

What's happening in Washington, CT

Spring 2021

Starburst Lights – Bringing Joy to the Depot

By Dan Sherr

"Starburst Lights shine through Town, bringing joy to our winter wonderland," with this goal, the Washington Business Association, the merchants and the Town Economic Development Committee funded the lighting of several trees in the Depot with Starburst Lights. The plan, developed with Barbara Bouyea, Bouyea and Associates, has brought much comment and joy to the community during the winter months.

Bouyea Associates, 5 Green Hill Road in Washington Depot, is an international lighting design firm. They're noted for their integration of science and art with the goal "to evoke emotional response." Several years ago, Barbara planned and implemented the tree lights for the Judy Black Memorial Park and Garden.



The Judy Black Memorial Park and Garden lights introduced WBA to the idea of winter seasonal lights to draw visitors and customers to the Depot. A year of planning and fund raising led to the selection of four trees as gateways throughout the Depot. The merchants were encouraged to light their stores during Christmas, further enhancing the Depot. The Starburst Lights were installed the first week of December.

With Barbara directing installation, the Arbor Services of CT, with their bucket trucks, hung the Starburst Lights in the trees. Wright Electrical carefully wired the lights. Fifty-eight lights in four trees created the magic and generated the joy of a winter wonderland.

For the 2020 Washington Town Holiday in the Depot, the lighted trees marked the "Drive-Thru" route. Hundreds of cars participated in the drive-thru, waving and speaking to Santa on the front steps of Town Hall. Though a short distance, nearly an hour was needed to cover the entire route. The lighted trees marked the turning points on the route.

The Starburst Lights have been a real success in delivering the promise of joy to the Washington Winter Wonderland. Planning is already underway for next season's lights. During the 2020 planning, 13 trees were identified in the Depot as capable of "bringing joy to our winter wonderland." Interested in sponsoring a tree or string of lights? Email info@wbact.com. Sponsorships are tax deductible.

Message from the Selectmen's Office

As of this writing, we continue to grind through the winter months. To date we've had two major winter storms and in spite of the groundhogs' prediction, we're optimistically looking forward to an early spring.

Currently, we have nearly completed the 1A roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine. This 1A designation has included all of our Emergency Services volunteers. We have a group of four dedicated residents conducting community outreach to our seniors as we begin to implement the 1B stage of COVID-19 vaccines. It's important to note that even though an individual gets vaccinated, we all need to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. The vaccine protects us from getting sick but we can still carry and transmit the virus once vaccinated. We are urging all residents to continue to be patient. The availability of vaccines is completely dependent on supply and that availability will almost certainly continue to fluctuate.

We have many exciting initiatives on tap for 2021. We have unveiled the conceptual plans for the proposed Community Center, listened to your input and will soon begin the fundraising component of bringing the Community Center to reality. Our land use department has begun the process of upgrading our technology in order to streamline the building and permitting process. This will provide residents with a greater ease in navigating the building and land use process. Our Public Works Department continues to keep an ambitious road and bridge maintenance program.

Looking forward, our primary goal for 2021 is to see an end to the COVID pandemic and all it has brought to our community. Stay safe, stay well and continue to look after one another.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Stay in the loop on Washington news and events!



Visit [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](https://www.explorewashingtonct.com), the official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining, and

happenings around town. Sign-up for "This Month in Washington" e-news to stay in the loop on all things Washington! Just click on the envelope icon at the top of the website to sign-up.



Visit [washingtonct.org](https://www.washingtonct.org), the town's website for municipal and departmental information. To sign-up for weekly e-news

from the First Selectman, look for the envelope icon on the website.



Spotlight on Business: The OWL Wine and Food Bar

By Dan Sherr

There's a new OWL perched at 18 East Shore Road in the Village of New Preston. Since John Bordeau opened the OWL in 2016, it has established itself as a casual, quick stop and meeting place wine bar...with a few snacks. Late in 2019, a new partnership was formed to expand the OWL to a wine and food bar.



A chance meeting of John Bordeau and Ryan Cangello, a New York caterer and Warren weekender, established a partnership broadening the OWL's offering to food as well as wine...a wine and food bar. Referring to themselves as "brothers," in early 2020, John and Ryan enlarged the kitchen, renovated the interior, established new hours and introduced a new menu. In 2021, they added take-out.

With the growing presence of New Yorkers in Washington and Warren during 2020, they extended their hours to Wed – Thurs, 4 – 9pm, Fri – Sat, 12 – 9pm and Sun 12 – 8pm. The most noteworthy addition to the menu is the thin crust pizzas. Available as white or red, the white "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and the "Red Bee Sting" are among the favorites. Desserts have also been added.

The OWL is well-known for its outdoor dining, particularly the patio overlooking New Preston Village. As COVID arrived, they respaced the tables and implemented stricter cleaning protocols. The seating area was expanded to the garden beyond the patio. As the weather cooled, heating lamps were added. The OWL outdoors remains casual, comfortable and cool.

Plans for the future? "Keep it small, focused with a bit of romance." The OWL – Modern Wine and Food Bar @ Lake Waramaug

18 East Shore Road, New Preston, CT 06777
860.619.0585 owljr18@gmail.com

News from Regional School District 12

Regional School District 12 has been fortunate to have full in-person learning as an option throughout the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. This success is due to our community's commitment to our students' education and the entire school system is grateful for their sacrifices. Our goal remains to continue to offer the options of in-person and remote learning while providing full support and access for our students and families. Region 12 Schools continue to adjust to serve the needs of our students, families and community.

The Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley School is proud to announce a couple of new additions to our campus. The first two additions are our resident horses, Gulliver and Morgan. These two majestic animals can be seen grazing in the pastures of Shepaug or flourishing under the care of our staff and agriscience students. The agriscience team is very grateful for the recent donation from the Diebold Foundation. The \$20,000

New Milford, and Sherman, that was set at the beginning of the agriscience journey six years ago.

Our goal as a school system continues to nurture well-rounded students. We're proud of the CIAC Sportsmanship Award given to our girls' soccer team under the guidance of Coach Flaherty. Shepaug continues to provide world-class athletes, even during a challenging athletic schedule. Congratulations to Shepaug seniors Haylie Lasky and Brooke Mercier being selected to the 2020 All-State Field Hockey Team. Our staff and students continue to provide innovative ways to hold clubs and events in a safe manner. Debates continue, senior projects move forward and our students seek connections to support our towns and each other. We value the long-standing relationships with our education partners such as the Rotary Club. We celebrate a new connection with the Lions Club and appreciate their generous donation for our Leo's Club led by Mrs. Hurley.



New residents of the Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley School, Gulliver and Morgan.

donation was used to purchase a solar-powered skid steer. We're also excited to welcome the addition of Bethel Public Schools students to our agriscience program beginning this fall. The addition completes the proposed list of towns to come to Shepaug; Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, Newtown, New Fairfield,

Thank you to all of the families and community members in Washington who continue to support our schools. There is no better place to be during a pandemic than in a community that cares for one another. For information regarding the Region 12 Schools, please visit our website at www.region-12.org.

The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens – A Gathering Place



THE JUDY BLACK
MEMORIAL PARK
AND GARDENS

The world may look a little different, and a “gathering place” may still have a new

meaning, but The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens has strived to keep finding new ways to bring people together safely. We’re honored that the town of Washington has allowed us to continue to fulfill our mission to be a gathering place that invites friends and neighbors to relax, learn, play and share all that our community offers. As we start to escape the winter months and move toward the spring, we’re looking forward to celebrating new exhibits presented by world-class artists, our family-friendly Outdoor Movie nights and of course our beloved Farmers Market. “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” —Audrey Hepburn

MLK Jr Day – Washington Gives

On January 18, we were privileged to once again participate in *Washington Gives* National Day of Service. We thank the Town of Washington for coordinating the day’s events, including giving local service organizations an opportunity to tell their stories. The day was capped off with a conversation with students from Shepaug Valley School presenting their senior projects, moderated by Jane Whitney of Conversations On the Green. We look forward to hosting this event again in 2022 in person at the Judy Black Park.

Farmers Market @ the Park

Recently named *Litchfield Magazine’s 2021 Reader’s Choice Award for Best Farmers Market!* Not only would we like to thank our Market Master Rae Moore, but also our outstanding vendors and the entire community for coming together and making this possible. We’re looking forward to serving the community again when the market opens on Saturdays, later this spring.

Art @ the Park

- A show featuring photographs of Pilobolus dancers by Robert Whitman was on view through February.



- Metal sculptor, John Crawford, will showcase works in the building during March and April. His piece “Accretion-3” continues to be on view in the garden.



- Pascal Pierme, a Santa Fe based sculpture artist will be on exhibit May 3 through May 23 with other artists’ works represented by Michele Mariaud Gallery, New York.
- Once again, we’re proud to showcase the Shepaug Valley School Student Show – May 24 – June 6.
- Virtual art shows and features will be presented throughout the winter months on our social media platforms.

Outdoor Movie Nights @ the Park

Back by popular demand; we plan to again present our COVID friendly Drive-in Movie nights at the River Walk Pavilion. A full list of dates and movies will soon be available on our website.

Please join us as we continue to explore new ways to be a safe “gathering place” for our community. Bring us your ideas! Check out our website (www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org), sign up for our e-blasts, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for event details and more.

An Introduction The Social Services Department of the Town of Washington

Melissa Woodward recently joined the Washington Town staff as the Director of Social Services. She holds a similar position in the Town of Warren. With an undergraduate degree from UConn and a master’s degree in social work from Springfield College, Melissa is licensed by the state of Connecticut as a social worker.



Melissa Woodward, new
Director of Social Services.

Born and raised in Warren, Melissa understands the

social character and the social needs of this area. She observes there are two primary groups served – aging adults and less advantaged younger families. The aging adult needs are for support identifying and securing services – the annual Medicare sign up is an example. For younger families, it’s food, energy and housing. Melissa indicates there’s a need for a more thorough understanding of required community social services.

With the current COVID-19 pandemic, the services provided by the Town of Washington Social Services Department are:

Food: The Washington Warren Food Pantry, First and Third Thursdays, 10:00am – 12:00pm, Warren Community Center, 7 Sackett Hill, Warren, CT.

Counsel and Referrals: Washington Social Services Department, Melissa Woodward

Melissa is in Washington Town Hall, 3rd Floor, Thursdays and Mondays 1:30 – 3:30pm. 860-868-0058, ext. 107

Hollister House Garden 2021 Spring Events



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

Advance registration is required for lectures and workshops. Hollister House Garden is committed to providing a safe environment for participants in all activities. Registration information, required guidelines and a full listing of events can be found at www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/

APRIL

Saturday, April 17 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Waking Up Your Garden, Presented by Daryl Byers

Spring cleaning is crucial to get shrubs and herbaceous borders looking their best and to prepare beds for a successful season. Daryl will review a checklist of gardening tasks to be performed during spring maintenance that will give your garden a head start on a great season.

Friday, April 23 10am-3:30pm

Workshop: Making Composition Work for You, Presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Understanding and applying just a few key principles of composition will bring strength, balance and the “wow” factor to your artwork in any medium. This workshop will explore a range of basic principles and techniques through observation and a variety of short exercises in pencil.

Friday, April 23 1-4pm

Opening Day



Hollister House Garden opens for the season today. Come, be inspired by the gentle beauty of the early garden. April-May hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm.

Saturday, April 24 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Designing Your Garden, A Master Class with Page Dickey

In this illustrated lecture, Page will discuss what to consider if you're thinking of creating a garden. Topics will include connecting the garden to the house, deciding on a style, the importance of paths and routes, terraces and hardscaping, establishing bones and having fun!

MAY

Saturday, May 1 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Thinking Outside the Box: Using Excellent Plants in Creative Ways, Presented by Adam Wheeler

Adam 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. He will also discuss the value and use of foliage color and texture and share tips on creating unexpected accents.

A “pop-up” **Broken Arrow** plant sale follows this lecture.

Saturday, May 8 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Mind Your Matrix: Successful Plant Combinations, Presented by Robert Clyde Anderson

Learn about matrix planting! It's the planting of three to five equally competitive plants that are vigorous enough to act as “living mulch” providing weed suppression and moisture retention around larger perennials and shrubs. Emphasis on, but not exclusively using, native plants.

Friday, May 14 9am-3:30pm

Watercolor Workshop: Color in Nature, Presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Careful observation of all the subtle hues and values in nature helps in creating accurate, colorful and unique paintings. Using watercolor in a series of exercises, learn to mix and match these subtle earth tones found in a variety of leaves, petals and other treasures of the garden.

Saturday, May 15 10-11:30am

Book Talk: Life in the Studio: Inspirations and Lessons on Creativity, Presented by Frances Palmer

In this talk, Frances will explore the links between her exquisite pottery and the bountiful flowers that she grows in two large cutting gardens. Using her own stunning photographs, Frances traces how the ceramics and flowers are inextricably linked in her creative process.

Saturday, May 22 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: The Story of a Garden: Creating Coltsfoot, Presented by Juliet Hubbard



Juliet and John Hubbard have created an enchanting cottage garden around a colonial house that has

been in the family for over 100 years. A series of perennial and vegetable gardens, formal in composition, are softened by the informal planting of old-fashioned roses, peonies, irises and day lilies. Follow Juliet as she shares her story of designing, creating and gardening at Coltsfoot.

EARLY JUNE

Wednesday,

June 2 9am-1pm

Special Opening for Artists and Photographers



Beginning today and continuing until September 1 the garden will be open on Wednesday mornings for plein air painters and photographers. Be inspired by the garden in the morning light.

Thursday, June 3 6-8pm

Evening Hours at Hollister House Garden

Beginning today and continuing until August 26 the garden will be open on Thursdays from 6-8pm. Come and enjoy this opportunity to see the garden in a different light. During these special opening hours picnicking will be allowed on the main lawn. Enjoy!

Saturday, June 5 10am-12pm

Lecture – Go Beyond the Basics: Smartphone Photography for the Garden, Presented by Thad Kubis

Go beyond the basics of your device's camera and learn how to integrate these controls and create images of your garden, house and landscapes. This introductory class begins with an overview of smartphone camera systems and functionality, followed by a hands-on, application-based introduction to composition, editing, posting, sharing, archiving, and more!



“Oh, the weather outside is frightful...,” but that hasn’t interfered with the mission of the Washington Council of Congregations to *work collectively for our community*.

Food Drives: Representatives of our congregations worked hand-in-hand with the Town of Washington in holding two more food drives since our last report. Our food drive table was a busy stop on the route of the drive-thru Holiday in the Depot, organized by Washington Parks and Recreation on December 11. Generous celebrants dropped off 2,200 pounds (literally *more than a ton!*) of shelf-stable food and home care products, plus an additional \$5,000. Just five weeks later, on Martin Luther King Day, WCOC volunteers hosted the food drive table in conjunction with *Washington Gives*; and collected an additional 720 pounds of food and cleaning



products, and another \$1,575. On both occasions, Pastor Robyn Gray orchestrated the sorting, weighing and bagging of the collected items at the First Congregational Church of Washington.

In total, since the first May WCOC-sponsored food drive, WCOC has delivered to the Warren Washington and the New Milford Food Banks a grand total of almost 11,250 pounds of food and cleaning

products, plus \$20,280 in cash – all thanks to the generosity of our neighbors!

Blood Drives: On January 15, St. John’s Episcopal Church hosted, WCOC’s second Red Cross Blood Drive. The blood donor schedule was fully booked for the day! Volunteers registered donors and offered them snacks and TLC following their blood donations. Future blood drives are scheduled for later in the year — on July 9 and September 10. Blood donors can book their blood donations at

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StJohnsCT>. To be a volunteer for two hours or more, contact www.stjohnschurch@snet.net.

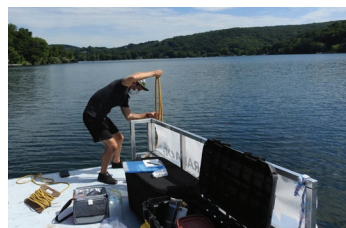
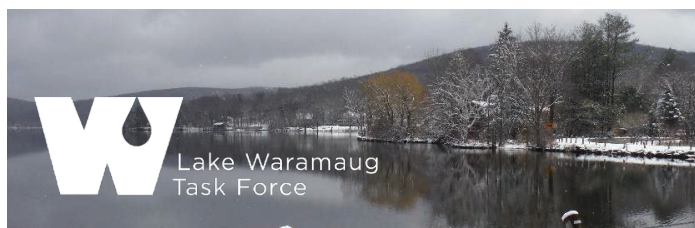


Support of Basic Needs Nonprofits:

Apart from our own sponsored events, WCOC member congregations have recruited volunteers on behalf of other local nonprofits that respond to basic needs in the

broader community. The Warren Washington Food Bank needed additional staff to distribute their food. Member congregations of WCOC successfully recruited volunteers through notices in our weekly bulletins.

The WCOC consists of the seven established religious congregations in the Town of Washington, who are working together for the benefit of our community. They include First Congregational Church of Washington, the Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life, New Preston Congregational Church, the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, and Salem Covenant Church.



The Lake Continues to Thrive

While this past year was challenging, the Task Force was able to adjust and continue working on all our clean water projects, including monitoring the lake’s positive water quality trends (see photos below). Regular monitoring verified that record clarity depths were maintained. The invasive aquatic weed Curly Leaf Pondweed, which first appeared ten years ago, has now been virtually eradicated. And water levels are successfully being managed for optimal lake and stream health.

While we continue to adapt and build on previous successes, this year we worked on a



number of new projects, including creating a new “LWTF at Work” section on our website (choose the *LWTF at Work* link under our *News* tab at www.lakewaramaug.org) that contains several key articles, we

developed an interactive dashboard with the lake’s past and present conditions and we’re working on a video series with footage from this summer’s lake project and monitoring work (look out for that this winter!). All of us at the Task Force are looking forward to continuing our lake protection work and improving Lake Waramaug’s water quality into 2021 and beyond. Thank you to all who support us and helped to keep the lake clean, clear and swimmable.

As 2021 gets started, our directors and staff want to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy new year.

ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

For more information about these programs, please visit asapct.org or call 845-518-5859.

Ninjatritition™

The Art Of Happy Eating For Kids
Grades 3-5 • Alissa Monteleone



In-person, masks required for this program
Calling all current and future Nutrition Ninjas!
Come join us

in this all new, outdoor, 4-week program! Ninjatritition is a cooking class for kids where Food, Fun and Focus meet. Each week we'll be making awesome, brand new recipes, building our self-discipline and challenging our bodies. At the end of class, chefs will be awarded a specific-colored tie to add to their apron. Each tie acknowledges the skills you've learned that day and your commitment to practicing your skills during the rest of the week. Whether you're new to Ninjatritition or have worked with us before, this outdoor class is going to bring the Art of Happy Eating to a new level!

In-person, River Walk Pavilion,
Washington

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:15pm

April 20 & 27, May 4 & 11

4 sessions: \$60, \$54 Region 12 residents
(supply cost included)

Characters In Action

Grades K-5 • Janelle Robinson & Alyssa Robb

In-person, masks required for this program
Join Janelle and Alyssa outside on a spring day to



create colorful, expressive masks and play imaginative acting games. You'll create the fantastical mask of your dreams, then develop your own unique character and perform a story in a small group with your friends. Each student will come away with a few new games under their belt and a gorgeous mask to continue their playwriting and acting explorations.

Outdoors at the Bridgewater Pavilion,
Bridgewater, CT

Saturday, April 24, 2021

GRADES K-2 | 10:00-11:30am

GRADES 3-5 | 12:30-2:00pm

1 session: \$30, \$27 for Region 12

residents (supply cost included)
Financial aid available if needed.

Summer Camp

Grades 1-12 • Selected Teaching Artists

Each year we look forward to summer camp with immense excitement: seeing friends again, creating art, music and dance, and discovering something new about ourselves as members of this special community.



This year, ASAP! Summer Camp will look a little different. We're delighted to be back in person and we'll

be outdoors, masked up and adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines put out by the state of Connecticut and the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. Alongside these guidelines, we continue to adapt and innovate so that we may remain loyal to our core summer camp values: connecting with nature, connecting with each other, and making space for self-expression and self-discovery through the arts.

July 26-July 30: Grades 1-5

August 2-August 9: Grades 6-12

Visit asapct.org for more information.

Celebration of Young Writers

Grades K-12

Each year ASAP! invites young writers grades K-12 to submit literary works for its annual Celebration of Young Writers and to participate in this inspiring literary project. Students will be given a chance to share their work 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.

Submission

deadline: April 29, 2021

Visit asapct.org for more information.



Interdistrict Strings Project

Grades 6-12 + Adults • Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

Students who play the violin, viola, cello, or bass won't want to miss this incredible opportunity to work and perform with

musicians of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (WSO) outside this summer.

Young musicians will learn a varied repertoire from WSO professionals in small groups, focusing on fundamental techniques, ensemble skills and musical interpretation. This project culminates in a concert where participants play side-by-side with twenty WSO musicians. A minimum of one year of experience playing a string instrument and the ability to read sheet music is required. Space is limited per instrument.

Washington, CT

July 2021

If you're interested in participating, contact Program Director Ali Psomas at ali@asapct.org.



Get Amped With ASAP!

Grades 2-5 • American Mural Arts Project (AMP)

In-person, masks required for this program
Join us in Winsted, Connecticut to experience the largest three-dimensional mural in the world! American Mural Project



has worked with over 40,000 kids and adults across the USA to create this larger-

than-life tribute to American workers like firefighters, musicians and pilots. Once fully installed, the mural will be 120 feet long, five stories high and six feet deep! On our visit, you'll learn all about how the mural was created and then participate in a hands-on design project led by an AMP mural artist.

American Mural Project, Winsted, CT.

Participants must provide their own transportation.

Thursday, March 18 • Snow Date
Friday, March 19

Session 1: 2-3pm (10 Students Max)

Session 2: 4-5pm (10 Students Max)

1 Session: \$22, \$20 for Region 12 residents. Financial aid available if needed.

The Lake Waramaug Association: Who We Are and What We're Up To

Happy almost-spring from the Lake Waramaug Association! We are a 104-year-old not-for-profit community membership organization whose mission is to preserve and protect Lake Waramaug and its environs, and to promote the safety, health and enjoyment of all who use the lake.

Lake Waramaug has provided our community with an extraordinary sanctuary during this challenging year. Whether you've enjoyed a spectacular sunset, a day out on the water, or a walk or bike ride around the shore road, now more than ever, we're grateful for the enduring peace and beauty of our treasured lake.



The Association collaborates with the Lake Waramaug Task Force, whose focus is restoring and maintaining the ecology and water quality of Lake Waramaug and its watershed. We also work closely with the Lake Waramaug Authority, whose focus is public safety.

During this past year, we have seen a significant uptick in lake use, as our community's weekend population has become more of a year-round one. The Association is responding in kind by coordinating programming that

corresponds to our community's changing needs. We're eager to welcome new faces, voices and ideas, and we have a handful of board positions available.

The Association is a group of volunteers whose work includes:

- Safe use of the lake for recreational purposes such as boating, fishing and swimming.
- Helping to protect the ecology of the lake and its environs, including the reduction of pollution and invasive species.
- Advocacy and education for low impact design and development practices as per the Lake District's long-standing land use protections set by the lake's bordering towns of Washington, Warren and Kent.
- Road safety initiatives.
- Holiday celebrations (including July 4th fireworks), community discussions, events and more!

We're also exploring ways to involve our resident teenagers via community service and volunteering opportunities. Love photography? We're constantly on the lookout for great photographs of our beloved lake, and people having fun in and around it. And, we want to learn more about YOU!

If you're interested in helping to keep Lake Waramaug safe and beautiful in 2021 and for years to come, join us. Visit waramaugassoc.org to sign up for our email newsletter, follow us on Instagram @lakewaramaug, Facebook @ **LakeWaramaugAssociation**, or email info@waramaugassoc.org. We look forward to collaborating with you!

ENCORE: Bingo for the Bard!

**Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills
Invites You to Join the Fun
March 21, 4 -5:30pm
In the Comfort of Your Own Home!**

To the delight of bingo and Shakespeare enthusiasts, *Bingo for the Bard* will return on March 21 for a second round in 2021. On a Sunday in January, over 85 people from surrounding towns, NYC and from as far away as Boulder, played *Bingo for the Bard* on Zoom to benefit the production of *Twelfth Night 2021*. This wasn't just *old fashioned* bingo with squares full of numbers, the cards for each of the six games were dedicated to a different Shakespeare-related theme: Words Shakespeare Invented; Shakespearean Actors; Cliches, Phrases and Insults; Life and Times of Shakespeare; Love and Murder in the Plays; All About Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills. Players were enthusiastic:

"It was so enjoyable, and you taught us so much about Shakespeare."

"I never knew the Bard created so many of the words and phrases we use every day!"

"Who knew that John Goodman, Amy Adams and Clare Danes performed in Shakespeare's plays!?"

On March 21, you can play *Bingo for the Bard* and possibly win a \$25 gift card or the \$100 grand prize! All of the proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward bringing five live, outdoor performances of *Twelfth Night* to Washington, August 4-8. These performances will be free to the Litchfield Hills community and will feature Equity and professional actors as well as local performers.

You can play *Bingo for the Bard* by going to www.shakesperience.org and follow the links to "SHOP" or go directly to <http://tiny.cc/bingoforthebard>. Each set of six bingo cards cost \$25 (one card per game). Additional sets must be purchased for each player in your household.

Deadline for ordering cards is March 15. You'll need to print out your own cards before March 21. If you cannot play on that date, you can still help bring *Twelfth Night* to the Litchfield Hills by making a donation at www.shakesperience.org.

Please contact Kathy Kehoe at kskehoe1@gmail.com or Jeffrey Lapham at 203-754-2531 with any questions.

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum www.gunnlibrary.org

Adult Programs

The Shepaug Library Collaboration continues! Keep an eye out for a variety of virtual programs from Gunn Library, Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury, Burnham Library in Bridgewater and New Milford Public Library. Access registration for Zoom links via www.gunnlibrary.org

Thursday, March 4 @ 6:30pm: **Kitchen Gardening 101** - Spring is just around the corner! That means it's almost time to start your garden. Enya Cunningham from Helmstead Farm will give her best tips, tricks, best practices and more to get your kitchen garden started right!

April is Poetry Month! We'll be hosting a series of programs and in-house activities for children and adults to celebrate. Check our website or stop in to see our activities that celebrate Poetry Month.

Tuesday, May 18 @ 1pm: **Jan Phillips Senker Author Talk** - The Gunn Memorial Library will collaborate with the **Hickory Stick Bookshop** as Jan Phillips Senker discusses her latest book, *The Heart Remembers*. This story follows twelve-year-old Ko Bo Bo who lives with his uncle U Ba in Kalaw, a town in Burma. Ko Bo Bo has the special ability to read people's emotions by looking at their eyes. This gift often feels like a curse as Ko Bo Bo uncovers painful family secrets. More details on picking up books, how to register, etc. will be available online.

Gunn Junior Library

Virtual Preschool Story-times

March - April 9

Two's Time Fridays @ 10:30am

Three & Four-year-olds Fridays @ 2:15pm

Saturdays, March 6 - May 8 @ 1pm Junior Library Saturday Zoom sessions.

Tune in to see what Miss Linda and Miss Abigail have in store!

- March 6 - Irish Dancing
- March 13 - St. Patrick's Day Food
- March 20 - Judea Gardens Guest Presenter Denise Arturi
- March 27 - Spring Crafts
- April 3 - The Good Egg
- April 10 - Poetry with Karen Silk
- April 17 - Bird Nest Creations
- April 24 - Fairy Houses

- May 1 - Star Wars
- May 8 - Mother's Day

Call to request your Take & Make kits that support these activities! Pick up in-house or at our curbside table.

Gunn Historical Museum Programs

Register on our website to receive the links for the Museum's free virtual programs on Zoom.

Rossiter's Riverside Retreat: The Early Days of the Steep Rock Association

March 15, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom

Author and historian Carol Santoleri will present the history of the Steep Rock Association (SRA). In the late 1880s, Ehrick Rossiter began buying riverside land in Washington, Connecticut, including the renowned cliff, Steep Rock. He wound carriage roads through the valley's fields and forests to link scenic overlooks and river crossings, creating a rustic retreat called Steep Rock Park. Santoleri will share research and photographs depicting the modern counterparts to scenes captured by Joseph West (1876-1952), whose glass plate negatives are in the Gunn Historical Museum's collection. This event is co-sponsored by the SRA.

How Baseball Happened

April 19, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom

You may have heard that Alexander Doubleday or Alexander Cartwright invented baseball; that a club called the Knickerbockers played the first baseball game in 1846; or that Cooperstown, New York or Hoboken, New Jersey were the birthplaces of baseball. Thomas Gilbert, baseball historian and author of *How Baseball Happened*, will shed light on these myths and present the real story of how baseball began and how it conquered the nation. Included will be Washington, Connecticut's own remarkable place in baseball history, with one of the earliest images of a baseball game in action - played on Washington's Green on August 4, 1869!

Ellen Shipman and the American Garden

May 17, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom

From the 1910s through the 1940s, Ellen Shipman (1869-1950) designed over 600 gardens, from New England and Long Island to the Midwest and the South. Her secluded, lush formal gardens attracted a clientele that included the Fords, Edisons, duPonts and other prominent names. She trained in the famed Cornish Art Colony in New Hampshire and ran a thriving office in NYC exclusively

employing women. Most of her early gardens have vanished, but several important gardens, such as Longue Vue in New Orleans and the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville, have recently been restored. Her garden "style" continues to influence designers. Historian Judith B. Tankard will identify Shipman's unique style and distinction as a noteworthy landscape architect.

Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut

June 14, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom

Which side are you on? That's the question that every single person in Connecticut, including here in Washington, had to answer in 1775, as the thirteen colonies began a rebellion against British rule. Loyalty was not only a matter of words or opinion. For soldiers and civilians alike, loyalty could mean loss of fortune, of friends, and even of life. This presentation, by Taylor McClure of the Connecticut Historical Society, reveals stories - some well-known, some obscure - of Nutmeggers, including one from Washington, Connecticut, who risked and sacrificed to support their chosen side during this "tumultuous jarring time of civil war."

Our Award-Winning Exhibit - Washington Connecticut: An American Story

Explore this exciting exhibit celebrating the unique people, places and events that have shaped Washington's rich history. Free admission. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-4pm. Free one-hour guided exhibit tours are available on Saturdays at 1pm. Please call or email the museum to sign up for a Saturday tour. Visitors can also take an audio tour of the exhibit using their own smart devices. There is also an exhibit scavenger hunt available for kids and teens!

Library Hours Monday 9:30am-5pm, Tuesday 9:30am-7pm, Thursday 9:30am-5pm, Friday 9:30am-5pm, Saturday 9:30am-3pm
Closed Wednesday and Sunday

Main Desk: 860-868-7586 | Email:

gunncirc@biblio.org

Children's Services: 868-868-2310 | Email:

gunnjr@biblio.org

Museum Hours Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-4pm

860-868-7756 | info@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org

gunnhistoricalmuseum.org
curator@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org

Bye, Bye, Birdie

The Washington Art Association and Gallery in Washington, CT is pleased to present Bye, Bye, Birdie: an exhibition curated by Karen Simmons and Hugh O'Donnell. The exhibition, on view from April 24 thru June 6, will illuminate the vulnerable beauty of America's birds, and is timed to coincide with the annual return of these beloved migratory creatures.

Bird populations have shrunk by over three billion since 1970, a decrease of over 30% in 50 years. This decline affects all birds, not just those that are considered endangered. The causes are widespread, including climate change, deforestation, agricultural pesticides, and the encroachment of human development on nesting and migratory space.



Kaineri Seeking, Lelia Daw, Burmese shwe chi doe tapestry, 28 x 59 inches

Birds are delicate and frail but also capable of feats of great endurance in their migratory journeys. They are literally "the canary in the coal mine" to make us aware of the damage we're inflicting on our environment. The artists in this show will all express, in ways greater than words, the wonder that birds evoke and the importance of their survival.

The Washington Art Association is also planning several accompanying workshops, lectures and bird-oriented activities for families. We especially thank Southbury Audubon and the Hotchkiss School for their generous loan of their Audubon prints.

Participating artists:

John Jay Audubon	Xavi Bou	Leila Daw
Elizabeth Macdonald	Malcolm Moran	Banjie Nicholas
Tim Prentice	Jon Riedeman	Hagar Fletcher

The Washington Art Association is open Wednesday thru Saturday, 10am to 5pm and on Sunday from noon until 4pm. We hope you'll join us for this impressive event.



Washington Environmental Council News and Updates

WEC's Student Scholarship Application process has begun and applications can be found at www.wec-ct.org. Over the last 15 years, WEC has awarded over \$84,000 in college scholarships and summer sponsorships to local students interested in studying environmental issues, natural resources and/or nature itself. For the younger students in our community, information on WEC's 2021 Pratt Nature Center Day Camp Sponsorship can also be found on the WEC website.

We're planning a **WEC History Event** to celebrate our 50th year as Washington's environmental watchdog. We're actively looking for old WEC photos, news clips, "Stop the Pipe" hats or T-shirts, flyers, and/or pamphlets/posters to showcase during the event. If anyone has anything they'd like to share, please email Diane at info@wec-ct.org.

Get ready to Pollinate! WEC will kick off our **Pollinator Pathway Initiative** later this spring so be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for more information and event updates.

Conversations on the Green

Conversations On the Green in October ended its eighth season with an intimate discussion on "The Soul of America" with historian and presidential biographer John Meacham who noted the political polarization and unrest plaguing the country but reminded us that, as Americans, "we are not adversaries, we are neighbors — it doesn't mean we have to be friends. But we have to make concessions for collective happiness that may cost us some individual gains."

Four months later, we're reminded that the more things change, the more they remain the same. A couple of COVID vaccines have been released and a new administration has been sworn in despite an insurrection that briefly overwhelmed the Capitol - but the country remains paralyzed by bitter and bilious partisanship that mutes almost all communication across the political divide.

In the shadow of that stasis, Conversations On the Green begins its ninth season in May dedicated to serving as a political bridge, a forum to promote a continuing exchange of ideas and a shared knowledge set that can help pave the way for the emergence of compromise solutions to the country's most challenging problems.

This season, a diverse background of headliners will discuss the country's most critical snafus in a wide-ranging set of shows, including "Is Unity The Impossible Dream?," "Building Democracy 2.0," "Democracy In Color," "Climate Change: Sunrise or Sunset?" and "Women's Rights Rollback: The New Frontier." As in the past, proceeds from the live show will go to local and national charities, including The Susan B. Anthony Project, Greenwood's Counseling & Referrals and New Milford Hospital Foundation, of which COG donated \$70,000 to from its 2020 season.

A federally recognized charity charged with improving civic engagement and education, COG is looking for supporters, volunteers and interns. If you would like to participate or can contribute, please write to Laura Neminski, the executive director, at info@conversationsonthegreen.com.

The 2020 shows can be watched by clicking on the CPTV tab on the program's website, conversationsonthegreen.com.

Be sure to follow and like us on our social media platforms and be a part of the conversation.

What's Going on in Washington, CT

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

March

20 | 1:00pm

Zoom Seed Planting for Kids with Judea Garden with Gunn Memorial Library

Location: Zoom

Denise Arturi, from Judea Garden, will join with the Junior Library via zoom to help children learn about growing our food. Located in the Macricostas Preserve off Rt. 202 in Washington, the Judea Garden was created by the Steep Rock Association to provide fresh produce for members of the community. The garden has grown, harvested and distributed over 20,000 lbs. of fresh produce since 2009. Children will plant seeds at home

to nurture in their own gardens. Call to request these seed kits for curbside pickup Register at www.gunnlibrary.org/kids/program-registration/

April, Month-long events

Inside with the Institute for American Indian Studies, A Facebook Video Series

Location: Online at Facebook

IAIS has started Facebook Live series with family-friendly activities, stories, and classes (including outdoor survival). Go to the IAIS Facebook page to watch these Live events or replay past events! Some topics Longhouse – Community Life, Tales from the Rabbit Bag: Native Storytelling

Find out more at www.iaismuseum.org or IAIS Facebook page or explorewashingtonct.com/our-events/community-calendar/

May

14 | 9:00am-3:30pm

Watercolor Workshop: Color in Nature, Presented by Betsy Rogers-Know

Location: Hollister House Garden

Careful observation of all the subtle hues and values in nature helps in creating accurate, colorful and unique paintings. Using watercolor in a series of exercises, learn to mix and match these subtle earth tones found in a variety of leaves, petals and other treasures of the garden.



Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

Past and present, how many soda fountains were or are in existence in the town?

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

The oval plaque located on Green Hill Road is that of William Hamilton Gibson (1850 - 1896), Class of 1866 at The Gunnery. He was a naturalist, artist and author who often rented a house on Green Hill. In the evenings he would sit on the rock where the plaque is to write and illustrate. The Gunnery Alumni Association commissioned a plaque in his honor in 1902. W. H. Gibson built the Sumacs on Ferry Bridge Road with Ehrick Rossister as architect.

Visit ExploreWashingtonCT.com

The official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining and happenings around town. And

be sure to sign up for "This Month in Washington" e-news to stay in the loop on all things Washington!



What's Happening in Washington, CT is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee.

Look for our next issue, coming out in June 2021.

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