

# *What's happening in* Washington, CT

Spring 2020

## Shepaug Agriscience Academy — A New Educational-Learning Model

by Dan Sherr

The Shepaug Agriscience Academy, long discussed in the Region 12 towns, opened in September and is enjoying a very strong first year. Over-subscribed in its first year, the Academy is already evidencing strong student applications for Year 2. The anticipated Year 4 full enrollment of 139 students appears very likely.

The 41 freshman and five sophmores enrolled have conveyed their enthusiasm for the Academy with their frequent stories about their developing relationships with the animals - sheep, alpaca, recently birthed lambs and an invasives consuming turtle. Horses and chickens are on their way.



Riding ring (see more images on page 2)

The Agriscience curriculum introduces a new educational learning model to Region 12. Think of it as Education through Application where “hands-on” is a core component of Shepaug Agriscience learning. The learning experience starts with introduction in Year 1 to each of four Agriscience pathways. The student chooses a pathway as their major in Year 2.

In a future world, challenged by a growing population - + 2 billion people by 2050, feeding that growth while the climate is changing - the integration of the four pathways helps define major career opportunities for the Agriscience students. Megan Bennett, Region 12 Superintendent comments, “The curriculum ties the pathways together to provide a synergistic educational experience.”

The Shepaug Valley School's four Agriscience Pathways: Plant Science, Food Production and Processing, Animal Science, and Power, Structural and Technical Systems offers specific courses of study. The courses are aligned with the CT Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Framework.

### **Plant Science**

- The Life of Plants
- Horticulture and Landscape Design
- Plant Production and Natural Resource Conservation

### **Food Production and Processing**

- The Art and Science of Foods
- Sustainable Foods: Processes and Production
- Innovations in Food Science

### **Animal Science**

- Companion Animals
- Equine Studies
- Animal Husbandry

### **Power, Structural and Technical Systems**

- Structural Design
- Mechanical Systems
- Innovations in Power, Structural and Technical Systems

At Shepaug, each student participates in an Agriscience exploratory course in each pathway. The Year 1 exploratory courses devote nine weeks of instruction to each pathway. Through the course, students learn the foundational concepts and skills associated with each pathway, experience project-based learning opportunities, and explore associated careers, so they may select their preferred pathway for their 9–12 high school studies. Each year, students participate in FFA and the SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience).

Seventeen of the 46 students are from Region 12 towns clearly demonstrating the potential of the Academy to bring young families to Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington. With its hands-on educational approach, blended with a heavy concentration in STEM, the Academy promises a next-generation state-of-the-art education to Region 12.

## Message from the Selectmen's Office

The beginning of a new decade can be an exciting time. We often resolve to make positive changes in our lives and move forward with enthusiasm. The Town of Washington is no different. As we begin the “20s” there is much to be excited about.

We're moving forward with plans for a state-of-the-art Senior/Community Center. We currently have a large group of dedicated volunteers ready to go. To say these volunteers are a diverse group would be an understatement. We have white collar and blue collar working together. We have people skilled in building, planning, land use, programs for seniors, fundraising, youth programs, and more. The list goes on and on. We held a public informational meeting in January to gather feedback and answer questions from residents. We have used that information to form the next steps. We're currently awaiting drawings to bring to the next informational meeting and will further fine tune the plans to move forward. Watch for information on the next meeting.

Although we've had a mild winter, the weatherman has struggled in the accuracy department. Our highway crews have done a great job of prepping and clearing roads during winter weather events and when the snow isn't flying they continue to repair and maintain the town's road system.

The Board of Selectmen continue to stay focused on the day-to-day priorities that affect all of our lives. We're moving forward with an overhaul of our transfer station, continuing to maintain and repair our roads and bridges and working hard to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Connecticut. We come to work every day with an eye on what's most important to the people of Washington. Most importantly, we never lose sight of what makes our town so special; our sense of volunteerism and community. On a more personal note, I would like to thank all of the town's employees for making my transition to this job such a joy. All have been incredibly helpful and supportive. Please feel free to stop in the Town Hall to say hello!

—Jim Brinton

# Spotlight on Business: Stonewalls by George!

By Dan Sherr



Stone has been the medium of choice for creative artists since the beginning of time. And stone defines the rural culture of New England. Jorge (George) Criollo has married the art of stone with the architectural values of Northwest Connecticut to establish a remarkable and well known business – Stonewalls by George! “Stone is alive.” With that thought at the core of his services, Jorge has evolved his business to include Clearing, Excavating, Landscape Design and Residential Construction.



Born in Colombia, Jorge discovered stone as a young child on his grandmother's farm. His adventuresome spirit took him to the Caribbean initially as a merchant marine and then to restaurants on cruise ships. Learning English and demonstrating leadership he quickly advanced, developing a following among the guests, many returning year after year to be attended to by Jorge.

In the late 80s, he was enticed by a couple from Newtown – Wendy and Richard Margules – to move to the Danbury area. With his background in food, he found employment at an upmarket Danbury restaurant – LaFortuna – as maitre d'. With encouragement from local businessmen, in 1992, Jorge ventured into the design and construction of stone walls. In 1994, he incorporated Stonewalls by George. Having met Hilary Hopkins in 1989, they married and moved to New Preston in 1994 to be near her parents and the vineyard.

Design comes naturally to Jorge. He views every project as requiring the selection of stones with the color and grain that “tells a story” and enhances the intentions of the owner of the property. Finding the right stone often requires trips to Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. And when completed, the stone appears as if it has been there forever, delivering a true work of art and yet another demonstration of the creative gift of Stonewalls by George.

[stonewallsbygeorge.com](http://stonewallsbygeorge.com)  
860-868-0903

## Shepaug Regional School District 12

Regional School District 12 cordially invites all members of the community to our **ribbon-cutting ceremony** for The Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley School on **April 17 at 1:00pm**. Formal invitations will be mailed to all community members. We hope you'll join our celebration of the completed building project and the new agriscience program at Shepaug. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours, demonstrations and workshops will be provided.



Horse stall

**Washington Primary School** is excited to be recognized as a **School of Distinction** by the Connecticut State Department of Education. Our elementary school was chosen because of its top performance in English Language Arts as well as continuing to showcase student growth. We are proud of this honor.



Some of our flock.

**Shepaug Valley School** has been making stronger community connections this year. We're proud of the students' participation at the Washington Gives event. Community member and parent Julie King helped bring our senior projects into the spotlight at The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens. The students shared their projects, process and passion with the audience at the event. Many of our students worked their volunteer muscles throughout the day. Shepaug students will return to The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens with our World Affairs Forum this spring.

Our students are showcased in academic competitions across New England. Some of our students traveled to Harvard University for the Model United Nations Competition representing South Africa. Our mathletes are traveling throughout the state solving complex math problems. Our debate team has been contemplating challenging global issues as they deliver convincing arguments against opposing teams.

The arts continue to play a prominent role in the lives of our students. You'll find their artwork on display in the hallways of our schools as well as at The Hartford Art School and Representative Johanna Hayes' office. A drama production of *Little Shop of Horrors* will be held on March 13, 14, and 15. We hope you'll be able to attend one or all of the performances.

Our schools continue to exceed in academic excellence, athleticism, innovation and community spirit. We're partnering with our community members, businesses and civic groups to build stronger bonds and create opportunities for our young citizens.

We want to thank the Town of Washington and its residents for their continued support of our schools. It's our hope that the community will see the multitude of opportunities our educational system provides to our children. Thank you for your partnership.



# Hollister House Garden Spring Events



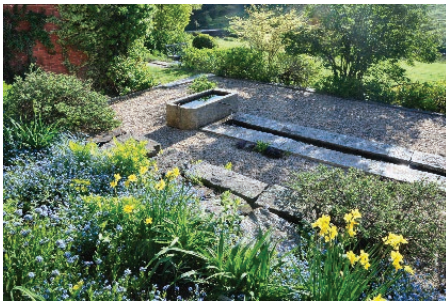
Join us as we welcome spring at Hollister House Garden with a season of educational programs open to the community.

Registration information and a full list of events can be found at: [www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/](http://www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/)

**April 18**

## **Barn Talk: Thinking Outside the Box - Using Excellent Plants in Creative Ways**

Adam Wheeler, Horticulture Manager at Broken Arrow Nursery, will talk about the unique varieties and cultivars of trees, shrubs and conifers available and how to use these plants with a creative and different approach. A "pop-up" plant sale will follow his talk.



**April 26**

## **Opening Day**

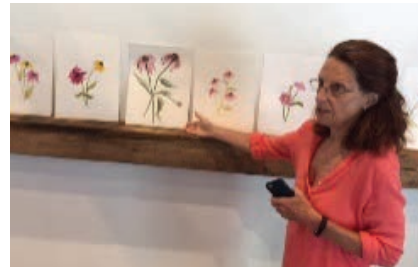
The garden opens for the season today. Public visiting hours for the 2020 season are Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00pm, Fridays from 1:00-4:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00am-4:00pm.

**April 27**

## **Barn Talk: Hydrangeas - A New Look at an Old Favorite**

Today, hydrangea breeding has exploded with hundreds of new hybrids, all with specific pruning and site requirements. Join Barb Pierson, Nursery Manager at White Flower

Farm, to understand these requirements and learn how to select hydrangea for your garden.



**April 27**

## **Watercolor Workshop: Color in Nature**

Careful observation of all the subtle hues and values in nature helps to create beautiful paintings. Using watercolor in a series of exercises, Betsy Rogers-Knox will show you how to mix and match the subtle colors found in the garden.

**May 2**

## **Barn Talk: Boxwood - Best Management Practices**

Andrea Filippone and Eric "T" Fleisher, partners in F2 Environmental Design, will offer advice on choosing the right cultivar, best management practices for growing healthy boxwood and information on preventing and removing disease.

**May 9**

## **Barn Talk: The Story of a Garden**

Over the past 16 years, Juliet Hubbard has created an enchanting cottage garden around the colonial house that has been in the Hubbard family for over 100 years. Follow Juliet as she shares her story of designing, creating and gardening at beautiful Coltsfoot Garden.

**May 16**

## **Workshop: Smartphone Photography Basics for the Garden**

Learn about the basics of your device's camera

functions and how to compose better images of your garden and landscapes. Taught by professional photographer, Thad Kubis, this class will provide a hands-on, application-based introduction to composition, editing, posting, sharing, archiving, and more.

**May 22**

## **Watercolor Workshop: Making Composition Work for You**

Understanding and applying just a few key principles of composition will bring strength and balance to your artwork in any medium. In this workshop, Betsy Rogers-Knox will show you a range of techniques through a variety of short exercises in pencil.

**May 23**

## **Barn Talk: Nonstop Plants - A Garden for 365 Days**

Margaret Roach loves looking out her windows 365 days a year, and she has worked hard to make her garden a visual treat every day. In this talk, you'll meet the plants and the philosophy that make it happen.

**May 29**

## **Workshop: Flower Arranging**

Join interior designer Jennifer Morvan Henderson as she teaches you how to create a beautiful arrangement using springtime flowers from the market. You'll go home with a fabulous centerpiece in an elegant glass compote perfect for weekend entertaining.

**May 30**

## **Garden Conservancy Open Days**

Hollister House Garden will be open from 10:00am-4:00pm today as part of the Garden Conservancy Open Days program.

# Washington Environmental Council (WEC)



The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is always working toward informing and inspiring our community. Here are our spring 2020 events. You're invited and we hope you can join us!

• **March 10 at 6:30pm: *Uninhabitable Earth***, Townwide Book Discussion at the Gunn Memorial Library. The discussion, led by three WEC directors, is sure to be passionate. The event is free and no preregistration is necessary.

• **April 14 at 6:30pm: *The Dangers of Pesticide***, Talk with Priscilla Feral at the Gunn Memorial Library. Learn about non-toxic landscaping solutions, and how you can support pollinators and bird populations. The event is free and no preregistration is required.

• **April 22 - 27: Earth Day Roadside Cleanup**: Email us at [wec-ct@charter.net](mailto:wec-ct@charter.net) and pledge to clean up a road. Let's make Washington extra green and extra clean this spring!

• **May 2 at 7:00-11:00pm: WEC's Annual Moondance** at The Washington Town Hall. Visit [wec-ct.org](http://wec-ct.org) for more info.

## Upcoming Events at The Gunnery

**April 9**

### **The Gunnery's 2020 Speaker Series**

Travis Tucker, Ph.D., program director at Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center in Litchfield, will speak about compassion. Tisch Family Auditorium of the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center, 7:00pm. Admission is free. To register, please call 860-350-0177.

**April 26**

### **9th Annual Margaret P. Addicks Memorial Blood Drive**

Hosted by The Gunnery and the American Red Cross. Ogden D. Miller Memorial Athletic Center, 9:00am to 2:00pm. To register, call 1-800-RED-CROSS. For questions about eligibility, please call 866-236-3276.

**April 26**

### **3rd Annual Rooted Research Conference**

Students from The Gunn Scholar Program, surrounding schools and institutions will share their place-based and primary-source research. This free program will be held in the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center on campus. To register, please call 860-350-0177.

**May 3**

### **2020 Founder's Day Regatta**

Participants include rowing teams from 24

schools and rowing clubs around the Northeast. Lake Waramaug State Park in Kent, 9:00am to 5:30pm. Parking is limited and there's a \$10 fee per car. Red Gunnery shuttle buses for visitors will run between the parking areas and the regatta site throughout the day. Food will be available on-site for purchase. For more information, please visit [Gunnery.org](http://Gunnery.org).

**May 8**

### **Spring Concert**

Presented by The Gunnery Music Program. Tisch Family Auditorium of the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center, 8:00pm. Admission is free. To register, please call 860-350-0177.

**May 23**

### **12th Annual Memorial Run for ALS**

Hosted by The Gunnery to benefit The Angel Fund for ALS Research, an independent, nonprofit charity dedicated to supporting ALS investigations at the Cecil B. Day Laboratory for Neuromuscular Research at UMass Medical Center. Registration is \$10 per person. Participants may run or walk the 3-mile course. For more information, email Anne Low at [low.anne@gmail.com](mailto:low.anne@gmail.com).

**May 24**

### **Commencement Exercises**

The Gunnery, 11:00am.

## Events at Rumsey

### **Summer Academic Enrichment**

**July 5 - August 8**

A balanced five-week program of academics, recreation and enrichment. Focusing on academic enrichment, developmental reading and English as a Second Language (ESL). Also, daily recreational activities, field trips and cultural experiences are offered. Day and boarding options are available.

### **Summer Camp**

**June 29 - July 31**

Five-week summer recreation program for children ages 3-10. Weekly themes explore exciting activities designed to expose campers to new and interesting projects. Experienced staff, small counselor-to-camper ratio, in our beautiful Bantam River Valley setting.

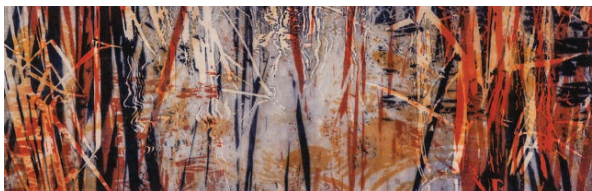
### **Volleyball Skills**

**July 27 - July 31**

One-week program for girls in grades 6-10, led by Ali Spooner, '90 Linley, designed to develop and strengthen skills and understanding of the game, while increasing self-confidence.

## Washington Art Association

The Washington Art Association is pleased to present "Monoprint 2020 – Printers and Presses," an exhibition curated by John Thompson and Nancy Lasar on view March 7 through April 26.



Catherine Kernan, *Time and Again #46*, 2019, 20 x 59.5 inches, woodcut monoprint with Akua Intaglio Inks, viscosity rolls and offsets, printed by the artist

A monoprint is one unique image involving the transfer of ink onto a substrate or piece of paper by manually rubbing or by running it through a printing press. "Monoprint 2020 – Printers and Presses" features artists, printers and professional pressers who have explored

the monoprint process in both simple and complex forms.

Sub-categories of monoprint include monotype, trace monotype, ghost images and "unique" prints, but what has made this process so intriguing to artists of all periods are its accidents and the endless possibilities for experimentation. New technologies and hybrid techniques continue to expand the monoprint into a fascinating realm where one can't resist the opportunity to explore and "play." As preeminent master printer Ken Tyler has noted that from the earliest handprint on the wall of a cave to the imprint of a baby's footprint recorded at birth, printing remains a basic, instinctual form of self-identity, self-expression and a profound documentation of human existence through time.



Robert Andrew Parker, *Captive Dog*, date unknown, 23.5 x 36.5 inches, trace monoprint with hand coloring, printed by the artist

Represented in the exhibition, among others, are Center Street Studio, Mixit Print Studio, 10 Grand Press, VanDeb Editions, Wingate Studio and such artists as John Walker, Robert Kushner, Catherine Kernan, Charles Cajori, Liz Dexheimer, Paul DeRuvo, Bill Jacklin and Robert Andrew Parker.

The exhibition "Monoprint 2020 – Printers and Presses" runs from March 7 through April 26 with an opening reception March 7 from 4:00-6:00pm.

# Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

## LIBRARY LUMINARIES:

June 6 - Always festive, always fun, this annual spring fundraiser features dinner parties in private homes with guests of note. The dinners follow a cocktail party at the library and reservations are required. Many thanks to our generous hosts and luminaries!

## CHILDREN'S FUN

**Saturday Family Programs:** Saturday programs continue in March thru May @1pm for multiple ages. Pick up our monthly calendar or check our website for further information.

**Two's Time:** Fridays, 10:30 – 11:15am, March – April

**3 & 4 Year-Olds, Book Buddies:** Fridays, 2:15 – 3:00pm, March – April

**Kindergarten & 1st Grade, Story Craft:** Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:15pm, March – April

**2nd & 3rd Grade, Story Craft:** Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:15pm, March – April

**4th & 5th Grade, Gaming Group:** Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:15pm, March – April

## ADULT PROGRAMS

**DNA and Your Family Tree:** Lecture by Jennifer Zinck, President CT Professional Genealogist Council – March 5 @ 6:30pm

***Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace-Wells:** Book discussion facilitated by Washington Environmental Council Board Members, Karen Silk, Terri Tibbatts and Monique Gil Rogers – March 10 @ 6:30pm

***New York Times* Best Selling Author Beatriz Williams:** Talk and Book Signing: *The Wicked Red Head & All The Ways We Said Goodbye* – March 24 @ 6:30pm

**Commemoration of the 19th Amendment:** Lecture by Gunnery History Student Scholar – March 26 @ 6:30pm

**An Evaluation of the Impeachment Process:** Lecture by Historian and Professor Mark Albertson – April 2 @ 6:30pm

**Long-term Health Care:** Lecture by Aldo Pantano of The Connecticut Partnership for Long-term Care State's Office of Policy & Management – April 7 @ 6:30pm

**Exhibition on Screen Documentary: *Easter in Art*** – April 9 @ 6:30pm

***New York Times* Best Selling Author and Journalist Janice Kaplan:** Talk and Book Signing: *The Genius of Women* – April 19 @ 2:00pm

**Voices of Poetry: An Evening with Poet Laureates** – April 23 @ 6:00pm

**Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut:** Lecture by CT Historical Society – Sponsored by Judea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution – April 30 @ 6:30pm

**Calder: The Conquest of Space: The Later Years:** Talk and Book Signing: Author and Art Critic Jed Perl – May 3 @ 2:00pm

**Quilts of Valor:** Lecture by Sue Reich – May 7 @ 6:30pm

**Some of My Favorite Gardens and Why:** Lecture by Gardening Expert Page Dickey – May 12 @ 6:30pm

***The Mirror & The Light* by Hilary Mantel:** Book discussion facilitated by Washington Literature Enthusiast Ann Hodgman – May 21 @ 6:30pm

**CT State Historian and Author Walt Woodward:** Talk and Book Signing: *Creating Connecticut* – May 26 @ 6:30pm

**Monday Movie Matinees @ 1:00pm** – March, April and May, Titles TBA

**Genealogy One-on-One Sessions with Sam Morrissey or John Dwyer** – Thursdays, March 19, April 16, May 21; 10:00am-12pm and 2:00-4:00pm.

Please pre-register.

## STAIRWELL GALLERY

**Jen-Abbott-Tillou: "Moving Parts" (multimedia)** – through March 14

**Megan Marden: "Recent Paintings" (oil, drawings)** – March 21 through May 2

**Susan Kapilow: "Dream" (oil, watercolor, pastel)** – May 16 through June 27

## MUSEUM

**"Hotels, Taverns and Inns"** – Share your stories of the dozens of places that offered lodging and employed residents. Washington History Club in the Morning, March 16, 10:00am @ Washington Senior Center

**"The History of Calhoun Street"** – By Mrs. Helen Fenn Whitehead in 1938. Readings from the Archives, April 6, 10:00am @ Washington Senior Center

**"Washington Eating and Drinking Places Past & Present"** – Share your stories of favorite watering holes and eateries. Washington History Club at Night, May 19, 6:30pm @ the Library

**"The History of Theater in Washington"** – Alex Zhang, a Gunn Scholar, will share her research on local thespians at The Gunnery and in town.

**History Bites** Lecture Series, May 21, 12pm @ the Library

**Washington Connecticut: An American Story** – Stop in the museum and explore the exciting exhibit celebrating the unique people, places and events that have shaped Washington's rich history. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00am-4:00pm.

For more information and a complete listing of programs and events at GML, Inc. visit [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org)



# ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

For more information about these programs, please visit [asapct.org](http://asapct.org) or call 860-868-0740.

## ASAP! | HENNA

Grades 6-8 | Elyse Sadtler  
Wersebe Hall, Washington

Henna is a form of temporary body art that has been used by many cultures across India, northern Africa and the Middle East for thousands of years. Join henna artist Elyse Sadtler to discover this ancient art. Learn what henna is, where it comes from, the science of henna on the skin, henna across cultures, and how to apply basic design elements. You'll receive your own kit, containing organic henna paste and supplies to begin your henna journey. Also, participants will receive a henna design of their choice.

2020 | March 14 | 3:00-5:30pm  
1 session: \$35

## ASAP! | GET AMPED WITH ASAP!

Grades 2-5 | American Mural Project (AMP), Winsted

Come with us to Winsted, Connecticut, to see the initial phase of what will become the largest indoor collaborative artwork in the world. Once fully installed, the mural will be 120 feet long, five stories high and up to 10 feet deep. It's a tribute to American workers—and you'll recognize many of the professions depicted in the mural. Learn how AMP has worked with more than 15,000 people to create this gigantic piece of art. After hearing more about the mural, you'll participate in a hands-on design project with an AMP artist and then we'll stop for ice cream on the way home.

2020 | March 19 | 12:45-5:45pm\*

\*Parent pick up is done at Washington Primary School

Trip Fee: \$20 includes admission, transportation and ice cream

## ASAP! | C IS FOR COOKING

Ages 3-5 | Alissa Monteleone  
Washington Primary School Gym, Washington

This introduction to the kitchen is a fun exploration of how food can be both yummy and good for you. Children use all their senses to explore the art of cooking and discover how to make nutritious food – even vegetables – delicious.

2020 | Wednesdays, March 25, April 1, 15, 22 (snow date April 29) | 12:45-1:30pm  
REACH students should pack a lunch.  
ASAP! will provide supervision until the program begins.  
4 sessions: \$60

## ASAP! | SAMPLER

Grades K-5 | Matica Circus, Hand Drumming/John Marshall, Visual Art/Joshua Reutzel, Hip-Hop/Austin Dailey  
Washington Primary School



Get a taste of ASAP! Summer Camp in our four-week favorite workshop sampler. Each week offers a different experience. **Circus with Matica:** Hone your circus skills while having fun with scarves, assorted juggling balls and clubs, plate spinning and stilt-walking. **Hand Drumming:** Come explore traditional rhythms from across the world with internationally recognized master percussionist John Marshall. Participants get the opportunity to use a variety of tuned percussion instruments including frame drums, Egyptian tambourines and dumbeks, congas, djembes and a drum kit. **Visual Art:** What story will you create? Try out some new art materials like light-sensitive paper to create an imaginative tale in an outdoor classroom with visual artist Joshua Reutzel. Surround yourself with nature and discover a new side of your artist self! **Hip-Hop:** Move and groove in this high-energy, fun class with Austin Dailey. Participants will learn new party dance moves to the beat of hip-hop music and have fun with breakdancing, waving robotics and line dancing.

Grades K-2, Wednesdays, 3:45-4:30pm |  
Grades 3-5, Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45pm  
April 15, 22, 29, May 6

4 sessions: \$60, \$48 for Region 12 residents.  
ASAP! provides supervision and a snack for students after school until the program begins.

## ASAP! | FRANK MCCOURT PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching honors Frank McCourt who was a teacher himself in New York City schools for over thirty years before achieving fame with the publication of his Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir, *Angela's Ashes*. The chief goal of

the annually awarded prize is to recognize teachers whose imaginative assignments and techniques have inspired students to become enthusiastic learners. A secondary goal is to find and promote ideas and practices that can be adopted by other teachers.

The Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching is presented annually – details about this year's event TBD.

Teacher Application Deadline: March 30

More info at [ASAPCT.ORG](http://ASAPCT.ORG)

## ASAP! | CELEBRATION OF YOUNG WRITERS

ASAP! is calling all public, private and home-schooled children in grades K-12 to participate in this inspiring literary project. Students are invited to submit a writing sample for a chance to share their work publicly and be published on the ASAP! website. A panel of judges will select exceptional pieces through a blind process where all names and schools are removed. This year's selected pieces will be featured at Pilobolus' Five Senses Festival this summer – details coming soon.

Submission Deadline: March 30

More info at [ASAPCT.ORG](http://ASAPCT.ORG)

## ASAP! | SIDE BY SIDE WATERBURY SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE

Established in 2007, the Interdistrict Strings Program brings together middle and high school students with musicians from the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (WSO) to prepare over several months to perform in concert side by side. ASAP! provides the rare opportunity for its participating strings students to perform with the symphony while also exposing school children of all ages to a live symphony concert as part of their education.

Two performances are scheduled for the school day and one public performance is scheduled for the evening, free and open to the public.

Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury, CT  
April 7, 2020

## ASAP! | ANNUAL SPRING EVENT 2020

Please join us for a special event featuring young artists. More details to come!  
The Gunnery, Washington, CT  
May 30, 2020

# Steep Rock Association

## NestWatch

### *A Citizen Science Project*

Training: March 27, 5:00 – 6:00pm

Steep Rock Association Office (2 Green Hill Road, Washington Depot)

Survey: March 28 – August 28

Take an in-depth look into the life of cavity nesting birds through a full season of monitoring bluebird and tree swallow boxes at Macricostas Preserve.

Your research will document species occupation, breeding attempts, reproductive success, and pest invasion. Like our other citizen science projects, this data is analyzed for SRA knowledge and shared with national professionals.

## Judea Garden – Spring Cleanup

### *A Volunteer Opportunity*

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

April 4, 1:00pm and April 5, 1:00pm

Get the garden ready for the upcoming season and maybe get some seeds in the ground!

## Macricostas in Moonlight

### *An Exploration in Nature*

April 7, 6:00 – 8:30pm

Explore your nocturnal side this spring with Steep Rock Association and Washington Park & Recreation for a hike through Macricostas Preserve. The Lookout will be our destination – a rocky outcropping providing the perfect platform for watching the full moon rise, before returning to the starting point through a moonlit landscape.

## Trail Manager Training

### *A Volunteer Opportunity*

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston) April 11, 9:00 – 11:00am

Love Steep Rock Association's trails? Leave your imprint and help us keep them in tip-top shape by becoming a Trail Manager. Each individual within this special group of volunteers helps steward a designated trail over a one-year period, regularly scouting the trail for environmental concerns and safety hazards as well as performing light trail maintenance duties.

## Monthly Trail Work Party

### *A Volunteer Opportunity*

Every third Saturday, April 18 through October 17, 10am – 12:30pm

Put your hands (and not just your boots) on the trails this hiking season by joining Steep Rock Association's monthly trail work party. The work party meets at 10:00am the third Saturday of every month, from April 18 through October 17. For location and project details, visit <https://steeprocksassoc.org/events-programs/>.

## Judea Garden – Early Planting Day

### *A Volunteer Opportunity*

April 19, 10:00am

Plant those cool weather plants and get a jump start on the season and harvesting.

## Marsh Bird Survey

### *A Citizen Science Opportunity*

Training: April 24, 5:00 – 6:00pm Steep Rock Association Office (2 Green Hill Road, Washington Depot)

Survey: May 2 and May 23

Early bird gets the worm! Join Steep Rock Association in an early morning effort to identify the whinnies and grunts of secretive marsh birds for the final of three consecutive field seasons.

## Judea Garden – Spring Planting Day

### *A Volunteer Opportunity*

May 17, 9:00am

Start the miracle of a season of growing and giving. Help us sow the garden with seeds and plants.

## Birding by Habitat: An Ornithology Expedition at Macricostas Preserve

### *An Exploration in Nature*

May 30, 7:00 – 9:00am

Explore the diversity of habitats comprising Macricostas Preserve and discover the birds inhabiting them with experienced birding guides Dave Tripp and Fran Zygmunt.

## Judea Garden – Planting Day

### *A Volunteer Opportunity*

May 30, 9:00am and May 31, 9:00am

Help us get those warmer weather plants in the ground on planting day.

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# What's Going on in Washington, CT

This is just a small sampling from [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](https://www.explorewashingtonct.com). Please check the site for more information and for other events.

## March

**28** | 6:30-8:30pm

### Trivia Night

Location: First Congregational Church

Benefit for Loaves and Fishes Hospitality House in New Milford.

The game will consist of up to 12 teams of 5-6 people. Each team will contribute \$100 to play. There will be other opportunities to contribute, too, with a 50/50 raffle. We're currently accepting registrations for teams. Please contact the church office by email ([admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org)) or phone 860-868-0569 as soon as possible if you're interested in participating as a contestant or if you wish to help out as a volunteer. Book your table now! We fill up fast!

## April

**22** | 8:00am-7:30pm

### Roadside Cleanup 2020

Location: Bryan Memorial Town Hall

WEC, as an environmental organization, celebrates Earth Day all week long by tidying up our roadsides. Last year, it's estimated we cleaned up 85% of our roadsides. This year, our goal is 100%, but we need your help! From Wednesday, April 22 to Sunday, April 26, you'll find a dumpster in front of Bryan Memorial Town Hall. That dumpster is for you to bring any and all collected trash. Will you or an organization you're involved with pledge to clean up a road? Email us ([wec-ct@charter.net](mailto:wec-ct@charter.net))! We'll compile a master list and make sure every road is covered. Let's make Washington extra green and clean this spring.

## May

**Recurring Event** | Time 12-5:00pm

### Wigwam Escape

Location: The Institute for American Indian Studies

Wigwam Escape is a new, immersive and hands-on learning experience. Visitors will experience elements of daily life for Native people, by being transported back to the year 1518. This didactic adventure game will encourage learners ages 12 and up to look for clues, solve puzzles and cooperate.

The game is \$25 per person (\$20 for members) and group sizes range from 3-7 people. Wigwam Escape is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. To book a time and for more information, visit the website [www.wigwamescape.com](http://www.wigwamescape.com) or call 860-868-0518.

# Spring Gatherings for All at The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens



THE JUDY BLACK  
MEMORIAL PARK  
AND GARDENS

This spring, the park and gardens will come alive with activities for the community. Subscribe to our newsletter at <https://www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org/contact> or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for details and updates.

## 17th Annual Shepaug World Affairs Forum

Join keynote speaker Wendy W. Luers, President of The Foundation for a Civil Society and Co-Chair of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition and students from Shepaug Valley School for a panel discussion on human rights. March 21 2:00 - 4:00pm. Admission is free.

## Judy Jackson and Elizabeth MacDonald

The 2020 season of art opens with an exhibit of exceptional stoneware and clay works by Judy Jackson and Elizabeth MacDonald. Opening April 4 through April 19.

## Earth Day

Join local organizations in service projects to benefit Mother Earth. On April 21, the eve of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, the park will be open for an afterschool activity surrounding this important day.

## The Art of Jason Wallengren: Recollections Revisited

In all new works, Connecticut native Jason Wallengren looks back on his 10 years of living abroad in Germany. Engaging in

an ephemeral approach to drawing, he challenges the boundaries of observation and the passage of time through his own lived experiences. Opening April 23 through June 7.

## Movie Night Returns

On May 22, join us for the first outdoor film of the season, "Driving Miss Daisy," and Academy Award winner, Alfred Uhry, for a Q&A before the screening. Sponsored by Meadowbrook Gardens and Union Savings Bank.

## Memorial Day at the Park

Join us on May 25, before the annual Memorial Day parade, in honoring active-duty military from our community. Details TBA.



## Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

With discussion of a new community/senior center in town, where is the current Washington Senior Center located and what was the original purpose of that building?

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

Last issue's answer: The local Daughters of the America Revolution chapter opened the Judea Historical Room in 1899 in a house on the Washington Green. In 1907 the DAR voted to bestow their collection to the Gunn Library to be housed in the basement of the new library building. The 1781 house next to the library bequeathed by June S. Willis in 1965 allowed the museum collections to be moved next door.

**Visit ExploreWashingtonCT.com**  
The official community website  
for events, things to do, and  
happenings around town.

*What's Happening in Washington, CT* is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. Look for our next issue in June 2020.

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