

Warner Whispers - December 2023



St. Mary's Hosts History and Music *CIA holds its annual meeting followed by Jazz!*

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall was bustling with activity amidst the first official Sunday of the season. A doubleheader at the church on a crisp, sunny winter day Saturday, December 2, 2023. First, the Constitution Island Association (CIA) packed the hall for the annual meeting and the long-awaited launch of a new website, logo, and social media presence, including a virtual tour of the newly restored Warner House. CIA now has plans to welcome

people to the home both physically and virtually. CIA Chairman Dr. Vincent Tamagna, stated, "This technology allows us to share the island's rich history in classrooms everywhere! This is an extraordinary project that began only twelve weeks ago and now can reach across the country and worldwide. Through 3D imagery, the life of the Warner Sisters and the great history of Constitution Island comes alive on our website."

Dr. Tamagna offered praise and thanks to board members and volunteers Laura Mayer, Carl and Catherine Treuter, Alethea Schepperly, Carol Martini, Sonya Reimer, Roddy McCloud, Ed Glisson, and Cynthia Thomas, who coordinated the launch through the masterful skill of Craig Watters whose 3D tour is a technological wonder. At the meeting, Watters showed the house navigation complete with 'information' buttons available at many of the important Warner pieces.

Dr. Tamagna lauded the local team of Nicole DeMattio and Elizabeth Schoemaker for their quick and professional launch of the web and social media designs.

CIA trustees and members are excited about the prospect of one of the oldest not-for-profits in the Hudson River Valley's new approach to reaching all visitors, history buffs, scholars, children, and the local community.

Please join us at www.constitutionisland.org for the tour and discover the newly minted logo and the use of state-of-the-art technology. The Warner Home and Museum is preparing to ramp up docents and garden volunteers for the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Nation (semi quincentennial or REV250) in 2025 as new educational planning continues. Following





elections and installing new board members Craig Watters and Will Felder, Silent Auction items were awarded from West Point Ladies Reading Club, the Riverview Restaurant, Brother's Trattoria, Hudson Beach Glass and the CIA gift shop.

Following the meeting guests were invited to *Jazz for the Season*, a free concert in St. Mary's Church. Second in the series "Music at St. Mary's", featured Art Labriola, Lew Scott, and Mike Larocco, with special guests Stacey Labriola and David Rothenberg. Rev. Steve Schunk, priest in charge stated, "We are fortunate to be here in Cold Spring where we have a great draw of music talent and diversity and can bring the community together to support the arts." Perhaps a highlight of the jazz recital was Stacey Labriola's rendition of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" (orig. Gayla Peevey), which left the hundred-plus attending the concert with a smile.

"Music at St. Mary's" continues into the next year with a Valentine's Day theme featuring American Ballet Theatre's (ABT's) Miles Davis.

Meet One of Our Newest Trustees

Craig Watters, a Midwest native and former advertising photographer, brings a rich tapestry of experiences to the role of Trustee at CIA. A seasoned real-estate agent, photographer, amateur drone pilot and Hudson Valley history buff, Craig recently scanned the Warner House to produce our online Virtual Tour – which he demonstrated at the Annual Members Meeting. Craig is excited to join the CIA team.

Key Roles: While serving as a CIA trustee, Craig is also actively engaged with the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring, NY, and the Friends of the American Revolution at West Point (FAR).

Professional Portfolio: In addition to his passion for history, Craig is a seasoned real estate agent specializing in historic and unique properties throughout the Hudson Highlands. He has expanded into the 3D realm, utilizing cutting-edge technology to scan and model structures for greater analytical and marketing insights.



Community Engagement: Craig extends his commitment to community through volunteer work at his local church and has led multiple river cleanup events as a sweep leader with Riverkeeper's annual Riversweep event.

Eager to contribute to the preservation of local history, Craig brings his advertising photography experience as well as branding and marketing instincts to the CIA.



Christmas Trees, Queens and Susan Warner

Did you know that Susan Warner was born the same year as a famous queen? We will give a copy of Susan's book, *The Wide Wide World* to the first person who answers the year and the name of the queen - *hint*: the queen's German husband was one of the first to begin the tradition of bringing a pine tree in the home to celebrate Christmas.

Please send your answers to ciaatwp@gmail.com

(Congrats to Laura Mayer who guessed our featured bird last month, "Indigo Bunting.")

Happy New Year!

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all who have given of their time, talent and treasure this year. The house looks amazing - as you can see in the Virtual Tour. While we look to the future and preparations for REV 250 celebration, please consider supporting us [financially](#).

Thank you so much!

