

# *What's happening in* Washington, CT

Summer 2021

## Spring Hill Arts Gathering 2021 Comes to Washington

By Dan Sherr

Washington has a longstanding tradition of cultivating the arts. Rossiter architecture, the Hollister House Gardens, the artists of the Washington Art Association, the Pilobolus and Momix dance companies, the After School Arts Program, just to name a few. With the emergence of arts and culture as the “industry” of the Northwest Corner of Connecticut, the Town of Washington is once again emerging as a major contributor to the cultivation of the arts.



Spring Hill Arts Gathering (SHAG) will deliver a multi-day outdoor and semi-enclosed cultural program this summer July 29 – Aug 1 & Aug 6 – 8. Founded by Stephanie Ingrassia, a well-known and established contributor to the arts in Washington. “We are building on the success of the Five Senses Festival. SHAG is a true love letter to the Washington area – a place my family has called home for close to three decades.” The Festival will connect artists with nature and

encourage diverse perspectives with creative collaborations and discussions. Programs will be provided by a rich combination of local, national and international artists, art groups and organizations.

SHAG 2021 will take full advantage of the vineyard’s tasting venues at 292 Bee Brook Road, New Preston CT. Many of the venues are major works



of art in their own right. Mark Mennin, known for his massive granite carvings, connecting the old tradition of stone carving to contemporary art, designed, and created the 300-person granite amphitheater overlooking the primary public areas. In a historic relocated grain silo, Randy Polumbo, a nationally known visual artist, master builder and sometimes designer, created an immersive grotto experience through his recycling transformative aesthetic—it is not to be missed! And a recently assembled and finished 6,500 square foot barn provides an enclosed and open theater for art exhibitions and musical and dance productions. The barn also contains site-specific interventions by Polumbo and Lauren Booth.

The 2021 schedule includes a speaking program with writer Dani Shapiro, Bossa Nova music and a seated dinner in the Barn; a full day curated by Pride in the Hills group; a day of poetry and movement, featuring Pilobolus, and other dance companies. SHAG 2021 closes Sunday, August 8 with a 12-10pm FREE Washington Town Party. Ms. Ingrassia expresses it, “We’re excited to once again gather to enjoy and celebrate creativity and the artistic spirit here in Washington.”

[www.springhillartsgathering.com](http://www.springhillartsgathering.com)

## Message from the Selectmen’s Office

As we prepare for summer, there is much to look forward to and be thankful for. Indeed, the light at the end of the tunnel is not a train and our town has continued to be a shining example of what a community should be. As of this writing, Connecticut has a vaccination rate of nearly 58% of residents. Washington has seen no new cases in recent weeks and our overall rate of vaccination is above 66%. According to the State Department of Health, as of May 6 our breakdown of administered vaccines is as follows;

- Age 15-44 – 64.95%
- Age 45-64 – 64.73%
- Age 65 and older – 91.37%

While these numbers are encouraging and continue to improve, we are still urging residents to get vaccinated. The only path back to normal is for the majority of residents to get vaccinated. All vaccine clinics are free and currently running several times a week in nearby New Milford which serves all Washington residents.

As of June 1 the Town Hall will be open to the public without the need for an appointment. Please see the Town website for a complete list of protocols that will remain in place. As weather continues to allow for more outdoor activities, we are encouraging residents to take advantage of all that Washington has to offer. A great source for happenings in town is [Explorewashingtonct.com](http://Explorewashingtonct.com). The site is updated daily and provides a wealth of information.

As we look forward to the end of what has been an unprecedented health crisis, we would like to take the opportunity to thank our local heroes for all they have done to keep Washington residents safe and informed. It truly has been a community effort to get through the past year and a half. All of our residents pitched in where they were needed and when they were needed. Without those efforts things would have been far worse for our town. Thank you to all!

Thought of the Day: “A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken.”

Washington Board of Selectmen  
Jim Brinton  
Jay Hubelbank  
Dean Sarjeant

# Spotlight on Business: The Averill Farm – Celebrating 275 Years

By Dan Sherr

Imagine a mid-1700s hilltop farm on 260 acres, acquired several years earlier from Chief Waramaug. Two hundred seventy-five years ago – 1746 – the Averill's settled the Averill Homestead at

what is now 250 Calhoun St, Washington, CT. Ten generations later it has evolved into the Averill Farm, a “must see, must tourist stop, must shop” fruit orchard and Christmas tree farm.

This August celebrates the 275th year of continuous operation. The celebrations

start Saturday, August 7 with the 10th annual Farmer's Table. August 15 marks the opening of the Averill farm stand on Calhoun St. August 28 – 29 will bring arts and culture, including art, art classes, music and wellness classes from town to a celebration tent on the Farm.



While the Averill farm stand is closed until August 15, their luscious and your favorite apple cider donuts, honey, cider syrup, apple butter and ciderscape vinegar can be found at local farmer's markets. May through November, every Saturday, 10am - 1pm, farmer's

markets are in Washington at the Judy Black Gardens in the Depot and on the New Milford Green 9am - 12pm.

Pick-your-own (PYO) opens mid-August at the Farm, 250 Calhoun St. 100+ varieties of apples and pears are grown in a 30-acre orchard; 20 are available for PYO. The orchard remains open seven days a week, 9:30am - 5:30pm until Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving, Christmas trees are available at the Farm until December 24.

[www.averillfarm.com](http://www.averillfarm.com)

## Stay in the loop on Washington news and events!

Visit [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](http://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](http://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.



# News from Regional School District 12

Region 12 Schools have defied all odds this year. The community's commitment to public health and support of in-person education has allowed our students opportunities that other districts did not have. We continue to utilize health and safety practices to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 while still promoting the joys of school.

Our Washington Primary School students are enjoying new playground equipment and creating musical classroom performances. Our students and staff are once again holding classes outdoors. The tents donated by Washington continue to provide a safe learning environment. Washington Primary School staff and fifth graders are particularly excited with the anticipation of an in-person ALOHA celebration scheduled for June.

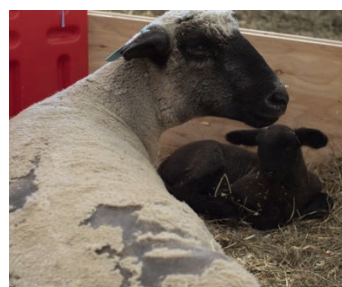
Shepaug Valley School is proud to share the achievements our students have made this year. The winter athletic season concluded with our swim team and basketball teams competing in the Berkshire League Championships. Shepaug dramatics production of “Edges” incorporated Hollywood meets Broadway-style show. The production was designed to allow our students to safely perform. There are some traditions that we continue, such as the World Affairs Forum, and some with a new twist, such as the outdoor prom courtesy of the three towns.



The Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley School welcomes new students and new animals. Our students were able to support the birth of seven lambs. Sadly, two of the lambs did not survive but our staff and students used the experience as a learning moment. The agriscience program is excited to share that the town of Bethel will send their agriscience students to Shepaug beginning fall 2021. Our schools continue to draw attention from surrounding towns because of the academic excellence and extracurricular activities offered in our schools.

The Shepaug Valley School Partnership continues to thrive within the hallways of Bryan Memorial Town Hall. Our students have been able to work at local businesses, participate in local activities, and thrive within our community. Our students are supported at all ages in Region 12.

We look forward to the full return of the REACH program in the fall as well as the safe reopening of facilities for public use. Your support through the pandemic showcased the greatness of a community. Our small schools are making a big impact because of you.





# Summer News from The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens



THE JUDY BLACK  
MEMORIAL PARK  
AND GARDENS

Summer is officially upon us, and the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens is ready – with a very full calendar and something for everyone! We look forward to welcoming the community to our “gathering place” in the heart of Washington and Litchfield County, for our outdoor movies, farmer’s markets, live performances, art exhibits, and much more – all respecting Covid-19 guidelines, of course.

If you would like to be part of “the action” at the park, join us as a volunteer. With more volunteers, we can keep our doors open for longer hours during the peak summer season. It’s a nice way to safely greet your local friends and neighbors. Contact Laura Neminski at [laura@thejudyblackparkandgardens.org](mailto:laura@thejudyblackparkandgardens.org), if you have a few hours a week to offer us.

## Farmer’s Market

Summer Saturdays are back at the Farmer’s Market! Stop by Litchfield Magazine’s 2021 Reader’s Choice Award for Best Farmers Market every Saturday through November 20, from 10am - 1pm; and shop our bounty of local farms. Please check our website for a full list of 2021 vendors.

## Art @ the Park

We are excited to launch a new line-up of summer artist exhibits; including an Artist Talk with Lisa Elmaleh, an American visual artist, educator, and documentarian who specializes

in tintype, glass negative and celluloid film.

- Shepaug Valley School and The Frederick Gunn School Student Show: May 24 – June 6
- Jason Wallengren: June 11 – July 18, opening reception June 11
- Artist Talk with Lisa Elmaleh: July 11 from 4 – 6pm
- Erik Madigan Heck: July 23 – August 30
- Peter Cusack: September 3 – October 12

## Outdoor Movie Nights @ the Park

Thanks to our amazing sponsors, our Outdoor Movie Nights will continue as drive-ins at the River Walk Pavilion. Join us for movies for the whole family. Or make it a date night and experience movies such as *An American in Paris* on the big screen.

- May 21: *Jaws* - Sponsored by National Iron Bank
  - May 22: *ET* - Sponsored by the Glass Family
  - June 18: *An American In Paris* - Sponsored by William Pitt Sotheby’s International
  - June 19: *Mary Poppins* - Sponsored by William Pitt Sotheby’s International
  - August 20: *Some Like It Hot* - Sponsored by Trevenen & Coploff, LLC
  - August 21: *Akeelah and the Bee*
  - September 3: *42* – Sponsored by Bouyea & Associates
  - September 4: *Karate Kid*
- Sponsors as of press time.*

Special thanks to Ericson Insurance Advisors, Gunn Memorial Library and the Town of Washington for making this possible.

## FUNraiser for the Park

Support the Judy Black Park by attending our annual FUNraiser. Back by popular demand, our own Audrey Heffernan Meyer, actor and singer, best known for *The Blacklist*, *Y: The Last Man* and *The Enemy Within*; will be performing on Sunday, July 25. More information and tickets (while they last) are available at [www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org](http://www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org).

## Theatre for Good

Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18, Theatre for Good returns with a special presentation of “Almost, Maine,” starring playwright, author and Broadway star, John Cariani; and actor Caroline Kinsolving. Performances will be Saturday at 8pm and on Sunday at 5pm. For ticket information, email [CKinsolving@mac.com](mailto:CKinsolving@mac.com).

## Community Block Party

We hope you’ll join us at the park on Friday June 4, as we help celebrate Washington with neighbors and friends at the second annual Community Block Party, organized by the Washington Business Association.

Check out our website ([www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org](http://www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org)), sign up for our e-blasts, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for details of the events and more. Enjoy our mission in action this summer: “A gathering place that invites friends and neighbors to relax, learn, play, and share all that our community offers.”

## LAKE IT SLOW — Lake Waramaug’s New Road Safety Initiative

Traffic and speeding around Lake Waramaug has increased dramatically. The narrow, winding roads belong just as much to cyclists, walkers and joggers as they do to vehicles, and ‘near misses’ have unfortunately become too frequent an occurrence.

It’s up to all of us to keep each other safe – and we can, if we LAKE IT SLOW.

The Lake Waramaug Association’s new road safety initiative LAKE IT SLOW is launching this summer. We’ll be working closely with our local CT State Troopers and the towns of Washington, Warren, and Kent to reduce speeding, and for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to be more aware of each other and safely share the road. In addition, we’ll be researching and studying road regulations, traffic and accidents in and around the lake,

and communicating with various government agencies to advocate for reducing speed limits, posting additional signage and developing other initiatives that will make the lake roads safer for all.

The generous contributions we received through our recent Give Local campaign (thank you!) will go directly to funding several easy and proven ways to prevent accidents around the lake starting this summer, including:

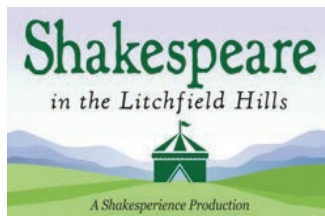
- Enhanced speed patrols in coordination with our local CT State Troopers
- Clearer and more abundant signage
- A community awareness campaign with outreach to residents, visitors and companies working in/around the lake



What’s the easiest and most effective way to make the roads around Lake Waramaug safer? YOU. Everyone’s actions make a difference. Give a ‘Waramaug Wave’ to show you see oncoming vehicles and pedestrians. Please drive

at, or below, the posted speed limits. Watch out for walkers, runners and cyclists around every curve. If you’re enjoying a walk, run or riding your bike, stay single file and follow the road rules.

All voices and ideas are welcome. To join our road safety conversation, reach out to us with your name and contact information at [waramaugassoc.org/contact](http://waramaugassoc.org/contact). And remember to LAKE IT SLOW!



PRESENTS

## WANDA LOVES WILLIAM : AN ENCORE!!

**Saturday, June 12, 2021, 5pm arrival, 5:30pm music**

A MUSICAL BENEFIT TO SUPPORT TWELFTH  
NIGHT, SUMMER 2021

River Walk Pavilion and Lawn, Washington Depot  
Rain date Sunday, June 13

Wanda Houston and her HBH Band WOWED the audience last September at the Pavilion. She not only received a standing ovation, but many in the audience could not resist the urge to dance along to the music (in their pods, of course!). And so, because we loved Wanda so much, and because she's such a lover of Shakespeare, we just had to bring her back for an encore!!

Wanda sings the great American Song Book, jazz standards, rhythm and blues, soul and rock. She has lived and performed professionally throughout the U.S., Europe and Australia. She has performed on Broadway stages, in films, on television and has recorded extensively.

Wanda is delighted to return with her HBH Band to celebrate with us her joy and belief in the power of music and its effect on the hearts of all of us. She's thrilled to support our efforts to bring five, live FREE performances of Twelfth Night to Washington in August 2021. This will be an evening to remember!!

Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for children under age 14.

Sponsor tickets are \$250 for two tickets which includes preferred seating and special mention.

Box suppers prepared by the Pantry may be reserved for \$25 each. Thank you, Zoe & Keith.

Donations of any amount are deeply appreciated.

Pods and markings will be provided for social distancing. Masks will be required when not in a designated pod.

Please bring your own lawn chairs.

Please reserve tickets by clicking the top banner at [www.shakesperience.org](http://www.shakesperience.org). (203) 565-6429 for assistance.

Once you have ordered tickets, you'll receive a follow-up email to order box suppers and to request seating with specific friends and/or family members.

See you there!!

Friends of Shakesperience in the Litchfield Hills



The Washington Council of Congregations held its first spring Drive-Thru Food Drive on Saturday, May 22, hosted by the First Congregational Church of Washington. Many thanks to Pastor

Robyn Gray, many volunteers (led by Jim Esslinger) and generous donors for recognizing the continued need of many of our neighbors for shelf stable food, personal care items and monetary donations. While many of us are vaccinated against Covid-19, the economic downturn continues to leave many in our area with insufficient food. WCOC shared the proceeds of the successful food drive with the Warren/Washington Food Bank and the New Milford Food Bank.

Since January, WCOC has also recruited volunteers from several of our congregations to work at the Thursday Warren/Washington Food Bank; and will continue to do so throughout the summer months.

Please look for WCOC's table at the Saturday farmer's markets at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens. Representatives of our seven member congregations will be there weekly to greet you and thank you for your donations of fresh produce and monetary donations. This year, we'll deliver the fresh produce directly to the Warren/Washington Food Bank and the monetary donations to the Community Culinary School of North West Connecticut, whose chefs will continue to prepare meals for local food banks, the New Milford Senior Center and Community Dinners. In addition to helping to feed the community, they provide training for jobs in the food service industry.

Last but not least, St. John's Church will again be hosting WCOC's American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, July 9, from 12 - 6:30pm. To make an appointment to donate blood, go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>. To volunteer as a host in the canteen or registration desk for two hours or more, contact the St. John's Parish Office at 860-868-2527.

## Lake Waramaug Task Force Attends Earth Day Gathering On Town Hall Lawn

It was a beautiful spring day and a perfect opportunity for the Task Force to demonstrate all the sampling equipment we use to take care of Lake Waramaug. Peary Stafford our Board Chair, shows a resident the tools of the trade displayed at our Lake Science Education Booth (see photo).

Studying how the lake behaves takes a broad array of equipment, and the information we gather guides our lake management efforts; efforts that continue to improve the lake's water quality.



This year's Earth Day theme is "Restore Our Earth." The Task Force is working hard every day to restore our beautiful Lake Waramaug so we can all enjoy it now and for many years to come. Thank you to everyone who supports our lake protection efforts. To see past and current lake data and conditions collected by our sampling equipment visit our new "Lake Dashboard" at [lakewaramaug.org](http://lakewaramaug.org). And as always, feel free to contact us if you have questions about our efforts, the lake, or things you can do to protect Lake Waramaug.



# The Outdoor Classroom at Washington Montessori School

*"There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature." Maria Montessori*

Maria Montessori was a firm believer in the importance of the outdoor classroom as part of the daily routine for children, and thus, the Washington Montessori School classrooms (each with a door to the outside) allow for regular interaction with nature. Utilizing the outdoors, both on and off our campus is not a new concept for WMS. In fact, intentional use of outdoor space has always been a critical part of our curriculum across all ages. Whether it's young children preparing a garden for planting, elementary students following trails through the woods, or middle schoolers releasing trout they raised into our local rivers, learning out of doors is something we have always done at WMS.

Nevertheless, in 2020-2021, as one of our many Covid-19 mitigation strategies, we increased our outdoor time even more. We created permanent roofed outdoor spaces for each classroom and children brought their work and engaged in lessons outside on a regular basis. PE was outside every day, and we almost never canceled recess! Our before and after care program is now a fully outdoor

program, and we look forward to expanding that program in the coming years.

There is no doubt that we live in a part of the world rich with outdoor opportunities. As the need for Covid-19 protocol lessens, our commitment to incorporating the outdoors into what we do every day will continue.

Parents interested in learning more about WMS are encouraged to contact Laura Martin at [lmartin@washingtonmontessori.org](mailto:lmartin@washingtonmontessori.org) or 860-868-0551 to arrange a visit. Observing our students and teachers at work, both inside and outside, is the best way to understand Montessori education.

Washington Montessori School, founded in 1965, is one of the oldest Montessori schools in this country. A member of the American Montessori Society, accredited by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, WMS enrolls 260 children ages 18 months to 14. It is a unique educational environment, a warm and welcoming community of learners, a school that has inspired students and families for over 50 years. We encourage you to have a look at our website <http://www.washingtonmontessori.org> then come see for yourself.

# Pollinator Pathway Initiatives Have Launched!

Washington is committed to participate in the Pollinator Pathway initiative. This effort has grown quickly in popularity and translates to supporting our local and indigenous habitats that are critical to pollinators that, in turn, reinforce our delicate ecosystem. You might notice that your neighbors are taking on the "No-Mow May" initiative or that they are adopting routines such as mowing smaller percentages of their lawns, rotating their mowing patterns and installing pollinator gardens. It's essential that we take action to support pollinators and the role that they play in our ecological community. We encourage all residents to get behind this initiative! The Sustainability Committee, the Washington Environmental Council, The Garden Club and Steep Rock have all joined the effort. Watch for the new pollinator garden the Garden Club will be planting next to Town Hall and go to [www.pollinator-pathway.org/](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org/) to learn more.



# The Institute for American Indian Studies

Your Native American Museum is open this summer with several programs and events for our neighbors to enjoy.

Our unique summer camp program focuses on the lifeways and lessons of Native Peoples here in the eastern woodlands. With a different theme each week, campers can learn something new every week they attend. Led by our experienced educators, Gabe Benjamin and Susan Scherf, our summer camp engages campers with projects and lessons related to the people, forests and waterways here in Quinnetukut.

Starting this June, the Museum will be expanding its hours to Wednesday through Sunday (Wed through Sat 11am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm)! Visitors will find new exhibits, new perspectives and new experiences



as a part of our ongoing effort to inform and educate our guests about the successes and challenges faced by Native People living here over the last 12,000 years.

While at the museum, be sure to check out the multi-award winning escape room, Wigwam Escape! In an immersive forest setting with no locks, keys or clocks, Wigwam Escape's thematic

puzzles challenge game players to thrive for a day in 1518, similar to how Native Peoples did for thousands of years prior to European contact.

Our annual Green Corn Festival is MOVING! This year it will take place at the Riverwalk Pavilion on August 14 from 12pm - 4pm and will feature Native Dancers, foods, vendors



and exhibits. This move will allow us to bring more artists, vendors and people to our most popular event.

Many town residents mention they want to visit the Museum for the first time or return after being here a decade ago – now's the time to make your visit happen!

For a list of all our events and programs, visit our website [iaismuseum.org](http://iaismuseum.org).

# ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

For more information about these programs, please visit [asapct.org](http://asapct.org) or call 845-518-5859.

## SUMMER CAMP

**GRADES 1-12 • SELECTED TEACHING ARTISTS**

Yay! Summer Camp outdoors! Get ready to explore, discover, create, connect with



friends, and most importantly have fun. Each year we're grateful to provide an innovative environment where campers experience their creative potential both as individuals and as a community. This year, our days will be filled with hands-on learning through the arts—outdoors. Activities will take us on journeys through nature, explorations in music, dance, visual art and theatre, and discoveries through observation and imagination. At summer camp, the possibilities are boundless, especially when we create together!

ASAP! will adhere to Covid-19 safety guidelines put out by the state of Connecticut and Office of Early Childhood.

This program is funded in part by The Maurice Sendak Foundation.

**WHERE:**

Warren Woods

251 Brick School Road, Warren, CT 06754

**WHEN:**

Grades 1-5 July 26-30 (50 campers max)

Grades 6-12 August 2-6 (50 campers max)

**COST:** \$395

Participants are expected to bring a lunch. Please pack lunches in reusable containers to reduce waste. ASAP! provides a nut-free organic snack daily. Financial aid available if needed. Review our Covid-19 safety guidelines on our website, [www.asapct.org](http://www.asapct.org).

ASAP! Summer Camp is licensed by the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, license #00997.

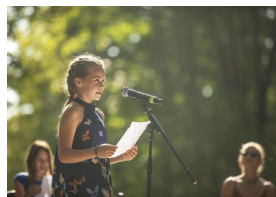
ASAP! Hiring for Summer Camp Counselors  
ASAP! is currently seeking individuals who are passionate about the arts, education, nature and working with youth. You must be an energetic team player who's a skilled listener, observer and learner. You'll work alongside ASAP! staff, teaching artists and

youth to create a cohesive and safe experience for campers. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, counselors may only apply to work one of the two weeks: July 26-30 for grades 1-5, or August 2-6 for grades 6-12. You must be 18 years or older to apply.

Contact Program/Camp Director Ali Psomas at [ali@asapct.org](mailto:ali@asapct.org)

## EVENT | CELEBRATION OF YOUNG WRITERS and SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH WATERBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Each year ASAP! invites young writers grades K-12 to submit writing 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.

ASAP!'s top selected young writers from across the state will read their work at a special outdoor event for their families on July 23 in Washington, CT. Leading up to this special event, they'll work with coaches and rehearse from home in preparation for presenting their work alongside ASAP!'s Summer Strings students and the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra.

**Private Event**

Friday | July 23 | 5:00-6:00pm

Spring Hill Vineyard, New Preston, CT

Recording of event will be available on ASAP!

**YouTube channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDbi2racrTy0H8G8ciu3YSg>

## SUMMER STRINGS PROJECT

**GRADES 6-12**

**+ ADULTS • WATERBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Students who play the violin, viola,



cello, or bass will have the opportunity to work and perform with musicians of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. Musicians in grades 6-12 will learn a varied repertoire from WSO professionals in small groups, focusing on fundamental techniques, ensemble skills and musical interpretation. This project will culminate in a performance by participants and WSO musicians. A minimum of one year experience playing a string instrument and the ability to read music is required. Space is limited per instrument.

This program is funded in part by The Maurice Sendak Foundation.

**WHERE:**

Washington Green

6 Kirby Road, Washington, CT 06793

**WHEN:**

July 19-23, 9am-12:30pm

Private Concert July 23

**COST:**

5 sessions \$170. Financial aid is available. We will be following Covid-19 safety guidelines.

## CELEBRATION OF YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS

**GRADES 6-12**

ASAP!'s annual Celebration of Young

Photographers provides students

in grades 6-12

the opportunity to participate in a large-scale professional art exhibition and juried show. A panel of professional photographers selects 60 photos to be included in a unique exhibition. The top four photographers are recognized for their outstanding work and receive the Dylan's Wings Photography Award and a special prize. This event is FREE and open to the public and all photographs are available for purchase. We look forward each year to celebrating Connecticut's talented photographers, providing creative opportunities, and helping to build a community of support around our emerging young artists.



Submission information available in June on [www.asapct.org](http://www.asapct.org)



# Steep Rock Association News

## Steep Rock Association Offers “Three Peaks in Three Weeks” Hiking Challenge

Steep Rock Association (SRA) and Washington Parks and Recreation “challenge” you, your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to take our “Three Peaks in Three Weeks Hiking Challenge” from May 20 through June 10.



Strap on your trail shoes, enjoy the fresh air and take in the wonders of nature leading to scenic viewsheds as you hike to the highest peaks in Steep Rock's three preserves: The Summit at Steep Rock, the Pinnacle at Hidden Valley and Waramaug's Rock at Macricostas. Participants in this friendly competition are challenged to hike all three peaks in three weeks and register to win prizes from some of our favorite local businesses.

According to Kasia Smith, Outreach Committee Chair for SRA, “Steep Rock is thrilled to launch the inaugural Three Peaks Challenge! We encourage our supporters and visitors to explore the beauty of our preserves in late spring while enjoying some of the most scenic vistas in all of Litchfield County.”

To be eligible for prizes, participants must share photos of their hikes on social media using the hashtag #3peaks3weeksSRA by June

10, 2021. Winners will be drawn mid-June.

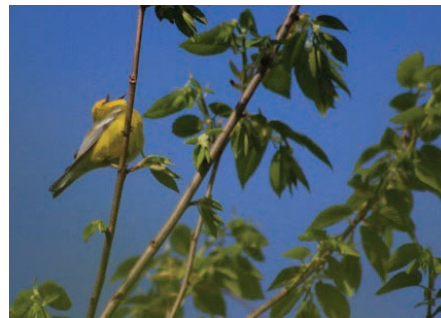
The event is free and open to the public. Donations to support keeping our trails safe and clear are appreciated. All participants must register online at <https://steeprockassoc.org/events-programs/>. SRA will share additional information with registrants prior to the event.

## A Birding Bonanza with Olaf: An Exploration in Nature

Join expert ornithologist Olaf Soltau and Steep Rock Association (SRA) for a morning of birding, reaping the benefits of Olaf's tutelage through the varied habitats in Macricostas Preserve.

This conserved land supports tremendous biodiversity, especially within its avian community, which our group will be sure to witness firsthand.

The program will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2021 from 8 - 10am and begin at the main Macricostas Preserve parking lot located at 124 Christian Street, New Preston, CT. Participants should be prepared for a 23/4-mile hike over level terrain. Please bring water and binoculars. All ages and levels of experience are welcome.



Registration is required, space is limited, and Covid-19 safety protocols (social distancing and mask wearing) will be practiced. Please register through SRA's website at <https://steeprockassoc.org/events-programs/>.

**PROGRAM LEADER:** Olaf's passion for birds began in Litchfield County, CT, nearly 20 years ago. His travels in search of rare birds have taken him across six continents and his life list is approaching 5,000, half of the world's bird species. Back home, Olaf especially enjoys introducing novices both young and old to the fascinating world of birds. He has studied bird biology at Cornell University and is an active member

of organizations such as National Audubon Society, Linnaean Society of New York and The Explorers Club.

Steep Rock Association is a nationally-accredited land trust whose mission is to conserve ecologically

and historically significant landscapes and riparian corridors in and around Washington, CT and to enhance the community's connection to nature through outreach education, and passive recreation.

[www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org)

## News from the Assessor's Office

The Assessor notifies Washington residents of the following:

### New Residents Responsible for Motor Vehicle Tax

Welcome new residents. We're pleased that you selected Washington, CT as your new residence. The Assessor wishes to remind you that Connecticut General Statute states that you need to register your motor vehicles in CT within 60 days.

If you haven't registered your motor vehicles for over 60 days, but are NOT a resident, you're still required to file a personal property declaration for those vehicles by Nov 1. Please call the Assessor office for information, at 860-868-0398.

### Tax Assistance for Elderly or Disabled Renters

Renters in Washington with total household income at or below Single - \$37,600 or Married - \$45,800 may be eligible for a benefit payment if they have been a Connecticut resident for a one-year period prior to filing. Persons 65 years of age by December 31, 2020 and persons receiving total disability from Social Security are eligible to apply. New applications are filed between May 15-October 1, 2021; available at [www.washingtonct.org/assessor](http://www.washingtonct.org/assessor).

### Tax Exemptions for Veterans

Residents who are honorably discharged veterans, having served at least 90 cumulative days during wartime or who have a disability rating from the Veteran's Administration, may be eligible for some

tax exemption. Their DD-214 or honorable discharge must be filed with the Town Clerk by September 30 for exemption on the upcoming Grand List.

### Additional Veterans Exemptions

The Governor's Executive order removes the requirement for any veteran who was approved with a 2019GL application to reapply for the 2021GL. Such veterans will automatically qualify for the exemption on the 2021GL and 2022GL using the same income submitted on their prior application. These veterans will not have to reapply until the 2023GL. New filers must still apply by October 1. Any new filer needing an extension of time to file must be approved by the Assessor's office on or before December 31, 2021.

# Gunn Memorial Library & Museum [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org)

Need a library card? We have made it simpler for you to gain access to Gunn Library's amazing resources. You can register for a library card online! Visit our website to fill out the form.

The Shepaug Libraries Collaboration continues! Programs offered by Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury and from Burnham Library in Bridgewater are offered virtually to residents of Washington! The calendar is on our website.

## VIRTUAL Adult Programs

Please register on Gunn's website [gunnlibrary.org](http://gunnlibrary.org) to receive the Zoom links

### Sharing Our Shelves: Summer Reading Edition - Thursday, June 3 @ 6:30pm

Not sure what to read this summer? Join the GML staff to get recommendations that meet school requirements and suggestions to complete our Adult Summer Reading Challenge.

### Author Talk with Jan Philip-Sendker: Thursday, June 10 @ 6:30 pm

Gunn Memorial Library and Hickory Stick Bookshop will host Jan Philip-Sendker to discuss his latest book, *The Heart Remembers*, the final volume in his series *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*. This book concludes the story about Burmese-American lawyer Julia Win - weaving lessons of hope, humor, tragedy, and familial ties that bind across time and place. Register for this event on Gunn's website. Signed copies of the book will be available at the Hickory Stick Bookshop.

### Short Stories Summer Series: Tuesdays, June 22 & 29 and July 13 & 20 @ 6:30pm

Jim Kelleher, a poet and literature professor at Northwestern Community College, will lead a four-part series on the art of short stories. We'll discuss the classic short story works of Hemingway, Chekhov, and more and we'll review the mechanics of storytelling: characters, plot, setting, tone, theme, point of view. This series will be limited to 10 people in-person at Gunn Memorial Library and will be streamed live via Zoom. Registration is required for indoor, on-site attendance and Covid-19 safety protocols must be followed.

### Author Talk with Author Julie Metz: Thursday, August 5 @ 6:30pm

Gunn Memorial Library and Hickory Stick Bookshop will host local author Julie Metz to discuss her memoir, *Eva and Eve*, an unforgettable and vividly written account of her late mother's lost childhood in wartime Austria - and the parallels she sees between that dark time and present-day America. Register for this event on Gunn's website. Signed copies of the book will be available at the Hickory Stick Bookshop.

**SUMMER READING** for all age groups begins June 1 and continues through August. Adult readers are invited to complete ten reading challenges for an opportunity to win a variety of prizes, young adults will be registered into a raffle for a basket of summer fun essentials and youngsters can earn raffle tickets for dozens of prizes - simply for time spent reading! Register online at [gunnlibrary.org](http://gunnlibrary.org) or at the library.

## Gunn Junior Library

### Friday Preschool Story-times on Zoom (June 4 - June 25)

### Two's Time @ 10:30am | Three & Four Book Buddies @ 2:15pm

Register @ [gunnlibrary.org](http://gunnlibrary.org)

Sign up for "Tails & Tales" starting June 1. Children receive a bag with book related items and a journal to record time spent reading, being read to, or listening to books. Tickets are awarded for each hour recorded and can be used as chances to win prizes donated by local businesses and patrons! Saturday, August 14 is the last day to turn in Summer Reading tickets.

### Tuesday Afternoon Programs (Virtual via Zoom) Register online.

Tuesday, July 6 @ 4pm - Amazing Hummingbirds

Tuesday, July 13 @ 4pm - Butterfly Puddles

Tuesday, July 20 @ 4pm - Wildlife Terrarium Jars

Tuesday, July 27 @ 4pm - A Tale with Tails

Tuesday, August 3 @ 4pm - Backyard Adventure

Tuesday, August 10 @ 4pm - Watercolor Animal Silhouettes

Tuesday, August 17 @ 4pm - Jell-O Beach Dessert

Call 860-868-2310 to request Take & Make Kits that support these weekly activities! Pick up in-house or at our curbside table.

## Stairwell Gallery Exhibits

Karen Pepper: June 5 - July 10

Susan Kapilow: July 7 - August 28

## Gunn Historical Museum Programs

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

### Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut

### Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom

Which side are you on? That's the question that every person in Connecticut, including here in Washington, had to answer in 1775, as the thirteen colonies began a rebellion against British rule. 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."

### Sharp Eyes: Rambling Around with William Hamilton Gibson - Washington, Connecticut's Leading Naturalist, Artist and Author of Late Nineteenth Century America Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom

This richly illustrated lecture commemorates the 125th anniversary of William Hamilton Gibson's untimely passing in July 1896. Daniel Patterson, a scholar of early American natural history and nature writing, will discuss Gibson's career, from his earliest days at The Gunnery to the height of his achievement as a successful literary naturalist-illustrator for both magazines and books. Ranked as one of America's three leading naturalists, along with Henry David Thoreau and John Burroughs, for inspiring his generation with a love of nature, Gibson's surroundings in Washington, Connecticut provided the perfect inspiration for his work.

### Washington Connecticut: An American Story - an Award-winning Exhibit

Come explore this exciting exhibit celebrating the unique people, places and events that shaped Washington's rich history. What new form of transportation started bringing New Yorkers to Washington in 1872? Why did Washington become home to a large number of immigrants from Sweden? Where in Washington was the earliest known photograph of a baseball game in America taken? Learn the answers and explanations to these questions and more!

Free admission. One-hour guided tours are available on Saturdays at 1pm - please call or email to sign up. Visitors can also take an audio tour of the exhibit using their own smart devices and there's an exhibit scavenger hunt available for kids and teens!

## Library Hours:

Monday 9:30am-5pm, Tuesday 9:30am-7pm, closed Wednesday, Thursday 9:30am-5pm, Friday 9:30am-5pm, Saturday 9:30am-3pm, open Sunday 12-4pm thru June 27

Main Desk: 860-868-7586

Email: [gunncirc@biblio.org](mailto:gunncirc@biblio.org)

Children's Services: 868-868-2310

Email: [gunnjr@biblio.org](mailto:gunnjr@biblio.org)

## Museum Hours:

Thursday, Friday and Sat. 10am-4pm

Guided Tours Saturdays @ 1pm

Call to pre-register. 860-868-7756

Email: [info@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:info@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org)



# Hollister House Garden Summer 2021 Events



Join us at Hollister House Garden throughout the summer, open Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-4pm and Saturdays, 10am-4pm.

Admission is \$5.00 per visitor. The garden will continue to offer a series of workshops open to the community with advanced registration required. Hollister House Garden is committed to providing a safe environment for participants in all activities. For more information, visitor guidelines and a full listing of events, visit [www.hollisterhousegarden.org](http://www.hollisterhousegarden.org).

## JUNE

### Special Opening for Artists and Photographers

Wednesday, June 2, 9am-1pm



On Wednesday mornings the garden will be open for plein air painters and photographers June 2 - August 25 from 9am-1pm. Come and be inspired by the beauty of the garden in the morning light. When you arrive please park only in designated areas. \$5.00 admission fee per visitor. Please stay on the gravel paths and the lawn – no easels in the beds!

### Evening hours at Hollister House Garden Thursday, June 3, 6-8pm

Enjoy the opportunity to see the garden in a different light! Beginning Thursday, June 3 - August 26, the garden will be open on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. During these special hours, picnicking will be allowed on the main lawn only. Please remember there are no trash receptacles anywhere on the property.

### Lecture – Go Beyond the Basics: Smartphone Photography for the Garden with Thad Kubis

Saturday, June 5, 10am-12pm

Go beyond the basics of your device's camera

and learn how to 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!

### Workshop – Enhancing Your Images: Smartphone/Tablet Photography in the Garden with Thad Kubis

Friday, June 25, 9am-2:30pm

Hollister House Garden offers many creative photographic opportunities for knowledgeable users of smartphone/tablet cameras. This detailed class begins with an overview of basic camera systems. Following this overview participants will practice their new skills in specific situations in the garden. The session concludes with a review of some of the day's images.

### Workshop – Irises in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers Knox

Saturday, June 26, 10am-3:30pm

Iris takes its name from the Greek word for a rainbow, which possibly refers to the wide variety of flower colors found among the many species. Using layers of light transparent washes with step-by-step demonstrations, learn to portray the many hues and diaphanous qualities of this much-loved flower.

## JULY

### Workshop – Summer Farm Stand Edibles in Colored Pencil with Jeanne Reiner

Friday, July 23, 10am-3:30pm



From farm to table to beautiful art, the unexpected and familiar shapes of the summer harvest are a feast for the senses. We'll select from the greenmarket the best of vine, tree and soil as inspiration for our color pencil illustrations. Join us as you learn how to translate these delicious, local seasonal fruits and vegetables into vivid works of art, using such techniques as layering colors, burnishing, embossing and more. For the beginner to the advanced artist.

## AUGUST

### Workshop – Flower Arranging from the Garden with Deborah Munson

Friday, August 6, 1pm-4pm



This workshop will explore the joys of creating a seasonal floral design foraged from one's own garden, the fields and woods. Horticulturalist and landscape designer, Deborah Munson, will introduce you to her work and review the tools of the trade. She'll lead a walk through Hollister House Garden discussing floral design, structure and color. Then participants will create an arrangement of their own under her direction.

### Workshop – Capturing the Light: An Introduction to Floral Still Life with Thad Kubis

Saturday, August 7, 10am-3:30pm

This class will provide a detailed introduction to different approaches to floral still life photography. Participants will learn to enhance image drama and depth through the interplay of light, shadow and compositional techniques. After a practical overview and demonstrations, participants will experiment with a variety of setups, lighting conditions and subjects.

### Workshop – Summer Bouquet in Watercolor with Betsy Rogers Knox

Friday, August 20, 10am-3:30pm

Create a simple, summer wildflower bouquet painting using the local, colorful plant material of the season. Participants will practice a variety of watercolor techniques including masking, wet washes, dry brush and charging color. With demonstrations and a step-by-step approach this workshop is open to all skill levels.



PRESENTED BY

COG  
CONVERSATIONS  
ON THE GREEN

Conversations On the Green, the producer of a national television talk show, feverishly prepares to shoot an unprecedented phalanx of June and July programs. After being nominated for a regional Emmy for an episode from last year's series, the Washington-based group this year took the plunge and went national while increasing the number of talk shows it produces by 50%.

"The trick is going to be engineering a soft landing" says Jane Whitney, the shows' moderator. We've got our best line-up ever. We're tackling some of the country's most pressing topical issues. We're close to announcing our plans for the first 11 shows. But our distributor wants to know how we're going to end the season. We still have almost no idea. We keep telling them 'trust us, we'll work it out. We promise it will follow our

tradition of past blockbuster finales like Seth Meyers and Jon Meacham."

The group, which started in St. John's Parish Hall, began its season by announcing that the national version of its television show would be called "Common Ground with Jane Whitney," a renaming required by television listings' space limitations and because it's a paradigm of the charity's mission - to bridge the bilious partisan divisions and create the shared factual foundation required for a thriving democracy.

The critically acclaimed program is a scene setter for the group's June 6 forum, "A Facelift For Democracy," which will focus on the battle to save democracy, widely considered one of the 21st century's preeminent challenges. The livestream program, which starts at 3pm, boasts an all-star cast of some of the country's most critical thinkers, including *Washington Post* Columnist E.J. Dionne, *New York Times* Columnist Bret Stephens and Heather Cox Richardson, a wildly popular historian best known for her daily newsletter,

"Letters from an American," which examines current events through a historical lens.

The June 27 program is the third in a series on the challenges bedeviling the American system of constitutional government and a continuation of COG's ongoing focus on racism, which earned a regional Emmy nomination for the 2020 program "Democracy In Color." This year's symposium, which carries the same name, is headlined by *CNN's* Don Lemon, an outspoken critic of what he sees as America's system of racial injustice; the author and political strategist Heather McGhee, a policy wonk whose recent work examines how racism affects public and economic policy; and *The New Yorker's* Jelani Cobb, a staff writer whose columns explore the dynamics of American culture, race and, most notably, the chaotic domestic politics defining the past two years.

COG, which is seeking volunteers to help with its expanded schedule, also is planning programs for later in the summer on the growing domestic terrorism threat, U.S. foreign policy, the future of the GOP and the battle to protect women's rights, among other subjects. But the grand finale remains a key to the season. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer with the group, please don't hesitate to send COG an email at [info@conversationsonthegreen.com](mailto:info@conversationsonthegreen.com).

Past shows can be watched by clicking on the CPTV tab on our website, [conversationsonthegreen.com](http://conversationsonthegreen.com).



### Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

Who in Washington recently celebrated their 105th birthday and what is the name of the farm where this person lives?

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

#### Answer from the last issue.

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

You could sit at a soda fountain counter in the original bowling alley of the Shepaug Club, the New Preston Pharmacy, Parks Drug (the counter was eventually moved to The Glenholme School), and the Green Drug n/k/a The PO.

*What's Happening in Washington, CT* is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. [mgorra@washingtonct.org](mailto:mgorra@washingtonct.org)

Look for our next issue, coming out in September.

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

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