth annual Local Craft Sale in November organized by Lisa Shufro was a great way to celebrate the creativity of area artisans and support the Historical Society. Over 15 artists participated with a variety of handcrafted items including jewelry, clocks, pottery, scarves, clothing and hats. Nearly \$1,000 was raised to support our educational programs over the two-day sale.

In December, the Holiday House Tour was held and described by many as "one of the best ever" tours in terms of variety, design and architectural styles. The tour was attended by 500 people and, once again, nurtured a sense of community and support for what the WHS does with passion and commitment. Family events including the annual Lantern Tour (September) at a local cemetery and the Mary Ann Hall Music for Children Holiday Concert (December) support the desire to bring people together to have fun, to laugh and sing and to be involved in the celebration of music and local history.

In summary, the year 2010 marked a milestone year for the Westport Historical Society. It was truly a new beginning marking a decade into the 21st century with positive intentions to respond to the changes in our local demographics, to meet the requests for historical information and to provide high quality programming. Our Remarkable Gift Shop is a gem in Wheeler House with gifts that commemorate the town and that people love to purchase and give to their host families in countries far away or to people who might be moving away. Whatever the reason for giving a gift that commemorates Westport, it is given so people can remember or get a flavor of what makes this town a desirable and special place to live and work.

**Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gold, Executive Director**

ARCHIVES

Katie Chase, Archives Chair

During 2010 the Archives Committee volunteers replied to about 60 requests for information, ranging from people to places to homes to historical events. In some cases we weren't able to find the information sought, and if we could we referred the inquirers to other sources; in other cases we were able to find just what the inquirers sought.

Partly as a result of this large number of requests and from suggestions by Board members, we instituted a new policy of charging to do research for nonmembers. Members can avail themselves of our help in research and pay only for copies made (at \$.50/page; \$2.00/scanned item). Nonmembers pay a \$10 fee, which includes a reasonable number of copies, plus \$2.00 for postage and handling (and \$2.00 for scans). We have developed a commitment form that inquirers will have to sign and return to us before we do the research.

Some new collections were received this year: papers about the town's acquisition of Winslow Park from former First Selectperson Jacqueline Heneage (came in late 2009); research files from the late Tom DeLong on his book "Stage Presence": a lot of materials (books, postcards, papers, other documents) from Jay Sherwood's father's office on Church Lane; scrapbooks of the Longshore Women's Golf Association's 50 years; materials about the preservation of Sherwood Mill Pond and the little park there; a scrapbook about the Westport Jaycees, 1952-58.

As a result of a grant written by Cheryl Bliss and Katie Chase we received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to pay a conservator to review our collections and give us feedback on what we need to do to protect our resources. In May Walter Newman, Director of Paper Conservation from the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA, spent two days with us and later provided a detailed report. The Archives volunteers are working to implement the improvement suggestions; Katie & Cheryl will write a report in 2011 as to how we have followed through on the grant.

The small, but dedicated, group of volunteers includes Tom Atkinson, Hope Hickok, Alice Lamberson, Sven Selander, and Fran White.

Katie Chase, Archives Chair

COLLECTIONS/BARN

Barbara Van Orden, Chair

Among the additions to the Society's Historic Collections in 2010 is a gift of political campaign buttons that include Kennedy and Nixon for President Buttons. Also, Westport Selectman campaign buttons for Albert Scully and Herbert Baldwin.

We also received donations of toys, books, music boxes and a Magic Lantern with glass slides. The 100 plus items in this collection is one of the largest gifts received by the Society. The task of cataloging and recording these items is a work-in-process.

An interesting, century old gift that was received in 2010 is three medicine bottles with one label dated October 31, 1905. All three bottles were issued by Cannon's Pharmacy in Westport.

The Society is grateful to its many donors, who continue to support our efforts to preserve Westport and other objects of historical importance.

Don Draves, Registrar

COSTUME COLLECTION

Kathleen Malloy, Director

We worked with the Westport Women's League on a retrospective of women's fashion. Had 2 projects with the Westport Library: one on Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie" and another showcasing Colonial, Victorian and early 20th century cooking utensils. Will work on having additional exhibits with other organizations in 2011.

At the Wheeler House, we displayed additional Victorian women's clothing in the upstairs bedroom as well as updating our mannequins as the seasons changed.

The work of organizing and accessing the costume collection is on-going. We have flagged several items for a future textile show which would include: cross-stitch samplers, quilts, crocheted and hand-beaded clothing.

We had several costume donations in 2010, 2 women's dresses from the 1920's a man's top hat with a leather travel case and a few women's accessories. The costume department is grateful for all the donations -we look forward to what will come our way in 2011.

Kathleen Malloy
Costume Department

EDUCATION

Hilary Gibson, Education Director

“Education has no limits, no age restrictions, and is far more than arts and crafts,” according to WHS Education Director Hilary Gibson. Hilary ensures that real teaching and learning occurs, regardless of the age of the participants. In 2010, her programs brought new individuals and groups to the Westport Historical Society; she customized programs, as needed, to meet diverse learning expectations and needs.

For the first time, the Education Department had a dedicated exhibit as part of the Fall Map Exhibit. Under Hilary Gibson’s direction, visitors indulged in a stimulating “Kids’ Wall”, complete with a wide range of maps, stories, treasure hunts and curricula hung for the Exhibit’s duration, attracting families and groups who otherwise might not have been able to “feel part” of the glorious exhibit in the Main Gallery that was geared to older crowds. Hilary’s exhibit included contributions from her students. The approach utilized encompassed an interdisciplinary approach incorporating social studies, language arts, math, science and art. Hilary created numerous programs to accompany her exhibit, including several customized Scouts programs and many others for younger children. Honoring the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, Hilary customized programs for large groups of Scouts working towards their Merit Badge for Path Finding; the programs were tailored to Scouts ranging from 9 to 16 years old. Hilary’s dynamic teaching was critical in ensuring that the educational principles required to accomplish the Pathfinder Badge, which had not been offered in 58 years, were executed flawlessly, and that all participants met the stringent educational requirements, as the badge will not be offered again. Likewise, she customized several map programs for youngsters ranging from 5 to 11, providing diverse mapping curricula and hands-on opportunities for youth to create their own maps based on age-appropriate content. Drawing new participants to her programs lead to several families joining WHS during the fall, many of whom we have already had the opportunity to see at multiple WHS programs.

Working with Hilary, the Staples and Ludlow High School Interns created “Illustrated and Descriptive Top Ten Lists” for each Period Room at WHS. Enabling visitors to have focused visits to our remarkable rooms without docents, the Lists guide visitors of all ages to key artifacts and the new technology developed during the last half of the 1800s.

The Election Day Program, full to capacity, included a wide range of “fun” activities, along with activities around the themes of communication and vision. How exciting it was to see children of all ages make and share their “art with a message,” following group discussions about vision, goals, teamwork and communication. Then, under the supportive environment and direction, the young children gathered together to participate in several Readers’ Theater activities, with no one being too shy and each finding that there was an opportunity to participate, regardless of age or reading level.

Building on past success, Hilary refined education programs offered the prior year, updating curricula, adding new case lessons, and working with new educators. Successful Inquiry-based Learning Programs included: Two different “A Day in the Life” programs at the Adams Academy, one for 100 public school first graders and another program for local private school students; “My Community” for 100 second graders; and “The Wheeler House” for almost 500 third graders. Despite tight school budgets and fewer field trips, the strong educational components of these programs bring students and teachers for consecutive years!

Throughout the year, we offered many other enrichment programs. We were thrilled to help young scouts link the past to the present, the art of using mosaics, and making their own mosaic fish which Miggs Burroughs and Katherine Ross hung in the spectacular Longshore Wall commemorative Exhibit last summer. The 2010 Martin Luther King Program provided activities relating to the theme of “making a difference.” Many children enjoyed our vacation programs in February, April and during the summer. Local artists often joined us, sharing unique talents and offering a wide range of artistic activities. While the economy still was not as robust in 2010, therefore creating a challenge in filling our enrollments, participants always walked off our front porch enriched, smiling, challenged and wanting to return after participating in our programs!

EXHIBITS

Mollie Donovan, Ellen Naftalin, Anne Levine

During the past year, six exhibits were mounted in the Society's Betty & Ralph Gallery and in our Little Gallery. Under the chairmanship of Ellen Naftalin and Mollie Donovan and a standing committee consisting of: Miggs Burroughs, Anne Levine, Sue Kirby, Peter Jennings, Lisa Seidenberg, Bob Weingarten, Larry Untermeyer, Denise Woods, Wally Woods, Brian O'Leary, and Katie Chase, who were joined by many other dedicated people - such as our Director, Susan Gold, who found sponsors - to create, research and then install the exhibits that showcased our history and also celebrated the 175th anniversary of Westport becoming a township. All in all it was a tremendous but successful undertaking.

Westport Modern: When Cool Was Hot featured more than two dozen important modern buildings in our community, including photographs of the structures with extensive biographies of their architects. Our vignette space held a model room of colorful modern furniture and accessories, plus pertinent artwork borrowed from the WSPAC collection.

Victor Civkin: Modern Genius Rediscovered reintroduced us to Victor Civkin, an architect of many talents, from his design of distinctive mid-century modern homes to innovative kitchen designs and beautiful artwork that was shared by the Civkin family.

The exhibits above included *When Cool Was Hot! Film Series* at the Westport Public Library. We also put on a lunch theater program, *Play It Cool*. There was a well-attended panel, *Victor Civkin: Rediscovered*, led by Mark Halstead, our Civkin expert. We toured *The Unitarian Church: Still Cool at 50*, with Jack Franzen and John Stevens, architects who had worked on the church. Jane Swergold shared her furniture expertise in a fascinating program, *Classic Mid-Century Furnishings, Still Hot*. And Westport film-maker, Lisa Seidenberg, premiered her captivating film, *1939: I Have Seen the Future*.

In the late Spring, the WHS led the celebration of the 175th anniversary of our town, and joined in the Longshore 50th celebration with our life-size display of the Kid's Wall on its 10th anniversary. The Adams Academy was opened to visitors as part of the celebration.

The 10th Anniversary of the Kid's Wall was a celebration of a major piece of local art designed and created by Miggs Burroughs and Katherine Ross, with the help of many Westport children. The representation of this tile structure, including over 32,000 pieces in the jeweled mural, was a joy to view in our wonderful gallery, with our own "fish" swimming overhead.

Longshore: Treasured Memories was our contribution to the Longshore 50th celebration. We included old photographs and newspaper articles about Longshore from our WHS collection, and from the Westport Library's archives. There were collages of events from Longshore's past, and nostalgic artifacts on display. We premiered the Longshore 50 video at our opening.

On the weekend of the above exhibit opening at the WHS gallery, Margaret LeBedis orchestrated a fascinating program at the Adams Academy. This included her sharing information about the history of the school house and detailed photo posters of Westport's past. A copy of the original town charter and town deed were also on display.

Then, continuing the celebration of Westport's 175th celebration, our map exhibit opened. Putting Westport on the Map took a look at our town, using maps old and new. Zoom in on Westport looked at us today, from the air, on the ground and through the eyes of our children. Bob Weingarten curated this exhibit, using many maps from our own WHS collection, and borrowing others from local map collectors. Larry Untermeyer shared his stunning aerial views of our town. Hilary Gibson provided a look at how maps can be presented to and created by children.

We had lectures by Bob Weingarten and David Preusch about dating homes, through both available records and based on the style of the house. Robert Augustyn presented a very interesting discussion on the origins of maps. Leonard Fisher, twice, by popular demand, led us through a fascinating look back in his history of map-making during WWII.

The Exhibits committee thanks everyone at the WHS for their support and help in promoting and participating in the exhibits. We hope that our exhibits have raised an awareness of the Westport Historical Society in the eyes of both our own town and neighboring communities.

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 2010 we repainted Wheeler House and due to the economic times were able to save almost half of what we originally budgeted. Long needed masonry repairs to the concrete bollards surrounding the property were completed by volunteers –a further savings. This year we plan to clean and apply preservative to the barn roof, and complete the sidewalk in front of the house.

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

Submitted by Peter Jennings & Sally Rose

GIFT SHOP

Olivia Yule, Director

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.

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. Scouts, WTF, Staples Cookbook, Project Return, Longshore, to name a few.

The "NEW" includes books of Westport as it is today, and calendars (sold out!) thanks to Larry Untermeyer whose generous contribution of time & talent resulted in 13 wonderful views of our town, creating one memorable gift. Another calendar was created specifically for a growing demand of Westport kids going abroad & needing a "show –and-tell" of their hometown. This was made into a desk top 5X7 calendar featuring lovely postcard photos of Westport by photographer Vonnie Spies.

Also NEW and sold out was a magnificent holiday ornament featuring a beach scene with the word "Westport" done in a medium called "reverse painting". The first of many collectibles, orders for next year are in ! 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, luggage tags, 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

HIDDEN GARDEN TOUR/TOAST THE TOUR

Cynthia Lee, Nancy Sherter, Co-Chairs

The Westport Historical Society presented its 19th annual *Hidden Garden Tour* in June. Once again, this well-revered and much-loved event was made possible by six local garden owners who graciously shared their unique gardening and landscaping perspectives with hundreds of enthusiastic attendees from Fairfield County and beyond. Destinations on the tour included a terraced riverside aerie with an ingenious watercourse, the harbor side sculpture gardens of a venerable Westport artist, a delightful family farm with a green mission, and a historically significant Queen Anne Victorian with lavish conservancy gardens.

The *Toast The Tour* party, held at an elegant Westport home the weekend preceding the garden tour, launched this year's happenings with a marvelous wine-tasting event produced by Fountainhead Wines & Distillations, a droll live auction by Jim Clerkin, and ample shopping opportunities at the silent auction, sculpture gallery and flower boutique. Live music by Nicole Pasternak and Carmine Marino and an abundance of gourmet provisions and libations carried revelers through a numinous evening of enjoyment.

The event received an outpouring of generosity from scores of willing volunteers, and benefitted from the indispensable support of an array of bighearted sponsors, including WHS Lead Sponsor: BNY Mellon; WHS Annual Sponsors: Bercham, Moses & Devlin Attorneys at Law, The Fresh Market, Kowalsky Bros., Leigh Overland Architect, Patriot National Bank, The Betty R. and Ralph Sheffer Foundation, and Weichert Capital Properties & Estates; Event Media Sponsor: Connecticut Cottages & Gardens; Event Sponsors: Contour Landscaping Company, Peter Romano and Robin Tauck, Fat Cat Pie Co., Fountainhead Wines & Distillations, Green Village Initiative, HSBC, SIR Development/Westport Residential, Venture Photography, Catamount Wealth Management, Cindy & Rob Citrone, Darton Insurance Company, Goldman, Gruder & Woods, and William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty; and Garden Patch Sponsors: Gibbons Group, James Love Lee of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Mary Ann Laurita of Prudential CT Realty, Frank Mattera & Daughter Landscaping Contractors, Janice Parker Landscape Design, Plantscapes Organics, Trek Bicycles of Fairfield, Trillium Architects, and Ruth Watson of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

The Artisan Craft & Garden Marketplace was livelier than ever this year, abuzz with treasure hunters enjoying the abundant displays of vendors new and established. The weather was cooperative, with part sun and clouds, comfortable temperatures, and light rain holding off until the very end.

A devoted volunteer committee pooled talents and resources to produce the 2010 *Hidden Garden Tour* program, with returning members: Joni Andrews, Donna Brody, Katie Chase, Jenny Clerkin, Maggie Feczko, Mary Friedman, Deborah Herbertson, Paula Leonard, Rose Anne Preston, Larry Untermeyer, and Pat Voris; and adventurous new members: Leo Cirino, Mary Lee Clayton, Dorothy Curran, Stacey Danielson, John Harris, Patricia Hines, Joan Isaacson, Mary Ann Laurita and Ellen Luckman. Cynthia Lee and Nancy Sherter co-chaired the event, with committees chaired by Joni Andrews, Donna Brody, Maggie Feczko, Mary Friedman, Deborah Herbertson, Patricia Hines, Joan Isaacson, Mary Ann Laurita, and Larry Untermeyer.

Submitted by Cynthia Lee, Nancy Sherter, HGT Co-Chairs

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR & TWILIGHT SOIREE

Dorothy E. Curran , 2010 Holiday House Tour Chair

The Westport Historical Society's 24th annual Holiday House Tour and Twilight Soirée, held Sunday, December 5, 2010, was a wonderful success, with revenues up over 2009. Tour ran from 11 AM to 4 PM and was followed, from 4:30 to 7:30 PM, by Twilight Soirée, a festive celebration of wine, hors d'oeuvres, live music and Silent Auction at another lavishly decorated private home. The crisp blue skies on Sunday morning, December 5th, 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 2010, ranging in age from 1840 to 2009, included:

1840 GREEK REVIVAL REBORN as STYLISH 1877 ITALIANATE

A number of Westport's prosperous Victorian-era *fashionistas* shed their "dated" Colonials or Greek Revivals by expanding and encasing them in new, Italianate facades and rooflines. The Historical Society's own 1795 Bradley-Wheeler House is one example; this 1840 Jesse Bradley house is another. Its current owners found the missing staircase, created an exposed brick bath by the central chimney, added a *chic* butler's pantry, mudroom, bedroom and master bath, converted the lookout attic and cupola to fabulous work/play space and restored the barn/garage.

WIT and WHIMSY in a QUEEN ANNE REVIVAL

This eye-catching, custom-built, award-winning 2002 Queen Anne Revival house successfully melds high Victorian style with today's kitchen, bath and lifestyle amenities. Fancy millwork and sumptuous patterns and textures, choreographed with wit and whimsy by the owner-designer, extend the Victorian idiom throughout. The main level's stenciled floors, long windows and staircase open to the rooftop cupola offer perfect framing for holiday trimming, including a homemade gingerbread house.

COMPO BEACH HAVEN

Serenity and clean lines pervade the flow, floorplan and décor of this thoughtfully designed 2008 FEMA-compliant renovation of a 1928 cottage. Sited just steps from Compo Beach and bathed in shore light and salt air, this active family's home--raised over 4 feet, flood-vented and framing strapped for hurricanes--rewards its owners daily with Sound views, casual comfort, year-round lifestyle space and holiday readiness. Enjoy the stars!

CONSUMMATE CONNECTICUT COUNTRY RETREAT

The curving approach, stone walls, long setback and festive holiday greenery to this 1930's Colonial revival house and cozy guest cottage suggest that only a horse and sleigh are needed to complete the Currier & Ives tableau, but the expanded interior's exuberant and eclectic blend of furnishings, 20th century art and lighting—including the dining room's Murano glass chandelier--will surprise and delight modernists.

RIVERFRONT SPLENDOR, GEOTHERMAL & SMART

Sited on a knoll by a branch of the Saugatuck, this splendid new shingle-style geothermal "smart" home pays homage to woodland surroundings while celebrating its owners' elegant cultural and lifestyle tastes with a grand foyer, magnificent domed ceiling dining room and 3-storey skylit kitchen. The lower level has a stunning wet bar, home theatre and French doors overlooking the outdoor fireplace, pond, river and twin bridges to a private island.

Along with Lead Sponsor, BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Annual Sponsors included the Betty & Ralph Sheffer Foundation, TD Bank, Berchem, Moses & Devlin, Weichert Capital Properties & Estates, Kowalsky Brothers and Janet & Fred Plotkin-the Adolph Schnurmacher Foundation. House Tour Event sponsors included Connecticut Cottages & Gardens (media sponsor), Duc Interiors, Cohen & Wolf, Venture Photography, Advanced Home Audio Systems, Catamount Wealth Management, DRJ Builders, Ellen Mahony MD, Encon, Patricia M. Miller Residential Design, Peters-Hamlin Law Firm, Resnick Investment Advisors, Wells Fargo Advisors-Howard Matson. Additional support came from Catherine C. Cleare Interiors and William Raveis Realty.

Dorothy E. Curran , WHS president and 2010 Holiday House Tour Chair

MEMBERSHIP-2010
Co-Chairs: Margaret LeBedis & Fran Thomas

The current membership of the Westport Historical Society is 410 but should be 447 when the renewals for December 2010 have been received. The Society operates on a rolling membership system so each month our Office Manager, Barbara Brauner sends out renewal forms to those members whose membership is about to expire. Reminder letters are sent a few weeks later.

In the past, the Membership co-chairs with the assistance of Susan Gold, have organized a Sunday afternoon tea at National Hall, a walking tour of downtown and a wine & cheese evening at Wheeler House. These events were not well attended by the new members.

This past year, the Membership co-chairs or their volunteers attended the openings of all events sponsored by the Society to sign in visitors in our Guest Book and to encourage such visitors to consider joining the Society if they were not already members. The exhibits, lectures and art shows were well attended and some new members were recruited.

We feel that, in the future, it would be useful to visit other Historical Societies to view how they attract new members and to see what benefits they offer their members. We, of course, offer discounts at the Gift Shop & on the purchase of tickets to the two major events.

I have enjoyed working on the Membership committee. The enthusiasm & leadership of Dorothy Curran and Susan Gold is inspiring. And I have appreciated the great job being done by Barbara Brauner and the volunteers who do the mailings. The Historical Society has a great deal to offer, as we all know, but the Membership committee has had a challenging job in this particular economic climate. We wish great success to the future Membership Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret LeBedis

ORAL HISTORY

Kendall Smith, Acting Chair

The membership of the Oral History Committee has grown slowly during the past year, but the tasks that have been accomplished as well as those that remain have increased at a much faster pace. Interviews with Westport notables have continued and the transfer of audio tapes to the computer have accelerated. The eventual goal will be to have all audio and video interviews digitized and accessible to the public. Another finished task is the transfer, for security reasons, of all the tapes and unique written material to the vault. And not to be overlooked is the assistance that committee gave to many of the Longshore 50th anniversary activities.

We are fortunate to have had two high school seniors for a month as interns. In that role, they learn much about the Historical Society's operation while the Oral History Committee in turn benefited from their work with the tapes and the computer.

Regrettably Janet Aley is retiring from her role of many years duration as Oral History Scribe but will continue to be an active member. Fortunately, however, Karley Meltzer agreed to step into that position and has been doing a stellar job. At years end there was also a change in leadership as John Hartwell replaced Kendall Smith as Chair. With John's experience and extensive technical knowledge he will be a valuable asset to the committee..

The future goals can be succinctly expressed by our revised Mission Statement: "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, 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 unique 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 archived materials."

From John Hartwell:

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SPONSORS

Dave Matlow & Mary Ann Laurita, Co-Chairs

The 2010 Sponsorship Committee was comprised of the following individuals: Dorothy Curran (WHS president), Susan Gold (executive director), Larry Untermeyer (WHS photographer), Mary Ann Laurita (co-chair), and Dave Matlow (co-chair).

The sponsorship strategy focused, for the second consecutive year, on the development of year-round sponsors who are offered a 12-month opportunity to support all WHS programs and in return receive recognition and involvement in every WHS event. Among the events included are the Holiday House Tour, the Hidden Garden Tour, the three major art exhibits, WHS website presence and linkage, use of the WHS facility for a reception, multiple complimentary admission ticket to all events and more.

In addition to 12-month sponsorships which represented about one-third of all sponsorship revenues, the WHS attracted many event sponsorship opportunities as well. 2010 annual sponsors included:

BNY Mellon Wealth Management-- Lead Sponsor
Betty & Ralph Sheffer Foundation
Berchem, Moses & Devlin
Janet & Fred Plotkin-the Adolph Schnurmacher Foundation
Kowalsky Brothers
TD Bank
Weichert Capital Properties & Estates.

Submitted by Dave Matlow

VOLUNTEERS/GREETERS

Barbara Van Orden, Chair

The Volunteer Greeters continue to be devoted, dependable and an agreeable group in their role of support of the Westport Historical Society. Their knowledge when greeting visitors and responding to phone calls is invaluable to the Society. We cannot thank them enough.

Joni Andrews
Sue Atkinson
Winnie Balboni
Mimi Burroughs
Janet Canning
Sue Crolius
Karen Eickhoff

Gayle Ferencz
Stemmi Goldman
June Lurie
Susan Malloy
Nancy Mason
Pat Porio

Alice Siegel
Linda Smith
Vonnie Spies
Barbara Van Orden
Helenanne Willmott
Esta Burroughs*
*retired 2010

Barbara Van Orden
Volunteers Director