



Frances Willard

HOUSE MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

at the Center for Women's History and Leadership

2020 Annual Report

Center for Women's History and Leadership

Mission: We inspire and equip all women to realize their leadership potential through education and empowerment.

The Center for Women's History and Leadership (CWHL) offers education, training, and resources to engage all leaders, especially women and girls, with the enduring ideas and issues of Frances Willard, the WCTU, and other women of the past, such as equality, self-determination, and personal well-being. Building on these traditions, the CWHL will equip and inspire leaders to action, creating stronger and healthier communities for the future.

2020 Summary

Though our mission and vision continued to drive our actions and plans in 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic greatly influenced everything we did. We were closed in the museum for our usual winter break in January and February, and reopened in March only to close again almost immediately. Our plans for the women's suffrage anniversary were significantly altered, and all programs and other outreach moved online. We did reopen to researchers in the archives in July and were able to remain open through early November. We continued to provide research services via email and phone. We also created many new ways to reach new audiences with our stories, which you will see in the report below. And we retained all part-time staff, and hosted two remote interns and one Museum Fellow. We faced unprecedented financial challenges but were able to keep our operations fairly steady. The challenge will be maintaining that in 2021.

CWHL

- New executive director appointed in January
- Honorable Mention for Outstanding Public History Project 2019 - *Truth Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells* – from the National Council on Public History
- Emergency Plan and Employee Handbook created
- Connections maintained with local, regional and national organizations about the pandemic - and appropriate museum and archives response
- Emergency funding requested through grant applications and Paycheck Protection Program

Frances Willard House Museum

- **Programs**
 - *Playing in the Parlor* – children's tour and program – January – created by 2019-2020 Intern Fiona Maxwell
 - *Race and Rights* program series in partnership with Jane Addams Hull House Museum and Northwestern University – three programs in January, September and November (total of 773 registered)
 - *Evanston Arts Connect* – art display in Willard House windows – May-June
 - *Suffrage Sunday* videos on [YouTube](#) – August – created by Cate LiaBraaten (282 views)
 - Women's History Walking Tour – August – in partnership with Evanston History Center
 - *Do Everything!* celebrated in September with highlights from summer projects
 - [Christmas Tour](#) of Willard House on YouTube – created by Fiona Maxwell – December (190 views)
- **Interns and Museum Fellows**
 - Remote internship plan created; two remote interns engaged, serving on museum staff in Summer and Fall 2020. Both worked on projects that could be done from their homes and created new online content.
 - Intern Hannah Lahti created a new online [exhibit](#) from research into Frances Willard's online journals.
 - New Museum Fellow program created for advanced graduate students. Fiona Maxwell appointed first Museum Fellow. Her first project was to create a [video tour](#) of the Willard House.

- **Outreach and Community Partnerships**

- Email newsletter sent out twice per month (1,853 subscribers)
- Social media updates on Facebook (994 followers), Twitter (583 followers) and Instagram (205 followers) were more frequent in 2020. Kristin Jacobsen coordinated our social media outreach.
- [YouTube](#) channel created with videos added throughout the year (31 subscribers)
- 12 [Blogposts](#) written in 2020 – including *The Fruitful History of “Dry January;” Launching the “Last Call”: The Women’s Crusade against Alcohol;* and *Playing in the Virtual Parlor: A Zoom Field Trip to the Willard House.* Website averaged 2,000 page views per month.
- Participation in Women’s Vote 100 Evanston planning group for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment; all programs were moved to summer and fall, and took place online.
- Presentations to the National Women’s History Museum; Northwestern University history students; Illinois DAR; and Loyola Public History grad student association.

- **Tours**

- We opened for tours in March with a new suffrage themed tour and were open 2 Sundays.
- We remained closed for tours through the end of the year.

Frances Willard Memorial Library & WCTU Archives

- Archives Research Services
 - Onsite researchers: 16 (average 3 days each: 48 days)
 - Offsite researchers: 53 (159 hours of work responding, researching, following up)
 - Supported Suffrage Centenary research by historians investigating WCTU’s suffrage connections
- Selected publications by researchers:
 - *In League Against King Alcohol: Native American Women and the WCTU, 1874-1933*, by Thomas Lappas (Oklahoma University Press, 2020)
 - *Strong Like Her: A Celebration of Rule Breakers, History Makers, and Unstoppable Athletes*, by Haley Shapley, Gallery Books (Simon & Schuster, 2020)
- Archives reopening plan [prepared and implemented](#) including new Fee Schedule
- 3 public presentations given by Archivist:
 - American Library Assn Convention: “Researching Women in the Archives”
 - “Our Missouri” [podcast on Carrie Lee Carter Stokes](#) (“Show-Me Suffragists” series)
 - Loyola History Grad Students Association: “Pandemic’s Effect on Museums & Archives”
- Continued processing *Records of the Southern California WCTU*
- Three volunteers continued work on a limited basis
- [Blogpost about the WCTU and the 1918 pandemic](#) - Society for Historians of the Gilded Age & Progressive Area
- [Research guide for National History Day/History Fair 2021](#) created and promoted via website
- Archives Month October 2020: guest-edited newsletter, participated in Ask An Archivist Day, social media
- Finalized and implemented access to ProQuest’s digitized Temperance & Prohibition Papers

Gardens and Restoration

- **Gardens**

- Planted almost 200 flower bulbs, 70 annual plants, and over 180 perennial plants
- Planted Wisconsin native garden behind Rest Cottage and planted butterfly-friendly garden on north border
- Constructed and installed historic urn base in front of Rest Cottage
- Installed historic dovecote on south lawn of Rest Cottage
- Transplanted 5 shrubs into Victorian-style lawn placements and 9 hydrangeas to western border of property
- Cleared garden beds of unwanted plantings and invasive weeds from 4 garden beds and replanted

- **Restoration**

- Carpentry and painting work on Willard House completed

Fundraising

- **Major Gifts**

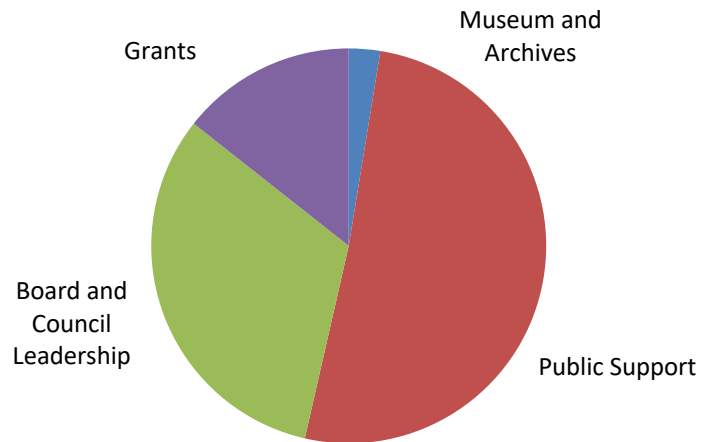
- \$25,000 from the Mammel Foundation in 2019 was used to fund restoration work on the house in 2020
- \$15,000 from the Northern California WCTU and the Modesto WCTU for operating support

Financial Report

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020

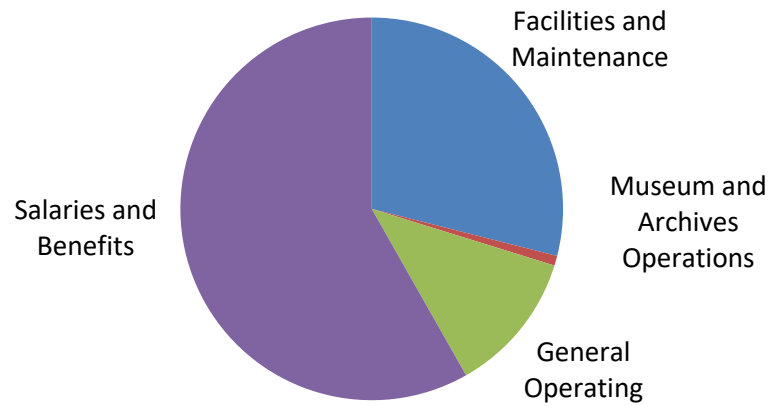
Income 2020

Total - \$43,002.30



Expenses 2020

Total - \$65,217.10



Special thanks to these Supporters:

\$5,000-\$10,000

Vickie and Tim Burke
Doug and Linda Honnold
Modesto WCTU
Northern California WCTU

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Susan Comstock and Marc Rolfes

\$200 - \$999

Lois Anderson
Ann and Brian Balusek
Kathy Bell
Jan and Frank Cicero
Judy Falconer
Samuel Lewis
Margaret Liu
Pam and Paul Rolfes
Sarah Ward
Bonnie Wilson

Center for Women's History and Leadership Board

Vickie Burke, President	Susan Comstock, Treasurer
Doug Honnold, Vice President	Lois Anderson
Ann Balusek, Secretary	Sarah Ward

Frances Willard House Museum and Archives Council

Vickie Burke, Chair	Elizabeth Fraterrigo
Kathy Bell	Tina Nolan
Juliet Bond	Bonnie Wilson

Center for Women's History and Leadership Staff

Lori Osborne, Executive Director and Museum Director	Cate LiaBraaten, Museum Operations Manager
Janet Olson, Archivist	Kristin Jacobsen, Assistant Archivist
2020 Interns	Hannah Lahti, Fiona Maxwell, and Lizzy Schmidt

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