



Westerly's Witness

www.westerlyhistoricalsociety.org

January-February 2022

Westerly Historical Society Executive Board 2021-2022

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WHS Program News

Bob Peacock and Becky Jacoinski will be continuing the work of Pamela Scott. Bob and Becky sincerely appreciate the great work Pam has done over the years and greatly appreciate her efforts to assist in the transition.

The Programs Committee plans to develop several topics with local and regional speakers as well as offer historic building tours. In addition, the Committee plans to develop a special children's program.

The following changes were approved by the Executive Board at the January meeting:

- ✓ Programs will now be held on the second Wednesday of each month during the months of February, March, April, September, October, and November from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in order to improve attendance and make the programs more convenient and consistent.
- ✓ The programs will be limited to a maximum of 60 minutes and the speakers will be advised to use 45 minutes for planned content and allow 15 minutes for questions and answers.
- ✓ To improve safety until Covid numbers improve, all events will be mask-mandatory, except for the speaker, and no food or drink will be provided.
- ✓ In order to encourage attendance in the future, light snacks, water, and soda will be provided at events AFTER the Covid numbers improve.
- ✓ The current \$5 non-member attendance fee will change to "Donations Accepted and Appreciated" to encourage potential new member attendance.

If any society member would like to assist by serving on the committee or would like to suggest or present a program, please contact Tom, Bob or Becky by emailing programs@westerlyhistoricalsociety.org

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President's Corner

Thomas J. Gulluscio, Jr.

Greetings friends and welcome to our February edition of *Westerly's Witness*. I'm pleased to report that the board of your historical society is filling out nicely and everyone is onto the task of making the WHS the best it can be.

We are working to improve our website and ensure that images from our archives and recordings from our programs will be available for members to view. Our newly formed programs committee is planning a refreshing line-up of programs for members of all ages. Our membership committee under the direction of Bob Boucher is working on building our rolls and thinking of ways to reward our longest participating members. We have started planning our annual dinner meeting for May, and with that our selection of awardees for the WHS *Julia Award* and the co-sponsored historical award presented by the Babcock Smith House Museum and your WHS. Please look on either website for nomination forms.

Stay well and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact me at whspresident@gmail.com with your questions, comments, or suggestions.

Robert Peacock Joins WHS Executive Board

The Westerly Historical Society is pleased to announce that Robert Peacock has joined the Executive Board. Bob has lived in Westerly for the past fifty years and has a passion for the town's more recent history spanning the last one hundred and twenty years.

Bob has worked for the Washington Trust Company for the past 32 years and is currently the Vice President of Purchasing. Bob also continues to be involved with several first-responder agencies in Westerly as he has for most of his adult life. He is a Westerly Police Reserve Officer with 30 years of active service and a Westerly Firefighter with 28 years of active service. He is also a life member of the Westerly Ambulance Corps following 25 years of active service. Bob retired this month as the Chief of the Watch Hill Fire District after 29 years of active service including 18 years as a chief officer.

Together with board member Becky Jacoinski, Bob has begun planning a new schedule and program format for WHS. We are excited to see what direction the programs committee will take and anticipate great things for the coming year.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Ann L. Smith

A new year has brought a new outlook to the Westerly Historical Society. Under the leadership of President Tom Gulluscio, we have been implementing our goals of increasing board membership and participation, and expanding the rolls of our general membership. Our new programs committee has brought some fresh and exciting ideas to the table, and we look forward to seeing what develops regarding our public outreach efforts and web site enhancements.

Speaking of our membership, in this issue we are pleased to list all of our members for 2021. We sincerely thank all of you for your continuing support of the Westerly Historical Society. Your dues provide the funding necessary to carry out our mission. If you don't find your name listed in this issue of *Westerly's Witness*, and would like to continue your membership and newsletter subscription, and/or **gift a subscription** to friends or family, please send \$20 Individual, \$30 Family, \$50 Sustaining, \$100 Patron, or \$250 Benefactor to

Memberships
Westerly Historical Society
PO Box 91 Westerly, RI 02891.

Memberships can also be renewed via our website at <https://westerlyhistoricalsociety.org/membership/>

Our pot-luck dinner and research sharing event, originally scheduled for January 23, 2022, was cancelled due to Covid concerns. Nevertheless, our programs committee is hard at work planning other events for the coming year. See "WHS Program News" on Page 1.

Everyone is looking forward to our annual dinner which will be held again in May. This is an officer election year, so we hope to have a good turnout to confirm our 2022 slate of officers. Just a reminder, we are without a board secretary, and I will be stepping out of my position as treasurer after an enjoyable, ten-year stint at keeping the books. If you have an interest in joining our Executive Board as an officer, please send an email to whspresident@gmail.com.

GREAT STORIES FROM WESTERLY'S PAST **BOOK LAUNCH PHOTO ALBUM**

The Westerly Historical Society held a book signing on December 7, 2021 to launch the new book, *Great Stories From Westerly's Past* by Zachary J. Garceau. The event was well attended and dozens of autographed copies were scooped up by enthusiastic attendees. (Photos Courtesy of Brenda Linton.)



Author Zachary J. Garceau and
WHS President Thomas J. Gulluscio, Jr.



Board Members Cory Jacobson and Pamela Scott



John and Joseph Coduri



Anna
Garceau
chats with a
guest.



Debra and
Alfred Garceau
wait for their
order to be
completed.



Author Zachary J. Garceau helps his parents complete their
Christmas list by autographing a half dozen books for them.

**WESTERLY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
AND BABCOCK-SMITH
HOUSE MUSEUM HISTORY
AWARD**



An annual award of up to \$500.00 will be given to a person or persons, grade 5 through adulthood, who furthers the mission of researching, studying, and/or preserving local history in our community. Secondary consideration will be given to someone who exhibits a passion for history unrelated to the local community.

Application or nomination must be submitted by **April 1, 2022** by mail to

Westerly Historical Society
PO Box 91
Westerly, RI 02891

or by email to whspresident@gmail.com.

Note: Additional supporting material or information may be submitted with an application, but will not be returned

The application form can be found on the Babcock- Smith House Museum website and on the Westerly Historical Society website.
<https://westerlyhistoricalsociety.org/history-award/>

or at:

<http://babcocksmithhouse.org/>

A copy of the application form appears on Page 5 of this newsletter.

2021
Memorial Donations

\$100.00-Lois Vars
In Memory of Dr. D. Bruce Gray

\$100.00-Howard E. and Lois
Burdick
In Memory of E. Jane Maxson

\$100.00-Lu Lockwood
In Memory of E. Jane Maxson

\$50.00-Paula J. Grey
In Memory of E. Jane Maxson

\$50.00-Stephen M. Greene and
Betty-Jo Cugini-Greene
In Memory of E. Jane Maxson

\$30.00 - Lori A Rose and
Stephen Freitas
In Memory of Alberta Devine

\$25.00 - Mary Ellen K. Egan
In Memory of E. Jane Maxson

\$20.00 – Allison P. Gaffey
In Memory of E. Jane Maxson





WESTERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND BABCOCK-SMITH HOUSE MUSEUM HISTORY AWARD



APPLICATION AND/OR NOMINATION FORM

An annual award of up to \$500.00 will be given to a person or persons, grade 5 through adulthood, who furthers the mission of researching, studying, and/or preserving local history in our community. Secondary consideration will be given to someone who exhibits a passion for history unrelated to the local community.

Applications are available online at babcocksmithhouse.org or westerlyhistoricalsociety.org.

Application or nomination must be submitted by April 1 by direct mail to Westerly Historical Society, PO Box 91, Westerly, RI 02891 or by email to whspresident@gmail.com.

Name of candidate:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

If this is a nomination, please list your name and contact information:

Please describe the candidate's contribution to local history research, study, or preservation. Additional supporting information may also be submitted, **but will not be returned.**

Many Thanks to Our 2021 Member Supporters

Honorary Supporter - \$5,000

Elizabeth G. Riley

Benefactors - \$250 or More

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Donald Pasetti
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Susan Renz
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Stephen Servidio
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Harry Trefes
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Zachary J. Garceau
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Stonington Hist. Society
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
The Westerly Historical Society
P.O. Box 91
Westerly, RI 02891



AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE THIS FEBRUARY

Abe Lincoln's Songbook: Trio Arrangements with Narration

The Babcock-Smith House Museum will
present short arrangements of the music
which Lincoln loved.

Featuring

Peter Piacquadio on flugel horn

Lawrence Grebstein on trumpet and cornet

Ken Rahn on cornet

Narrated by Ellen Madison

Arrangements by Peter Piacquadio

Sunday, February 20, 2022

2:00 PM

**at the Carriage House of the
Babcock-Smith House Museum.**

124 Granite Street

Westerly RI 02891

Free for members; \$5.00 for not-yet members.

Current Covid restrictions will be in effect.

This trio is affiliated with the Artists' Cooperative
Gallery.

