



Exhibit Celebrates *Whitmanland*

The Birthplace celebrated the *Whitmanland* exhibition with a reception event on February 21, 2016. *Whitmanland* showcases the historic Long Island environs of generations of the Whitman family who first settled here in mid 17th century. *Whitmanland* covered over 500 acres in what is now West Hills and South Huntington.

The exhibit features the Birthplace, built by Walt's father circa 1810, and 21 Whitman family sites with maps, a 1730 deed for the Birthplace property, a letter from Whitman's sister verifying Walt's bedroom of birth, a farm bell (seen right), an old wooden house shingle painted yellow, historic postcards, and an early Birthplace road sign, among other artifacts.



Curator Richard Ryan and Interns Jonathan Kalish and Kyrsten Polanish mounted the exhibition. They spoke of the evolution of the Birthplace structure and revealed their latest findings. The front porch underwent seven incarnations which is noted by paintings and photographs. In the 2001 restoration by NY State, there was a surprising discovery under the floorboards - corn cobs used as insulation. The corncobs are included in the display.

The Presentation included comments from B. A. Van Sise, a descendant of the Whitman family, followed by a Q&A with the audience. *Whitmanland* is on display until September 1, 2016.

The farm bell, which was used to call farmhands in for meals, dates back to 1902 from a photo taken that year by Ben Conklin. The bell was rung by Executive Director Cynthia Shor during the Exhibit Reception.

Walking with Whitman

Poetry in Performance

The series, founded and hosted by Writer in Residence George Wallace, has hosted three talented and critically acclaimed poets this season. 2016 marks the sixth season of *Walking with Whitman*. On March 4, the *Walking with Whitman* Series opened with Cornelius Eady, a musical poet whose poetry often centers on family life, race, and class. During his reading, Eady read from *Brutal Imagination* including the sequence that responds to the notorious 1994 Susan Smith Scandal. *Walking with Whitman* continued on April 1 with a reading by Jesús Papoleto Meléndez, a poet from New York City's East Harlem, and one of the founding poets of the Nuyorican poetry movement. The most recent series event was held on May 6 and featured poet, writer, editor and critic David Lehman, who read works from his upcoming book of poetry entitled *Poems in the Manner Of*. New this year is a musical prelude by Tom Santoriello, Jenevieve Santoriello, and Frank Nostro.



George Wallace

MARCH 4
Cornelius Eady



APRIL 1
Jesús Papoleto Meléndez

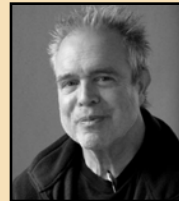


MAY 6
David Lehman



Walking with Whitman Resumes in the Fall

OCTOBER 7
Joseph Millar



NOVEMBER 4
Grace Cavalieri



DECEMBER 2
Nathalie Handal



Photo of Max Wheat by John Renner

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.

March 18, 1927 - June 7, 2016

WWBA Trustee

WWBA Long Island Poet of the Year 2003

Community Acclaimed Nassau County First Poet Laureate 2007

Poet, Journalist, Editor, Publisher
Husband, Father, Grandfather
Activist, Environmentalist
Teacher, Mentor, Friend

From the Executive Director's Desk

In our mission to preserve and promote the legacy of Walt Whitman, our outreach extends from London to New York City to Sag Harbor. We broadcast two Transatlantic live internet readings with poet Robert Peake in the UK. Locally, we have 24 Libraries participating in our Membership Program. South Huntington Schools held their *Spring Festival of the Arts* show here. We partnered with Hofstra's *LI History Day* and offered a "WWBA Clio Award" for student historical writings. CUNY's *Americas Poetry Festival* brings over 30 international poets to us. With BOCES Educational Collaborative, I offered a poetry writing class for teachers for professional credit - everyone wrote a poem! We participate in the Smithsonian *Museum Day Live*, the Academy of American Poets *Poem in Your Pocket Day*, and the NY Empire State Development program *Path Through History Weekend*.



For our efforts, Newsday ranks us in "100 Things Kids Should Do On LI." The Birthplace is featured online in GroupTour.com's Summer 2016 issue and in theculturetrip.com's "7 Writers' Homes To Visit in NY."

Our Trustees remain active in their community endeavors. Recently, Dr. William T. Walter spoke of Whitman at Canio's Books in Sag Harbor and placed our cookbook, "A Taste of Poetry," on their shelves, and he designed two WW displays for the WW Shops. Jo-Ann Raia was successfully reelected Town Clerk, and Dr. Jack Coulehan's latest book, *The Wound Dresser*, was a finalist for the 2016 *Dorset Poetry Prize*. Trustee Robert Savino actively supports poetry as Suffolk Co. Poet Laureate. They, along with all Trustees, and I work hard together to keep Whitman's legacy a vital presence in the community. I invite you to visit soon, enjoy our programs and renew your membership. We depend on you to help keep Whitman's legacy alive!

Cynthia Shor

I Love My Park Day - May 14, 2016



Above: Executive Director Cynthia Shor, Caretaker Steve Arabia, and Event Director Morgan West with the 2016 New York State I Love My Park Day volunteers.

On May 14, 2016, the Birthplace grounds received TLC from 30 generous volunteers who participated in *I Love My Park Day* (ILMPD). Founded by the non-profit Parks & Trails New York, ILMPD offers community members opportunities in preserving their local parks and historic sites. Volunteers weeded and planted flower beds, power washed the sidewalks, and restored outdoor benches. Plants were generously donated by Otto Keil Florist & Garden Center, and by Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. Mulch was donated by Oakwood Road Nursery. Kiwanis Club of Huntington made a strong showing and brought along 11 Key Club members from Half Hollow Hills High School. Volunteers received a free 2016 ILMPD blue tee shirt. Dunkin' Donuts Huntington Station and Melville Bagel Biz donated breakfast donuts and bagels. Pizza lunch was courtesy of Monaco's Coal Fired Pizzeria. Come see the beautiful flowers this summer!

WWBA graciously acknowledges the continued support from the following Patron Level Donors & Members:

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Special thanks to New York State OPRHP, Suffolk County, Huntington Town, the NYSCA Re-Grant program of the Huntington Arts Council, NYCH, and Poets & Writers for their continued support.

Thank you to all renewed members! Your support helps us preserve and promote the legacy of Walt Whitman.

Renew or Become a Member Today:
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 or call Diana Alvarez (631) 427-5240 ext. 114

Special Thanks

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Starting From Paumanok...

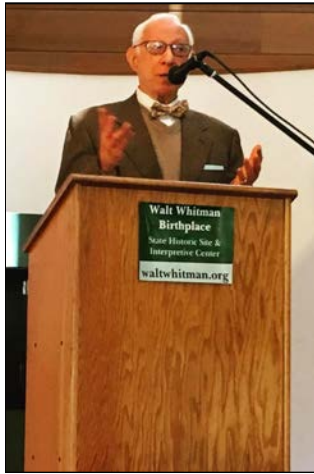
Editor	Cynthia Shor
Co-Editor/ Art/Production Contributor	Morgan West Valerie San Filippo

Democratic Vistas

Democratic Vistas: Voices of Democracy is the 2016 WWBA signature Program Series sponsored by the NY Council for the Humanities. The Series is named after Whitman's book, *Democratic Vistas*, originally published in 1871 in the aftermath of the Civil War. All five programs are free and open to the public.

The Series is designed to activate diverse community voices in cross-cultural communication to share individual experiential knowledge. Walt's text grounds discussions about democracy.

Democratic Vistas launched on April 3, 2016, with *Voices of Democracy* featuring Linda Hirshman, PhD, and Stanley Klein, PhD. Hirshman, lawyer and cultural historian, presented her best seller *SISTERS IN LAW: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*. Hirshman related convivial stories about the Supreme Court Justices and offered an insight into their relationships. Dr. Stanley B.



Stanley B. Klein, PhD

Klein, author and historian, offered a retrospective review of the evolution of the two party system and focused on the GOP as established by Lincoln. Hirshman signed copies of her book after the audience Q&A.



Linda Hirshman, PhD

Democratic Vistas continued on Sunday, July 10, 2016, with presentations by Whitman Scholars Ed Folsom, PhD, and David S. Reynolds, PhD. Professor Folsom shared Whitman's lament over the passive nature of readership in America at that time. Whitman urged Americans to be active readers in order to be informed voters. Folsom also discussed the significance of the use of Whitman's book title, *Democratic Vistas*, as the headline for *Time Magazine's* reporting of President Obama's Inauguration in 2009. Professor Reynolds' presentation was entitled "Whitman's Prescriptions for a Healthy Democracy: Physiology, Poetry, and Antebellum Culture." Reynolds covered the recent discovery of the series of articles written by Walt Whitman under the pseudonym Mose Velsor, and compared Whitman's Diet and Exercise plan to that of Ben Franklin and others of his era.

Democratic Vistas: Environmental Democracy takes place on August 4, 2016 which features NYS Assemblyman Steve Englebright speaking on the topic, *A Conservationist's View of Whitman's Long Island*. Participants are urged to share their environmental concerns and will learn how to get their voices heard.

The final program, *Democratic Vistas: The Last Full Measure of Their Devotion*, will take place on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016 from 2 - 4 pm. Veterans, their families and friends are invited to submit their Favorite Poem and tell of its significance. WWBA Trustee and Suffolk County Poet Laureate Robert Savino, and program sponsor John Barr, will discuss the voices of poetry in war. They will host the Favorite Poem readings, which will be videotaped for the Whitman archives.



David S. Reynolds, PhD, and Ed Folsom, PhD, answered the audience's questions during Q&A

WWBA offers its great appreciation to the NY Council for the Humanities for their second annual sponsorship of the Whitman Birthplace's Signature Program Series of 2015 and 2016.

In the Know

Birthplace is a Pokémon Go Pokéstop - Players descend for Pokeballs, Potions, and Revives! Free bottled water is given to those who post screenshots of Pokemon they name "Walt Whitman" to social media accounts!

Donate without spending an extra penny - shop using Amazon Smile or iGive and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to the Birthplace! www.smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0159009 or www.iGive.com/waltwhitman

WWBA on Groupon - four different options now appear on Groupon with discounts up to 35% off!

The Long-Islander Honored with Historic Marker



From left, Peter Sloggatt, Dr. William T. Walter, Bill Bleyer, Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, Supervisor Frank Patrono, Representative Steve Israel, Cynthia Shor, and Darrel Blaine Ford. Photo courtesy of Town of Huntington.

Founded by Whitman in 1838, *The Long-Islander* is the area's oldest newspaper. The marker is located in the the town of Huntington behind 339 Main Street.



STARTING FROM PAUMANOK...
 246 OLD WALT WHITMAN ROAD
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Spring/Summer

Vol. XXIX No. 1

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2016 Calendar of Events

August 4, 2016 - *Democratic Vistas: Environmental Democracy*
 Featuring Assemblyman Steve Englebright with
 A Conservationist's View of Whitman's Long Island

August 24, 2016 - Children's Victorian Tea Party

August 31, 2016 - Children's Make A Dreamcatcher

September 8, 2016 - Bilingual Poetry Reading
 Poet Luis Ambroggio reads *Todos somos Whitman* &
 Vijay Seshadri reads his Pulitzer Prize winning poetry

September 17, 2016 - First Paumanok Poetry Pow Wow
 Poetry readings, book sales & signings. A WWBA and
 Nassau County Poet Laureate Society Collaboration

September 24, 2016 - Museum Day Live!
 Free tours of the Walt Whitman Birthplace all day
 with Museum Day Live ticket

October 7, 2016 - *Walking with Whitman*
 Featuring Poet Joseph Millar &
 Musician Tom Santoriello and friends

October 13, 2016 - *The Americas Poetry Festival of New York*
 A WWBA and CUNY Collaboration

November 4, 2016 - *Walking with Whitman*
 Featuring Poet Grace Cavalieri &
 Musician Tom Santoriello and friends

November 13, 2016 - *Democratic Vistas: The Last Full Measure
 of Their Devotion*

December 2, 2016 - *Walking with Whitman*
 Featuring Poet Nathalie Handal &
 Musician Tom Santoriello and friends

Rental Space Available
 Scout Programs, Tea Parties, Conferences & Award Ceremonies
www.waltwhitman.org or call (631) 427-5240 x 112
 School and group tours by appointment (631) 427-5240 x 113

Walt Whitman Birthplace Association

Walt Whitman Birthplace Association is Walt Whitman's voice today, celebrating the poet's vision of democracy, diversity, and creativity. Our programs and exhibits educate the public on Whitman's life and times, explore his contribution to our nation's rich cultural heritage, and inspire young poets and writers.

