

Invitation

“The Weir Farm” Room Dedication and Reception

Tuesday March 20, 2012
4:00pm – 6:00pm
SH-706

Please join Senator Lieberman and artist, Xiomáro (pronounced “SEE-oh-MAH-ro”), at the dedication of “The Weir Farm” conference room.

The art exhibited in this room features a collection of photographs by the artist documenting the beauty and textures of the interiors of the Weir House, Weir Studio and the Mahonri Young Studio, which are currently closed to the public for restoration in Connecticut.

Attached is additional information regarding the history of “Weir Farm” National Historic Site.

Weir Farm National Historic Site: A History

-1882: Julian Alden Weir, a prominent American impressionist painter, purchased the farm as a retreat from the bustling pace of New York City. Weir, highly regarded by the New York art community, often invited his contemporaries, such as Albert Pinkham Ryder and John H. Twachtman, to stay at the farm. It was from this location that Weir received inspiration for many of his famous paintings, which today are on display around the world in some of the most recognizable museums.

-1919: Upon Weir's death his daughter, painter Dorothy Weir, inherits the property.

-1931: Dorothy Weir marries notable sculptor Mahonri Young. As Mrs. Young, she acts as the administrator of the house and farm.

-1932: Mahonri Young builds a studio at Weir Farm to facilitate his career. As administrator, Mrs. Young works to preserve the family home and studio, catalogs her father's work, and writes a manuscript of her father's life that is published into a biography posthumously.

-1947: Mrs. Young passes away from cancer. Her husband takes sole possession of the property.

-1957: Sperry and Doris Andrews, close friends of Mahonri Young, purchase the farm after he passes away in 1957. The Andrews go to great lengths to ensure that the land and buildings remain untouched, seeking to preserve the farm's historic nature.

-February 1990: Senator Lieberman, and Representative Gejdenson, introduce the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (S. 2059/H.R. 4112).

-October 31, 1990: Weir Farm National Historic Site is established as a part of the National Park Service when President George H. W. Bush signs the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act (P.L. 101-485) into law.

-March and April, 2007: Representative Shays, and Senators Lieberman and Dodd, introduce the Weir Farm National Historic Site Amendment Act (H.R. 1863/S. 1247), which would provide the National Park unit the ability to acquire new land.

-February 2009: With the support of the Connecticut delegation, Congress passes the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA; P.L. 111-5), which is signed into law by President Obama. Weir Farm ultimately receives \$457,000 from ARRA, which is used to repair and expand the facility.

-March 2009: President Obama signs the Omnibus Public Land Management Act into law (P.L. 111-11), which includes the amendment introduced by Senators Lieberman and Dodd granting the National Park Service the authority to expand the Weir Farm facilities.