

Washington, CT

Gilmore Girls Fan Festival – Stunning Success, Thanks!



By community consensus, the Gilmore Girls Fan Festival in Washington was a stunning success, exceeding even the most optimistic predictions. At the center point of this success was collaboration by the town and many others who demonstrated what a small New England town of 3,500 people can do through team work.

Special thanks to Gilmore Girl fans who were polite, respectful and deeply appreciative of the commitment made by the promoters and the Town. This event included 1,250 ticket holders, who represented many of the 50 states and countries as far away as Australia and Israel. Fans stood in line holding umbrellas and chattering about their recollections of the Gilmore Girls TV series on a cold, wet weekend in October.



Thanks to the original staff and stars of the series who graciously enjoyed mixing with the fans in a personal way, not possible without a festival atmosphere.

Thanks to the promoters, Jennie and Marcus Whitaker of Wild Berry & Whimsy Productions, who orchestrated an international event in 60 days. The Fan Festival was self-funded, covering all costs, including the local bus company and our local state police officers.

Thanks to the town government, Washington businesses, civic organizations and town volunteers for creating a positive environment and demonstrating that the collaboration of business and community can advance the social and economic well-being of Washington.

And thanks to the town coordinators who assured the event anticipated everyone's particular needs and interests.

Gilmore Girls Fan Festival Planning Committee

Letter from the Selectman

As the New England season changes from fall to winter the Washington Highway Department is busy wrapping up the 2016 construction season. Two more road projects have been completed; Slaughterhouse Road and Bell Hill Road were completely rebuilt and the Tinker Hill drainage work is wrapping up. The road crew will be working on pothole repairs and patching over the next weeks ahead of the closing of asphalt plants as well as preparing our equipment for the coming winter snow season.

The water main replacement has been completed on Kirby Road which will be repaved and get new sidewalks in 2017. While work is progressing on the Wykeham Road water main the project is weeks from completion and road closures will continue to be posted on the Town website.

With the approaching holiday season remember these Washington events, Holiday in the Depot and the New Preston Stroll, and other holiday season events sponsored by organizations throughout our community. Please support our local businesses and charitable organizations, the dollar you spend here stays here.

Happy Holidays to all!

Regional Survey Competition

Please take the Northwest Hills Council of Government's (NHCOC) Regional Plan of Conservation and Development resident input survey by visiting northwesthillscog.org. The anonymous survey responses will be used to determine what issues are most important to residents including housing, jobs, land conservation, local food, and vibrant main streets. It should only take about 10 minutes to complete. NHCOC will use the survey responses to determine priority strategies that should be carried out to achieve the region's goals together with our towns, nonprofits, and residents. Over the next 10 years, NHCOC will assist our towns with carrying out these strategies and support our partner agencies in their work to meet these goals. For more info or to take the survey, visit www.northwesthillscog.org. The town with the most survey responses wins an ice cream social! Help our town win!

Spotlight on Education: Washington Montessori School

By Dan Sherr

The energy is palpable. 240 toddlers to 8th graders literally descend on the 48-acre Washington Montessori Campus. Every school day morning opens with the high energy produced by the momentary mixing of students, teachers and parents. It might be thought of as a “noisy calm” that pervades the lobby of the Washington Montessori School (WMS) and sets expectations for the day. And just to make sure everyone is primed, the Montessori Café, a mobile coffee cart, offers munchies just inside the front door.

Reintroduced to America in the late fifties, WMS came to New Preston in 1965 with seven students enrolled in a basement school in the St. John's Church. Founded by Elvira Charles and her husband Otis, Pastor of the Church, with the assistance of Helen Parkhurst, WMS has evolved over the last 52 years guided by a deep commitment to the personalization of each child's education.



Using a framework of hands-on learning, the specially trained Montessori teachers foster in each student personal responsibility, persistence in solving problems and the consequence of personal choices. Stepping off from a respect for each child's natural development, the Montessori approach integrates several essential elements – mixed age classrooms, student choice of activity, uninterrupted blocks of work time and learning from working with materials rather than always from direct instruction.

Moving to a new 48-acre campus in 2003, with a current enrollment of 240, WMS has emerged as a beacon of “learn how to learn” education in northwest Connecticut. In a world increasingly complex and virtually impossible to predict, WMS prepares its students to “expect, be ready for and lead change.”

Expectations run high. A noted by-product of the Montessori educational approach is the release of the student's capacity for innovation—Google founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia among the more noteworthy. In today's continuing discussion of “overparenting” (“How to Raise an Adult,” Julie Lythcott-Haims), the Montessori philosophy, as practiced for half a century at WMS, offers an at-hand partner in assuring children are properly prepped for the unpredictable world of the future.



Gunn Memorial Library Festival of Trees Cocktail Party

Friday, December 2, 2016
from 5-7pm

Join us this holiday season for a joyous community event. Gunn Memorial's annual Festival of Trees Cocktail Party will take place in the historic Wykeham Room on Friday, December 2, from 5 to 7pm. The event features creatively-decorated holiday trees, wreaths, stockings, ornaments and treasure pouches to benefit the Gunn Memorial Library. Peruse the festive hall while sampling wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by local restaurants.

The suggested donation for the evening cocktail party on Friday is \$20 per person. Tickets are available in advance at the circulation desk, or guests may pay at the door the night of the event. The tree display will be open for viewing at no charge on Saturday, December 3, from 10am-2pm. Items not sold at the cocktail party on Friday evening will be available for purchase on Saturday. The Gunn Memorial Library is located at 5 Wykeham Road at the juncture of Route 47 opposite the Green in Washington, CT. For more information and for library hours, visit our website: gunnlibrary.org or call 860-868-7586.

ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

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

Ceramics with Will Talbot

Shepaug Valley School Art Room,
Washington

Grades 6-8 | Mondays, 3:00-4:30pm*

Grades 9-12 +Adults | Mondays, 6:00-7:30pm

Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5

4 sessions: \$48 for Region 12 residents;
\$60 for nonresidents

Learn the basics of hand-building and wheel throwing while discovering your style as a potter. Participants will make coil pots, pinch pots and slab pottery along with working on a pottery wheel. Getting familiar with centering the clay on the wheel

ASAP! is honored to be accepting the 2016 Cultural Organization Max Award from the Northwest CT Arts Council on November 15th at The Warner Theatre in Torrington.

will enable you to create a bowl or mug. Adults are welcome to participate!

Interdistrict Theatre with Nick Jonczak of Almanac Dance Circus Theatre

Shepaug Valley School Stage, Washington
Grades K-5 | 4:15-5:45pm

2017 | Jan. 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, **27. Eleven sessions: \$132

Rehearsal at Shepaug 4:15-5:45pm and evening show at Shepaug 7pm.

Through play and fun theatre games we learn about acting, role-playing and developing a character. We'll explore how actors think, move and use their voices to become fearless, shy, funny and more! You'll have a chance to write, collaborate and create ideas for a play to share with friends and family.

*Adults are welcome to participate!

**In-school show: 9-11:30am at Washington Primary School.

Shepaug Regional School District 12: News from Washington Schools

By Karen A. Fildes

Washington Primary School values the many partnerships it has with community organizations. Each year, the Gunn Memorial Library invites students to participate in their Antique and Design show, encouraging students to create a piece of art that reflects the theme of the show. This year, the students created a mural using design elements and colors similar to the work of graphic artist, Peter Max.



The mural was prominently displayed for guests to appreciate. In addition, K-5 students created two chandeliers out of recycled water bottles, inspired by the work of blown glass artist, Dale Chihuly. These original chandeliers shed beautiful

light on the mural. As young artists, students learned that their art can engage and inspire people of all ages.

Shepaug Valley School students in American Studies recently read the literary works of the Transcendentalists, and they visited the newly constructed Henry David Thoreau Footbridge in Washington's Hidden Valley Preserve. Students stood on the footbridge or sat on the engraved bench to take "Selfies for Simplicity" which illustrated the theme of simplifying life by getting outdoors and experiencing nature. Shepaug students use immersive experiences such as this to connect more deeply with subjects of study. We encourage visitors to the Washington area to take some time to visit the footbridge and experience for themselves a few moments of simplicity in our beautiful nature preserve.



Pilobolus

Everyone in town is invited to Pilobolus's Annual Holiday Open Rehearsal at Washington Club Hall, Saturday, December 10, 10:30am-12:30pm.



Space is limited - please register with jack@pilobolus.org. All ages are welcome to join for an open warm-up with our dancers! And remember, you don't have to be a "dance person" to come have fun!

Upcoming Events at The Gunnery

Thank you to everyone who came to visit the Gunn 200 exhibit at The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens to celebrate school founder Frederick Gunn's 200th birthday! We are humbled by the outpouring of support from the Washington community. The Gunn descendant who traveled the farthest was John "Kim" Bellinger '68, who made the trip all the way from New Orleans, Louisiana to visit the school and view the exhibit. We will continue to celebrate Frederick Gunn throughout the year, so please visit www.Gunnery.org/Gunn200 for an updated list of activities.

The Gunnery Drama Society will present Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," in the Lemcke Theater in the Emerson Performing Arts Center on campus November 10, 11 and 12 at 7:00 pm. The public is invited to attend and admission is free. Fun fact: the students will be using an 1854 map of Washington from The Gunnery archives to represent "our town."

The Gunnery is hosting the "Women on the Edge" speakers series this fall with the following presenters:

- Nov. 14 - Andrea Wulf, U.K. historian and writer. There will be a book signing following the lecture on campus.
- 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/Calendar.

Our Annual Town Holiday Party is on Saturday, November 19 from 5:30 to 7:30pm. This year we will gather to celebrate the joy of the season and recognize the achievements and contributions of the Washington Lions Club, recipient of The Friend of the Green Award. Please RSVP by November 16h to Sarah Hauser at hausers@gunnery.org or call 860-350-0101.

WMS 5th Polar Plunge for Partnership

Washington Montessori School is well on its way to a great 52nd year. With the opening of school transitions and ceremonies behind us, we are looking forward to our 5th Polar Plunge for Partnership.

The WMS Polar Plunge is an annual dip into Lake Waramaug to raise money for our Community Partnership Program (WMSCPP). Every year over one hundred brave souls, ranging in age from six to sixty plus, take a refreshing jump in the lake. It has quickly become an event that both the WMS community and other local residents look forward to. With a lively MC, great music, fresh cookies and hot chocolate, both plungers and non-plungers enjoy a morning of good cheer for an important cause.

WMS has a history of reaching out and connecting to the community through volunteer initiatives. WMS students are involved in these efforts and the philosophy of giving to others is embedded in our curriculum. Our school's partnership with the Children's Community School dates back to 1995 and continues to enrich our school community.

We invite everyone to join our plunge. Register here: www.washingtonmontessori.org/takethepolarplunge/ To learn more about WMSCPP: www.washingtonmontessori.org/giving-to-wms/community-partnership-program/



Holiday in the Depot's 25th Year!

The first Holiday in the Depot began 25 years ago as the idea of then Parks & Recreation Director, Donna Winn. It was a small affair with people gathering at the tree next to "Parks Drugs" to sing Christmas carols and light the tree for the season. The first person to have the honor of lighting the tree was Uwe Jahnke, a Washington resident who was held prisoner in Iraq during the first Gulf War. After the tree was lit, Santa heard children's wishes in Bryan

Memorial Town Hall. It has grown from that small event into a town wide celebration of the season for all ages!

Join Washington Parks & Recreation in celebrating our 25th Annual Holiday in the Depot, Friday, December 9. Santa arrives at 6pm. Look for future information on special events and participants. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

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.

November

25 | 10:00am – 5:00pm

Celebrate ART & DESIGN

Location: Washington Art Association
From the day after Thanksgiving, November 26 to Christmas Eve day December 24 the annual juried Holiday Gift Fair fills the galleries at Washington Art Association with a unique selection of irresistible gifts for that special person on your holiday gift list. Last year's fair was a great hit and gave over 65 artists and artisans an opportunity to exhibit their work. This event also offers our community the opportunity to find one-of-a-kind and hand-crafted gifts at every price point.

Please contact WAA to find out more about participating as an artist and/or helping!
Please check our website for hours.
Contact: Barbara von Schreiber
Email: washingtonart@snet.net
Phone: 860-868-2878

26 | 10:00am – 4:00pm

Winter Indian Arts & Crafts Market

Location: The Institute for American Indian Studies
Shop for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts

from our local Native American crafters, jewelers and artists at the Winter Indian Arts & Crafts Market! Meet and buy directly from the artists while learning about contemporary Native American art and cultures. Stop by to purchase gourds, pottery, baskets, jewelry, rattles, artwork, flutes and more!

Contact: Christine Peschel
Email: general@iaismuseum.org
Phone: 860-868-0518
More Info: www.iaismuseum.org

December

3 | 10:00am – 2:00pm

Gingerbread House Workshop at Gunn Memorial Library

Drop in and decorate your very own pre-made gingerbread house with candy and frosting. Bring a bag of loose, unwrapped holiday candy to share. Nut-free candy only please! There is no fee for this event, and we hope to see you there!

Contact: Linda or Gail
Email: gunnjr@biblio.org
Phone: 860-868-2310

10 | 10:00am – 3:00pm

H.O.R.S.E. of Connecticut Christmas Open House

Come celebrate Christmas with the horses! Pony rides for small children from 12 - 2pm. Boutique sale, tack sale, hourly tour and silent auction. Don't forget to bring the carrots! Snow date is Sunday, December 11.
Email: horsectinfo@gmail.com
Phone: 860-868-1960
More Info: www.horseofct.org/

January

5 | 6:30 – 7:30pm

Wykeham Consort at Gunn Memorial Library

With the lingering spirit of the holiday season, this ensemble will delight with a performance featuring English and Spanish Renaissance music. Members of the renowned consort are founder Matilda Giampietro (soprano voice, recorders and percussion), Sarah Jane Chelminski (recorders), Erica Wornock (tenor and bass viols), Andy LaFreniere (guitar), and James Allen (percussion).

Contact: Margaret Ferguson
Email: gunnprograms@biblio.org
Phone: 860-868-7586
More Info: www.gunnlibrary.org

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



Washington Trivia

During what years did the train come through the Depot?

See if your answer is correct in the next issue, out in January!

Last issue's answer: A Ferris Wheel. Trivia by Sheila Anson.