

The Greater Westhampton Historical Museum Newsletter

Spring 2024

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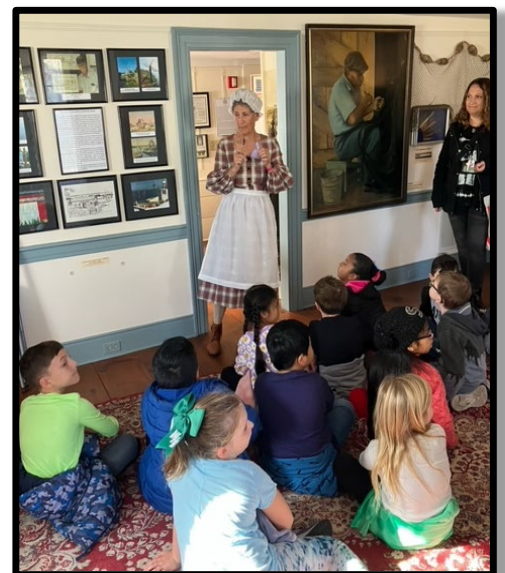


IT'S OFFICIAL! WE ARE NOW THE GREATER WESTHAMPTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM!

On January 9, 2024 the New York State Board of Regents approved changing our name to better reflect the communities we represent. This change enables us to seek public funding to enhance our operations. We are proceeding to re-brand our operations with the new name - please watch for a new website, new signs, and other changes that reflect our new name! Check out our new logo in the upper right!

In January, with the help of many members and local voters, we successfully petitioned the Westhampton Beach Union Free School District to place Proposition #3 for public funding on the school budget ballot. **Proposition #3 requests \$100,000 of funding during the 2024/2025 fiscal year; if approved, this would cost a taxpayer with a \$1,000,000 property less than \$20 a year.**

This additional funding will enable us to offer **far more programming and services** than in the past. Proposition #3 funding will enable us to **hire professional educational and administrative staff**, have our facilities **open to the public at least 1,000 hours per year**, expand our **community and school programming**, complete much-needed **maintenance and repairs on our multi-building campus**, and move towards completing reconstruction of the Foster-Meeker Heritage Center so it can be fully open to the public. If you vote in the Westhampton Beach Union Free School District, we encourage you to **Vote Yes on Proposition #3 on May 21st**. As a member of our organization, please spread the word about this important initiative to support **The Greater Westhampton Historical Museum!**



Vote YES on Proposition 3 on May 21st!

A Sneak Peek at Our Upcoming Museum Exhibit: ***COLLECTIONS – OURS AND YOURS***

We have many historic items in our archives – sometimes too many of them and sometimes many examples of the same thing. While wrestling with the abundance of historic artifacts, our Collections Manager came up with a great idea for this year’s exhibit – why not feature our collections? And while we are at it, why not ask our members if they would like to exhibit some of their collections? And thus, this year’s exhibit was born....

The Tuthill House Museum is now filling up with wonderful displays of a wide variety of historic artifact collections, both local and more general. It has been fun to see what lurks in local attics and cupboards of our members – a few photos below should whet your interest.

An entire fleet of **ships in bottles!**



A fine collection of **hats!**



An army of **Santas!!**

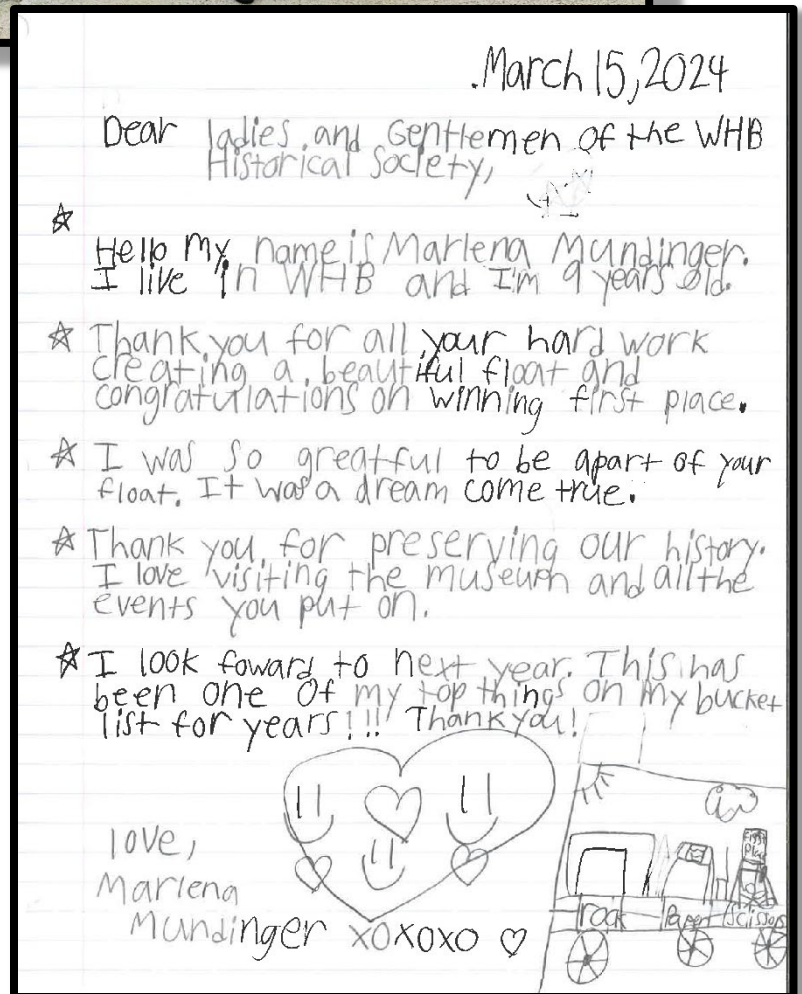
Please plan to visit the Museum between June 15 and September 14! You don’t want to miss these fascinating collections from the Museum and our members!

THE MUSEUM WINS AGAIN! FIRST PLACE COMMUNITY FLOAT - ST. PATS DAY PARADE!



Once again our historically-minded elves outdid themselves in putting together another **award-winning St. Patrick's Day float!** This year's theme was **Rock, Paper, Scissors** after the children's game used to help decision-making. Our interpretation of the theme included two historic concrete bas reliefs removed from the Beach Lane Bridge when it was rebuilt (rock), copies of historic papers, including the Dongan Patent, American Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence (paper), and several large saws and shears (scissors). The combination was a winner - we were awarded **First Place in the Community Float division.**

Although it was a cold day (as usual) several intrepid members and friends turned out in costume to march with the float and add to its historic character. One young lady, Mariena Munding, had such a good time that she sent a lovely thank you note to the Museum, remarking **"this has been one of my top things on my bucket list for years!"** Thank you Mariena! We had a great time too and hope that you can join us next year!



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER



The Museum recently mailed membership renewals for 2024 – we hope that you received yours and have taken a moment to renew. Membership dues provide nearly 20% of our regular operating budget - we could not provide our existing services or maintain our campus without them. Your membership dues support:

- **Maintenance of the Museum** and other historic buildings on our campus
- Operation of our **existing educational programs**
- Preparation of the **annual exhibit, newsletters, and Member communications**
- **Summer craft demonstrations and Winter Lecture Series**

Please help us to continue our mission of providing for historic preservation and education in our community by renewing your annual membership today. If you have misplaced the mailed membership card please visit our soon-to-be-retired website at <https://whbhistorical.org/> and pay your dues online. **We very much appreciate your membership and hope you will rejoin to support our mission of preserving local history.**

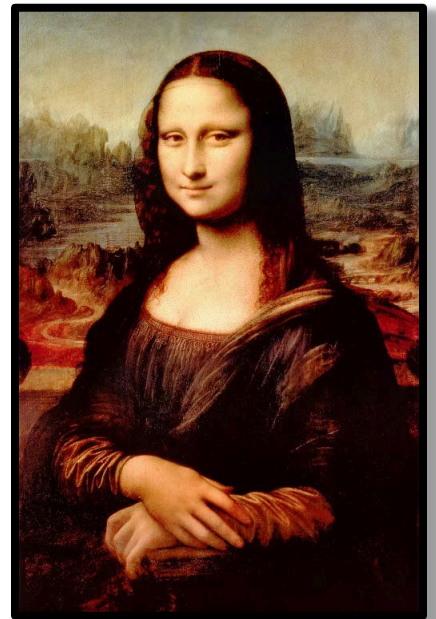


A NEW EVENT: OUR ART SHOW AND SALE!

The Museum has added a new fund-raising event this year – an **Art Show and Sale in mid-September!** **This event will be held at the Remsenburg Academy**, a circa 1860 former boys' school now used as a community center. The Museum is presently soliciting donations of paintings from a number of mostly local artists.

No – we will not be selling the Mona Lisa... **Here's how our show and sale will work:**

- **All the paintings will be originals** made this year and will be the same size. None will be signed on the front. Potential purchasers will select what they want to buy based solely on the artwork – not on the artist's name.
- The Museum will host a **wine and cheese viewing** of the art at the Academy on Friday, September 13th, with an additional viewing on Saturday. This will give potential purchasers two opportunities to look at the art and decide what they would like to purchase.
- **The sale will be held on Sunday, September 15th starting at 3 PM.** Each painting will be priced at \$100. Purchase will be first-come, first-served. If the same painting is selected by two people at the same time, the winner will be determined by a coin toss!
- Once a painting is purchased the artist's name will be revealed to the buyer.



Some artwork will be by well-known artists and may have considerably more value than \$100. Other artwork may be by relatively-unknown artists and have less apparent value. In any case, buyers will come away with paintings they like and the Museum will benefit from the proceeds. We hope that you will make the time to come to the Academy in September and participate in the sale – who knows what treasure you may bring home?!

Our Engrave-a-Brick Fundraiser: Your Chance for Recognition!



In 2022 we built a brick walkway for the Foster-Meeker Heritage Center. This project provided inspiration for our Engrave-a-Brick fundraiser as we also needed to replace badly-worn bricks in the Tuthill House front walkway. We launched this fund-raising project in 2022 with good success and our community of friends continued to support us in 2023.

Due to popular demand, **this fund-raising effort continues in 2024.** When you purchase a brick it includes engraving of a personal message, the name of a loved one, a business promotional message, or nearly anything else you prefer that fits on up to three lines of up to **15 characters per line.** The engraving will last for a lifetime and the proceeds go directly to support the work of the Museum. The cost is now **\$250 per brick** as our cost to purchase the bricks has gone up. Please go to our website at <https://whbhistorical.org/> and click on the Donation Form button on the home page. **The updated form includes all the current information.** The Museum appreciates your continued support!



The Greater Westhampton Historical Museum 2024 Events Calendar

The Museum's schedule of 2024 events is firming up. While some of our later events are still in the planning stages, much of the year is shown below. While the Winter Lecture Series is in the rearview mirror, **the Museum opening Cocktail Party is right around the corner** on June 15th – stay tuned for the details on this ever-popular event! The Summer Exhibit will open the same day. Other favorite events include a **Great Lawn event**, this year featuring **antique fire apparatus.** **Craft demonstrations** will also be held on our campus in July and August. More details of the later events will be provided as the year progresses - stay tuned.

June 15th

June 15th to September 14th

July 13th

July 20rd to Aug 10th

September 13th

September 15th

November (date to come)

December (date to come)

Museum Opening Cocktail Party

Summer Exhibit, *Collections – Ours and Yours*,
Tuthill House Museum, Saturdays 10am to 1pm

Great Lawn event – Antique Fire Apparatus

Craft Demonstrations Saturdays 10 am to 1pm

Art Sale Viewing Wine & Cheese at The Academy

Art Sale at The Academy

Antique Collections Show

Holiday Party



If you have any comments or suggestions for our digital newsletter, please email our office at contact@whbhistorical.org