



Welcome to the
Westerly Historical Society
2024 Annual Meeting

Agenda For This Evening



5:30 – Social

6:00 – Invocation and Pledge of
Allegiance, followed by Dinner

6:30 – Annual Business Meeting

7:00 – Award Presentations



Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance



**Vote to Approve
Minutes from 2023
Meeting**

Vote to Approve the Executive Board Officers



President – Thomas Gulluscio

Vice President – Zachary Garceau

Secretary – Rebecca Jacoinski

Treasurer – Robert Boucher

2023 - 2024
Westerly Historical Society
Executive Board



Thomas J. Gulluscio – President

Zachary J. Garceau – Vice President and Archivist

Robert Boucher – Treasurer

Robert A. Peacock – Programs Chair and Newsletter Editor

Becky Jacoinski – Programs Chair and Secretary

Cory Jacobson – Membership Chair

Edward A. Fazio – Liaison to the Babcock-Smith House

Jane C. Perkins – Social Media Chair

Maria Bernier – Webmaster

Gregory Pettys – Videographer

Thank You



The President would like to thank all the members of the Executive Board for their continued service.

Over Ten Years of Service

Ed Fazio

Thomas Gulluscio

Eight Years of Service

Zachary Garceau

For anyone interested in joining the Executive Board,
please see a board member for details.

Highlights Since Our Last Annual Meeting



Your Historical Society:

- Presented 5 programs
- Published 9 *Westerly's Witness* newsletters
- Welcomed the addition of our newsletter sponsors
Servpro and Michelle's L'Ecole de Danse
- Continued to support requests for local history
information and archival images
- President has provided personal tours of Westerly upon
request
- Continued our partnership with the Babcock Smith
House to offer the seventh annual History Award

Highlights Since Our Last Annual Meeting



- Continued awarding our prestigious Julia Award
- Held our “Taking It to the Streets” program at the Lamphear Livery last summer
- Hosted the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce’s Businesses after hours event this past April

2023-2024 Programs



- ❧ “Last Call: Rum Runners, Bootleggers & Watch Hill” by Jack Spratt, June 28, 2023
- ❧ “The History of the Civilian Conservation Corps” by Martin Podskoch, September 16, 2023
- ❧ “The Criminals of Westerly and Richmond,” by Kelly Sullivan, November 11, 2023
- ❧ “Rhode Island Fire Departments: Post Cards & Photos From The Early 20th Century” by Joseph E. Coduri, December 13, 2023
- ❧ “Machine Guns in Narragansett Bay: The Coast Guard’s War on Rum Runners” by Christian McBurney, March 13, 2024

Upcoming 2024 Programs



- ❧ “Fort Mansfield” presented by local author Jack Spratt
- ❧ “Westerly Railroads” presented by local author Alex Berardo
- ❧ “Westerly Historical Cemeteries” presented by Cemeteries Commissioner Larry Hunter
- ❧ “General Nathaniel Green – Westerly Connections” presented by author Janet Uhlar

We are always seeking speakers to present programs for the society.

If you know anyone who is familiar with a particular local history topic and enjoys talking about their passion, please let us know.

Cemetery Clean Up Grant



- ❧ The Westerly Historical Society received a grant from Litter Free Rhode Island to fund litter and trash cleanups at several of the smaller local historical cemeteries located throughout Westerly.
- ❧ We hosted a formal group cemetery cleanup but also encouraged our members to participate individually with friends and families by simply choosing one of the historic cemeteries and spending a few minutes picking up the litter in and around the cemetery while discovering and exploring these sacred sites.

Cemetery Clean Up Grant



- ❧ The Westerly Historical Society used the grant funds to provide guidance and support in the form of directions, gloves, bags, sunscreen, bug spray, cleaning supplies, and trash disposal fees. We also used the funds to provide water, soda, and refreshments during and after the cleanups.
- ❧ Thirty-two cemeteries were cleaned and our members collected and removed more than one hundred and fifty pounds of trash and litter from the cemeteries and the surrounding areas. We are very pleased to report that the majority of the cemeteries were relatively clean and that the majority of the litter collected was from the areas surrounding the cemeteries.

Westerly's Witness Newsletter, edited by Robert Peacock



- ❧ *Westerly's Witness* is published by the Westerly Historical Society nine times per year.
- ❧ We publish in January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November.
- ❧ We enjoy the summer and do not publish in July or August and we take a holiday break in December.
- ❧ The newsletter is twelve pages and includes several photos in each issue and extensive use of color.

Westerly's Witness Newsletter, edited by Robert Peacock



Each month the newsletter includes:

- ❧ Program Notes
- ❧ Presidents Corner
- ❧ Editors Notes
- ❧ Sponsor Recognition
- ❧ Special Announcements
- ❧ Discovering Westerly Cemeteries
- ❧ Additions to Our Archives
- ❧ Historical Articles
- ❧ Guest Articles

Westerly's Witness Newsletter, edited by Robert Peacock



Notable newsletter articles included:

- ❧ “Discovering Westerly Cemeteries”
- ❧ “Westerly Library Special Collections”
- ❧ “Westerly Fire Department 1938 Ladder Truck”
- ❧ “Westerly Fire Department 1899 Alarm System”
- ❧ “Westerly Police 1898 Crime and Punishment”
- ❧ “Westerly Police 1898 Officer Duties and Pay”
- ❧ “Westerly Police 1873 The Beginning”

Westerly's Witness Newsletter, edited by Robert Peacock



Notable newsletter guest articles included:

- ❧ “Those Pesky Pies” a four-part series by Thomas O’Connell
- ❧ “Of Marbles and the Dream Team” a two-part series by Thomas O’Connell
- ❧ “A Devilish Romance” by Kelly Sullivan
- ❧ “Napatree Point Discoveries” by Jack Spratt
- ❧ “The Jonathan Foster Ground” by Larry Hunter

Archives Managed by Zachary J. Garceau

- ❧ Over the last year, we made several facilities and storage improvements which includes upgrades to the archival materials storing our most sensitive items and reorganization of our vault to maximize our space.
- ❧ In March 2024, WHS was a host site for the Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board's Annual Service Day. Two members of RIHRAB visited the archives and provided guidance on preservation techniques and important archival practices.
- ❧ As part of the selection, WHS was also awarded \$1,000.00 worth of archival supplies which will sustain our efforts far into the future.

Archives Managed by Zachary J. Garceau

- ☞ This year, we upgraded our cataloging software, transferring our existing data to the web-based version of PastPerfect.
- ☞ This allows authorized users to access the collection catalog from anywhere at any time.
- ☞ Most importantly, we are in the process of adding a searchable database to our website so that the public can view the catalog from anywhere.

Archives Managed by Zachary J. Garceau



Since May 2023, the Society has added:

- ❧ Photographs
- ❧ Postcards
- ❧ Sports Uniforms
- ❧ Police ephemera
- ❧ Receipts
- ❧ Cash Books
- ❧ Diplomas
- ❧ Medallions
- ❧ Letters
- ❧ Scrapbooks
- ❧ Books
- ❧ And much more

To Our Donors...



Due to the significant number of donations we received during the 2023-2024 year, we are not able to thank each donor individually this evening, however, we would like to extend our gratitude to all those who offered artifacts to the Society. Your gracious contributions have allowed our collections to grow exponentially. Many items that were donated over the last year have already been used by researchers or were written about in our monthly newsletter, allowing us to share the history of our town with our members. For this, we thank you all.

Webmaster's Report



In 2024, Maria Bernier rejoined the Historical Society's Board as the Webmaster. Since that time, she has:

- ❧ Wrote a narrative, compiled information, and submitted a grant application to the Rhode Island Foundation for the Reflections oral history project in their Community Grants fund.
- ❧ WHS also applied for a grant from the Chelsea Groton Foundation.
- ❧ WHS is considering applying for the Herman H. Rose Civic, Cultural and Media Access Fund once the grant application period opens. Our *Reflections* project fits their funding scope exactly.
- ❧ Created a page for the *Reflections* project on the Society's website.

Webmaster's Report



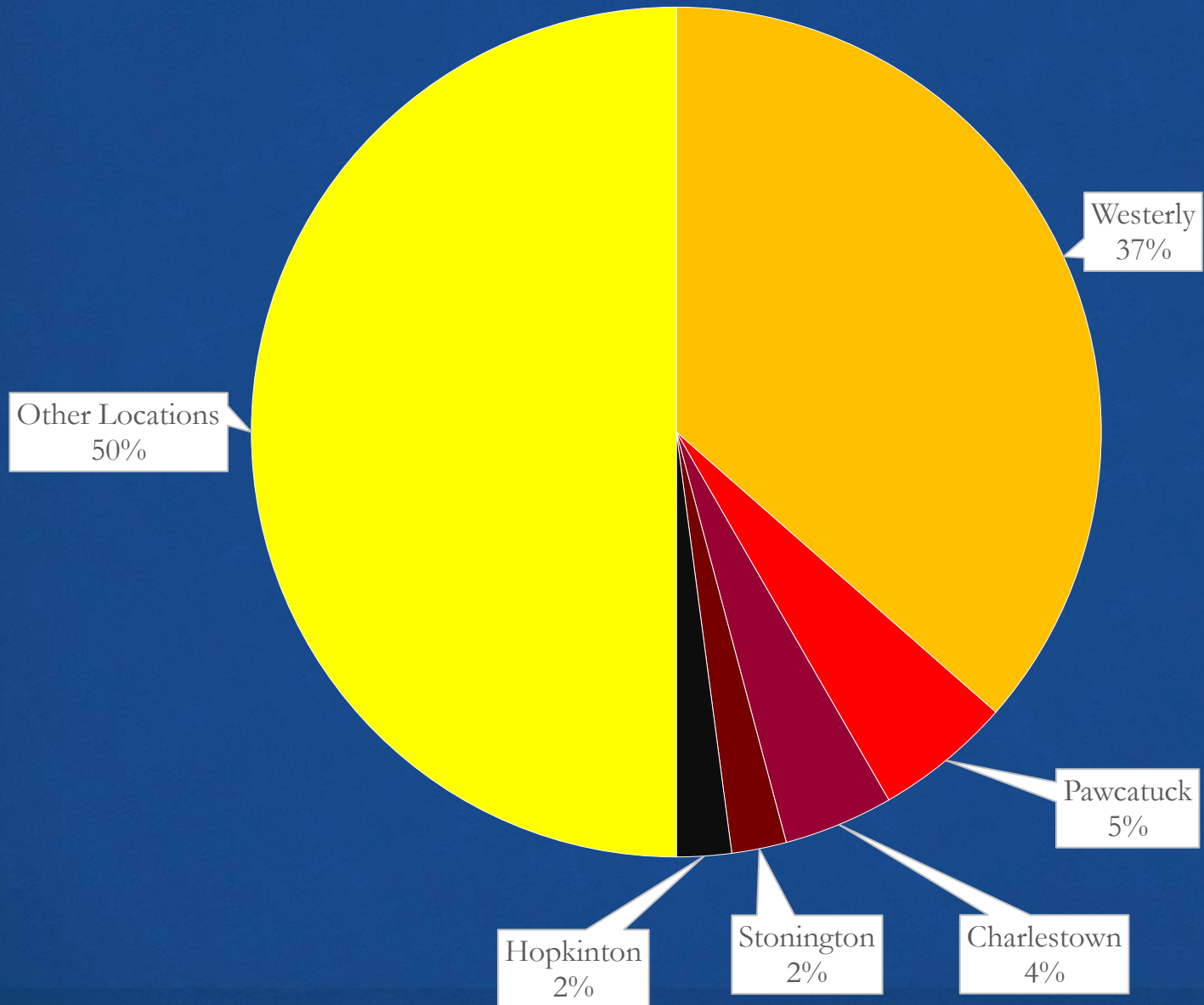
- ❧ Updated and activated the Annual Meeting page so members can purchase tickets online.
- ❧ Updated the Events page to contain the most current information.
- ❧ Updated the 'Current Newsletter' page each month as the new issue was released.
- ❧ Sent Constant Contact emails to members with information about the online version of the newsletter and a password to access it.
- ❧ Designed a flyer for the Chamber Business After Hours event thanking the corporate sponsors for their support.

Social Media

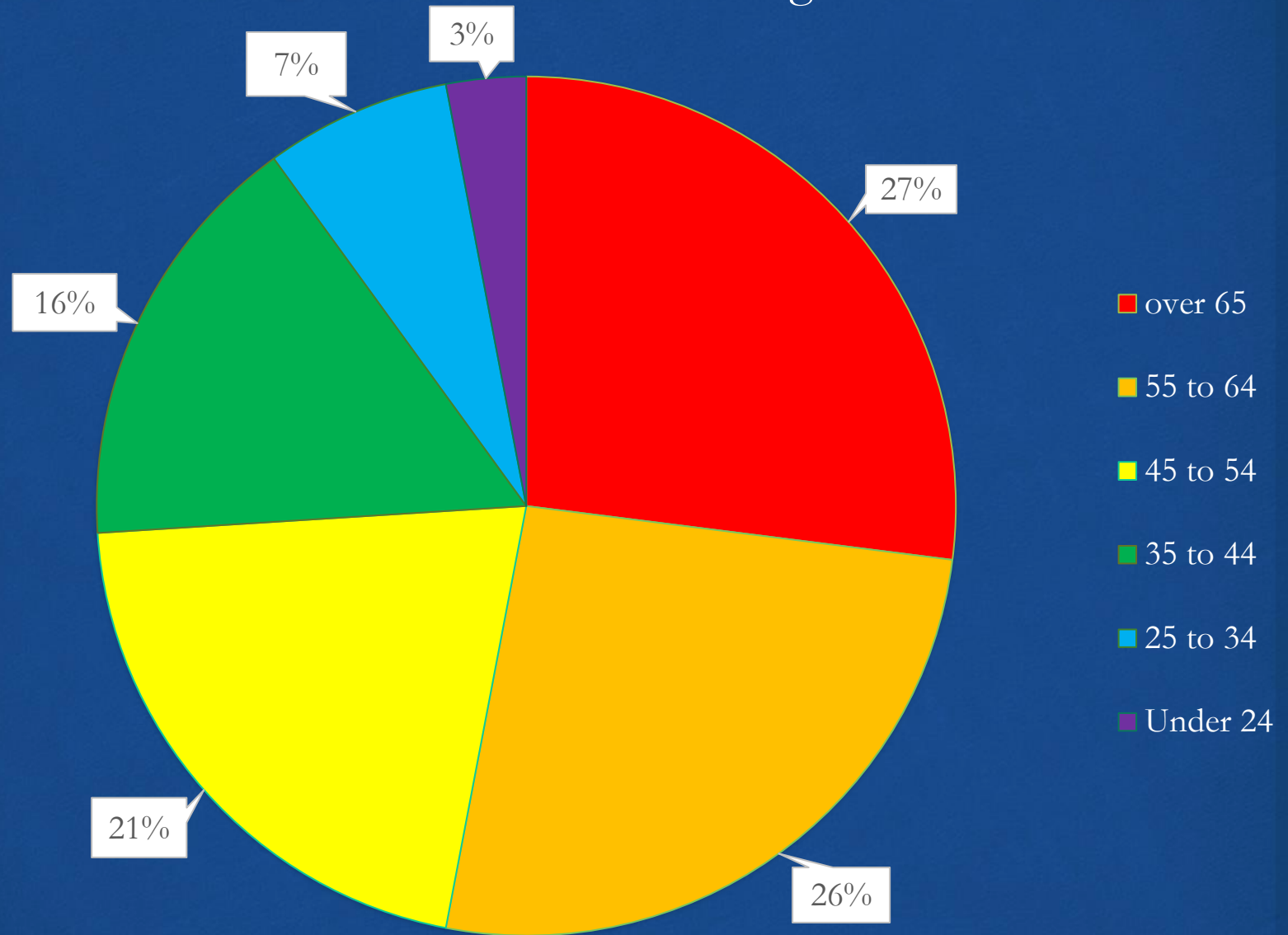


- ❧ Jane Perkins is a member of the Board and has volunteered to maintain and update the Westerly Historical Society Facebook page.
- ❧ The goal continues to be to post at least once a week and to post on the weekends, usually Sundays when more people appear to be likely to engage with the posts.
- ❧ We currently have 2,160 regular followers, of which:
 - ❧ Approximately 63% identify as female
 - ❧ Approximately 37% identify as male
 - ❧ This is an increase of 750 followers from last year.

Follower Locations



Age of Followers



Social Media



- ❧ Our most popular post over the past year was hourly wage sheets from the Bradford Dying Association dated May 2, 1942. Several local names were identified on the wage sheets. That post reached 15,556 people, with 33 reactions, for 4 comments, and 8 shares.
- ❧ Another impressively popular post was a vintage postcard of the rustic stone bridge in Wilcox Park which featured a stream and a waterfall. This post reached 12,150 people, with 236 reactions, 24 comments, and 14 shares.
- ❧ Please continue to encourage your friends and families to follow our page, and to like, share and comment on the posts.



Rustic Bridge in Wilcox Park, Westerly, R. I.

O. Stillman, B.

NO.	RATE	NAME	POSITION
743	.759	E. Hindle	Carpenter
744			
745	.637	A. Cruickshank	Watchman -
746	.552	H. Pendlebury	Machinist
747	.70	J. Levy	"
748	.793	A. Greenhalgh	"
749	.712	E. Trautner	Painter
750	.712	J. Downey, Sr.	Machinist
751	.679	M. Rauhala	"
752			
753	.759	S. Capalbo	Pipers' Helper
754	.637	F. Garofolo	Beltman
755	.67	E. Kenyon	Laborer
756	.637	R. Wilcox	Piper
757	.61	M. Strafaci	Laborer
758	.552	T. Smith	Store Room
759			
760	.759	B. Davis	Carpenter
761	.70	L. Lanney	Electrician
762			
763			
764	.61	J. Strafaci	Laborer
765	.637	E. LaFountain	Electricians' Helper
766	.552	Z. Tetlow	Village
767	.759	W. Currie	Carpenter
768			
769	.58	E. Lillibridge	Watchman
770	.552	A. Jacobson	Laborer
771	.552	M. Ponte	"
772	.679	R. Kraemer	Machinist
773			
774	.552	G. Perri	Village
775	.552	M. Unkuri	Laborer
776	.70	I. Johnson	Fireman
777	.70	R. Holland	Electrician
778	.712	A. Shepard	Machinist
779	.637	A. Hilton	Watchman
780	.759	J. Foley	Carpenter
781	.552	R. Clark	Watchman (Spare)
782			
783			

Westerly Historical Society, Westerly,

May 2, 1942

MACHINE SHOP EMPLOYEES

NO.	RATE	NAME	POSITION
94	.547	F. Bliven	Watchman (Spec)
388	.552	R. Stenhouse	Electrician
460	.552	W. Cook	Laborer
635	.552	C. Peckham	Yard
638	.552	J. Aiello	"
659	.61	J. Holland	Truck Driver
661	.62	O. Pamiera	" "
674	.552	F. Campanello	Yard
675	.62	J. Laudone	Truck Driver
683	.61	J. Ballato	" "
701	.67	L. Mimande	Fireman
702	.524	S. Capalbo	Pipers' Helper
703	.70	H. Pierce	Fireman
704	.744	H. Roush	Electrician
705	.72	G. Pierce	Fireman
706			
707	.679	B. Kenyon	Machinist
708			
709			
710	.70	J. Dinwoodie	Fireman
711	.70	G. Jones	"
712	.759	A. Gavitt	Carpenter
713	.785	J. Thomas	Mill Wright
714	.684	J. Hermanson	Carpenter
715			
716	.637	H. Taylor	Machinist
717	.793	H. Newton	"
718			
719	.838	W. Tuckerman	Machinist
720	.712	G. Bliven	"
721	.67	T. Winn	Fireman
722	.50	E. Kenney	Electricians' Helper
723	.712	E. Gladfelder	Painter
724	.684	G. Andrews	Carpenter
725	.735	H. Maude	Painter
726	.712	W. Harrison	Machinist
727	.793	S. Rigby	"
		A. Alciere	Calendar Man

Westerly Historical Society, Westerly,

Publications



The Westerly Historical Society has the following publications available for purchase:

- ❧ *Great Stories from Westerly's Past* by Zachary J. Garceau
- ❧ *Leaves of My Journal* by Dwight C. Brown Jr.
- ❧ *Pawcatuck River Navy* by Dwight C. Brown Jr.
- ❧ *In and About Westerly* by Thomas A. O'Connell
- ❧ *Westerly's Gold...Her People* by Thomas A. O'Connell
- ❧ *Fair Westerly* by Thomas A. O'Connell
- ❧ *Westerly Memories*
- ❧ *Veteran's War Stories*
- ❧ *Along the Shore*

The History Award



The Westerly Historical Society and Babcock Smith House together present the *History Award* to “a person or persons, grade 5 through adulthood, who furthers the mission of researching, studying, and/or preserving local history in our community.”

The History Award Past Recipients

2018

- ✧ Alex Berardo
- ✧ Jackie Brennan, Wanda Butler,
Mary Cool and Jan Tunney

2019

- ✧ Brandon Perrone
- ✧ Zachary J. Garceau

2020

- ✧ Reed Tremblay

2021

- ✧ Roberta Mudge Humble
- ✧ Judith Crandall Harbold

2022

- ✧ Joseph Fusaro, Jr.
- ✧ Hugh Barton

2023

- ✧ Donna Celico

The Recipient of the
2024 History Award



David Smith

History of the Julia Award



The Westerly Historical Society
presents the *Julia Award* to recognize
outstanding contributions to local
history.

Past Recipients



<u>2013</u>	John Tedeschi, Chuck Royce, and Lang Wheeler
<u>2014</u>	John Coduri, Linda Chaffee, and Ellen Madison
<u>2015</u>	Tom O'Connell
<u>2016</u>	Gloria Russell
<u>2017</u>	Dwight C. Brown Jr.
<u>2018</u>	Roberta Mudge Humble
<u>2019</u>	Westerly 350 th Anniversary Committee
<u>2020</u>	Betty-Jo Cugini Greene and Jim Karpeichik
<u>2021</u>	Zachary J. Garceau
<u>2022</u>	Nina Wright
<u>2023</u>	Ann L. Smith

The Recipient of the
2024 Julia Award



Joseph Fusaro, Jr.



A drawing for the door prize
courtesy of

Shutter In A Compass Photography

will conclude this meeting