

Westport's arts & cultural heritage — past, present, future

Westport is proud of its arts and cultural heritage and that it continues to be a part of town life in the 21st century. While many newcomers may move to Westport because of its strong school system and recreational offerings, there are many who are additionally attracted by its arts and cultural offerings — and the fact that we are a community that highly values them.

The Westport Country Playhouse, the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts, the Westport Arts Center, the Westport Historical Society, The Westport Library and newcomer the Westport Cinema Initiative have all gained widespread attention for their often ground-breaking initiatives. But so have the Westport Community Theatre, Beechwood Arts, Play With Your Food, MTC MainStage, Staples Players, Orphenians, Toquet Hall, the Blues, Views and BBQ Festival, the galleries, music and dance schools, not to mention all the individual artistic efforts. Combined they offer a quality of life in Westport that many tell me is unduplicated anywhere else.

This year the town of Westport and its Arts Advisory Committee — an official town body — celebrate the 20th annual Westport Arts Awards through a series of programs around town. Since 1994 and its founding by the late Burt Chernow, the committee has honored almost 50 individuals who have made significant contribution to the arts. The combined economic impact of Westport's Cultural life on the town and the region is enormous. Many who attend come from out of town and spend time shopping our stores and dining in our restaurants. The recent wave of restaurant openings in Westport has added to the culinary choices of visitors.

Westport's commitment and dedication to its arts and cultural heritage is unwavering. We can only imagine what attractive and innovative happenings are in store for the future. Best wishes to the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County for its help in making it happen.



Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman
Town of Westport

The mission of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County is to support cultural organizations, artists and creative businesses by providing promotion, services and advocacy.

For more information, visit CulturalAllianceFC.org or email infoCulturalAllianceFC.org or call 256-2329. For events lists, visit FCBuzz.org.



FCBUZZ

Arts & Culture of Fairfield County

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: WESTPORT

PLAYHOUSE MARKS 20 YEARS OF WESTPORT ARTS AWARD WINNERS

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Westport Arts Awards, Westport Country Playhouse presents a lobby exhibit featuring past award winners who have been associated with the historic theater, now through Oct. 27. The exhibit includes photos, posters, programs, set models, videos and memorabilia of award recipients. Additional items are displayed throughout the lobby and mezzanine designated with a Westport Arts Awards' 20th anniversary logo.



The exhibit coincides with the run of the madcap American comedy, "Room Service," about a producer and his ragtag bunch of cohorts who try to raise money for a Broadway show as they scramble to evade their hotel bill, through Oct. 27. For more information or tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF THE LEVITT PAVILION

Get a sneak peek at the future and at one of the nation's longest-running free outdoor festivals during a guided hard-hat tour of the construction site for the new Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts. The tour is part of the Levitt Pavilion's way of celebrating the 20th year of the Westport Arts Award, joining forces all month long with others in town. The tour will be led by Peter Cadoux of Peter Cadoux Architects, Walter Cameron of Verdi Construction, and Levitt Pavilion Executive Director Freda Welsh. The behind-the-scenes tour includes refreshments and entertainment and is free. Space is limited to 30 people; reservations required. For reservations or more information, contact carleigh@westportct.gov on or before Oct. 23.

AWARDS CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF ARTISTIC VIBRANCY

Join the Westport Arts Advisory Committee (WAAC) on Sunday, Oct. 27 along with the myriad arts and cultural organizations that call Westport home to celebrate the vibrancy of the arts in Westport and for a tribute to outgoing First Selectman Gordon Joseloff. There will be short performances highlighting works by award winners in music, film, theater, literature and other artistic fields over the past 20 years, including John Corigliano, Ring Lardner, Sinclair Lewis, David Wiltse, Max Shulman, Igor Pikayzn and others. The event will be held at the auditorium in the Westport Town Hall. It is free and will conclude with a reception immediately following at the Westport Historical Society. For more information, visit westportartsawards.org.



'GEMS OF WESTPORT' ARTISTS TALK

Join us Thursday, Oct. 24, at The Westport Historical Society for a drink and some tasty bites and a chance to sit "fireside style" with some of Westport's most wonderful artists. To help celebrate 20 years of The Westport Arts Awards, Beechwood Arts is dedicating its monthly artist talk to taking a peek into the incredibly interesting lives of visual artists who call or have called Westport home. Participating artists include Naiad Einsel, Larry Silver, Leonard Fisher, Miggs Burroughs, Ed Vebell, Hans Wilhelm, Jak Kovatch and Spencer Platt. No slides, presentations or ceremony — just a rare opportunity to hear stories first-hand from these great artists, each truly a gem. Seating is limited. Call 222-1424 for reservations or visit westporthistory.org.

Visit FCBuzz.org for more information on events and how to get listed.



Presented by:
Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County