



WESTON

History & Culture Center

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November 2023

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Dear Friend,

The Weston History & Culture Center is incredibly grateful to you for your steadfast support. Thanks to you, your essential generosity has allowed us to thrive in an ever-changing world, preserving Weston's significant story and firmly rooting it in American history. One year ago, we rebranded our name and expanded our community contributions with new educational programs, the reopening of the beautifully restored historic Coley farmhouse, and the creation of an outdoor sculpture garden for year-round enjoyment. We changed our name, but not our mission and values.

Your contribution to The Weston History & Culture Center has played an important role in opening new educational opportunities for people of all ages. Without your help, we simply could not maintain the historic Coley Homestead. Your support enables us to continue to provide outstanding lectures, programs, archival research, school tours, and other activities that inspire our community through local history. The annual appeal funds our operating costs.

With your gift today to our annual appeal, you can help keep your historical society, which receives no funding from the Town of Weston, accessible and welcoming to all!

We are midway through our fiscal year, and, as we prepare to embark on 2024, we would like to report on our success stories for 2023.

- Received the prestigious Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations for the restoration and reinterpretation of the Coley House.
- Received an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly congratulating our success with the restoration and reinterpretation of the Coley House.
- Received a Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant from Connecticut Humanities that funded a virtual tour of the Coley House, upstairs and down. This enables low-mobility visitors to view second-floor exhibits without climbing the staircase.
- Received a Planning Grant from Connecticut Humanities to fund the planning of a new, permanent exhibition in the Coley Barn called, "Weston at Work." The exhibition will explore local industry in the form of manufacturing, agriculture and domestic textile production. It will focus on the people who worked in those industries from the 18th through the early 20th centuries. We will highlight underrepresented groups and their developing roles over the course of 150 years.
- Opened "Weston Illustrated: Penned, Painted and Sculpted" which is on view until the end of February 2024. The exhibition tells the story of influential artists between 1919-1965 and their connection to both the locals and locale of Weston. Rare pieces are on view, loaned to



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us from private collections, The Friends of the James Daugherty Foundation, Westport Public Art Collection, Weston Public Library, and the Wilton Historical Society.

- Offered internships to high school and college students. Young historians collaborated with our executive director and archive team, scanning old photos, transcribing diaries and ledgers, conducting oral histories, developing interactive programs for children, assisting with exhibits, and more. We are grateful to them for their help, and to you, for your support in furthering their education.
- More than 350 students from Weston Public Schools visited during their annual field trips. Students engaged in workshops on early life in Weston, learning more about the community in which they live.
- Provided culturally enriching lectures on subjects ranging from Black history and Women's suffrage to Connecticut transportation and World Wars I and II.
- Welcomed new families and expanded our outreach to youth. New children's programs were introduced and two summer camps offered.
- Collaborated with local historian Karen Gianetti on guided tours of the historic Coley Cemetery in Weston.

We are generating energy, enthusiasm and a record of accomplishment at The Weston History & Culture Center. Please help us sustain this success with your gift to our annual appeal. Your support is essential in helping us grow and maintain The Weston History & Culture Center as a resource that enriches our community. Please make your tax-deductible gift today! Thank you for your generosity.

With gratitude,

Kathleen S. Failla, President

The Weston Historical Society (Tax ID: 06-6038732) d/b/a The Weston History & Culture Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. To learn more, visit our website, westoncthistory.org.