

Washington, CT

Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, Washington Depot, CT

The Story of the Visual and Emotional Transformation of a Small New England Village

By Dan Sherr

Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens @ One Green Hill has reset the vision of Washington Depot. The Park and Gardens says, "This is a special place." With parking nearby, the invitation to stop, walk it and sit for a moment of meditation is compelling. How did this come to be in the center of a 250-year-old New England village?

With the closing of Vinnie's Texaco Station in the center of Washington Depot, the property became a village eye-sore. That is, until a small group, John Millington, Michael Ackerman, Barbara Bouyeau, Denise Trevenen, and Peter Talbot, had a vision for improving the appearance and feel of the Depot – a park. With a broadly shared passion and support from community donors, funds were raised



to purchase the abandoned gas station. The Park @ One Green Hill was born.

Mark Your Calendar!

**Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens
Dedication Ceremony and Reception
Sunday, September 25, 3:00pm
Everyone Is Invited**

Constituted as the Washington Park Foundation, a nonprofit organization took charge of transforming "The Gas Station" into a social and art center for the Town. A year was spent visualizing a park and listening to the community. Anticipation ran high. The first major

statement; a 45-foot highly polished, black granite wave bench – "Currents," crafted by Mark Mennin, demonstrated what world class imagination and skill could deliver to Washington.

Judy Black shared with her friend, Carolyn Setlow, both active in Washington interfaith programs, a personal desire to make a lasting legacy gift to Washington. Setlow, familiar with the ongoing fundraising campaign for the new park, introduced Black to Doug Day, President of the Washington Park Foundation.

Judy Black made a major Leadership Gift in October 2015. A passionate gardener, her design assured the property would provide a remarkable new venue for Town cultural and educational events and a place of stunning beauty.



Judy Black grew up in New York and Westport, CT. With her husband Richard Schlosberg, Judy settled in Litchfield County in 1983. A long time seasonal resident of Washington, Judy Black died November 2015.

Letter from the Selectman

The Town Highway Department has been busy with our summer construction projects, reclaiming and repaving Painter Ridge Road and Sunset Lane. These two projects involved new catch basins, regrading and improving road substructure to keep these roads in good condition for the next twenty years. There has been ongoing work on Tinker Hill Road off of Loomarwick Road to address long standing drainage issues for the residents there. The replacement of the water main on the Washington Green has been progressing at what seems to be a slow pace. It will continue into the fall/winter season along Wykeham Road to the intersection of Bell Hill Road. Watch the Town website for updates on road closures.

The preliminary plan for renovation of Bryan Plaza was presented to a well-attended public information meeting. TPA Design is currently working on a final design to bring back to the Bryan Plaza Committee for their review in the near future.

Eversource continues with tree pruning town-wide and will also be clearing the high voltage transmission right of way that passes through southern Washington along the border of Roxbury crossing into New Milford over Walker Brook Road. This work is to protect the electric distribution system and hopefully minimize future outages.

With the start of school and ongoing construction projects all over Washington, please be patient as you make your way around our community.

Spotlight on Business: J. Seitz & Company

By Dan Sherr

Design is a broadly and frequently used term. But genius and passion make it real. And you know it when you see it. J. Seitz & Company in New Preston, CT exemplifies design delivered with genius and passion. Established 32 years ago by Joanna and Bill Seitz in a remarkable space, once a service station and in the 1940's, a Chevy dealership, J. Seitz provides a shopping experience with surprises at every turn. And that's design delivered.



Design

in Manhattan. J. Seitz has been furnishing homes for decades in Litchfield County and afar. The winter issue of *New England Home* features a recent design project.

Joanna brought a strong background in retail, design and publishing to J. Seitz & Company when it opened in 1986. Moving onto publishing as Fashion/Style Editor of *Connecticut* magazine, she honed her skills in sensing changing lifestyles and storytelling. When her passion for retail resurfaced, New Preston was shifting into a community of full and part-time homes. Joanna opened J. Seitz & Company to immediate success. Nearly every local and national design and lifestyle publication have told the remarkable story of J. Seitz & Company.

Over decades with her leadership and demonstrated success, New Preston has evolved into a destination design center. It has built a strong following reaching beyond the local area into New York and the affluent communities of southern Connecticut. New Preston has boomed along with J. Seitz & Company—better said, because of J. Seitz & Company.

These surprises in home furnishings, clothing and jewelry are all guided by three design principles – natural materials, handcrafting and sustainable fashion. Design sensitivities and business skills developed by Joanna, and now daughter Amanda, as mother-daughter Fashion Merchandising Management graduates of the Fashion Institute of Technology



Clothing



**Mother/Daughter
Design Duo, Joanna and
Amanda Seitz**

Gunn Memorial Library Washington, CT Antiques & Design Show Fundraiser Celebrates 30 Years

With Honorary Chairs Anna & Graydon Carter

The 2016 Washington Connecticut Antiques & Design Show will take place Columbus Day weekend, October 7-9, opening with the traditional Preview Night cocktail party on Friday from 6:30 to 9pm.

The Antiques & Design Show is one of the primary annual fundraisers for Gunn Memorial Library, Inc., the Town's public library, which depends in great part upon private contributions in addition to taxpayer dollars.

The Antiques & Design Show will be held at Washington Primary School, 11 School Street in Washington Depot. Reservations for the Friday and Saturday evening parties are highly recommended and can be made by visiting gunnlibrary.org. Entrance to each party begins at \$125 per person. Daytime show hours are Saturday, October 8, 10am to 5pm and Sunday, October 9, 10am to 4pm. Daily admission to the show is free this year in honor of 30 successful years. For additional information, please contact the Gunn Memorial Library at 860-868-7586 or email gunndevelopment@biblio.org.

The Junior Library's 2016 Summer Reading program was a great success.

A total of 253 children participated in this program which encouraged them to keep track of their reading time in order to earn tickets toward winning a variety of prizes. They could choose from a selection of 86 items that were donated by local businesses and patrons. With such incentives, some of our readers read as much as 100 hours or more. Eager readers logged 400 hours just for a chance to win one of the most coveted prizes, a LEGO Star Wars kit. Other favorite prizes were The Hickory Stick Bookshop gift cards, a Walmart gift card and a telescope. In total, they logged a whopping 5,117 hours! Parents were pleased with how motivated their children were to read throughout the summer.

ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

ASAP! Presents Master Makeup Artist Tyler Green from the Syfy Channel Series Hit, *Face-Off*

Tyler Green, a Litchfield native, will perform a live demonstration on Saturday, October 1 at the Washington Montessori School in New Preston from 4-6:00pm. Tyler will share the tricks of the trade and will bring a character to life onstage! The demonstration includes fundamentals of character design, sculpting techniques, prosthetic application, painting, and costume design.

ASAP! Smartphone Photography Workshop with John Kane

ASAP! invites high school students to a one-day workshop on smartphone photography with master photographer John Kane on Saturday, September 24 from 2-5pm. Whether you're interested in entering a photo contest or just want to learn some tricks on getting the ultimate photo with a smartphone, this workshop will provide participants with the tools to do both.

For more information about these programs, please visit asapct.org or call 860-868-0740.

6th Annual Celebration of Young Photographers

A panel of renowned photographers and collectors will jury smartphone photographs submitted by students in grades 6-12, each expressing a unique interpretation on this year's theme, #CYPsmartphoto. Following the exhibit will be a presentation celebrating our selected top young photographers. October 7, 2016.

To get started, please visit: <http://asapct.org/project/celebration-of-young-photographers/>

Shepaug Regional School District 12: News from Washington Schools

By Karen A. Fildes

Region 12 Welcomes Students and Staff!

Teachers and staff returned to school on Thursday, August 25 with a number of new teachers recognized at the morning Superintendent's Convocation. New teachers at WPS include:

Sara Feola - Grade 2, Kylie Hefford - Grade 5, Jennifer Rotunda - Grade 5, Kristy Bloom - Kindergarten long-term substitute. Shepaug Valley School (SVS) welcomed: Elisabeth Blum - math teacher, Samantha Dobrowolski - math teacher and Linda McMillan - art teacher. Also recognized were: Jennifer Carignan - English teacher and Linda Kanuch - art teacher; both served as long-term substitutes last year and have joined the SVS staff permanently. Larry Chiucarello joins SVS as a long-term substitute in math.

The classrooms were prepared and ready as students arrived to start the school year on Monday, August 29th. Teachers are eager to meet their new class of students and are dedicated and focused for another great year in Region 12.



Middle School Filmmakers Receive Recognition

Congratulations to Breanne Pitt's Video Production Club at Shepaug Valley School! This group of middle school students worked after school in the spring to produce a film around the theme of "A World I Want to Live In." Their video has been chosen for consideration in the 2016 White House Film Festival. A trip to Washington, DC to attend the film festival is in the works. Good luck to our budding film producers as the judges make their final determination!



Washington Montessori School

Washington Montessori School opens for our 52nd year on September 6. We'll be welcoming 52 new students from around Litchfield County. Among other news, we're excited to be dedicating our new sports park later this fall. Students have already been using the tennis courts and the new soccer field will be playable shortly. We have a variety of events open to the public throughout the year, in particular our Parent-Child Program begins in late September; information and registration are available on our website. We're also offering an internet safety talk for parents at 8:45am on Wednesday, October 12. Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts is a terrific speaker and we invite parents of children (especially tweens and teens) to come to his presentation.

Gunn 200 & Upcoming Events

This year The Gunnery is celebrating the 200th birthday of the school's founder, Frederick Gunn, born October 4, 1816. Throughout the year we'll be holding a variety of activities to celebrate Frederick

Gunn. The kick-off of the celebration will be the weekend of September 30 when an exhibition will open in the Judy Black Memorial Gallery in downtown Washington. Please visit www.gunnery.org/Gunn200 for a list of upcoming events.



This fall The Gunnery will host the "Women on the Edge" speakers series with the following presenters:

Oct. 6 - Sally Kohn, columnist and a political commentator for CNN

Nov. 14 - Andrea Wulf, U.K. historian and writer

Dec. 12 - Deanne Bell, engineer, television host and the founder of FutureEngineers.org

The public is invited to attend. For details of each presentation, visit www.gunnery.org/Page/News/Calendar

Parents and students interested in learning more about The Gunnery and fall 2017 enrollment, please join our Admissions Team on Monday, October 10 for our Fall Open House! For details on our open house, please visit www.gunnery.org/OH. To register, please call (860) 868-7334, by October 9.

Rumsey Hall Welcomes New Headmaster Alumnus Matt Hoeniger '81

The Rumsey Hall School Board of Trustees enthusiastically and unanimously appointed Alumnus Matthew Hoeniger '81 the eighth headmaster effective July 1, 2016.

Matt first came to Rumsey as a 7th Grade boarding student in 1978 and has been an impactful member of the faculty and administration for the past 27 years as an effective ambassador and face of the school. Matt's leadership as Director of Admissions for the past 19 years, and as assistant head the last 10, has been instrumental in attracting the best families, perpetuating the school's culture of effort, family and community. Matt's a strong believer in meeting the needs of the individual child. He demonstrates daily care for the success of each student. His warmth, passion and outstanding accomplishments are the essential qualities and characteristics necessary to lead Rumsey through the next phase of its history.

Matt's wife Amy has served Rumsey for the past 25 years as a teacher, coach, dorm parent and was head of Lower School.

"Rumsey doesn't need to change." Matt said. "There's a wonderful balance of tradition and innovation and Amy and I are committed to sustaining and strengthening the enduring spirit and culture that make Rumsey so special."

The Good Bag Program

On May 28, 2016, the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) teamed up with the Washington Food Market as co-sponsors of "The Good Bag" program, a three-month pilot program designed to eliminate the use of disposable plastic and paper bags at checkout counters in Washington. In light of the program's success it has been extended for an additional month.

During the months of June, July and August, shoppers at the Washington Food Market received one entry for a monthly prize drawing each time their purchases were packed in a reusable tote. An average of 300 entries were submitted for each month's drawing. Three prize drawings were held, with each winner receiving a \$100 gift certificate to Washington Food Market.

WEC also introduced its own tote called "The Good Bag." The Good Bag is machine washable, holds up to 40 pounds, and comes with a built-in carrying pouch. The entire bag folds into the 4" x 3"



pouch, making it easy to tuck into a purse or glove compartment. This tote is available at the Washington Food Market, The Hickory Stick Bookshop, The Pantry and The Smithy for a \$5 donation to the WEC. Nearly 500 Good Bag totes have been sold during the three months the program has been in effect. Customers are encouraged to use any reusable tote they have available in order to qualify for the monthly drawing.

WEC would first like to thank its partner, the Washington Food Market, for the excellent effort they have put forth in promoting this program. Additionally, WEC's thanks go to other local supporters of the program, namely, The Hickory Stick Bookshop, Marty's Cafe, The Pantry, The Smithy, Steep Rock Association, Washington Farmers' Market, Washington Liquor Store and the Washington Supply Company.

For more information about The Good Bag program, visit WEC's website at: www.wec-ct.org/programs/goodbag.

What's Going on in Washington, CT

This is just a small sampling from washingtoncteventscalender.com. Please check the site for more information and for other events.

September

17, 24 | 8:30am – 2:00pm

Washington Health Center & Pharmacy Community Health Fair

Please come learn more about our extremely valuable Functional Health Reports and why everyone should get one!

This event will include:

- Free Blood Pressure Check
- Free Blood Typing
- Free Oxidata Testing (Quick test to detect cellular damage)
- Free Carido IQ Vitamin D, 25-Hydroxy Testing
- Free Homocysteine Testing
- Free Hemoglobin A1c Testing
- Free Nutritional Samples from Designs for Health

Come meet our new Director of Health and Wellness, Caitlin Blake.

Receive a 10% discount on any lab panel ordered through September.

This event will be held every Saturday for the month of September.

October

4 | 8:00am – 9:00am

Meditation for Inner Peace at Gunn Memorial Library

The Reverend Cheryl P. Anderson will lead another six-week meditation practice group. These gatherings will take place Tuesdays, 11:00am, October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1 and 8, 2016 in the Wykeham Room.

Participants will be introduced to several different forms of meditation – simple techniques to quiet the mind and calm the heart. Each week, all will discuss our individual practice and spend time together in silent meditation.

Email: gunnprograms@biblio.org

Phone: 860-868-7586

More Info: www.gunnlibrary.org

23 | 5:00pm

Music @ St. John's presents The 2016 Concert Series- the Escher Quartet

The Escher String Quartet is internationally acclaimed for its profound musical insight

and rare tonal beauty. Within months of its formation in 2005, it was invited by both Pinchas Zuckerman and Itzhak Perlman to be Quartet in Residence at each artist's summer festival.

Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased online or by calling the Parish Office.

Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

Phone: 860-868-2527

November

3 | 3:45 – 4:45pm

Fairy Houses & Magic Gardens with Kezia Hearn

Create a magical terrarium with its own ecosystem. Make miniature furniture from found objects and forage materials. Learn how to care for this miniature world and then take it home to keep it alive and thriving for that special fairy looking for just the right place to live.

This program is 5 sessions. October 6, 13 & 27, November 3 & 10. Please visit asapct.org under more info to register.

Subscribe to our Washington Events online newsletter. Go to washingtoncteventscalendar.com to sign up.



Washington Trivia In 1973, Gene Verrastro and Vinnie Anelli from Waterbury purchased the Washington Food Market. A few weeks after the purchase, what did they find in front of their store when they came to work?

See if your answer is correct in the winter issue, out in December!

Last issue's answer: 1979. Trivia by Sheila Anson.

Gilmore Girls Fan Festival

What a wonderful community Washington is! Thank you for all of your interest and support of the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival. As a resident and/or business owner of Washington, you need to be informed. Hopefully your questions and concerns have been addressed. With your continued support, the Festival can be a success.

- **What is Gilmore Girls?**

Gilmore Girls is a television drama created by Amy Sherman-Palladino centered on the relationship between a thirty-something single mother and her teen daughter living in Stars Hollow, Connecticut. The 154-episode series ran from 2000-2007. While writing the pilot episode of Gilmore Girls, Ms. Sherman-Palladino stayed at the Mayflower Inn where she drew inspiration from Washington's beautiful surroundings.

- **When is the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival?**

The Festival starts October 21st at 2:00 p.m. and ends October 23rd at noon.

- **How many tickets were sold?**

There were 1,200 tickets sold.

- **Where will the Festival and parking be located?**

The Festival will be located at different venues throughout Washington Depot, Washington and New Preston. Parking will be located on the fields behind the primary school with shuttle buses at various locations. Not all 1,200 people will be in one place at any given time.

- **What is the demographic of the Gilmore Girls television series?**

The fans of Gilmore Girls are typically educated, well read women between 20-50 years of age who enjoy activities such as coffee, movies, shopping, traveling, studying, culture and knitting.

- **Will the town be closed?**

The town will not be closed to residents, but in an attempt to avoid overcrowding from non-ticket holders, we are making it very clear to non-residents that they won't be able to see what they want to see if they are coming in to enjoy the festival without a ticket. If you hear the town will "essentially

be shut down" that's why. Residents can absolutely still visit Washington Food Market, banks, the post office and alike, but during the festival traffic will increase so residents are asked to plan accordingly. And non-ticket holders will not get to experience anything the festival itself has to offer nor will there be any opportunities to see cast members.

- **Will the Festival cost Washington taxpayers?**

No, the Festival will not cost Washington taxpayers. All expenses associated with the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival will be paid by the festival organizers through ticket sales.

- **Why wasn't the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival discussed during a town public forum?**

Due to the nature of this type of event, we held public meetings with the Economic Development Committee, but we knew if media heard about the event it would leak before the website or tickets structure was put together.

- **Who is the promoter of the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival?**

Jennie and Marcus Whitaker of Wild Berry & Whimsy Productions have over 20 years of experience planning large events across the country for local and national organizations. Additionally they own a public relations and advertising agency and have worked with the Gilmore Girls media and fans in great capacity. One of their consultants, who will be at the event, is the co-owner of the ATX Television Festival who held a Gilmore Girls cast panel in June 2015 before the Netflix revival was announced.

- **Who benefits from the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival?**

The Gilmore Girls Fan Festival is a self-funded event that benefits the local economy. When possible, the festival will use all local resources and the organizers are extremely

sensitive to the hyper local effect. The festival will showcase the magic of Washington and bring revenue to our local economy through retail, restaurants and lodging. All while keeping it local!

- **Will tickets be available at the door for purchase?**

No. Tickets are completely sold out.

- **I'm a resident of Washington, how do I get a ticket?**

50 single, general admission tickets have been set aside for Washington residents to purchase. A drawing will be held at a location yet to be determined and residents that still want to buy a ticket can enter the drawing for one of 50 available tickets.

- **I'm a Washington resident, can I volunteer?**

Absolutely! Please send an email to questions@gilmoregirlsfanfest.com for more information.

- **Is there a signed contract with the promoter?**

Yes, there is a signed contract with the promoter and the Washington attorney has reviewed the contract before the signing of the agreement.

- **Is the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival insured and will permits be obtained?**

Yes, the festival is insured and all permits will be obtained.

- **Is there security for the Festival?**

The promoter is providing security for the Festival, and is in contact with the Resident State Trooper to develop an operations plan. All incurred security fees will be paid by the promoter.

- **Who is on the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival committee?**

Several local business owners have been involved in the process including the Selectman's office, the Washington Business Association and the Economic Development Committee.

For additional questions, please send emails to questions@gilmoregirlsfanfest.com

About the Show and its Link to Washington



Set in a storybook Connecticut town populated by an eclectic mix of dreamers, artists and everyday folk, this multigenerational drama about family and friendship centers around Lorelai Gilmore and her daughter, Rory. Lorelai owns the town's bed-and-breakfast, the Dragonfly Inn, with best friend/chef Sookie, and contends with weekly dinners with eccentric, well-off parents Richard and Emily Gilmore (who always have something to say about their daughter's life). After high school, Rory attends Yale University but frequently returns to Stars Hollow to visit her mom.

Amy Sherman-Palladino, the show's creator, drew inspiration for the show's setting of "Stars Hollow, Connecticut" after making a trip to Washington, Connecticut, where she stayed at the Mayflower Inn, which she found beautiful. She was amazed at how the people of the town knew each other very well and by the next morning of her stay she had written the pilot's dialogue. She explained: "If I can make people feel this much of what I felt walking around this fairy town, I thought that would be wonderful. [...] At the time I was there, it was beautiful, it was magical, and it was feeling of warmth and small-town camaraderie. ... There was a longing for that in my own life, and I thought—that's something that I would really love to put out there." [5] The show's pace is inspired by Katharine Hepburn–Spencer Tracy films.
