



friendsnews

Fall/Winter 2024

Happy Holidays

AND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR THE NEW YEAR



THE FRIENDS' BOARD

ABSENT FROM PICTURE: MARSHA DARMORY, JUDY HARDY AND KRISTINA STEPHANO



WCSA TEAM



FRIENDS IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION
DONATE NOW WITH ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR ONLINE AT

WSCFRIENDS.ORG

We are Friends ... and Family

With the end of another year almost upon us, our Board Co-Chairs, Diane Bosch and Marsha Darmory, and Center Director, Wendy Petty, reflect on the past year and their hopes for 2025.



Diane Bosch & Marsha Darmory

As we sat down together to write this letter, it fully dawned on us just how momentous this year has been for the WCSA.

We've worked closely with Wendy and her team to make the WCSA a shining example we can all be proud of—and we see this year's thriving participation at the Center as a very positive affirmation of that work.

Thanks to your donations ...

- Our Friends' events on Friday and Sunday—which are free and offer a blend of historical lectures, musical entertainment and seasonal fun, plus a light lunch on Sundays—are well attended. Our music events are particularly welcomed by those who can no longer travel to Broadway.
- We've purchased an additional piece of exercise equipment for our fitness room ... a new sound system to enhance the quality of our events ... and a new art-hanging system to display the beautiful artwork created by our program participants.

Our goal for next year is simple—to maintain the quality of the programs we are able to offer at the Center. We welcome and need your continued support to meet that goal.

Have a wonderful holiday season and all the best for 2025!

Diane Bosch & Marsha Darmory
Board Co-Chairs
Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities



Wendy Petty

2024 has been a banner year at the WCSA! We've seen a significant increase in program participation—including at our special, free Friends' events—while also reaching other milestones that benefit our community.

Achieving this level of success takes teamwork.

- Foremost, our staff collaboration reflects a commitment to excellence and is seen daily as our team goes the extra mile for our participants. This year, we welcomed two new members—Joe Anastasi and Stacie Curran—further boosting our team's corporate and community service experience.
- I cannot overstate the importance of our partnership with The Friends of the WCSA. Their support and dedication enable us to offer enriching programs we could not otherwise provide.
- And last but not least are our volunteers. We regularly need extra hands, so we are indebted to our wonderful volunteers who donate their time to our Center.

Looking towards 2025, our goal—with the help of all those I've just mentioned—is to keep delivering top programs and services daily. It's what our community deserves and what we love doing.

Thank you for your support and fellowship this holiday season.

Wendy Petty
Director, Westport Center for Senior Activities

May we present ...

We are forever indebted to our hard-working Board—all of whom are volunteers. In this issue of Friends News, we'd specifically like you to meet Molly Alger, our Board Treasurer, and Sue Kane, our Board Secretary.



*Board Treasurer
Molly Alger*

Our Treasurer Molly is responsible for establishing and managing our annual budget, managing our bank and investment accounts, tracking and depositing donations, and paying all our program expenses. During her first eight years on the Board, Molly was responsible for maintaining data on and preparing thank-you letters for our donors.

Molly's career was in management consulting and computer systems. Originally from Mansfield, Ohio, she graduated with a BS in Mathematics from Purdue University, followed by an MBA from Boston University. Molly and her husband, Jay, lived in NYC for 27 years before moving to Westport in 2008 when their son started college.

Few people know that Molly was a high school majorette and champion baton twirler (including fire batons!) at Friday night football games in Ohio. Now in her spare time Molly enjoys reading, knitting, playing bridge, exercising, and collecting art. She is also an active member of the Westport-Weston Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



*Board Secretary
Sue Kane*

Sue, who has been on the Friends' Board almost since its inception, is responsible for minuting several monthly meetings and distributing those minutes to the Board and appropriate Center staff.

Sue grew up in Highland Park, Illinois, holds a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Behavioral Science from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She has worked as a relocation counselor in Connecticut and as a public relations writer for the United Way of Westport and other local non-profits.

Sue moved to Westport over 40 years ago where she and her (late) husband, Bob, raised three children. She enjoys various exercise programs, walking, book groups, bridge, and memoir writing. However, her favorite activity, unquestionably, is travel. Professionally, she has written numerous travel articles for Jax Fax trade travel magazine, which sent her on wonderful trips to Mexico, the Caribbean, Finland, Scotland, and other destinations. In her personal time, Sue feels unbelievably fortunate to have enjoyed an Around the World Trip with National Geographic.

Recent Happenings



*1. Living History Lecture: Native Americans in the Northeast, Drew Shuptar-Rayvis | 2. Jazz Rabbi Quartet
3. Great Gatsby Lecture | 4. Cookie Thomas & Friends | 5. National Ice Cream Day | 6. Annual Lobster & Clambake
7. Westport Country Playhouse: Past & Future, Mark Shanahan, Director | 8. Gramercy Brass Orchestra of NY
9. Memories of Jackie Gleason from Mark Albertson, Historian.*

Upcoming Events

HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH CHRIS COOGAN

Sunday, December 8 | Festive food at 1pm, show at 2pm

Sponsored by The Westport Rotary Club

Back for another year, Chris Coogan and his musical ensemble will kick off the holiday season with songs and lyrics that highlight their amazing musical talents.



FRANK MASTRONE & FRIENDS

Sunday, January 26 | Light lunch at 1pm, show at 2pm

Join Frank Mastrone and Friends for a program of Broadway favorites, plus a splash of the American Songbook, and a dash of opera and pop for good measure! Frank has appeared in a number of Broadway shows, including *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, and *Saturday Night Fever*, as well as off-Broadway and Carnegie Hall productions.



SUPERBOWL 2025

Sunday, February 9 | Doors open at 12:30pm

Join us for our ever-popular Friends' Super Bowl Tailgate Party, when we honor two Staples High School championship teams and their coaches, and present our annual "Service to the Senior Center" award to a deserving Westport citizen ... all cheered on by the Staples and PAL cheerleaders. Tailgate food will be served along with beverages and dessert.



THE YALE ALLEY CATS

Sunday, February 23 | Light lunch at 1pm, show at 2pm

We are delighted to welcome the Yale Alley Cats to our Center. Yale University's world-renowned a cappella singing group has been making music around the world since 1943. Come experience and enjoy what makes the group such a vocal tour-de-force!



BROADWAY PARADE

Sunday, March 9 | Light lunch at 1pm, show at 2pm

Join local icons Chris Coogan and Michele Grace as they take a "delightful" and "delovely" trip down Broadway, singing hits from the forties right up to today's top shows. Don't miss it!



YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL OUR EVENTS. CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WEEKLY ONLINE WCSA NEWSLETTER. CALL THE SENIOR CENTER TO GET ADDED TO THEIR EMAIL LIST FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

Donors

10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024

Joanne Albert
Molly Alger and Jay Dirnberger
Penny Almog
Dan Ashley
Christa Balzert
Shari Barnhart
Joan Bassett
Mary Ann Batsell
Nick Battaglino
Edward Bloch
Bonnie Bohne
Diane and Eric Bosch
Prill and Mike Boyle
Carol Brezovec
Marjorie Brous
Hellen and Jacob Bryniczka
Eileen Buckley
Carol Burgess
Elena and Michael Byrne
Marci and Fred Caporizzo
Margaret Carkner
Joe Carson
Linda Cassuto
Alin and Peter Chelico
James Chi
Soncha Chung
Karen Como
Pat Conroy and Jeff Hare
Betty Copersino
Nancy and Fred Cort
Allan Cramer
Betty Lou Cummings
Alice and Peter Czuczka
Josette Dalmage
Marsha Darmory
Francine Darsa
Alice Davidson
Jo Ann Davidson
Norman Davis
Carol and Joel Davis
Linda Debo
Barbara Karis Downey
Vivian Edelman
Marianne Farrell
Virginia Ferrari
Leah and Manuel Fine
Marion Fiore
Margery Fisher
Ute Fisk

Annamaria Forte
Dorothy and Jon Fox
Lois and Robert Fox
Lisa and Ed Friedland
Alfred Friedman
Margaret and Michael Gallivan
Anita Galvan-Henkin
Irene and Ron Geraci
Nathaniel W. Gibbons
Jacqueline Gillett
Candy and Bob Goldstein
Marcia and Joel Goldstein
Katherine Golomb
Gloria Goodenough
Neil Goodkind
Dr. David and Mrs. Arlene Gottlieb
Eye and Tom Green
Deborah Guider
Deanna and Andre Guilbert
Dorothy and Gordon Hall
Sue Hand
Patricia Harris
Harriet Heineman
Velma Heller
Jeffrey Jacobs
Nancy Ruth Kail
Danai and Suthida Kanchanagom
Sue Kane
Deirdre Kantor
Sheila Keenan
Lois Kemp
Robert King
Jo Kirsch
Teri Klein
Wendy and George Kleros
Jack Klinge
Jeanne and Jack Klinge
Carol Knies
Judi Koffsky
Sandy and Peter Kolbrener
Roz and Norm Kopit
Kitty and Scott Kuhner
Celeste and Norman LaCroix
Judith Lavalla
Robert C. Leng
Doris Levinson
Deborah Levinson
Ann Lloyd
Eleanor and Richard Lowenstein

Tom Lowrie
Jena Maric
Mary Ellen and Jim Marpe
Ellen Mason
Regina M. Masterson
William S. Mazo
Mr. and Mrs. Edward McDermott Jr.
Valerie Mellucci
Joan and Michael Miller
Vicki Mintz
Robert Mitchell
Dolores and Dennis Mockler
Gunvald O. Moen
Salvatore Mollica
J. P. Montillier
Pennie Davis More
Betty Munro
Matt Murray
Joseph P. Nazzaro Jr.
Monique and Ralph Nebelung
Maxine and Arnold Nickelsberg
Kathy and Joe Nixon
Jane Nordli
Betty Ann Obringer
Thomas Oliver
Sylvia Pack
Arlyne Parillo
Joyce Pauker
Penny Pearlman
Cary and Len Peterson
Wendy and Jim Petty
Anne B. Pfeiffer
Sue Pfister
Marion Potter
Vivian Rabin
Barbara Reis
Donna and Joseph Renzulli
The Rhimes Foundation
Valerie Roffe
Donna Rogg and Brian Macpherson
Dorothy and Lou Rolla
Judy and Bob Rosenkranz
Lois K. Ross
Darlene Rubenstein
Judith Runnette
Catherine Ryan
Jane Sachs
Mario Sa' Couto
Patty and Jim Samuels

Sue Schwartz
 Joseph Scordato and Karen Wendell
 Rita and Dick Seclow
 Harriet and Bob Selverstone
 Ann Senie
 Gaye Seymour
 Elizabeth Shaban
 The Shack Sackler Foundation
 Barbara Sheehan
 Shelly and Len Sherman
 Jane Sherman and Robert Coogan
 Jeffrey Silberman
 Edith D. Sillman
 Carol and Edward Simek
 Doris Skutch
 Judy and Lonnie Slosson
 David Hale Smith
 Nancy Sorensen
 Laurie and Dave Sorensen
 Debbie Southard
 Mark Spivack
 Barbara A. Stack
 Dolores Noble-Steadly
 Linda and Stephen Stein
 Marilyn Steinberg
 Kristina Stephano
 Mary Ann and Bill Sterling
 Burton Stuttman
 Judy Swann
 Peter G. Swift
 Stephan Taranko
 Ruth Taranto
 Margaret and Alan Temple
 Thieman-Wicker Foundation
 Frances V. Thomas
 Susan Thomsen and Norman Trepner
 Arlene Thrope
 Ginger Tobey
 Vincent Tortorello
 Eva and Christian Trefz
 Chung-Ta Tsai
 Lucia Ullman
 Fred Ury
 Barbara Utting
 Eileen and Anthony Valenti
 Sara Valentine and Mark Rosenblatt
 Mami and George Varghese
 Nancy Vener
 Judith Voss
 Ruth and Arthur Walker
 Cynthia Wallace
 Margaret Walsh
 Olga Washburn

Ellen and Joel Wasserman
 Sheila Weiss
 Sylvia Weiss
 Robin Welling
 Barbara Wiederecht
 The Willick Family
 Ruth Winnick
 Corrine Wohlforth
 Arlene and Marty Yolles
 Britt Zimmerman
 Maria Zobel
 Debbie and Lewis Zucker

IN-KIND DONORS

Angelina's
 BJ's Wholesale Club
 Calise Food Market
 Dunville's Restaurant
 Four Brothers
 The Fresh Market
 Gaetano's Deli
 Garelick and Herbs
 Gold's Delicatessen
 Greens Farms Spirit Shop
 Joe's Pizza
 Julian's
 Kindred Spirits & Wine
 Patty Kondub
 Little Barn
 Longshore Golf Course
 Mark Modz
 Russell Murray
 Outpost Pizza
 Rizzuto's
 Romanacci
 Rye Ridge Westport
 Sakura
 Splash Car Wash
 Stop & Shop

Expanding our Talented Board

At our July Board Meeting, we elected Anne Banks and Prill Boyle as new members of our Board.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, Anne has lived in Westport since 2001. She came to the U.S. to lead the international marketing team of a European investment manager—but in 2006, she took a leap of faith and became an independent marketing consultant to the investment industry.

A daily exerciser at the Westport Y, many would describe Anne as a “physical” live wire. Not surprising then that on retiring in 2022, she started volunteering at the WCSA. Since joining our Board, she has become Co-Chair of our Newsletter Committee and a member of our Finance Committee.



Anne Banks



Prill Boyle

Westport native Prill quips that her claim to fame is that she starred in a Burr Farms Elementary School play with her friend Dan Woog!

A later-in-life graduate of Georgetown, she recently retired after many years of teaching English, but continues to tutor at the Mercy Learning Center. After publishing her book *Defying Gravity: A Celebration of Late-Blooming Women* in 2004, she spoke to groups all over the country about finding passion and purpose at any age, gave an address at the United Nations, and hosted “Ageless,” a Fairfield County TV program.

On our Board, Prill has taken on the role of recording and tracking information on our donors and, most importantly, acknowledging their kind contributions. She is also a member of our Newsletter Committee.

In her not-so-spare time, Prill is a grandmother of four, fitness enthusiast, and fledgling painter.

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

The Westport Center for Senior Activities (WCSA) makes a tremendous contribution to the lives and wellbeing of seniors in our community. Help us maintain that standard by donating to the Friends' mission this holiday season.



Average number
of programs per week

100



Lunches served
at the Center*

10,600
+38%



Home delivered
meals*

12,800
-5.0%



Total Center
visits*

86,300
+25%

*12 months to 6.30.2024

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Westport, CT
Permit No. 176



SUPPORT
your senior center
BE A FRIEND!

Friends of the Westport Center
for Senior Activities
21 Imperial Ave • Westport, CT 06880
203.341.5099