



# THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## WE THANK YOU

Since we opened our doors over ten years ago, our mission has been the same: to be a gathering place in Washington that invites friends and neighbors to relax, learn, play, and share all that our community offers.

That means touching each and every one of you—our Washington neighbors, our friends from nearby towns, our local businesses, farmers and market vendors, our artists and authors, plus visitors exploring our little slice of heaven.

Our most important goal is to give every one of you a reason to visit the park—whether it's a sports-watching party, an outdoor movie, a Saturday farmers market, an art opening, a music performance, a holiday celebration, or simply a picnic on the grass or a rest on a bench. Looking ahead, we aspire increasingly to become a hub for learning—a center for ideas, exploration and engagement—with a growing number

of author talks, lectures, demonstrations, etc.

We are grateful to the local businesses that sponsor events at the park, as well as to the organizations that host their own public events in our space. Our partnership with the Town of Washington often makes us the venue for holiday celebrations. We value our farmers, local vendors, and the artists who share with you their incredible products and creations—all part of our growing family.

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. With your continued support, we are confident that The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens will continue to be at the center of our vibrant community, a place for you to connect with friends and neighbors.

Thank you for being a friend of the park.

*"I first started volunteering at the Judy Black Park in honor of my dear friend, Denise Trevenen. Through my volunteer work at the park, I have met so many charming people—locals and visitors alike, artists and art lovers, Gilmore Girls fans, retirees, high school students from The Frederick Gunn School and Shepaug Valley High School. It really is a place that brings people together. The butterflies, flowers and pals who stopped by were the icing on the cake!"*

—Annie Gilpin, Volunteer

*"The Judy Black Park creates a cohesive connection in the center of Washington Depot. People stroll through the park as they walk on their errands around town, stopping to admire the flowers and art exhibits along the way. When I lead monthly Hootenannies during the farmers market, I witness a whole beautiful swirling scene—kids stopping to dance, farmers selling to happy customers, friends and neighbors stopping to chat and I think, 'This is community!'"*

—Jim McDonough, Washington resident & Region 12 employee



**Karyn Detje**  
Board President

**Laura Neminski**  
Executive Director

# WITH THANKS TO OUR 2023 SUPPORTERS & DONORS

## Daffodils - Up to \$150

Danielle and Anthony Amato	Ann and Michael Feinberg	Ashley Judson	Laura Moore Brown	Tamara Sachs MD
Denise and Peter Arturi	Stacey Fellone	Susan and Donald Katz	Mickey and Laura Morris	Ingrid Salcedo and Ulrich Vilbois
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Greta Basile	Mia Ferrara Pelosi	Bartholomew	Heather Neilson	Nancy Sarnoff and Scott Williams
Susan Beerman	Finnegan's Farm West	Lesley and William King	Ella and Fred Newman	In honor of Maria Mostajo
Marina Belica	Florin Firimita	Caroline and Jason Klein	Elizabeth Page ★	Eugene Savickas
Randolph Bernard	Ellen Flynn	Judith and Charles LaMuniere	Michael and Eliza Paolucci	In memory of Judy Black
Helena Binnie and Tarek el Aguizy	Ellen Forman	Nancy Lasar, West Wind Studio, LLC	Dawn Pasquin	Beth and Franz Schober
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Natalie H. Dyer	Sheila Josephson	Tracy Miller and Kent Burnham		Jennifer Wynn
Starr and Noel Evans				Helen and Peter Yorzinski
				Julie and Townsend Ziebold

## Beautyberries - \$150 to \$499

Linda and Philip Andryc	Sally and Steven Cornell	Joseph Hoban	Melora Mennesson	Susan and Craig Schoon
Penny and William Bardel	Alice and David DeMeo	Charles and Mary Jackson	Susan Monserud and Ric Sonder	Susan and James Scott
Joan and Jeffrey Barist	Maria Elena Dendaluce and Joseph Gitterman III	Elise Jaffe and Jeffrey Brown	Rebecca and Jim Neary	Harriet Shapiro
Karen and Hal Benett	The Downey Family ★	Michele James	Laura and Perry Neminski	Karen Silk
Lisa and Avi Berg	Diane Drey and Melvin Winokur	Daniel Kaner and Sonia Kashuk	Claire and Sam Nitze	Randall Slack
Darcy and J. Treacy Beyer	Laura Driscoll	Frances and Michael Keilty	Ann Casey and Jack Pascal	Maureen and Rob Sladen
Mona and Ajay Bijoor	Susan and Michael Eanes ★	James Kocsis	Kristin and Craig Patrick	Susan Smith
Pamela and Michael Bless	In honor of Marisabel's Christmas Decorations	Sheryl S. Leach and Howard Rosenfeld	Suzie Paxton and Patrick Horan	BK and Peary Stafford
Carol Bokeniwick and John Smallwood	Lisa and Lee Einbinder	Ilene J. Leff	Kirsten Peckerman	Nancy Steinman
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Joan Lobis Brown and Jeremy Grayzel	Emily FitzHugh	Daniel and Melanie Leppo	Elizabeth and Thomas Rickart	Cynthia King Vance and Lee Vance
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Johanna Singer and Brian Chaszar	Karen Heimann	Alice Maggin and Wayne Nelson	Abbey and Tom Rosenwald	Washington Food Market
Jeffrey Coploff	Karen Hersch	Joanne and William Mansfield	Lisa Rossi and Philip Gorri van	Katie Watkin
		Deirdre McDonald	Holly Russell	Kim Widener
			John and Carol Santolieri	James Worth
			Wool Family Charitable Trust	

## Golden Rain Trees- \$500 to \$999

Pamela and Scott Bowman	Betsy and David Goldin	Susan and Larry Kessler	Susan and Philip Markert	Ellen Giddins Stiteler
Jennifer Judge and Ethelind Coblin	Michelle and Michael Gorra	Susan Lerner and Arthur Sachs	Mary and Simon Metz	Nicole Tongue and Allen Kovac
Elizabeth and Larry Dexheimer	Paul Healy and Didier Malaquin	Jaclyn Levin and Andrew Kandel	Maria Mostajo and Mark Schein	Electa and David Varnish
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Annie and Jack Gilpin	Emily Dalton and Matt Karpas	Susan and John Long	Carla Sacks and John Morris	West Mountain Builders
Karen and Henry Glanternik	In honor of Laura Neminski	Ecton and Betsy Manning	Marie and Mark Schwartz	Kelly and David Williams
Deborah and Daniel Glass			Coco and Frank Sellman	Laurie Wolfe
			Jean Solomon and Tyler Smith	

## Japanese Maples- \$1,000 to \$1,499

Anonymous	T Peter and Ludi Pappas	The Prunier Family	Nicholas Solley	Sharon and Mark Ruchman
Tamara and Bradford Bernstein	Steven Fuchs and Brian Lancaster	Shauna Holiman and Robert Hackney, Jr.	Robert Parker and Peter Rogness	Sarah and Robert Savage
Lauren and Mark Booth	Susan Haber	Judy Jackson and Bruce Haims	Wendy King Philips and Carl Philips	Carolyn Setlow and Andrew Shapiro
Barbara Bouyea	In memory of Murray Haber			

## Dogwoods- \$1,500 to \$2,499

Nicole Alger and Zachary Karabell	Deborah and Peter Houldin	Steve Godwin and Rod Pleasants
Valerie Friedman	Kathryn and John Kehoe	Richard Schlosberg and Marian Dar
J. Wilson Henley and Bruce Glickman	Andrew Flatt and Richard Lorenti	Glynnis and Mark Snow ♥
		Karyn Detje and Sal Sorce

### SYMBOLS KEY

- ♥ In memory of Denise Trevenen
- ★ Some or all of this gift made to the Denise DeVault Trevenen Endowment Fund

We make every effort to present correct information and apologize for any errors; please inform us of any inaccuracies or misspellings. All gifts listed were received during the 2023 calendar year.



# SPOTLIGHT: TRUSTEE RONALD GARFUNKEL



"I became involved with the Judy Black Park when I heard that a group of local citizens purchased the former Vinnie's gas station," Ronald Garfunkel explains. He made a substantial pledge and joined the board in 2016.

Ron's board term expires next year. His valuable contributions to the park will last well beyond the end of his service. As co-chair of the fund development committee, Ron has been instrumental in balancing the focus on both the short- and long-term financial stability of the park.

Ron is champion of the notion that an organization dedicated to serving our entire community needs to encourage both small and large annual donations so that everyone has a stake in the ongoing success of the park. With an eye towards the future, Ron encouraged the board to launch the endowment fund.

"The Denise DeVault Trevenen Endowment Fund will assure the park's existence well beyond my lifetime," he says, noting that the fund is named in memory of a former board president and one of its guiding lights.

A native of Westchester County, N.Y., Ron graduated from Lafayette College in 1963, became a commissioned infantry officer with the US Army and served in Vietnam. After his military service, he joined his family's business, Service Directions Inc. He retired as CEO in 2016. Ron and his wife, Sande Breakstone, made their way to Litchfield County in 1993, and bought their current property where they eventually built a new house.

"I feel honored to be a part of the great story of the Judy Black Park," Ron says. "I love to see how it has truly become the cornerstone and gathering place for Washington and surrounding communities," he sums up. The park's board and staff are honored to have Ron Garfunkel as one of our most active and generous supporters.

## VOLUNTEERS

Crissy Armstrong\* | Sydney Benett | Jordan Benett | Barbara Bouyea\* | Vincent Casey | Jean Chapin | Brian Chaszar | Jenny Cox | Avery D'amico | Karyn Detje\* | Debbie Doorfee | Suzanne Drapeau | Tal Fagin | Andrew Flatt\* | Fiona Foulois | Ron Garfunkel\* | Annie Gilpin | Michelle Gorra\* | Pastor Robyn Gray | Wilson Henley\* | David Hoffman | Patrick Horan\* | Alex Ince\* | Kara Lamparelli | Julie Loughran | Susan Lerner\* | Richard Lorenti | Michelle Madden | Pels Matthews\* | Kathy McCarver | Jim McDonough | Penny Morrissey | Maria Mostajo\* | Jackson Neminski | Holden Neminski | Perry Neminski | Vi Owens | Ben Paletsky\* | Victoria C. Rowan | Randy Sabin | Jami Sachs | Carolyn Setlow\* | Sophia Sorce | Niko Sorce | Jean Taddonio | Jennifer Urquhart\* | David Varnish | Adie Varnish | Electa Varnish | Carolyn Wallace | Laurie Wolfe | Darryl Wright\*

\*Trustee

## GIFTS-IN-KIND

Arbor Services of CT, Inc. | Chrissy Armstrong | Karyn Detje | George Home | Pels Matthews | Laura Neminski | Richard Rosiello | Thorncrest Farm and Milk House Chocolates, LLC | Jennifer Urquhart | Wright Electrical

## SPONSORS

Depot Dog Boutique | Ericson Insurance Advisors | Sarah Gager and Roy O'Neil | The Glass Family | Steve Godwin and Rod Pleasants | National Iron Bank

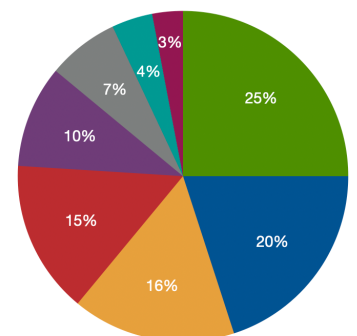
## ARTISTS

Nadine Kalachnikoff Bolander | Michael Chelminski | Liz Dexheimer | Karen LeSage | the late Margaret Grimes | Henry Morales | Ed Muszala | NY Collage Ensemble | Region 12 Students | Beth Rundquist



Paintings by Henry Morales (left) and Beth Rundquist (right)

## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK: 2023 EXPENSES



\* includes 10th anniversary events

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

Steve and Lori Fineman  
Sarah Gager and Roy O'Neil, Jr.  
Gloria and Martin Greenstein  
Jane Whitney Gruson  
In honor of Laura Neminski  
Halley Harrisburg and Michael Rosenfeld  
Barbara Kohn  
Audrey and Danny Meyer  
The Perlman Family Foundation ★  
Jennifer and Douglas Urquhart

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

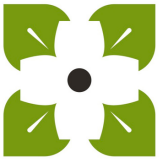
Stacey and Pels Matthews ★

## White Oaks- \$10,000 and Up

Chrissy Armstrong and Ben Nickoll  
Debra and Leon Black Family Foundation  
Peter J. Cooke  
In memory of Douglas Urquhart  
Margaret Ferguson and Daniel Sherr ★  
Sande Breakstone and Ronald Garfunkel ★

## Grantors

Town of Washington, American Rescue Plan Act  
CT Humanities, Cultural Fund Operating Grant



# 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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Denise Trevenen, *President Emerita (deceased)*

Laura Neminski, *Executive Director*

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Jack-O-Lantern Contest winner  
Hunter Molitz (For the second  
year in a row!)



Weekly farmers market



Frank Sellman & Love Rockit  
performing at the FUNraiser

"I have enjoyed the Judy Black Park from the moment it was opened to the public. Not only does it bring beauty to our town, it also brings our community together simply by its existence. Its grounds welcome everyone during any season and the old renovated Vinny's gas station is now a beautiful gallery that hosts many artists, offers many programs and supports local farms by having a seasonal farmers market. I enjoy my volunteer work at the park, which allows me to stay in touch with the locals and welcome curious visitors. No matter what season, it's a place to just fill up your senses."

—Vi Owens, Volunteer

"I see Judy Black Park as one of our many community jewels, and a shining example of repurposing for public benefit."

—Howard Rosenfeld



SAVE THE DATE  
for our annual

# FUNraiser

## Saturday, Sept 14, 2024

[judyblackpark.org](http://judyblackpark.org)

[f](#) [i](#) [@judyblackpark](#)