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2024 Upcoming Events

Friends and patrons will find that 2024 is bringing with it a focus on nature with the return of the South Windsor Garden tour. This biannual event “Pathways and Blooms” will be joined by our annual fundraisers the Friends’ 27th Golf Tournament and 14th Gingerbread House Festival which in 2024 is themed “Snowed Inn.”

Also in 2024, visitors will be able to celebrate Native American Heritage and Indigenous Peoples Day along with special nature-based programming in Nowashe Village. The Friends will be participating in the statewide events of CT Open House Day and the CT Library Passport Program.

Main Street South Windsor artists Edith Sara Watson and Amelia Montague Watson also will be part of our 2024 programming as will multiple perspectives of the historical context of King Philips War. Be sure to check our website as we update it often.

For more details about our upcoming programs visit www.Nowashe.org and www.WoodMemorialLibrary.org

Many thanks to our additional donors who gave amounts of less than \$50, whom we wish we had the space to print here.

Volunteers

We want to thank all of our dedicated volunteers whose jobs range from library cataloging, teaching, collections research and processing, and programming and exhibits. Without their help we would never be able to accomplish all that we do.



Where history, nature, and the arts come alive.



“Shiny & Brite”
The Wood’s 13th Annual Gingerbread House Festival
FREE and Open to the Public
November 24 thru December 17, 2023
Thursdays & Fridays 10am-7pm, Saturdays & Sundays 10am-5pm
Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

Winter 2023

What's "NEW"

In 2023 the Friends received some significant donations to our collections both old and new, large and small. We are honored to assume the responsibilities of stewardship and look forward to including these donations in our collections. All of these items, among others, will help the Friends achieve our goals of bringing history, nature and the arts come alive.

Mortar, Paint Pot and a Moose Hide Drum

The undated mortar was gifted to the Friends by archaeologist and atlatl specialist, Gary Nolf. Mortars have been used throughout Indigenous history to grind food products, such as corn and nuts as well as medicinal herbs and plants.



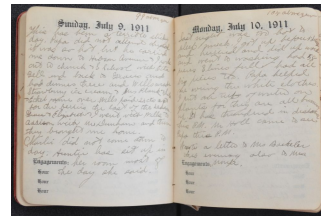
The paint pot was donated to us by Friends of the Office of State Archaeology President, Glenda Rose. Found in South Windsor, it was gifted to Glenda by her late father who was a long-time town resident. What is most fascinating about this pot are its interior scratches, suggesting the material within, most likely ochre or iron oxide, was being scraped out for usage.



The 17" moose-hide drum and carrying case were generously donated by the South Windsor Cultural Arts organization. They were made by the TribalSpiritMusic Company, whose artisans hail from the Simpcw First Nations and Mohawk Nation. The company is located in the Laurentian mountains north of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Documents & Diaries

Letters and documents pertaining to Charles Lanman Green along with a personal diary written by his first wife Maria Spooner was gifted to the Friends by David Lake. David is currently working on a book about some of Green's adventures during his navel career.



Another diary from 1911 was recently donated. It was found in the attic of a historic home on Ellington Road. Like the Spooner diary it provides a detailed account of an entire year.

We look forward to transcribing and doing further research with these historical items.

Rotenberg/Vibert Property

In the spring of 2023, the Friends closed on the donation of the Rotenberg/Vibert House and barn located at 809 Main Street. Arranged by Nathan Rotenberg in memory of his parents, Charles and Sandra, the stated purpose of the donation is "for the enjoyment and education of the community and future generations." The Friends' plan over the next several years is to refurbish and interpret the property as an extension of our cultural and educational operations, with an initial focus on the barn.

The Vibert property is located in the national Windsor Farms Historic District, and both the property's house and English style barn date to 1845. The barn is listed on Preservation Connecticut's Historic Barns of Connecticut and remains in its original three-bay state with a hay loft, center doors under each eave and milking stalls.



English Style Barn located at 809 Main Street

In 1856, the property was purchased by Mervin Vibert and housed generations of the Vibert family for more than 120 years.

This authentic backdrop will enable us to expand programming aligned with our collections from the Colonial Period through the Civil War.

Online Library Catalog

Our research library of books, journals, manuscripts and archival materials is now searchable online as a result of an 18-month long project to physically relocate and digitally catalog some 1,600 volumes in the upper mezzanine section of the library. Topics include Connecticut history and culture, Native American history and culture, natural history, archaeology and genealogical records. These items do not circulate and are available by appointment or during the library's open hours.

2023 Highlights



Thank you for supporting us through another busy year filled with exciting new discoveries and creative methods of learning. Every contribution to the Annual Fund helps to underwrite the Friends' programming, and thanks to your support in 2023 we welcomed several special guests including former State Historian Walt Woodward, art historian and collector Gary Knoble and James Beard award-winning chef Sherry Pocknett.



2023 James Beard Award winning Chef Sherry Pocknett (Mashpee Wampanoag) in Nowashe.

Your support allowed the Friends to curate exhibits celebrating a range of topics on history, nature and the arts. From never-before-exhibited Native artifacts in *South Windsor Unearthed* to the paintings of Albertus Jones, to *South Windsor's Contributions to Space*. Some of our unique and engaging program highlights were a bus trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in Boston and canoeing on the Connecticut River. Your donations allowed us to research and write 52 *Musings from Main*, offer nearly 80 public programs and welcome more than 9,000 visitors in 2023.

We gratefully appreciate your past donations and as a valued supporter of the Friends, we kindly ask for your continued contributions. Your donation will go a long way in supporting our efforts. **Thank you!**

Visit our websites for the latest details on our 2024 programs

www.WoodMemorialLibrary.org
www.Nowashe.org

Proud sponsors of the Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum

