



Volume LV No. 1 — Spring 2024

King Philips War: A History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict

a lecture by Eric B. Schultz

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

7:30 pm

Weston Public Library Community Room

Refreshments. All Are Welcome

Author Eric B. Schultz will present a talk on his book *King Philip's War: A History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict*, which he co-authored with Michael Touglas. Schultz will present an overview of the War, a travelogue of its key events in Massachusetts Bay and throughout Colonial New England—and its lasting legacy.

Metacom (c.1638–1676), also known as Metacomet, Pometacom, and King Philip, was a tribal leader of the Pokanoket tribe (R.I.) and Wampanoag nation. He was the second son of Massasoit and followed his father as chief sachem. Metacom's relationship with the colonists was more contentious than his father's. Disputes over land, peace treaties, and the ensuing mutual mistrust led to an uprising against the colonists known as King Philip's War (1675 – 1676; treaty signed 1678). This war is considered the bloodiest per capita in U.S. history. More than half of New England's towns were attacked.

Native tribes attacked Sudbury (part of which was the present town of Wayland) in 1676 and were planning the destruction of Watertown and other settlements, according to Daniel Lamson's *History of the Town of Weston*. Lamson reports: "They then penetrated to the western part of the town [Weston] and burnt a barn standing on the farm now of Mr. Nahum Smith [111 Sudbury Road]. It does not appear that anyone was killed by them at that time (p.21)." Elsewhere in southern New England, hundreds of colonists died and thousands of Indigenous Peoples were killed, wounded, or sold into slavery. The war decimated many tribes and changed the social and cultural landscape of southern New England.

Eric Schultz is a former chair of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Gettysburg Foundation. He is currently a director of the Old Colony Historical Society in Taunton.



No one knows what Metacom, also known as King Philip, looked like. This image is from Indian History, Biography, and Genealogy by Ebenezer W. Peirce (1878).

Coming Events

Wednesday April 10, 7:30 pm, WHS Spring Lecture (left)

Members' Open House (Watch for email announcement)

Saturday, May 18, 11 to 3, Celebrate Weston (see page 3)

WE'VE MOVED! WHS OFFICE AND ARCHIVES NOW AT JST

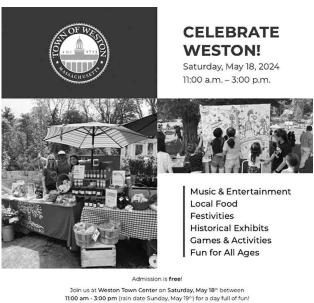
In early January, the Weston Historical Society moved its headquarters to four first-floor rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern. Two rooms will be used for our office and archives, including photo and documents files, books, and scrapbooks. The other two will house changing exhibits (see page 3).

The move from St. Julia Church basement—our home for the past four years — is a major milestone in the 61-year history of the historical society. Please come visit during regular Tuesday hours (9:30 to 12) or on Celebrate Weston Day. Watch for email notifications of open houses and special events such as book discussions, collections talks, or maybe even a Weston history bingo or trivia night. We welcome your suggestions.

Our collection of furniture and objects will remain in the basement of St. Julia Church. WHS is deeply grateful to St. Julia Parish for providing us with a home during the construction years and for helping with storage on a continuing basis.



Above: The society was fortunate to harness the woodworking skills of volunteer Michael Cooper, who built a total of seven bookshelves, carefully constructed to fit together along two walls. Photo by Pam Fox. Below: Kitty Smith and Pam Fox arrange documents on one wall of the bookshelves built by Michael Cooper. Photo by Pam Riffin.





VISIT WHS ON CELEBRATE WESTON DAY MAY 18

Celebrate Weston is back for the third year, well on its way to becoming a favorite Weston spring tradition. Save the Date: Saturday, May 18 from 11 to 3. There will be fun for all ages. Admission is free. Don't miss it!

This year festivities will be concentrated on the Town Green because the JST parking lot may be in use for construction related to the planned restaurant (see page 3). There will be music and entertainment; children's games and activities; fire, police, and DPW vehicles; local food; the Weston-Wayland Rotary Children's Business Fair; and the festive "Marketplace," where dozens of community organizations will hold court.

The beer and wine garden will be right in the middle of the Green, encircled by a fence, so parents can watch the kiddos while enjoying a refreshing drink.

Visit the Josiah Smith Tavern and check out the new Weston Historical Society headquarters and exhibit "Weston Then and Now" (see page 3). At the Art and Innovation Center there will be a bicycle repair workshop, open house, and more.

The Celebrate Weston Committee, chaired by the amazing Dusty Rhodes, is hard at work to make this a special community day. And this year they are arranging for good weather (although there is a rain date, Sunday, May 19).

NEW EXHIBIT AT JST "WESTON THEN AND NOW"

Two years ago, for the first Celebrate Weston day, a talented committee created an exhibit of photographs and dry point prints celebrating the historic Town Center and highlighting major changes. WHS will exhibit these outstanding images, now in the society's collection, at the JST beginning on Celebrate Weston Day, May 18, and continuing through next fall. They include photos taken before the 2020-22 town improvement project, "then and now" images by Weston resident and master photographer Nicole Mordecai, and drypoint prints by Weston High School students under the direction of art teacher Catherine (Cat) Ciccolo. WHS will also exhibit a clay sculpture of Town Hall by Hillary Hanson Bruel and town center commercial buildings by Tom Selldorff, created for a class taught by potter Mary King and donated to the society.



Top to bottom: 2017 fire station photo by Pam Fox; 2022 "after" photo by Nicole Mordecai; and 2022 drypoint print by Maya Iskoz. Collection of the Weston Historical Society.



Weston resident Brian Piccini has been selected to develop the restaurant at the Josiah Smith Tavern. Photo courtesy Boston Urban Hospitality.

NEW RESTAURANT COMING IN OCTOBER!

Plans are underway for the muchanticipated restaurant in the barn and connector of the Josiah Smith Tavern (JST). The Friends of the JST has chosen restaurateur Brian Piccini, Weston resident and owner of Boston Urban Hospitality, which operates Boston Chops, dbar, and Deuxave in the city. The new restaurant, to be called "The Woods," will offer farm-and-sea-to-table cuisine. Brian has already been in contact with Land's Sake to source local produce and Captain Mardens for fresh fish. Initially The Woods will be open only for dinner, with lunch seating anticipated in the future.

The process of establishing a restaurant at the JST goes back to 2003 (yes, 20 years ago!), when the Weston Historical Commission established the Josiah Smith Tavern Committee to oversee restoration of the deteriorating tavern building. Exterior work, including fresh paint, a new roof, and restored windows and shutters was completed in 2007 using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. The JST/ Old Library Committee was formed to look into new uses for these two vacant historic buildings, so prominently located on the Town Green. Because potential restaurant use for the JST was a popular idea, the town anticipated the need for a site-specific liquor license, which was granted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by town residents in 2009.

Prior to 2008, Weston was one of only 12 remaining dry towns in Massachusetts. But public sentiment was changing, and that year voters passed the ballot measure needed to grant the Omni grocery store a license to sell wine.

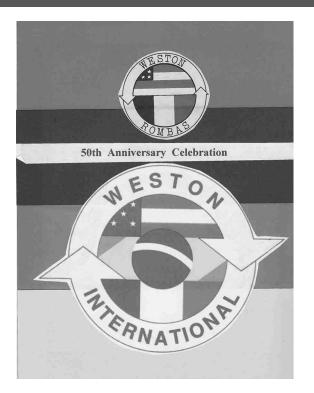
The "Fifteen Gallon Law" of 1838

How long has it been since alcohol could be purchased in a tavern or public restaurant in Weston? We know that the tavern built by Josiah Smith in 1757 closed in 1838. That year the Massachusetts State Legislature passed the "Fifteen Gallon Law," outlawing the sale of alcohol in quantities less than 15 gallons. This unpopular temperance measure was repealed just two years later; but the tavern never reopened and the building became a residence.

To follow the subsequent history of alcohol sales in Weston, readers are directed to The Weston Historical Society Bulletin, Spring 2008, at the society's website, westonhistory.org/Bulletins. Although the question is complicated, it would appear that Weston residents had no legal venue to sit down and order a drink after 1855 and probably as far back as 1838. In 1855 the Massachusetts legislature passed a resolution prohibiting the sale of alcohol except by authorized agents who could sell it for use "in the arts, or medicinal, chemical & mechanical purposes only." In Weston, Joel Upham was authorized to keep and sell alcohol out of his house.

Continued on Page 8

WHS COLLECTIONS: WESTON ROMBAS/ WESTON INTERNATIONAL



The Weston Historical Society collection includes the records of Weston Rombas Affiliation, later Weston International Affiliation, including scrapbooks with photos of the hundreds of students, host families, teachers, and townspeople who participated in the program over 72 years, along with newspaper clippings, programs, and letters. Many thanks to Emily Hutcheson, exchange student to Rombas in 1965-66 and coordinator and host mother from 1995 to 2004, for her help with this article.

Fostering Understanding Between Nations

At Town Meeting in January 1950, voters adopted a student proposal to attempt the promotion of a "just and lasting peace" through the "free interchange among people." As the world coped with the aftermath of World War II, the Town of Weston asked the war-ravaged city of Rombas, France, to become a sister city - a relationship that blossomed into an exchange of high school students. In 1956, Tad Crawford became the first Weston student to spend a year in Rombas. In 1960, the success of the Rombas experience inspired a second exchange with Porto Alegre, Brazil. Other exchanges were included from time to time but none of those remained. For 72 years, Weston-Rombas, later renamed Weston International, sponsored the program. A volunteer town committee ran it for the first 50-plus years; teachers at Weston High School managed it from about 2005 until the pandemic. More than 200 students took part over the years, as well as a similar number of host families and hundreds of committee volunteers, teachers, and administrators.

The last Weston High School student to participate in the Rombas program was Amelia Fox in 2016–2017. For Brazil, it appears that the last WHS student to take part was Kim Darbey in the summer of 2015. Both programs at WHS continued to take on French and Brazilian students through 2018. According to Cort Mathers and Kathy Baker, the last teachers to run the program, it dissolved in part because it became difficult to find students who wanted to go. Getting the best scores to get into college is such a driving force that neither the kids nor their parents wanted to take a year away. Finding host families was hard. And State Department regulations became more and more complicated — too much of a load for the school to manage. Cort Mathers noted that Weston was one of only a few schools in the whole country that was trying to run an exchange program. Rotary-sponsored programs have continued. The Rotary Club of Weston & Wayland has a student in Taiwan this year, and a boy from Mexico is here in exchange.

From the Weston Town Crier, March 30, 2000 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary.

"The vision that ultimately linked three towns and touched countless citizens began quietly in the sitting room of Charles and Barbara Cummings' Weston home. 'It began with two men who cared a lot about peace,' said Barbara Cummings St. John, recalling a friendship with their neighbor, Dr. [Louis] Schwab, and long conversations about the need for international healing during the winter of 1949.

"'Charles knew the devastation of war from a tour of clean-up duty on the World War I battlefields of France when he was 18 years old. Dr. Schwab had served with the troops in World War II. Charlie was the guidance counselor and a teacher of history and modern problems at the high school. He had a great feeling that the young people were responsible for the world's future. He said 'I'll get my students to work on this,' remembered Barbara Cummings.

"The students' ideas resulted in the formation of an official town committee now known as the Weston International Affiliation Committee, whose mission was to promote understanding between nations. It was to receive no funds from tax dollars but would require participation and fundraising from town residents. The town voted to create the committee 'in the hopes that the problems of the world may be reduced to the problems of a brother understanding a brother."



Barbara Cummings St. John at the 50th anniversary in 2000.

Memories of students who participated in the program

Emily Lombard [Hutcheson], to Rombas, 1965–66

"Though I didn't ever use what I learned in France in a career, the year opened me up to the world and to the many ways people live, even within the same culture. As a 16-year-old in 1965, I'd never been apart from my family, and I'd never been out of Massachusetts other than a couple of two-daylong trips to Maine and New York. I wanted what I felt was the magic of knowing a different language, so in the spring of 1965, I applied to the Weston-Rombas Affiliation and was accepted. In September that year, I boarded the SS Maasdam in Boston harbor and ten days later, I landed in Rotterdam. That day, I traveled by train through 4 countries to Rombas to meet the first of my 8 host families. At first, I was scared and disoriented, feeling as though nothing I'd ever learned was of use anymore. Despite four years of French classes, I couldn't understand the language; I didn't know the food; I was routinely offered cigarettes and alcohol; I was sharing a bed with the daughter of the family when I'd never before even shared a room; school was bewildering, with all new students and clothing styles, and a radically different way of teaching. For the first time in my life, I was the new kid, totally lost.

"Thankfully, my first host mother, Marguerite Steiner, was a gentle, loving woman who quietly accepted my fear and homesickness and became a base from which I could start to find my balance. By Christmas I was dreaming in French, and I could sense improvement in my speaking and understanding. As I moved from one family to another, I saw how each one had their own unique way of talking with each other, of washing dishes, cooking food, making beds, and how some were always on time, some perpetually late. My confidence grew as I learned to adapt and find my way. Having to adjust to each of them became a wonderful challenge in remaining open and interested. Even more than the ability to speak and understand French, that flexibility is what I try to carry with me all these years later. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and live within those welcoming families, immersed in a constantly changing world.

"The total immersion I experienced in the '60's would be next to impossible to duplicate now because of how easy it is to connect via internet. For the year I was there, my link to home was through journal-like letters to my family, sent whenever the page or the aerogram was full. Aside from one short phone call from my mother to tell me I was accepted at college, snail mail letters were the only regular connection I had. Other than that, I didn't use English, except for a visit with my father who came to France on business; on a quick trip to London for a cousin's wedding; and to take the SAT's at a US army base in Verdun. A student these days might be able to recreate that kind of immersion if she cut herself off from the internet, but it would take a lot of determination."



Above (I-r) Sam Crocker and Emily Lombard [Hutcheson] on the ship to Rombas in 1965, one of the few years when two Weston High School students went to Rombas at the same time. At right, classmate Kathy Stritter, on her way to France on a private exchange. Photo courtesy Emily Hutcheson. Below: At the 50th anniversary celebration in 2000, Carter Crawford received a standing ovation for her many years of dedication as a committee member, housing coordinator, and "personal friend, mentor, and caregiver to each and every exchange student."

Nicole Maitre-Pignard, from Rombas in 1955–6, (the second student to come here)

MY AMERICAN EXPERIENCE — DISCOVERY. A complete different environment; a language to learn beyond the basic knowledge I had in France; various people who were like roots that developed gradually during my stay in Weston. ENTHUSIV ASM. SOMETIMES FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN. A DESIRE TO GO BEYOND. When I returned to France (Lorraine), I decided to study languages and specialize in the Anglo-American language and American Civilization. . . . My stay in Weston represented the source of my future profession: I taught English in high schools. I was eager to convey the knowledge of another language, which allows human beings to share and learn about different ways of living. . . .WONDERFUL MEMORIES. A START FOR MY FUTURE. I STILL FEEL GRATEFUL!! *Continued on Page 6*



Members of the 2000 Weston International Affiliation, formerly Weston Rombas, from left, standing: Martha Bancroft; Brazilian exchange student Jimbo Lefa; French exchange student Lude Mougenez; Bob Desauiniers; French exchange student from 1998 Sujata Sharma; Jane Kim; Lucy Mooney; German exchange student Julia Hesse, and Pam Riffin. Seated: Nancy Inui, Carter Crawford, and Emily Hutcheson.

Jamy Buchanan Madeja, to Rombas, 1977–78

"The most important aspect for me was realizing how many different ways people lived in the same community. The scholarship from Weston-Rombas covered the airfare and then the Rombas people put me up in their extremely varied homes, usually ones with a daughter in the Lycee (high school). I stayed with 10 different families, all wonderfully generous and all curious about life in other parts of the world. In one family, I shared a bed with the daughter, whose father was a steel worker in the mill, and in one family, I had an entire suite to myself (the family in which the father was the chief engineer in the same steel mill.)"

Teddi Ann Galligan to Porto Alegre, 1977–78

"One autumn day in 1976—during Latin class with the inimitable Mrs. Fernald—the exchange student from Brazil, Nelson Jorge, accompanied by a woman representing the Weston-Rombas program, came into our classroom to explain the opportunity to be an exchange student in Brazil. Nelson's locker was two away from mine, so we were acquainted, but I hadn't known much about his school and hometown. As I heard about the school days from 7:30 to mid-day, Monday through Saturday, virtually no assigned homework, the community and city, my sense of adventure took hold with an almost audible "I've never been to Brazil...!" swirling around my mind as I contemplated the possibility.

"That evening, I took the first step and asked my parents for permission to apply. Erelong, I was stepping off a plane in Porto Alegre, warmly welcomed with a bouquet of flowers and kisses on both cheeks from a dozen or so people who came to greet me. I was barely 16.

"From the airport, my first host family took me out for a chicken lunch, then home for a nap. Late that evening, Mima, the mother, woke me and we boarded a bus. It turned out to

be an overnight trip to the beautiful seaside town of Laguna in Santa Catarina. There I met Neyla, one of my Brazilian "sisters," her cousin, Liliam, and the extended family. Wee cousin Lisiane, at about 20 months old, became my model for learning the language and ways of southern Brazilian life.

"Little did I know, Carnaval, the pre-Lenten festival, started that evening. The family already had a dress made for me, in light blue satin, on the assumption that a North American student would have blue eyes (I did). The dress was made to large measurements, on the assumption that a North American student would be large — at 44 kilograms [92 lbs] and 154 centimeters [5'], I wasn't. So, after a breakfast of papaya and other tropical fruits, we scurried to the seamstress for an urgent refitting. That night, Neyla in white, Liliam in gold, and I in blue went out "pulando Carnaval," dancing until the wee hours in a massive throng of happy people.

"That festive beginning foretold a year of joy, belonging, growth, wonderfully immersive language learning—buoyed by the grammar and vocabulary from Mrs. Fernald's Latin class—compelling academics, new perspectives, and increased confidence as I began making my way in the world as a young woman.

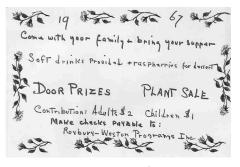
"The experience of immersing myself in a new culture, integrating Brazilian music, food, and mannerisms into my life, was liberating. I began to see the deeper connections of the human experience more clearly, beyond the myriad distinctions we humans sometimes focus on that can create personal and even international troubles.

"Throughout my life, I have dug into the confidence my 16-year-old self gained through the program to take numerous leaps of faith—relying on and working to uphold the basic goodness of humanity as I pursued studies and work in Montréal, Guatemala, Ireland, and Haïti.

"Thank you for a truly life-changing and life-giving opportunity". Continued on Page 8

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

WILLIAM AND HARRIET ELLISTON



Handmade invitation to the first Elliston raspberry festival, donated by Lelia Orrell Elliston.

Many thanks to **Lelia Orrell Elliston** for her donation of materials relating to her grandparents, William and Harriet Elliston, their farm at 263 South Avenue, and the annual raspberry festivals held there beginning in 1967.

The Ellistons purchased the historic 18th century house and six acres in 1937. William, an orthopedic surgeon born in England, was a founder of the Weston Forest and Trail Association. Harriet, who trained as an anthropologist, was a principal force in establishing the Roxbury-Weston programs.

The Ellistons planted fruit trees and grapevines, developed a sizable raspberry farm, and ran an egg business with 300 laying hens housed in the barn. They also grew flowers as a small business and at one time had 10,000 gladioli.

The raspberry festivals were held to raise money for Roxbury-Weston. Attendees were requested to bring a picnic supper and blanket to sit on. Coffee and dessert were free, beer and soda could be purchased, and there was music and raspberry picking, all for a donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. In 1976, 92 adults and 44 children attended. The after-party notes that year included the following: "Again we made too much jello! Recommend we cut down to enough for 25 quarts, black raspberry jello, to be served with 20 pints of raspberries and 7 large containers of 'Cool Whip.'"

The donated memorabilia includes a farm journal with entries from 1938 to 1949, documenting the raising of baby chicks and times of sowing seeds, with details like the date of first strawberries (June 12 in 1943). Other items include maps and plans as well as eyeglasses and a detachable collar belonging to Bill Elliston.

SAMUEL CROCKER BENNETT

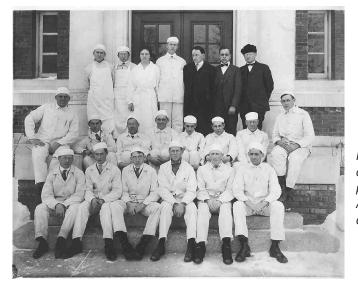


1885 marriage photo, S.C. Bennett and Amy Reeder Thomas, donated by Ellen Sturgis.

Many thanks to **Ellen Sturgis** for her donation of photographs, documents, and town reports relating to her great-grandfather, Samuel Crocker Bennett (1858–1925). Bennett was a lawyer and for a time Dean of Boston University Law School who moved to Weston around the time of his 1885 marriage to Amy Reeder Thomas.

Bennett took a "keen interest in the affairs of the town," serving as Chair of the School Committee and Town Counsel in important town litigation. In 1913 he was chosen to deliver the historical address at the town's 200th anniversary. Among the lengthy tributes read at Town Meeting after his death was this from Selectman B. Loring Young: "He had the courage which few have to take the unpopular side if he believed it to be the right one. The Town has avoided many serious mistakes through his wise advice and prompt action."

The Bennetts had one daughter, Rosamund. Among the photos and documents recently donated is a 1918 certificate from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Short Courses, certifying that Rosamund had completed a ten-week course in "Field Crops, Feeding, Types and Breeds, Dairying, and Dairy and Bacteriology." A photograph labeled "Farmers' Winter Course, Mass Agricultural College, c. 1917, shows Rosamund as the only woman in the 18-member class. She married George Sturgis in 1920, and the couple built the handsome brick Colonial Revival house that still stands at One Whitehouse Lane. After their divorce about 1942, Rosamund married David M. Little.



Rosamund Bennett stands on the top row of this class photo, c. 1917, from Mass Agricultural College. Photo donated by Ellen Sturgis.

middlesen County. To the Selectmen of the Town of Weston in faid County. GENTLEMEN. THIS contains the NAMES of the Perfons Licenfed in your Town the laft Year, viz. Jos. Brufsell In! Hagg Foel Smith Innholders Sam! Lamson Croch Greenleaf Isaag Lamson Retailers The Time for renewing Licenfes for this prefent Year will be on Tuelday the *watternik* Day of *Agatember*, next, at *General*, when and where you are defined to make Return hereof, with the Names of the Perfons approbated by you. Shely 1. 1794 -An Biglowblag

Joel Smith, son of Josiah, is listed as a licensed innholder in Weston in the year 1794. Original at Mass State Archives.

New Restaurant, continued from Page 3

In the late 1860s, the legislature began to allow alcohol to be sold in cities and towns where inhabitants voted to authorize such sales. Weston selectmen finally brought the question to voters in 1881; they roundly rejected the idea by a vote of 6 "for" and 65 "against." For the next 126 years, Weston voters continued their staunch opposition to sale of all types of alcohol, whether on the premises or packaged for home consumption. Of course, the lack of licensed liquor stores and restaurants did not preclude sale of moonshine during Prohibition or the serving of alcohol at country clubs and private venues.

Proposals to develop a comprehensive re-use plan for both the Old Library and JST faltered as two proposals, both including a restaurant, were defeated in 2009 and 2013. In 2017, a proposal from the private non-profit Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern (formed in 2015) was approved for design fees, with construction money voted in late 2019. Construction took place from 2020-2022, a master lease between the town and Friends was approved in 2023, and, after a thorough selection process, the restaurateur was officially announced at a Select Board meeting in January 2024. Welcome Brian Piccini and Boston Urban Hospitality! Weston Historical Society looks forward to working with our dynamic new neighbor.

Weston Rombas-Weston International, continued from page 6

Suzana Schonwald, from Porto Alegre, 1978-79

"I attended Weston High for the school year of 1978-79 and stayed with five different families: the Delongs, Vernons, Wrights, Galligans, and Schapiros. Fantastic kids, fantastic families, friends for life. The cumulative ties among these people have created a network of love and caring that has extended across landmarks and time...."

Ann Delong, to Porto Alegre in 1978:

"The program certainly shaped and formed my life. . . . Over the course of the year, I stayed with four different Brazilian families and from Day One fell in love with the people, the music, the art, the food, and the culture. . . . I still maintain contact with a number of students I studied with at Colegio Aplicacao in Porto Alegre. The influence of the program wove its way through my career choices from the moment I returned onwards and manifested itself in my desire to live in other countries, learn about other cultures, and experience life from the perspective of the citizens of those countries. . . . Recognizing the significant impact the Weston Rombas program has had on my life, I am a huge proponent of international exchange programs. I have volunteered with several international student exchange programs over the years including Youth for Understanding, AFS, and IREX. My daughter spent a year in high school on an exchange program to South Korea, and I spent a year on sabbatical from the State Department speaking to high school students around the country about my student exchange experience and careers in the foreign service. My dream for world peace is that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in an exchange program so that we can learn about and celebrate our common humanity, despite our differences."

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Membership dues: Individual \$35, Family \$50, Sponsor \$100, Patron \$250, Life Membership \$500, WHS Fellow \$1000. Tax deductible contributions and bequests to the Endowment Fund are welcome.

Please visit our website, westonhistory.org and check out Kara Fleming's social media posts on Facebook and Instagram (westonhistory).