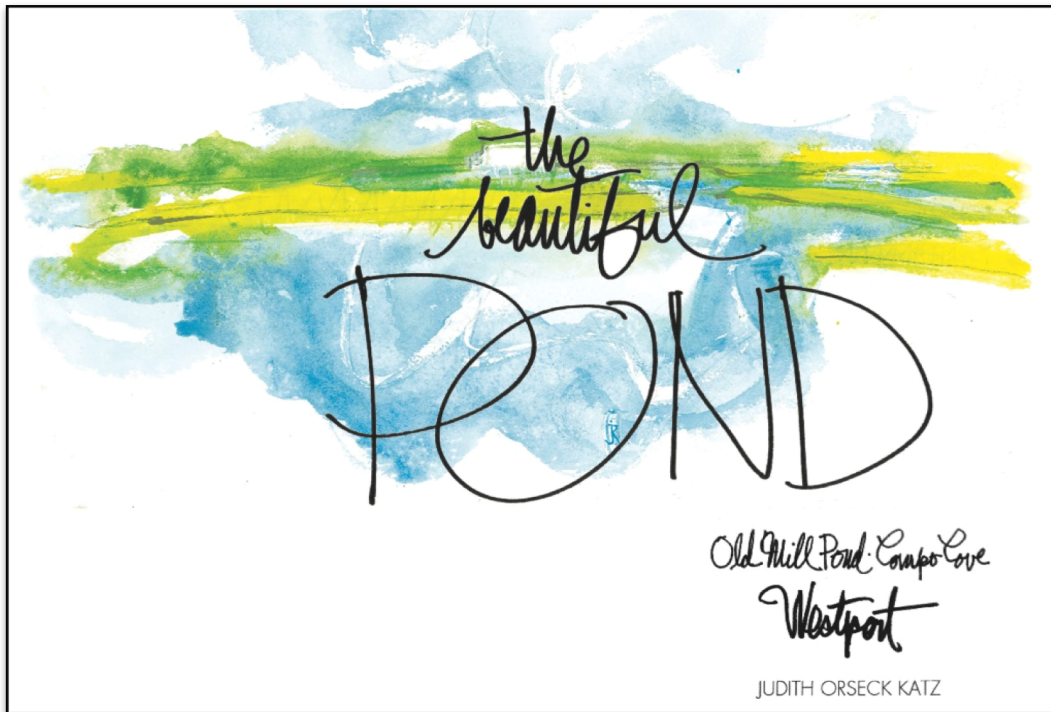


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

the beautiful POND
A Watercolor Celebration of
an Important Piece of Westport's History



The charming town of Westport, CT can attribute its very existence, in large part, to the Sherwood Mill Pond. As the first working mill and first commercial enterprise in what is now part of Westport, the pond's grist mill (c. 1705) gave the area the commerce required to be chartered. Sherwood Mill Pond still supports a thriving oyster and clam trade – as it did back then – is home to over 70 species of birds and aquatic life and was preserved by the town for its natural and historical significance.

Westport author, artist and teacher Judy Katz launched her book *the beautiful POND* this November, celebrating the pond, its history and environmental contribution to the area. Each page features a stunning four-color water color of the pond and its environs. The copy walks readers through the transformation of the pond from a working mill to a beloved and bucolic sanctuary for coastal life.

The very personal history of the pond, also known as Compo Cove, reveals the lives of the people who took it from grist mill to farm land to summer cottages to year-round homes. It illuminates how history and culture merged and the humans adapted to changing times, much as the town itself has.

To further venerate the pond, the author and her sponsor Robin Tauck, who lives on the pond in Westport, are partnering with SoundWaters (www.SoundWaters.org) to fund academic enrichment for low-income students by donating all of the proceeds of the book to them. During the summer months, poor children lack options and fall behind while better off children build their skills steadily. It is called the “summer slide” and it drives the school achievement gap. SoundWaters STEM Academy directly addresses the summer slide by providing critical educational opportunities and a learning link between academic years while instilling a love for our local waters and the environment. The outcome is improved academic performance, increased confidence and appreciation for the natural world.

Scott Mitchell, SoundWaters Chairman, stated “We are excited to partner with “The Beautiful Pond” a unique creation that highlights attention to our most valuable resource and we gladly partner to help steward the future of cleaner waters into the next generations.”

To launch *the beautiful POND* and this important partnership, fund-raising events will be held at several historic sites in and near Westport during the holiday season. Westport historian Eve Potts says, “*This book is a Westport treasure but you don’t have to be a Westporter to love it.*” A website to inform readers of interesting facts, book events and the SoundWaters partnership is available at: www.thebeautifulpond.com

Judith Orseck Katz, author, painter and ceramic sculptor, is an advertising and graphic designer. She is a member of the Silvermine Guild of Artists. She designed retail stores, their logos, shopping bags and prize-winning advertising. Her paintings have been exhibited in galleries throughout New York and Connecticut. She teaches at the Westport Arts Center and taught at Silvermine and the Parsons School of Design. This is

the third book she has written and illustrated. She and her husband live in Westport, Connecticut.

Robin Tauck is a travel business leader and philanthropist. She is an industry advocate and spokesperson for economic development through global tourism, authentic cultural experiences, and public private partnerships. She works to protect environmental and cultural heritage through the promotion of sustainable tourism.

Robin is a co-owner and the former president and CEO of [Tauck, Inc.](#), a leading, third-generation global travel company offering high-end experiential travel worldwide, and she is active with UNESCO World Heritage commissions and travel industry non-profits for the protection of sites and cultures.

About SoundWaters – SoundWaters is the leading science and environmental education organization in the Long Island Sound region. It was founded 25 years ago with the mission to protect Long Island Sound through education.

SoundWaters' rigorous -and fun!- hands-on science programs and public activities have educated hundreds of thousands of students and adults, reaching 36,000 each year, including 27,000 students. Every year, 9,000 students (1/3rd of all SoundWaters students) receive full or partial scholarship support to participate in its programs. Learning takes place aboard the 3-masted schooner *SoundWaters*, at the Coastal Education Center in Stamford, and at schools in 64 cities and towns across the Long Island Sound region.

SoundWaters is guided by the following principles:

- **EQUITY** in educational opportunities.
- **ACCESS** for all to enjoy the benefits of Long Island Sound.
- **EXPERIENTIAL** learning boosts success in the classroom.
- **STEWARDSHIP** of the environment starts with knowledge.

Books will be available at Barnes & Noble, The Westport Historical Society as well as online at www.thebeautifulpond.com. The hardcover is \$45 and softcover is \$25.

Equity in educational opportunities for all children and access to the wonders of Long Island Sound

About SoundWaters

SoundWaters was founded 25 years ago with the mission to protect Long Island Sound through education and action. Since then, we have engaged hundreds of thousands of students and adults to build a deeper interest and literacy in science for improved school achievement and to raise awareness about the small differences we all can make to protect the health of the Sound. The schooner *SoundWaters*, our most visible and recognized resource, conducts 250 experiential education sails each season for school and community groups and public sails for everyone throughout the region.



SoundWaters teaches over 27,000 students of all ages from CT and NY annually, including 9,000 on scholarship from low-income communities, aboard the schooner, in schools and at our Coastal Education Center in Stamford. We expand educational opportunities and achievement through fun, yet rigorous, hands-on science tied to classroom content and state education standards in partnership with 146 schools and organizations across the Long Island Sound region. Camp SoundWaters offers exciting, outdoor activities and learning on the shore and our sailing programs are training the next generation of

mariners.

We are committed to ensuring that no child or school will be excluded from our programs due to an inability to pay. Knowledge about, and access to, educational enrichment and the benefits of Long Island Sound are far too limited already for so many in our region. The generosity of our supporters enables our work, whether it's an education sail aboard the Schooner *SoundWaters*, summer camp scholarships for children or STEM education at our Coastal Education Center. Overall, one third of the students we teach are from low-income communities and receive full or partial scholarship assistance. These children would not benefit from an outdoor field experience and academic enrichment without SoundWaters.



SoundWaters is a recognized and trusted organization locally and in the Long Island Sound region. We have sustained relationships built on shared value and trust for 25 years that includes business, political and community leaders. We have been awarded a 4-star rating, the highest possible, from Charity Navigator based on our financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

Judith Orseck Katz – Author, Artist

Judith Orseck Katz, author, painter and ceramic sculptor, is an advertising and graphic designer. She is a member of the Silvermine Guild of Artists. She designed retail stores, their logos,

shopping bags and prize-winning advertising. Her paintings have been exhibited in galleries throughout New York and Connecticut. She teaches at the Westport Arts Center and taught at Silvermine and the Parsons School of Design. This is the third book she has written and illustrated. She and her husband live in Westport, Connecticut.

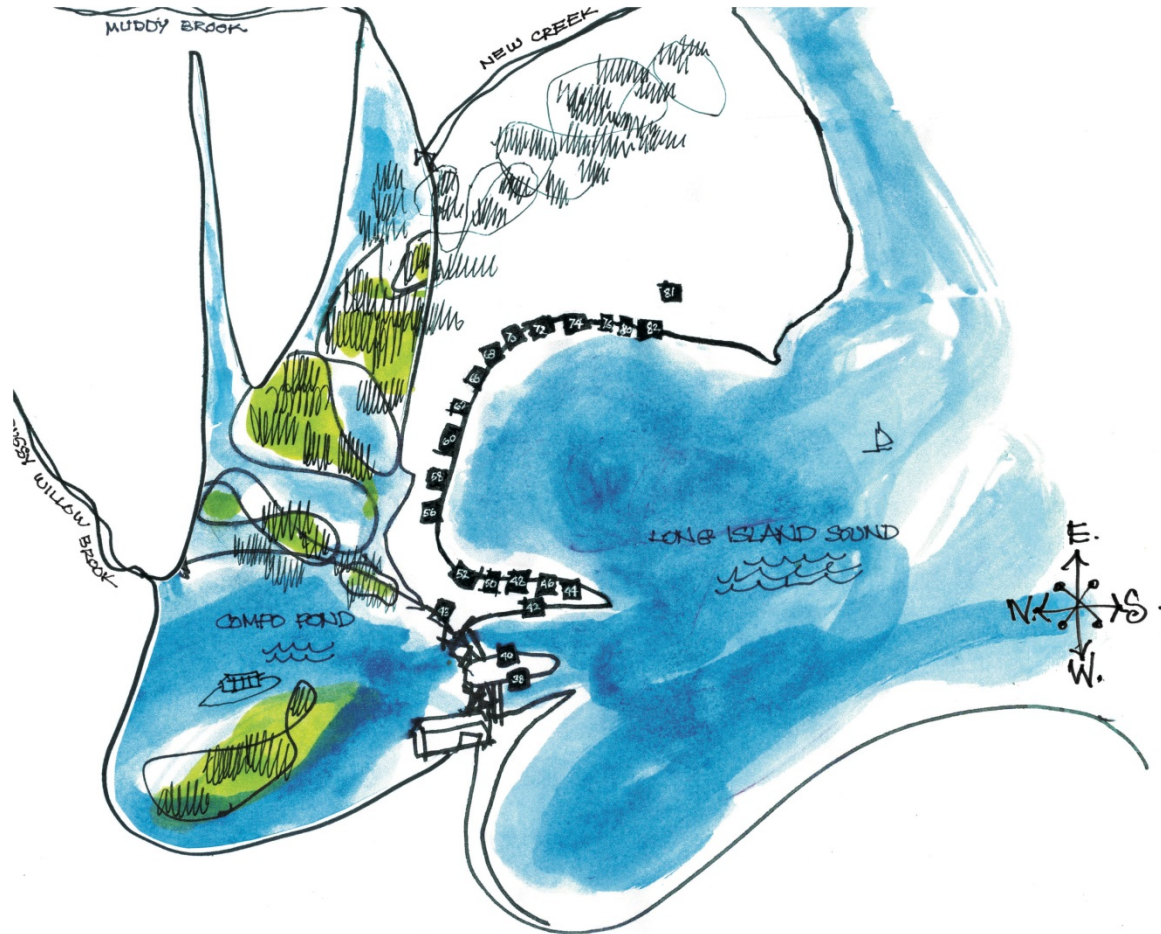


Robin Tauck -- Sponsor

Robin Tauck is a travel business leader and philanthropist. She is an industry advocate and spokesperson for economic development through a works to protect environmental and cultural heritage and to advocate for the waters and history of her home in Westport, Connecticut.

Robin is a co-owner and the former president of Tauck, Inc., a CT-based global travel company. She was named one of the *Most Powerful Women in Travel* five years in a row and was honored by the 2015 Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. Tauck's work with the U.S. National Park Service was recognized by President George W. Bush and received the *Preserve America Presidential Award*. Robin is a long-standing board member of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) and is an elected U.S. Commissioner to UNESCO. She is a member of the executive committee of Tourism Cares, the largest non-profit in the U.S. travel industry and chairs the organization's Global Impact Portfolio.

Robin is a graduate of Stanford University's Business Executive Program and the University of Cambridge's Sustainability Program. She holds a BA in Business from the University of Vermont.







Little Known Facts About The Old Mill Pond, Westport, CT

- Westport Connecticut needed established commerce to incorporate. The pond's grist mill was its first truly commercial venture.
- Technically, the land that forms the residential portion of the cove is part of Sherwood Island.
- "Captain Allen" (who wasn't a captain at all) was one of the original suppliers to The Oyster Bar in Grand Central Station – with clams and oysters he harvested from the pond. He later opened Allen's Clam House on the pond and sold them himself.
- In 1932, Fanny Elwood Sherwood sold her 24 acres of onion and potato farm to the state of Connecticut, ultimately, creating its first state park.
- Another familiar name to locals, William Burr was the primary force behind Sherwood Island's preservation as a park. It was at different times slated to be an airport and a housing development.
- Early Pond inhabitants in the '20s and '30s learned they had phone calls when the Old Mill Store's son yelled from the beach on a megaphone that a call came through on their pay phone.
- The original lots on the cove sold for \$200.
- Tidal shifts provided the primary force to turn the wheel for the mill.
- The land that comprises the Mill Pond and Sherwood Island was originally known by its Indian name: Machamux, "The Beautiful Land."

Interview questions for author Judy Katz and Sponsor Robin Tauck

Judy:

1. What is it about the pond that inspires you?
2. Do you regard yourself primarily as an author or an artist?
3. How do the two disciplines support and feed into one another?
4. You work in many mediums – how do you choose your manner of expression?
5. What role do you think art plays in social, environmental or political concerns?
6. Has history always been an interest of yours or did this spring up because of your love of the pond?
7. How has knowing the history altered your vision or feeling about the pond?
8. What brought you to Westport the first time?
9. When you reflect on the pond, do you think first of the people you've met or the physical pond?
10. What have you learned through this project? About the Pond? Westport? The Sound?
11. What was the most important force, behind the book? What compelled this project?

Robin:

1. What is your hope for the book?
2. How did you come to sponsor it?
3. What are your other favorite spots in the world?
4. How did your environmental awareness and concern start?
5. Have you always been an environmentalist?
6. What about this pond so attracted you?
7. What do you think the role of art is in the preservation of our natural resources?
8. Have you enjoyed being such a specific patron of the arts? How does it compare with broader support, e.g., supporting museums?
9. Do you regard *The Beautiful Pond* primarily as an art book, a history book or a piece of environmental art?