



**Fairfield County Historical Societies Convening 4
Weston Historical Society
Wednesday January 29, 2020**

MEETING NOTES

February 11, 2020

1. News Updates

- The **Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County** commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Jan. 27, at the Fairfield Public Library, together with UNESCO and the Jewish Federation of Upper Fairfield County.
- The **Norwalk Historical Society** received an Implementation Grant from CTHumanities to install a Norwalk Timeline in the Historical Society's Museum this Fall.
- The **New Canaan Museum and Historical Society** was celebrating the decision by the New Canaan Tourism and Economic Development Committee to support "October4Design" - a monthlong celebration of New Canaan-based design, culminating in the Museum's biannual Modern House tour, led by Laura Pla.
- **Norwalk Public Library History Room** was extensively engaged in genealogical research. They were also actively networking across visitors who were, unknown to themselves, related. The History Room was also doing extensive work compiling information on area cemeteries (including Norwalk, Wilton, Westport, New Canaan, Rowayton and Stamford - including cross-referencing inventories of who was buried where.
- **Shelton Historical Society** is celebrating ending five years of acute water problems. A Fall 2019 construction project finally took care of all the water issues.. 2019 was also the Society's 50th anniversary so they've also finished a season of celebrations. Now it's time for a breather!
- **Trumbull Historical Society** hosted the Hawley Family this last fall, which spent its 2019 reunion in Trumbull (see the [Hawley Family Society](#) webpage!). The Society has also recently organized a very well received graveyard tour.
- **The Rowayton Historical Society** was celebrating the approval of Rowayton's Third Historic District (a five-year process), centered around the Railroad Depot. The Society is looking forward to the opening (they are hoping for Memorial Day) of the new Maritime Museum (the only one in CT) that will be the home for an extensive maritime collection that has had no home.

- **Wilton Historical Society** was preparing for two sets of events celebrating centenaries. One is a lecture series on jazz and an exhibition on Wiltonian Dave Brubeck - it is the centenary of his birth, and the second is an exhibition celebrating the suffrage centennial with a focus on two Wilton women (Hannah Ambler and Grace Schenck).
- **Westport Historical Society**, apart from dealing with a major structural failure in the middle of their building (necessitating the remove of the textile collection off site), the repercussions from a \$500,000 gift to the society has resulted in a variety of governance and public relations issues. These include board responsibility, strategic planning, crisis management, issues of accepting money from the town, and other issues of the relationship with municipal government and more. This prompted a discussion about municipal relationships with many other societies.

2. Project Updates

Membership. Following previous discussions about retaining and increasing membership, Nancy Geary from The New Canaan Museum & Historical Society reported that the Society had decided to move to a single calendar-year renewal date. They gave members some leeway but were already reporting a 20% increase in renewals.

Marketing. Unfortunately Maggie McIntire was unable to attend at the last minute and was unable to report on the “Look Local” campaign. We’ll hear from her at the next meeting.

3. Next Meeting

Allison Sanders and Kim Mellin offered to host the next meeting at Wilton Historical Society in early April. Given the conversation arising from the News Updates, we decided to ask a legal expert to address some of the legal issues that were surfaced. Nancy Geary suggested Maurice Segall from the ProBono Partnership and we are preceding with finding a mutually agreeable date.