From the President...

The year 2012 for the Westport Historical Society featured an abundance of noteworthy events and accomplishments and I am pleased to highlight a few of them while more detailed reports follow. Our Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Members, Donors, Sponsors, tireless and talented Volunteers and other supporters can take great pride in specific reports that showcase activities and achievements.

Our two annual fund-raisers (HGT and HHT) were financial successes; and in April we were pleased to host the first and only Mollie Gala, which showcased 120 local artists in memory of Mollie Donovan - a tireless and talented Volunteer for WHS. More than 175 people attended this event. The Donovan Family was deeply touched with the attendance and acknowledgment of the depth of Mollies contributions over the many years at WHS. Additionally, WHS welcomed the renaming of the former Little Gallery to the Mollie Donovan Gallery!

Our organization finds that a powerful way to engage people in history is through exhibitions that illuminate the way in which the Town of Westport has continued to have an effect on our region and throughout the United States. Certainly, our exhibits spoke to this point in 2012.

A continuing and important activity was the outreach to children through our educational programs. Usually, they were filled to capacity and enriched young children on many topics.

We also initiated the process by which our beloved Bradley-Wheeler House and Cobblestone Barn will attain local historic landmark property designation. It is quite an accomplishment to know that this property and the buildings within it will be standing for many generations to share, learn about and enjoy. This designation should occur in 2013.

There is money to be raised, members to be sought and a better online presence to be perfected. WHS perseveres in our quest to broaden and deepen what Westporters know about our Town and how it got to be where it is today. The magnitude of our preceding achievements drives us forward.

Thank you for your support and encouragement in the year ending 2012. I invite you to continue with us along this marvelous journey as WHS seeks to fulfill its mission. Westport is a special Town and WHS is very special to me! It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President. Thank you so much for your amazing contributions to this organization.

Most Sincerely,

[Signature]
Susan Walton Wynkoop
President
FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2012 the Westport Historical Society was very successful financially with operating revenue exceeding expenses by $17,520 (7.3%) thanks to continuing strong support by a solid group of sponsors. Further our employees and volunteer members did an outstanding job with 3 major Fund Raising activities. In addition we appreciate the strong membership support of the excellent programs offered by our Education, Exhibits, Archives, Oral/Visual History departments. Excess cash from prior years and this year’s increase in Operating Net Assets was used to repay our mortgage and reduce our debt at year end to $55,000.

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 have questions about our financial operation is invited to contact us for a prompt response.


Submitted by Phillip Johnson, Vice President-Finance, Sarah Menchaca, Treasurer
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2012  
(Amounts in dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>OPERATING FUND</th>
<th>CAPITAL FUND</th>
<th>ENDOWMENT FUND</th>
<th>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</th>
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**TOTAL ASSETS**  
50,229 | 1,482,648 | 396,584 | 1,929,461 | 1,998,557  

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES**  
0 | 55,000 | - | 55,000 | 115,625  

**NET ASSETS**

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**TOTAL NET ASSETS**  
50,229 | 1,427,648 | 396,584 | 1,874,462 | 1,882,932  

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

50,229 | 1,482,648 | 396,584 | 1,929,462 | 1,998,557  

*Note: Amounts shown for 2012 are unaudited*
Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets Year
Ended December 31, 2012

(Amounts in dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OPERATING FUND</th>
<th>OPERATING FUND</th>
<th>ENDOWMENT FUND</th>
<th>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40,200</td>
<td>40,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>50,229</td>
<td>1,427,648</td>
<td>396,585</td>
<td>1,874,462</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Amounts shown for 2012 are unaudited
Executive Director’s 2012 Annual Report
Susan Gold, Executive Director

This year has been one of growth and expansion. As an organization, we are always evolving and embracing new ideas and new volunteers who bring their special talents to our organization. As a voluntary organization, we never lose sight of how important our volunteer committees are to the success of our events and on-going activities.

As I review the past year’s highlights, I can point to the dedication of volunteers who have been instrumental in achieving our goals. Our membership VPs have been working tirelessly to bring in new support but also reach out to those people who have let their membership lapse, how important their support is to WHS.

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 include:

There were three major exhibitions that drew approximately 5000 people throughout the year to view or participate in one of our special gallery events. These exhibitions include: Next Stop: Westport, The Inspiration for 1950s TV & Film Writers and The Cold War in our Backyard featuring an Archival Film Compilation by Lisa Seidenberg, (Jan- April 2012), The Sound & the Saugatuck and Watershed Moments (May- September 2012), and U.S. Postage Stamps by Westport Artists and The Road to 06880: Colonial Era to Present (October – December 2012).

The Sheffer Gallery is an ideal venue for our members to host presentations on a variety of financial topics. These financial businesses have included RBC Wealth Management, Resnick Investment Advisors and Wells Fargo Advisors. We also hosted the Westport-Weston Chamber of Commerce Business After- Hours in November which was a great way to showcase our Stamp exhibit and meet our local business owners.

The youth activities for kids ages 5-10 are an integral part of our overall programming. Over the year, we average between 15 –20 children each day in our programs and throughout the year will have nearly 500 kids. The range of activities includes hands-on crafts, cooking, dramatic play, walking tours and guest speakers.

Our Education Department, led by Elizabeth DeVoll, an accomplished artist has expanded the hands-on projects we offer in any given vacation day program. Currently, these programs are offered on Election Day, Columbus Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Vacation weeks in February and April are also very popular. In the summer, our Time Travelers Summer Program attracts children for three one-week sessions, one in July and two in August.

In addition to the special youth programs we offer, the annual Wheeler Tour brings 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 has grown to a dozen people who are 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. This active group of talented video producers and interviewers continue to reach out to people in Westport whose remarkable lives are now preserved through video. We’re continuing to transfer our old tapes onto the computer so they will forever be
safe from deterioration. These on-going projects are truly the core of our mission. This committee also highlights each of our exhibits with a short video tour that tells the story of the show, another great memento for our archives.

Our archives volunteers work tirelessly on many different research projects of their own but also actively respond 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 offer people a variety of opportunities to discover more of Westport’s rich history. These include 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 the kayak adventure. Another kayak tour in September was offered to Chimon Islands in Norwalk and was another great addition to our water tours.

One of our most popular walking tours is the tour of Saugatuck which was held in October. Its rich Italian heritage was explored with two natives of the area: Loretta Santella and Cathy Romano. The Black Duck hosted the post-tour refreshments and everyone got a real flavor of the area when the Italian families lived there.

The two pillar fundraisers we offer are the Holiday House Tour in December and the Hidden Garden Tour in June. Each of these tours draws nearly 500 participants and a very involved group of volunteers who staff each event. The local businesses are asked to support these events with sponsorships, which are essential for them to be financial successes.

Additional community events offered are: the Garden Marketplace, in collaboration with the Hidden Garden Tour; two Appraisal Days in the gallery for people to bring in their treasures; The Mary Ann Hall concert for families featured Mary Ann Hall’s Music for Children staff. This concert includes the playing of small instruments, singing and dancing.

Our community events reach over 1500 people throughout the year. The flexibility built into the programming at WHS allows us to offer new and exciting events that engage and invite our community to discover something about their town that makes them feel proud and lucky.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Gold, Executive Director
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
Katie Chase, Archives Chair

The Archives Committee meets every Tuesday morning to research questions about families, houses, history, etc. that come from people in many places, not just Westport; and we also catalog items or collections of Westport history that are donated to us.

This year was similar to other recent years in the number of research questions handled—about 60. In addition another 15 people came to WHS to do their own research with our help. Members of the Exhibits Committee also use materials from the Archives.

The Westport Garden Club keeps its materials in the Archives and donates a generous $1,000 each year to the Archives fund.

We charge $10 to do research for nonmembers of WHS, plus a modest postage fee. Copies cost $.50 for members, $1.00 for nonmembers. Through these fees we raised about $600. Some people paid more than the standard fee, so about $300 of that was from generous recipients of our research work.

We received a number of donations ranging from binders with photographs and information about the restoration of the Cobblestone Barn, to history about the Sherwood-Elwood family and Saugatuck Congregational Church, to some books that have been added to our Archives Library shelves, to a collection of papers on the Gray-Couch-Wakeman families.

Archives volunteers include Robert Didomenico, Hope Hickok, Alice Lamberson, Sven Selander—and myself. We welcome new volunteers!

Submitted by Katie Chase
COLLECTIONS/BARN
Barbara Van Orden, Chair

Gifts of special interest that we received this year include a silver vanity set, a child’s chair and sleigh.

The vanity set includes a hand mirror, hair brush, nail buffer, nail file and a cuticle pick. The set was a gift of Andrew Ippoleto of Westport. The very attractive set is on display in the Victorian bedroom.

The child’s chair c.1890’s is made of dark stained wood and features a caned seat. It is, also on display in the Victorian bedroom.

The child’s sleigh c.1915 is painted red and features a cushioned seat. It is now on view in the Barn.

The child’s chair and sleigh were donated by Robert and Louise Depres of Westport.

We are pleased that these gifts are included in our displays for all to view and appreciate and we remain grateful to our donors for their wonderful gifts to WHS.

Submitted by Barbara Van Orden and Don Draves

COSTUME COLLECTION
Kathleen Malloy, Director

In the winter of 2012, Miss Dale Sherwood Coleman of Wheaton III. contacted us hoping to find a home for two Log Cabin pattern silk and velvet wedding quilts (circa 1880). They were made by her great, great aunt Mary Sherwood (1835-1896) the only daughter of Abraham and Mary Bennett Sherwood. We were happy to accept her gracious donation and hope to display them in an upcoming exhibit.

The Costumes Department had the opportunity to work with the Westport Women’s Club on a co-sponsored fund-raiser: Dressing Up Westport Style. We were thrilled to have another venue to showcase pieces from our collection. Eight items were on display: an 1860’s silk taffeta dress, cape and coat from the 1900’s, beaded velvet dresses from the twenties and several ‘mod’ outfits from the seventies. The event was such a success; that plans are already underway for the next one.

Our goals for 2013: look for other venues to display items from our collection, reconfigure the Costumes room to increase storage space and continue to assess the textiles and quilts for future exhibits.

As always, we are grateful to all who donate and look forward to more treasures in the New Year.

Submitted by Kathleen Malloy, Costume Department Chair
It’s hard to believe this is only the second year I’ve been the Education Director at WHS as I feel so at home here in the Newman Room. No doubt you’ve all seen the glorious mess the children have created after one of our workshops.

We now have a loyal clientele for our programs. We are very busy every school holiday, occasional weekends, and over the summer! It seems once a child attends, they faithfully return with bells on.

During this past year most of our programs were filled to capacity, and we’ve had to turn children away due to space limitations. Imagine 25 young children, 4 teen-age helpers, and me all crammed into the Newman Room. It’s quite an experience. The children are ages 5-10, which is a broad range, and the challenge is making each workshop appropriate for that age group.

We ran 3 weeks of summer camp this year, each with a different theme, all based around Westport’s history. Walks into Town, the River, or Winslow Park on nice days with plenty of outdoor play are important parts of our camps. The idea is to learn about history in a fun and active way. You may have noticed the outdoor shelter the children built in the corner of our front yard last summer, using all found natural materials on our walks. This was part of our Native American camp.

We’ve hosted several scout troops, which traditionally tour the existing exhibit, and then complete a relevant project. Having 12 6-year-old Cub Scouts, along with their dads, making tri-cornered hats, was quite an active experience.

My cartooning class on Monday afternoons is an alternative activity for children in town, not revolving around sports. Although a small group, the parents of these children tell me how much their children enjoy it, and can’t wait for Mondays. They are a lively and enthusiastic group. One of the children is the grandchild of Mel Cason, one of Westport’s most renowned cartoonists. What fun!

Each May we host over 500 third graders over a period of two weeks as part of the Westport school systems’ program. Each day two to three groups of 8 year olds get a guided tour of every room and the barn. For some reason it is a challenge to get parents to volunteer to be the docents. They dress in period clothes and are trained in their appointed room. This program is all that remains of the past Jennings Trail program, due to budget cuts. The children all enjoy the tour a great deal, and the moms and dads who do volunteer seem to get a kick out of it as well. Many of the families are surprised to learn all we have to offer here at WHS.

I am always interested in combining generations and so many of you have unique talents that the children would love to learn about. For instance, Alice Siegel has shown the children how to make paper. Howard Munce came to our cartooning class and taught the kids some of his techniques. Barbara Van Orden talked to the children about a time when the milkman delivered milk to one’s door in a horse-drawn carriage. This is living history, and precious. I love the multi-generational interaction, and would invite any of you who would like to teach the children a special skill or just share your experiences.

I had the privilege of dressing up as Dorothy Adams, Ebenezer’s granddaughter, and running simulated one-room schoolhouse classes for many second graders this year. They were entranced by the experience, and fascinated to realize the differences between the Adams Academy school days, and their present-day school experience. Adams Academy is a treasure, and I’d like to use the school for more educational events in the coming year.

I hope you will come visit me downstairs in the Newman Room. I am always interested in new ideas and learning more from our many experienced members at WHS. There are always more lessons to share and pass on to future generations. One of the benefits of running our programs is introducing young families to WHS and getting these new families in Town to register as members of WHS. This is a true goal of mine.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work in such an interesting place with such intelligent people and allowing me to do something I love-teach children!

Submitted by Elizabeth DeVoll
EXHIBITS
Larry Unterneyer, Anne Levine, Brian O’Leary, Sue Kirby, Janine Brown
Dorothy Curran, Lisa Seidenberg, Ellen Naftalin

Following standards set by longtime WHS volunteer, Mollie Donovan, for whom this year our little gallery was renamed, our 2012 WHS Exhibits were topically diverse, well-researched, educational and visually stunning, attracting a wide array of participants, visitors and sponsors. Thanks to all volunteers (2012 Exhibits Committee: Larry Unterneyer, Sue Kirby, Janine Brown, Anne Levine, Brian O’Leary, Lisa Seidenberg and Dorothy Curran; along with Peter Jennings, Katie Chase (and everyone in Archives), our openings Hospitality Committee (led by Jo Fuchs-Luscombe); our WHS president, Susan Wynkoop; our WHS staff (Barbara Brauner, Susan Gold, Mimi Burroughs, Elizabeth DeVoll), and our guest curators (Rindy Higgins, Leonard Everett Fisher).

Following are the 3 main exhibits and their adjuncts:

Next Stop: Westport

The Inspiration for 1950’s TV and Film Writers

After World War II, Westport’s artists’ colony also became a mecca and muse for TV writers and novelists. Bob Weiskopf’s I Love Lucy, Rod Serling’s The Twilight Zone, Sloan Wilson’s The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit and Max Schulman’s Rally ‘Round the Flag Boys made Westport and its commuter lifestyle a national TV and film sensation. Artifacts adding context included 1950’s period aprons, garments, office furniture, a typewriter and 1950’s TV sets.

- The Cold War in Our Backyard featuring an Archival Film Compilation by Lisa Seidenberg

  During the Cold War, national fear of Communist infiltration, invasion or nuclear war was a fact of life. Our small gallery presented images and artifacts—including a fallout shelter supply list, a Geiger counter to detect radiation, maps of Westport’s Nike missile site and press accounts local response to these fears, highlighted by Lisa Seidenberg’s Cold War archival film documentary.

The Sound and The Saugatuck

Guest curator, Rindy Higgins, a marine science education expert, orchestrated a very detailed and comprehensive exhibit and illustrating how Westport’s locale—at the junction of Long Island Sound and the Saugatuck River—has shaped our geological, natural, economic, political, demographic, social, ecological, waste management and conservation history over 9,000 years. Circling the gallery with timeless counterpoint were Janine Brown and Sue Kirby’s hand-painted riverscape murals and Larry Unterneyer’s photographs, melding river and coastal landmarks with shore, sky, bird and animal life. Related programs at the gallery and at field locations drew visitors of all ages.
• Watershed Moments
For the first exhibit in the newly dedicated Mollie Donovan Gallery, Brian O’Leary presented local, life-changing events, from the arrival of humans to Westport today. Featured artifacts included ancient arrowheads from Compo on loan from the Bradley-Punzelt collection.

U.S. Postage Stamps by Westport Artists
Inspired by the collection and research of Leo Cirino, this exhibit celebrated 17 nationally-renowned Westport artists who designed over 164 U.S. Postage stamps issued between 1959 and 1998. As design coordinator for the U.S. Post Office Department’s Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee for much of that era, influential Westport artist Stevan Dohanos matched artists to commissions and helped move stamp design to a new, more iconographic look. Thanks to loans by his granddaughter, we were able to display original Dohanos art in the exhibit. The exhibit emblem, designed by another Westport stamp artist, Miggs Burroughs, featured Westporter Harold von Schmidt’s famous stamp, The 100th Anniversary of the Pony Express. Stamp artist Leonard Everett Fisher added his perspective as a professional and as a friend of the artists to his role as guest curator.

• The Road to 06880: Colonial Era to Present
Brian O’Leary curated this adjunct exhibit, tracing the evolution of mail delivery in coastal New England from the Colonial era through the development of the Kings Highway Post Road to named streets and zip codes.

-Submitted for the Exhibits Committee by Anne Levine
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. Our major goal this year will be to work toward completion of the sidewalk in front of the Bradley-Wheeler 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

GIFT SHOP
Olivia Yule, Gift Shop Manager

In 2012, the gift shop had some popular products like bar soaps and beach towels with the Westport logo that flew off the shelves, as did our usual favorites - the kitchen towels, totes and Kassi Foss cards of Westport scenes.

We experienced our usual slow periods, but our busier holiday season began at the end of the school year where we exceeded expectations! Our only disappointment was the Westport calendars which we ran out of last year. We had a surplus of them this year.

Our gift shop continues to be a destination for students traveling abroad who want to bring a gift to their host family. People looking for gifts for residents moving away or realtors who want to welcome their client to town, will often find that our gift shop has many creative options. Some of the most popular gift items are our coffee table books: Westport – a Special Place and Stars in our Eyes, as well as Westport t-shirts, caps and ceramic pencil totes.

We’re proud to have our gift shop which enhances a visitor’s experience when they come to see our exhibits and period rooms. The shop is a fun place to walk around and find a memento or two to take home and many are even surprised to find we carry beaded jewelry that is made in our 50th state Hawaii.

In our goal of preserving our local history, the gift shop is part of that effort where we sell lovely Westport themed items and books to celebrate what makes Westport special. The gift shop still has challenges to overcome like the lack of exposure and publicity. We could benefit from a stronger publicity campaign so that even more people would stop by and be surprised at all of the treasures we hold.

Submitted by Olivia Yule
Historic House Plaque Program
Bob Weingarten, Chair

As of the end of 2012 there were 251 homeowners in Westport that have honored the heritage of their homes by posting a Westport Historical Society plaque. The plaque program began in 1978 and has been strong within the last few years. This last year 13 homeowners have honored their home built between 1808 and 1941 with plaques. We look forward to more of Westport residents participating in the program in the coming year.

Submitted by Bob Weingarten, House Plaque Chair

HIDDEN GARDEN TOUR/TOAST THE TOUR PARTY
Joni Andrews, Committee Member

The Westport Historical Society presented its 21st annual Hidden Garden Tour in June. This much-loved event was made possible by five garden owners who graciously shared their gardening and landscaping perspectives with hundreds of tour-goers come from all over the tri-state area. Destinations included a 1900 arts and crafts homestead featuring a raised vegetable garden accented with ornate garden structures and the second oldest white oak in Connecticut, a formal terraced garden designed by a well known English landscape designer, a garden filled with specimen trees, maples and boxwood, a garden created by the owner with many of the plantings grown from seed or cuttings and an elegantly designed garden perfectly in keeping with a Georgian manor house.

Attendees enjoyed a bonus stop at Adams Academy for refreshments and a display of Westport history.

Party goers at the Toast the Tour Party were treated to an array of gourmet appetizers, silent and live auctions, live music from Bach to Broadway and an informative wine tasting presented by Fountainhead. The antique post-and-beam barn was a warm and festive venue enjoyed by all.

The Garden Marketplace on Veterans Green was abuzz with treasure hunters enjoying the abundant displays of vendors. Staples High School students, Wreckers In Tune, performed at the Garden Marketplace, and pony rides were offered by Pied Piper.

This event would not be possible without our devoted volunteer committee: Jenny Clerkin and Joanne Reeves co-chaired the gardens, Deborah Herbertson organized the Toast the Tour party, Kathy LoCurto and Meghann Smith coordinated the live and silent auctions joined by committee members Joni Andrews, Katie Chase, Mary Lee Clayton, Dorothy Curran, Maggie Feczko, Margaret LeBedis, Cynthia Lee, Paula Leonard, Betsy Pollak, Nancy Sherer, Pat Voris, Larry Untermeyer and Susan Wynkoop.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our sponsors, without whom this event would not be a success: HSBC, Maplewood Senior Living, BNY Mellon, Berchem, Moses & Devlin, Venture Photography, Robin Tauck + Peter Romano, Darton Insurance, Weichert Capital Properties & Estates, Fountainhead Wines and Distillations and Event Media sponsor, Connecticut Cottages and Gardens.
Holiday House Tour-2012

Thanks to all who made our Westport Historical Society’s 26th annual Holiday House Tour and Twilight Soirée a financial success. On Sun. Dec. 2, nearly 500 toured 5 very different, very festive homes, plus Adams Academy. Another 125 finished the day at Twilight Soirée, tasting Fountainhead wines, munching hors d’oeuvres and bidding at silent auction. We are grateful to the homeowners/artists who graciously opened their homes—and unique to this year’s Tour and Soirée—art collections and studios: Elise Black & Barry Himmel, Ed Gerber, Jeanne Esposito & Frederic Chiu, Roe & Chuck Halper, Beverly & Bob Ellsley and Rebecca Ellsley, and the Ross Family. Here is an overview of the five 2012 Tour houses:

SENSATIONAL MODERNIST HOME, GALLERY, STUDIO & SCULPTURE GARDEN
Nestled on a north-facing hillside with splendid sculpture garden and brook views from the dining room and deck, this 1986 modernist homestead’s 2006 renovation is a triumphant melding of geometric and industrial form with family, social and studio function. Abundant natural light, reflective metals and earth toned wood and stone provide neutral background to the artist’s exuberant and richly-hued multi-media assemblages. Caution: serious artists may experience studio envy.

ENCHANTING 1764 SALTBOX, HOME & STUDIO for 20th c. ILLUSTRATOR
Dating to 1764, the Eliphalet Sturges saltbox farmhouse, a cherished Westport landmark, saw 2,000 British troops march by in the Revolution, saw automobiles replace horses and carriages, and, in 1908, welcomed George Hand Wright, one of the first artists to buy an abandoned Westport farm and help establish Westport’s artist colony. The current owner, Wright’s nephew’s godson, preserves the legacy of this painter, illustrator, printmaker, “Dean of Westport Artists” and National Academy of Design honoree.

MODERNIST ART’s BRILLIANT COUNTERPOINT to GRACIOUS 1806 MANOR
Originally an 1806 farmhouse on 250 acres owned by Morris Ketchum, then expanded in 1957 as a gracious Colonial revival manor, replete with authentic period crown moldings and Delft fireplace tiles, this grand residence today also comprises a 3-car garage, carriage house and studio. With surprising and delightful success, the owners, a concert pianist and an artist, celebrate the ornate interior millwork, wall coverings and scale with remarkable temporary and permanent collections of art and found objects.

GREGARIOUS RANCH EMBRACES ART, FAMILY, FRIENDS, RIVER VIEWS
Every artist’s work reflects choices about positive (filled) and negative (empty) space. Likewise, this master artist has filled her custom 1970 home and studio, overlooking the Saugatuck River, with an abundant variety and scope of artwork: her own, and that of others, including family and students. Collectively, it is a flowing narrative of a loving family and the odyssey of a creative soul, from technical proficiency in representational drawing and painting to mastery of abstract painting and sculptural forms.

DESIGNER’S SPECTACULAR RIVERFRONT LOG LODGE
Sited on the Saugatuck River ford crossed by 2,000 British troops in 1777 (with American Major Benedict Arnold in hot pursuit), this vintage European-style log hunting lodge was built by a Swedish woman in 1914, just before World War I. First owner was Arthur Dolge, the embalming fluid manufacturer; then, the Fairfield County Hunt Club; then, Broadway producer, Philip Dunning; then, Jackie Gleason’s manager, Herb Rosenthal. Since 1976, it has been home to an ingenious and prolific interior designer and her family. Don’t miss their splendid Christmas tree, showcasing a 45-year-old ornament collection.

Advance tickets were $40 for WHS members and $50 for non-members. Day-of tickets were $55. Separate tickets for Twilight Soirée, including wine, hors d’oeuvres and silent auction, were $50 each. As a prelude to Touring the artists’ homes and studios, visitors procuring their tickets at the WHS, 25 Avery Place, Westport, were invited to explore the town’s colorful art colony tradition by viewing the current exhibit, “U.S. Postage Stamps by Westport Artists” which featured 164 designs by 17 artists, produced from 1959 to 1998.

Submitted by Dorothy E. Curran, Chair, 2012 Holiday House Tour & Twilight Soirée
ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING

The Art Auction Gala Event in honor of Mollie Donovan was a total success. As was stated, the Donovan Family was deeply touched with the attendance and acknowledgement of the depth of Mollies contribution over the many years at WHS. Local art was showcased and funds were raised for WHS.

Additionally the “Little Gallery” was renamed as the “Mollie Donovan Gallery” and the plaque was hung proudly.

Submitted by Kristan Peters-Hamlin

MEMBERSHIP
Co-chairs - Edward F. Gerber and Jane Sherman

- In 2012, we continued to review and update all membership related correspondence including letters to new members and those who were renewing.

- We modified letters to Board and Advisory Board members noting that they should follow our leads by increasing their membership levels.

- Throughout 2012, we worked with WHS staff to update the membership lists.

- We accomplished our goal of attending each exhibit opening where we welcomed every guest and made certain that they signed in either with an e-mail or home address so that we could send the non-members a membership letter tailored to the event.

- Exhibit openings were used as new member recruitment venues by inviting non-members as our guests.

- Mid-year we instituted a Members-Only opening reception for the *US Postage Stamps by Westport Artists* exhibit. Members were pleased with this arrangement as it increased their value added for joining the WHS.

- As another membership tool, we contacted each recipient of a WHS Historic House Plaque to encourage them to join the WHS.

- We continued to write a membership section periodically in the WHS newsletter emphasizing techniques for encouraging new membership.

- We attended off-site events by staffing the WHS table notably at the Yankee Doodle Fair and the Downtown Merchants Association (DMA) Holiday Party for Westport non-profits. Additionally, we attended bimonthly meetings of the DMA sharing information of the WHS current activities and events.

- After the Holiday House Tour, we reviewed a list of docents and wrote to non members, encouraging them to join the WHS.

- We urge all of you to carry WHS membership envelopes and copies of the newsletter to encourage Westporters to join.

- As of year-end we have 470 active paid up members. We would like add one hundred new members by this time next year.

Respectfully submitted, Edward F. Gerber, Vice President-Membership  Jane E. Sherman, Director, Membership
ORAL HISTORY
John Hartwell, Director

The committee interviewed via videotape the following people during the year: Elwood Betts, Ron Malone, Claire Gold, Gay Land & Allen Raymond (Cedar Point Yacht Club), Ted Diamond, Jo Fox, Lucia Nebel White, Norm Bloom, Shirley Mellor (Max’s Art Supplies), members of the Westport Community Gardens committee. Two short “teaser” interviews were done with Rindy Higgins (curator of The Sound and the Saugatuck exhibit) and Leonard Everett Fisher (curator of the U.S. Postage Stamps by Westport Artists exhibit). A longer interview with Len Fisher included comments by him about all of the stamp artists featured in the exhibit.

When the interviews have been completed & edited, some of them are posted on YouTube with links from the WHS website.

The ongoing project of transferring the older audiotaped interviews to our iMac computer continued this year. Intern Zach Kurs worked this summer and over his winter college break to get the total number of tapes transferred to about 250 (of the 300+ tapes that were made). Newer videotaped interviews will also be stored on the computer for easy on-line access.

Dave Littell, an expert at doing video interviews, joined the committee this year. Hannah Dickson, a Staples senior and daughter of committee member Jo Shields, helped with some interviews & editing over the summer.

John Hartwell was chair of the committee for two years, but stepped down at the end of the year because he is now teaching video production at Norwalk Community College. Katie Chase and Dave Soriano are the new co-chairs, with Jo Shields as secretary.

Submitted by Katie Chase

SPONSORS
Susan Gold, Executive Director

The businesses and foundations that sponsor the Westport Historical Society care about the Westport community and keeping its artistic heritage alive. They support our exhibits, events and educational programs as well as our beautiful facility with their financial contributions but more importantly, they support us with their participation and enthusiasm for what we provide the Westport community. Our sponsors provide the funds we need to succeed in our mission but they also give us in-kind donations that enable us to offer wonderful receptions and celebrations. Caterers and restaurants donate delicious food to our receptions and celebrations. Local shops contribute many items to our silent auctions at two major fundraising events every year: the Hidden Garden Tour and the Holiday House Tour. It is because of these wonderful contributions, we are able to raise additional support that helps us make our annual budget. In sum, both the monetary and in-kind support we receive over the year is what makes the Westport Historical Society prosper and thrive.

In 2012, annual sponsorships totaled $32,500. There are additional financial sponsors who give us various contributions ranging from $250 to $5000, and these sponsorships fund exhibits, events and the general operating budget and total $73,250.

Businesses and Foundations who support the Westport Historical Society are proudly recognized on our website, email notices and on prominent signs and banners. We applaud the sponsors in many ways for helping us in our mission and our efforts to build a strong community. The Westport Historical Society is about collaboration and helping our local businesses grow and it is the on-going work of our volunteers, Board of Directors and staff that help us on this path of building strong friendships and keeping Westport a vibrant cultural center.

Submitted by Susan Gold, Executive Director
VOLUNTEERS
Barbara Van Orden, Director

Our volunteers continue to be faithful as receptionists at WHS, answering the phone and welcoming all visitors. We appreciate their work and dedication. Their names with three new welcome additions are:


Submitted by Barbara Van Orden, Director