



## NCWHS 2013 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

At the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, we believe it's important that NCWHS members feel our organization makes a difference, in having more and better women's history across the country. This year, our Annual Meeting will feature Eileen Wallis, "Latina History: Making the Invisible Visible" on October 28, 2013 at noon ET and then a general discussion.

As we hope you can see from the NCWHS newsletters we've sent you, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites has had a good year and looks forward to a even better one next year. We've gotten a lot done and want to get more accomplished as there is so much to do! We could never do it without your support and encouragement: thank you!

Member Successes: Maria Mitchell house received a preservation award and Harriet Beecher Stowe House was designated a National Historic Landmark.

We hope you've gone to our website, [www.ncwhs.org](http://www.ncwhs.org) and seen many changes and we invite you to offer more content to share. For example, Women's History Trails are now mapped out there. Changes in our social media this past year deserve special thanks as Marla Miller, Susan Ferentinos and Pam Sanfilippo have all increased our visibility and accomplishments: thank you! We are now sending our members quarterly newsletters designed to share key items with you as a member benefit. A DineAround at the National Council for Public History Ottawa meeting gave us a place to get to know each other better and all the intriguing things we're doing.

Last December we co-sponsored with the National Park Service the "Telling the Whole Story" workshop at our member site, Sewall-Belmont House & Museum in Washington, D.C. Scholars, practitioners from many disciplines, and National Park Service employees together assessed where we are with historic sites and National Historic Landmarks and where we should go, and presented Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar with our findings. In spite of the many challenges the NPS has faced since then, a report and accompanying goals from that workshop is on our website at [http://www.ncwhs.org/images/stories/PDFfiles/Telling\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.ncwhs.org/images/stories/PDFfiles/Telling_report_final.pdf). We have also let a contract for one National Historic Landmark in women's history and are working towards doing two more. Many of you sent in the surveys on potential NHLs: thank you! We hope that 2014 will be kinder to our partner and much will be accomplished. We will also be giving NPS a three webinar series, "Finding, Researching and Integrating Women's History to Parks and Historic Sites."

A key NCWHS activity has long been developing sessions at our sister organizations so that our members can present at them and that other people will learn more about women's history at

sites. This past year Susan Ferentinos, Barb Howe, Pat Mooney-Melvin, and Lori Osborne presented a session on "Where are the Women at Historic Sites?" for the 2013 American Association for State and Local History meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Pat Mooney-Melvin introduced the topic, Lori Osborne discussed the Evanston (Illinois) Women's History Project, Susan Ferentinos discussed the National Park Service process of identifying and nominating women's history sites as National Historic Landmarks, and Barb Howe gave an overview of NCWHS. In January 2014 we'll have a session at the American Historical Association in Washington DC. Heather Huyck presented a 1.5 hour webinar to the AASLH Historic Sites Committee, "House/Home/Work" looking at how women's "productive" and "reproductive" work supported the economy and how women worked for wages both inside and outside the home. Putting together competitive sessions takes much more work than most people suspect but is worth it. We ask YOU to propose appropriate session topics – we will help you to make them more likely to be accepted in this highly competitive world by shaping a proposal, helping locate other presenters, etc.

We want to submit a session(s) for the September 2014 AASLH conference in St. Paul, Minnesota: please send ideas to Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu). The November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline is soon. For more, go to <http://www.aaslh.org/2014annualmeeting.htm>.

Disappointment: —we did not win the NEH grant for Women's History Trails. Rats!

The NCWHS Social Media Committee focused on sustaining our Facebook page, Twitter feed and our NCWHS website, [www.ncwhs.org](http://www.ncwhs.org). The Facebook page (we try to post news several times each week) has a potential audience of nearly 400 supporters; the Twitter feed has 268 followers. We use these media to share member and NCWHS news and to highlight interesting work in women's history pertinent to museums and historic sites. NCWHS members and friends: Please post on our Facebook page and follow our Twitter feed so we can share your news and accomplishments.

Finally, a highlight of the past year was our pilot Wikipedia workshop at the 2013 National Council for Public History (NCPH) meeting in Ottawa, Canada, where a large tableful of public historians together learned how to edit Wikipedia entries to improve the women's history content of this influential resource. We're excited to host a larger, half-day workshop at the NCPH 2014 meeting in Monterey, CA. Come join us there!

**Membership:** as you can see, we are working to build our membership and to provide you with resources and activities you WANT—we ask your ideas and input to do more. We are always looking for people who want to be on our various committees—step right up and join us—we have a good time.

And then there are all the things we do to be legal and responsible—keeping our nonprofit status, filing various forms, tracking and balancing finances, staying solvent, and thanking departing Board Members: Susan Ferentinos: You Are Awesome! Thank you for all the work you did on the NHLs. And welcoming new ones: we look forward to working with Jan Dilg and

Camesha Scruggs. And we especially want to thank the indefatigable Peg Strobel whose ability to solve problems remains impressive. We invite all of you to contribute to the Berkshire Travel Scholarship named in her honor. Next year the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women will meet in Toronto—an event full of energy and excitement. We're always happy to introduce people to meetings such as The Berks where we plan to have another DineAround as well.

As we often say, Cheers!

Heather Huyck, President, National Collaborative for Women's History Sites