



# THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



### FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING: REFLECTIONS ON OUR PAST AND FUTURE

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

— Margaret Mead

Many of you know our story well. As we quietly celebrated our fifth anniversary in 2021, we were reminded of the park’s humble beginnings – the vision of a few locals who wanted to rejuvenate the abandoned gas station on Route 47. Like a seed that germinates throughout the seasons, The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens has grown and blossomed into our literal and figurative town square. You helped make all of this possible.

Our location at the crossroads of town is a privilege that comes with responsibilities too. We believe that all that we do must reflect the different interests of our community, as stated in our mission: “To be a gathering place in Washington that invites friends and neighbors to relax, learn, play, and share all that our community offers.” Whether it’s a live music event, an outdoor movie, a Saturday farmers market, a show of a local artist, a kids’ science event, or Holiday in the Depot, our programs aspire to attract each of you to the park as often as possible, to connect with you and to create community.

What you want is important to us. Some of you have asked that we set regular opening hours to help you plan your visits. We want you to know that we share that goal and are in the process of recruiting more

volunteers. Please let us know if you’d like to take on a more active role as a park volunteer or have other interests, whether it is contributing your time, treasure or talents! As always, we value your ideas or suggestions, as we move forward into our next fixed years.

As we remember 2021, we recognize one of our founding leaders, Denise Trevenen, president emerita of the park, who passed away last May. Denise’s memory truly inspires us in fulfilling our mission. In the fall, we launched our campaign for the Denise DeVault Trevenen Endowment Fund to help assure the sustainability of the park for generations to come.

See you at the park!



**Karyn Detje**  
President, Board of Trustees

**Laura Neminski**  
Executive Director

# WITH THANKS TO OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS & DONORS

## Daffodils ~ up to \$150

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Taryn Leavitt

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Katherine Wenning and Michael Dennis  
Barbara Spakowski Wodtke

### SYMBOLS KEY

- ♥ Donors of any gift in memory of Denise Trevenen
- Donors to the endowment fund only
- ★ Donors to both the annual appeal and the endowment fund

*We have made every effort to present correct information and apologize for any errors. Please inform us of any inaccuracies or misspellings.*

# WITH THANKS TO OUR 2021 SUPPORTERS & DONORS

## SPOTLIGHT: INTERN WALTER “CARTER” DAY



An integral part of what makes the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens a success is the support of our volunteers. Beyond our devoted working board, many individuals donate their time to enable us to present a broad spectrum of programming free to the community. Each year our programming grows, and so too our need for volunteers.

2021 saw so many of us come out from under a dark cloud of COVID with renewed enthusiasm to be outdoors with friends and neighbors, to enjoy all our beautiful town offers. Thankfully, we were able to welcome our first intern, Carter Day. A Washington resident in his sophomore year at University of Chicago, Carter joined us in late winter 2021 and jumped in with both feet. Carter supported our marketing efforts, welcomed visitors to the farmers market, helped during most events, assisted our executive director on various tasks, and started a wildly popular kids’ science activity program run by local students and presented during four of our farmers markets.

Why Carter volunteered: “I wanted to lend a helping hand to the community I grew up in. My favorite event was the kids’ science activities from the summer... It was great to work with a group of younger volunteers to bring a fun, educational activity for local kids.”

While sad to have seen Carter return to school in September, we were grateful for his contribution to the park and look forward to welcoming our next intern. Many thanks to Carter, and all our valued volunteers.

If you or a family member are looking for a year-round or seasonal internship opportunity, or want to volunteer at the park, please contact us at: [info@thejudyblackparkandgardens.org](mailto:info@thejudyblackparkandgardens.org)

## VOLUNTEERS

Finn Allee | Curran Amster | Hezzy Benson | Katharine Benson | Vincent Casey | Jean Chapin | Jeffrey Coploff  
Logan Crompton | Carter Day | Gigi Day | George DeVos | Stephen Fisher | Maddie Gorra | Liam Gray | Teddy Keating  
Wilder Keating | Gunn Memorial Library | Carson Lender | Susan Lerner | Richard Lorenti | Julie Loughran  
Kathy McCarver/KMR Arts | Kate McGarr | Rae Moore | Justin Moore | Jackson Neminski | Perry Neminski | Vi Owens  
Camila Rico | David Ruchman | Shepaug Valley School Students | James Urquhart | Oskar Umeh | David Varnish  
Electa Varnish | Carolyn Wallace | Sean Woodward | Donna Wright | Wright Electrical Company

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## GIFTS-IN-KIND

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Loam Floral Design | Julie King | Stacey and Pels Matthews | Laura Neminski | Richard Rosiello  
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Education and fun intersect during the summer science activities for kids!

## River Birches ~ \$2,500 to 4,999

Tamara and Brad Bernstein ★♥  
CATIC ●♥  
Marion Dar and Richard Schlosberg  
Karyn Detje and Sal Sorce ★  
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Jane Whitney Gruson  
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Lois Schein-Lewis and Richard Lewis ★  
Carolyn Setlow and Andrew Shapiro ★♥  
Glynnis and Mark Snow ★♥  
Donna and Malcolm Wattman ★

## Linden Trees ~ \$5,000 to 9,999

Valerie Friedman ●♥  
Annie and Jack Gilpin ●♥  
The Glass Family Fund ★  
Elizabeth MacDonald  
Stacey and Pels Matthews ★♥

## White Oaks ~ \$10,000 and up

Chrissy Armstrong and Ben Nickoll ★  
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Margaret Ferguson and Daniel Sherr ★  
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Stephanie and Tim Ingrassia ★♥  
John Trevenen ●

## ARTISTS @THEPARK

John Crawford | Peter Cusack | Sandi Fellman  
Frederick Gunn School Students | Judy Jackson  
Elizabeth MacDonald | Dara Schaefer  
Shepaug Valley School Students | Pamela Takiff  
Jason Wallengren | Brian Walters II | Robert Whitman

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EXHIBIT  
Dixie De Luca | Sue Reich | Jean Sullivan



Judy Jackson and Elizabeth MacDonald celebrated “Fifty Years and Counting” with a joint exhibition.

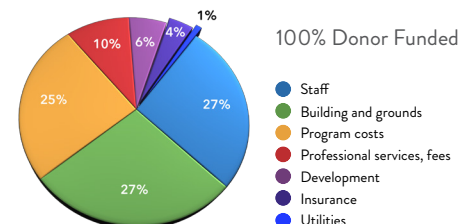
“In such a small community where we often see those closest to us only in passing, it is wonderful to have a communal space and time where we can all get together face to face, catch up on each other’s lives and realize how closely connected we all are. Sharing with all the local farmers, producers, and supporters of the market has really been the best benefit of all.”

—Bruce and Yobana Young, Blue Gate Farm



We are grateful to Susan and Murray Haber for their generous \$50,000 Challenge Match to help launch our endowment fund in the last quarter of 2021, and to those generous donors who helped us meet the match.

## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK: 2021 EXPENSES





# THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS

WASHINGTON PARK FOUNDATION • ONE GREEN HILL RD.  
PO BOX 142 • WASHINGTON DEPOT, CT • 06794

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\* In Memoriam

“While the building conversion was beautifully executed and provides an attractive backdrop for the goings on out on the lawn, the real spirit and enthusiasm reside in the volunteers, the Board members and Director, and others behind the scenes. As a new volunteer member, I see such dedication to the established mission of the park whenever I have the opportunity to interact with those leaders.”

— **David Varnish, AIA**

“My experience at the Park was all you could hope for and more – magical. The Park stood out at Christmas time, full of dazzling lights, beautiful artwork, a cozy firepit, and cheery comradery, all combined to make the Judy Black Park the warm heart of Washington.”

— **Michael Sinatra**

“Thank you so much for sponsoring and organizing the Movies in the Park Series this summer. It is this kind of creative, family friendly programming that makes Washington such a special place. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.”

— **Michelle Gorra, Economic & Community Development**

“I enthusiastically support The Judy Black Park because it is a very important point of community activity and an asset to businesses in the Depot. Its location and attractive indoor and outdoor space provide a great venue for varied events in addition to offering local artists, musicians, and craftspeople an opportunity to show their work.”

— **Susan Magee**

“It would be difficult to overstate how important the farmers market at the Judy Black Park has become to Blue Gate Farm. The opportunity to make a positive contribution to the market has been an obvious benefit to our small farm. We feel that our breads and pastries were a welcome addition to this year’s offerings.”

— **Bruce and Yobana Young, Blue Gate Farm**



SAVE THE DATE  
for our annual  
**FUNraiser**

JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
2022

Featuring a performance by Sarah Kinsley



@thejudyblackpark



@thejudyblackpark

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