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WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS



Welcome to the August 2026 edition of Capitol Connections—your source for the latest news and updates from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Our mission to collect, preserve and share stories is made possible by continued support from the Wisconsin Legislature and administration. Thank you!



Team Wisconsin Shines at National History Day

Young scholars from Wisconsin communities joined 3,000 peers from across the country to compete in National History Day (NHD) contests at the University of Maryland this June. In addition to the winners listed below, five students were recognized for honorable mentions.

A Wisconsin student and teacher team also had the incredible opportunity to participate in NHD's Young People's Continental Congress in July. Following six months of study focused on history and civics, the team spent a weeklong visit in Philadelphia touring historic sites and learning in a group setting.

Top Ten Finish:

- Veena, 6th in Senior Individual Website: The "War of the Dots": Revolutionizing Independence Through Literacy for People with Visual Impairments

Special Award:

- Asian American History Award: Fiona, Junior Individual Documentary: Born Here, But Not Belonging? – The Chinese Exclusion Act and the Fight Over American Citizenship

Outstanding Affiliate Award:

- Sahir, Junior Individual Documentary: Echoes on the Lake (Chippewa Spearfishing and Treaty Rights: The Walleye War)
- Albert, Senior Individual Documentary: The GI Bill of Rights: A Revolutionary Reform of Veterans' Benefits

Congratulations to the hardworking students, teachers, and volunteers who participated in National History Day programs this year!

Upcoming Events

Aug. 19-23: \$7 Admission at Circus World (Sauk County)

Aug. 29: A Toast to Governor Nelson Dewey (Grant County)

Aug. 30: Wade House Arts and Crafts Fair (Sheboygan County)

Sept. 16: James Madison Lecture feat. Michael Witgen (Brown County)

Sept. 17: James Madison Lecture feat. Michael Witgen (Dane County)

Sept. 18: Messengers From Deep Time: The Stones of Rock Fade (Sheboygan County)

Sept. 25: Pub Night at Pendarvis (Iowa County)

[Click here](#) for a complete listing of WisHistory events!



Back-to-School Season is Here!

As summer winds down, WisHistory is preparing to welcome students back to the [History Maker Space](#) on Capitol Square for the 2026-27 school year. The temporary programming space has hosted over 500 field trips since opening 2023—and we aren't finished yet!

Watch out for our print flyer with more information headed to legislator mailboxes and help us spread the word that the waitlist is now open for field trips to the new Wisconsin History Center starting in spring 2028!

JOIN WAITLIST

In The News

WMTV 15: [Wisconsin Historical Society launches fashion-inspired experiences](#)

TMJ4: [For 50 years Old World Wisconsin has brought history to life](#)

Green Bay Press Gazette: [Door County Historical Society wins two top Wisconsin history awards](#)

Travel + Leisure: [This 3,000-mile Route Is One of the Most Stunning Drives in the U.S.](#)

WUWM: [Why is Wisconsin home to so many Revolutionary War artifacts?](#)

Milwaukee Record: [Wisconsin Historical Society wants your “tavern tokens”](#)

WisPolitics: [WisHistory Announces final leg of Statewide History Makers Tour](#)



Did You Know?

Circus World recently welcomed 25 state legislators along with state and federal office staff for a tour highlighting state-supported projects, including the restoration of historic Ringlingville buildings through a Save America's Treasures grant. Visitors learned about completed and ongoing projects and upcoming activities, then enjoyed the site—including a live show under the big top!

Thank you to all elected officials and staff who joined us for State Legislator Day at Circus World on July 22!

