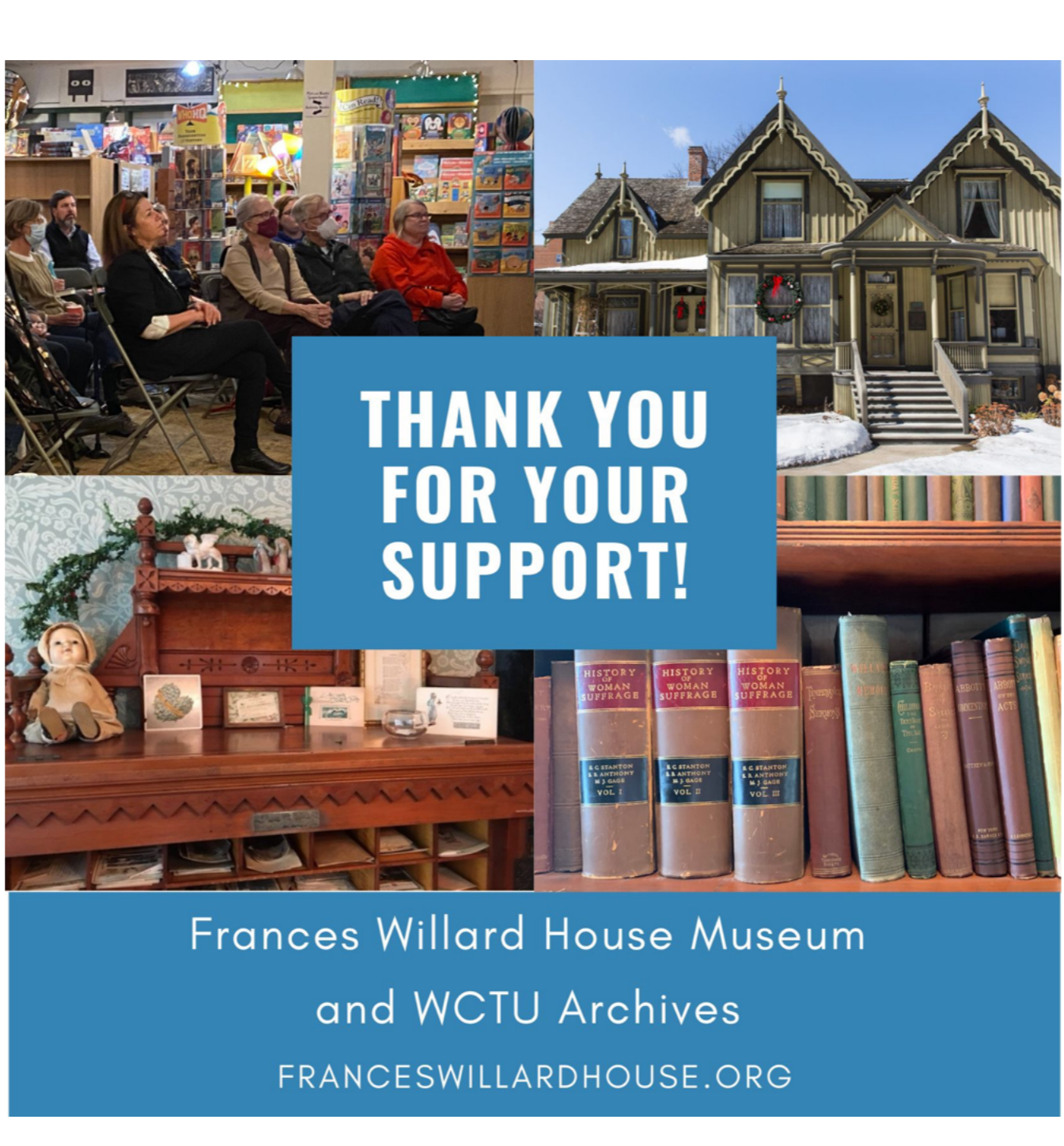




Donate and Support

### New Year's Message from Executive Director Lori Osborne



Frances Willard House Museum and WCTU Archives  
FRANCESWILLARDHOUSE.ORG

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Looking back over 2022, it is truly remarkable what a small organization can do with the assembled and amazing talents of our staff, interns, board, council, and volunteers. In 2022, we...

- Hosted [online conversations](#) in the *Views* program series with authors and scholars about a wide range of topics, including Women, Faith, and Activism, and Interpreting Women's Suffrage
- Continued to build the *Black Women in the WCTU* database to ensure this important story is told
- Created new [digital exhibits](#) and [blog posts](#), this year focusing on the story of Women and Education in Evanston
- Held a [book launch](#) for *Do Everything: The Biography of Frances Willard* in partnership with Bookends and Beginnings in Evanston
- Hosted [online conversations](#) via Handicraft Hour – now Collection Close-Up – to highlight the stories revealed by our archival and artifact collections
- Hosted undergraduate and graduate students in [internships](#) and for class projects
- Processed new archival collections and updated our [subject files](#) for easier access
- Gave [tours](#) of the Frances Willard House Museum

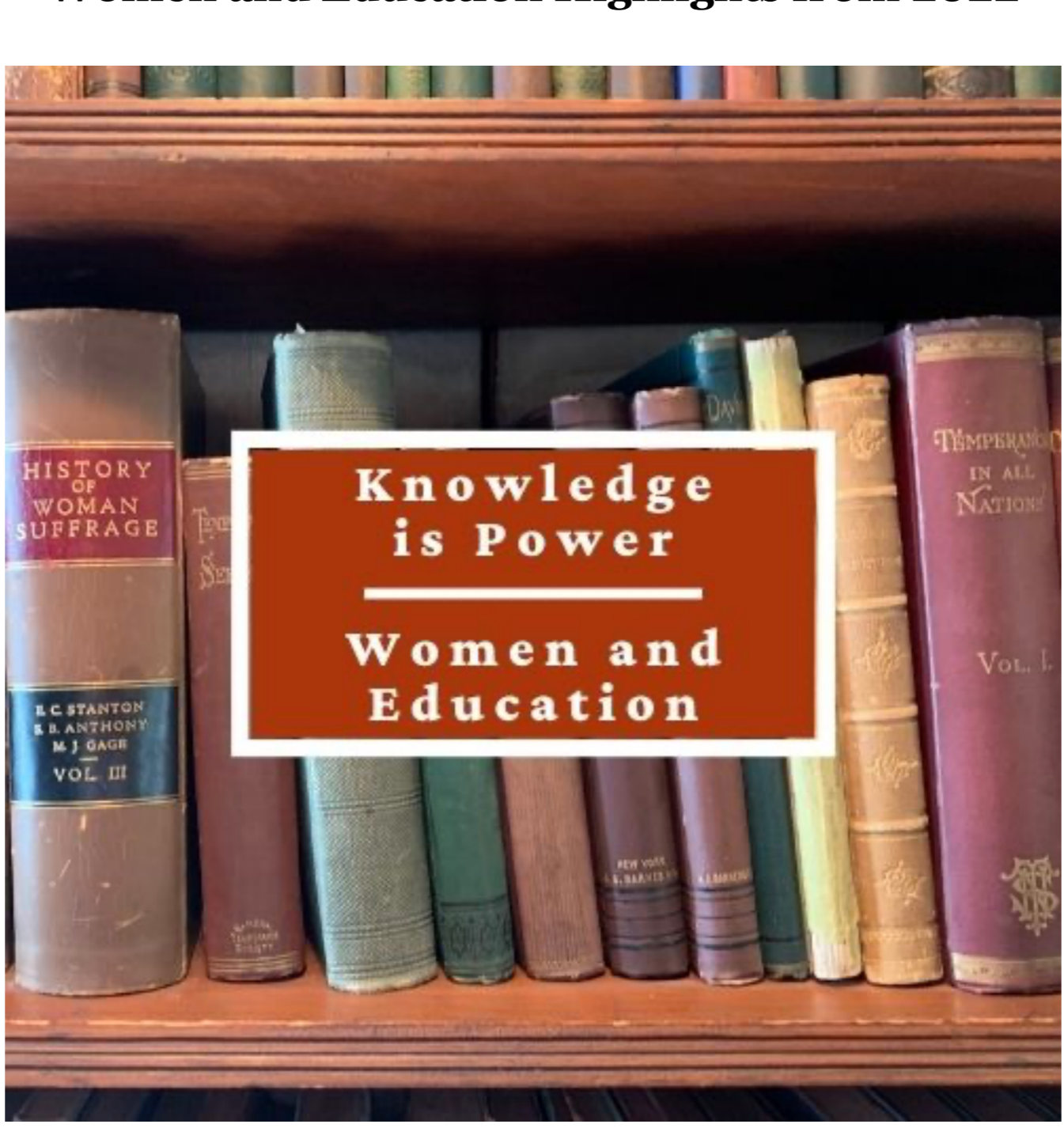
There's still time to make a [gift](#) to our annual appeal! Your support will ensure that we can continue telling women's stories, supporting rising scholars, and sharing this women's history treasure.

Thank you!

Lori Osborne  
CWHL Executive Director  
Frances Willard House Museum Director

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### In Case You Missed It: Women and Education Highlights from 2022



For Frances Willard, as for other women of her time, education was a fundamental need, but access was limited. As doors to schoolhouses and colleges slowly began to open, women's lives changed significantly and their options multiplied. This enabled them to take on broader and more influential public roles in their communities and country. But it all started with education – and thus we are returning to the story of women and education to ask questions and learn more.

In a series of blogposts entitled "Educated Women," Lori Osborne situates Evanston's unusual educational experiments in historical context. [Part one](#) details the establishment of the Northwestern Female College. [Part two](#) documents the Northwestern Female College's evolution into the Evanston College for Ladies and, finally, the Northwestern University Woman's College.

You can explore Frances Willard's side of the story in a series of blogposts by Fiona Maxwell. [Part one](#) traces how, as a young girl, Willard connected writing and speaking to social reform. [Part two](#) details Willard's formative experiences as a student at the Northwestern Female College.

Stay tuned as we explore more of this story in 2023! See below for the next installment coming in January.



The Evanston College for Ladies and Woman's College building. It still stands at 711 Elgin Road in Evanston, Illinois.

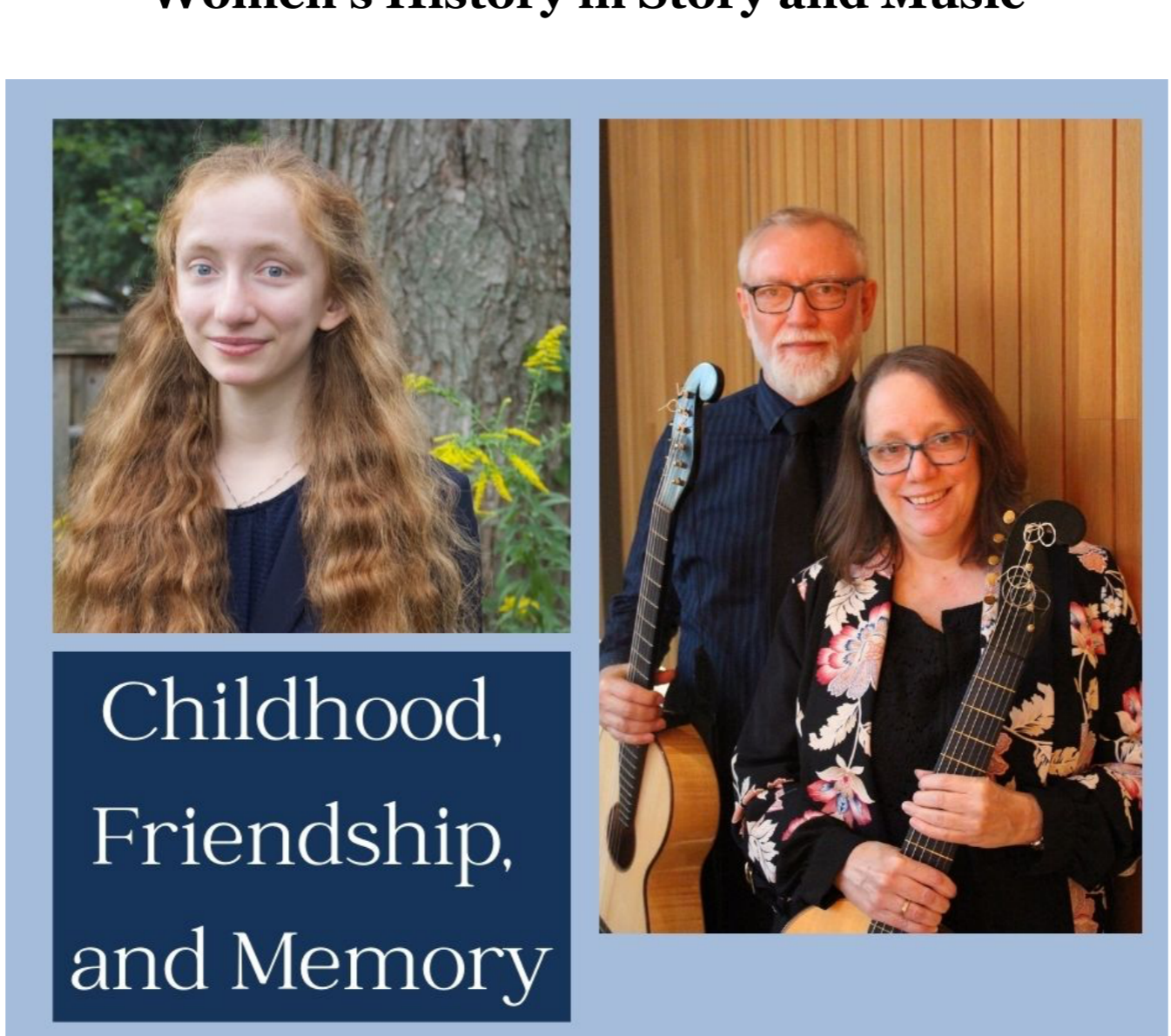
### Save the Date for January Collection Close-Up!



Save the date for our next **Collection Close-Up on Sunday, January 29 at 4pm Central Time!** These free, 30 minute virtual programs are part of our **Knowledge is Power: Women and Education** series. During our [first Close-Up](#) in November, Director of Museum Operations Fiona Maxwell shared the story behind Frances Willard's first major writing endeavor, a 165-page unfinished novel.

Our January gathering will feature a presentation by Archivist Janet Olson about a document that sparked a scandal in 1870s Evanston: the "self-reports" Frances Willard introduced as President of the Evanston College for Ladies in an effort to demonstrate that young women students were capable of personal responsibility and self-governance. Stay tuned for more information and a registration link!

### Women's History in Story and Music



We are pleased to share an upcoming concert at DePaul University by classical guitar duo Anne Waller and Mark Maxwell, and theatre artist, historian and Willard House Museum staff member Fiona Maxwell. This performance puts original and adapted storytelling pieces in conversation with works for solo and duo guitar to reflect on the themes of **Childhood, Friendship, and Memory**. The format reflects the "literary and musical entertainment," a performance genre nineteenth-century women used to amplify their creative and public voices.

The concert will be held on **Sunday, January 22 at 3pm** at Allen Recital Hall, Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted Street. Audiences of all ages are encouraged to attend. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

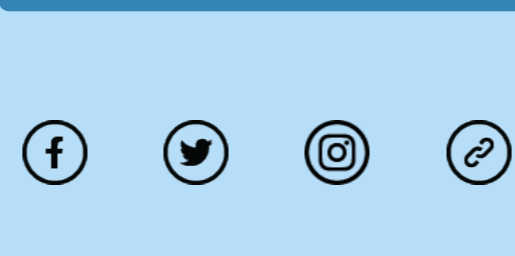
The same trio debuted their storytelling and music format on the Willard House porch in July 2021. We hope you will join them in bringing to life the history and legacy of women's artistry and activism!

### New Year's 1888: "Let Something Good Be Said"



In 1888, Frances Willard ushered in the New Year with her mother and a close circle of coworkers. She shared one of her resolutions: "to have this said, before dismissing any person's case or character, 'Let something good be said,' always something good." She later had this quote from poet James Whitcomb Riley painted on her office fireplace. You can experience how Willard celebrated and reflected on the New Year in our [holiday video](#).

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