



friendsnews

Fall/Winter 2021-22



Dear Friends and WCSA Participants:

The Westport Center for Senior Activities (WCSA) was elated to re-open its doors on July 1, 2021 after being closed since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participation numbers continue to rise which is a great sign that we're getting back to the good old days.

I'm so appreciative of the Friends' continued financial support throughout the pandemic which has enabled the WCSA staff to offer creative, fun, and safe, uninterrupted programs. The Friends co-sponsored a summer barbeque followed by a performance of the local "Cukes" ukulele band. In recognition of National Ice Cream Day, the Friends sponsored a "Name that Tune" contest and had the Ice Cream Emergency Truck on hand for everyone's pleasure. A Labor Day barbeque was enjoyed by all featuring myself and Program Manager, Holly Betts at the grill. Local Westporter and professional violinist Heather Hardy provided entertainment. Westport Poet Laureate, Diane Lowman taught a summer writing program on Zoom entitled: The Art of Brevity. Most recently, art historian Lisa Arnold lectured on Swedish artist Carl Larsson and Indigenous art of Aboriginal Australians.

The WCSA was able to provide a wide variety of programs in an effort to keep seniors engaged, healthy, active and entertained, all in a safe and supportive manner while we continued to closely monitor the COVID positivity rate. Thank you, Friends, for your continued commitment and financial support as we strive to get the WCSA back to the vibrant,

busy, fun and stimulating facility it was pre-COVID. Another step back to normalcy... Sue's café is back open five days a week for lunch and the Grab-n-Go is back fully stocked. Come and enjoy a delicious, hot, well-balanced meal prepared fresh on site by Chef Pancho from Creative Culinary. Suggested donation for those 60+ years of age is \$5.00 - 7.00. Reservations are required and can be made on MyActiveCenter or by calling the WCSA at 203.341.5099. Please visit for the latest menu: www.westportct.gov/senior-center.

I'm so proud of the accomplishments of the WCSA team, all who worked countless hours over a very challenging year. Wishing the Friends, and the wonderful WCSA staff and participants a very healthy and happy 2022!

Peace,

Sue

Sue Pfister, Director



Halloween Party



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letter from the president

TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL SENIORS



Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Board of The Friends of the Center for Senior Activities. We are about to start a new year full of hope and aspirations as we finally move away from COVID; and the appropriate theme for the year should be regeneration and positive change for all of us. The Friends board of directors is delighted to announce the addition of six new members; all uniquely qualified to add to the group of talented members already with us. We welcome Diane Bosch, Marsha Darmory, Joe Nixon, Kristina Stephano, Fran Thomas and Sara Valentine. Please join me in thanking Carol Gluckman and Lois Schine who will be retiring from the Board after many years of valuable service and enthusiasm. They will be missed but happily they are continuing their Center volunteer roles, so we will not be losing touch!

With the advent of 2022 we expect to return to providing many in-person programs and music concerts in conjunction with the Center programming. We expect to limit attendance as necessary to adhere to health and safety but fear not, we will still provide food and beverages including favorites like guacamole and salsa, plus sweets at our music events. I extend a big "Thank You" to all of our instructors and lecturers who performed admirably on ZOOM and Public Access Channel 79 as well as in person as the Center began to open up this summer. You can expect to participate in many more activities as the new year moves into full swing.

Lastly, the Friends are in need of your financial support even more now as we produce increased numbers of smaller programs. We want to present high quality musical programs for your entertainment on a more frequent basis, on weekends and Friday afternoons. Please continue your wonderful generosity by donating through the enclosed envelope or online on the Friends website located at www.wscfriends.org where you may donate using credit cards or gifts of stock.

Happy Holidays to everyone and have a wonderful and healthy New Year. We thank you.

Jack Klinge, Friends President

NOW, IN THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF THAT TIMELESS COMIC STRIP HEROINE "ANNIE";
"TOMORROW, TOMORROW, I LOVE YOU TOMORROW; YOU'RE ONLY A DAY AWAY"



Through your generous donations, Friends has purchased many amenities for the Center: the stage, piano, awnings for outside dining and classes, as well as the patio furniture and benches. Friends has funded ten seasons of the Winter Indoor Music Series and hundreds of special lectures and programs. Friends led the effort to raise over \$300,000 for the Center 2018 enhancement and has subsidized many programs presented via media during the COVID Center closing.

With your donations there are so many possibilities!

"...your hard work is worth it. You are helping seniors to enjoy their 'retirement' years while learning and growing. I speak for so many friends that write, paint, exercise and attend the talks at our wonderful WCSA. We are not just living but are thriving. What fun you provide."

about the friends

The Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities is dedicated to identifying and funding programs and amenities for the Center. Our primary purpose is to support the Westport Center for Senior Activities' mission of providing an activity-based "home away from home" for our senior community.

The Friends Board fundraises to provide additional special programming and amenities to improve our "home away from home". The Center is truly a very special place for all to gather and enjoy a wide variety of activities.

We are pleased to welcome new Friends Board members Diane Bosch, Marsha Darmory, Joe Nixon, Kristina Stephano, Fran Thomas, and Sara Valentine.

meet your center staff



From Left to Right

Felicia Izzo
Administrative Assistant

Holly Betts
Program Manager

Susan Pfister
Director

Paulina Przybysz
*Nutrition Program
Coordinator*

Jason Wilson
*Assistant Program
Coordinator*

Denise Puskas
Administrative Assistant

Benjamin Gorenstein
Custodian

recent happenings



The Emergency Mobile Ice Cream Truck Paid a Visit!



Diane Lowman: Writing: The Art of Brevity



Labor Day Barbeque!



The Lil' Mama Band



Halloween Party



The Cukes –Ukulele Band



The Y's Men of Westport photo is on display!



Friends awning allows for outdoor events

upcoming events



Wednesday, December 1: Special Hanukkah Luncheon

Time: Two seatings at 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM Reservations Required!

Celebrate the Festival of Lights at the WCSA and enjoy our Hanukkah luncheon of matzo ball soup, beef brisket, roasted carrots, potato pancakes & noodle kugel for dessert. Musical Accompanist, Nani Tibbi from the Conservative Synagogue will play Israeli music on his guitar. Pre-registration required for lunch and there is a suggested donation of \$5-\$7.

Friday, December 17: Half Mile Common Trio Presents: A Kaleidoscope of Holiday Music

Time: 1:30 – 2:30 PM

Featuring Nava Zeevi on the piano, Bernice Stochek Friedson on the violin and Andrew Woodruff on the cello.



Wednesday, January 5: Open House - Calling all Groundhogs!

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 AM

We miss you! Come and get reacquainted. New participants are welcomed with open arms. Bring a friend. See all that the WCSA has to offer. We look forward to giving you a tour and showing you our beautiful facility. If you aren't available on the 5th, please call 203.341.5099 to set up your private tour.

Wednesday, January 5:

Celebrate 2022 with a Special New Year's Lunch and Entertainment

Time: Noon – 2:30 PM

Celebrate the start of 2022 with a festive meal featuring mushroom bisque soup, chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, broccoli and a holiday dessert. Pre-registration is required for lunch and there is a suggested donation of \$5.00 - \$7.00. The local Ukulele group, the Cukes will provide fun and upbeat music as we welcome in the New Year. Thank you Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities for sponsoring the entertainment.



Friday, January 14 – February 11: Friday's with Friends Series

"Tasteful Visual Humor! Eyes Wide Open!" with David Pressler

Dates: 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11 | Time: 1:30 – 2:30 PM

This lecture series is to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to become visually conscious of the world around them: "Learn to look in order to see." Photographer, David Pressler holds a degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, where he first studied photography with famed photographer Harry Callahan. David has exhibited his diverse works in many media in Fairfield and Westchester Counties. Free.

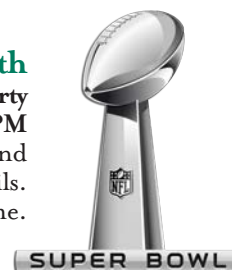
Pre-registration is required.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, February 13th

Friends Annual Super Bowl Indoor Tailgate Party

Time: 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Tailgate snacks, special guest appearances from Staples High School teams, coaches and cheerleaders. Contests and more. Join us! Stay tuned for further details. Grandchildren are welcome.



Tuesday, February 15: Fourth Annual British Tea

Time: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

The WCSA is pleased to announce the return of their British Tea. Come and dress up for our traditional afternoon tea with savory sandwiches and sweets. This event is co-sponsored by the Westport Young Women's League. Pre-registration is required. Cost: \$5.00

Pre-register for events online at MyActiveCenter.com or call the WCSA at 203.341.5099.



Sign up for a weekly blast of the upcoming events.

Email Denise Puskas at dpuskas@westportct.gov or call 203-341-5099.

Pre-registration is required for all events at myactivecenter.com.

Friday with Friends presents free special programs funded by your donations to Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities

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11/1/20 - 10/31/2021

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 Arlene and Marty Yolles



in the spotlight

MARSHA DARMORY

A look back and a look forward from new Board member Marsha Darmory

I joined the Senior Center about fifteen years ago while I and a group of friends were still working. After Yoga class we would meet in the center's cafeteria for coffee and tea and spend time catching up.

After retiring I became more involved with WSCA which was now my "new community". I took yoga and stretch classes and tried a few others that were not my favorite but were there to try, and looked forward to the weekday and Saturday lectures.

I was fortunate to meet new people and make new friends. And there was always Ben smiling and greeting us with his distinctive voice. He and I had fun sharing our "Saab stories".

The Zoom classes I took from the Senior Center during the pandemic were my only real outlet. I enjoyed all four of them and looked forward to seeing my friends and all the participants. I am so happy to be back at the Center with one in-person exercise class (21 attendees today) and last week's art lecture (20 attendees).

So happy to be back!



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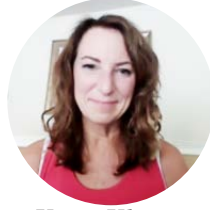
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