

Please write down a healing thought or drawing which we will distribute to the various institutions discussed in this TEA Talk.

waac Westport Arts Advisory Committee

# TEA TALK

Thinkers • Educators • Artists



Three 20-minute moderated conversations on

## Healing Through the Arts

**MAY 3 • 2PM • TOWN HALL**

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



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

JAMES S. MARPE  
First Selectman

May 3, 2015

On behalf of the Town of Westport, I welcome you to TEA Talk, the second in an ongoing series presented by the Westport Arts Advisory Committee.

Through this TEA Talk program, our Arts Advisory Committee brings to Westporters current thinking and trends in the arts, beyond the exhibitions and performances we attend on a regular basis. I would like to welcome today's panel of diverse Thinkers, Educators and Artists who will create conversation based on their own work experiences in *Healing Through the Arts*.

As First Selectman, I am particularly proud to represent a town with a hundred-year legacy as an arts community, and one that deeply values its arts heritage. Since the creation of the Westport Arts Advisory Committee in 1991 by Burt Chernow, we have made it a tradition to recognize the innovative and the established, the young and the old, as well as our philanthropists and advocates, to reinforce the important role the arts play in our lives.

I would like to thank Evie Lindemann of Albertus Magnus College, Craig Gillespie of St. Vincent's Behavioral Health, Professor Judy Dworin of Trinity College, and teaching artists Jahmane West and Nell Waters Bernegger, for joining our WAAC panelists Dr. Richard Epstein and Kristin Fox and sharing their insights with us today. We anticipate that the exploration of this theme will initiate discussion well beyond the extent of this afternoon's presentation.

Thank you all for joining us today.

Sincerely,

James Marpe  
First Selectman

Welcome & Introduction of Panelists

**Nancy Diamond**

Co-Chair, Westport Arts Advisory Committee

Opening Remarks

**The Honorable James S. Marpe, First Selectman**

Overview of Healing Therapies

**Evie Lindemann**

Healing Power of Visual Art

**Evie Lindemann, Nell Bernegger & Jahmane West**

Healing Power of Music

**Richard Epstein and Craig Gillespie**

Healing Power of Performance Art

**Kristin Fox and Judy Dworin**

Reception

**Westport Historical Society**

[www.westportarts.org](http://www.westportarts.org)  
[westportartsawards@gmail.com](mailto:westportartsawards@gmail.com)

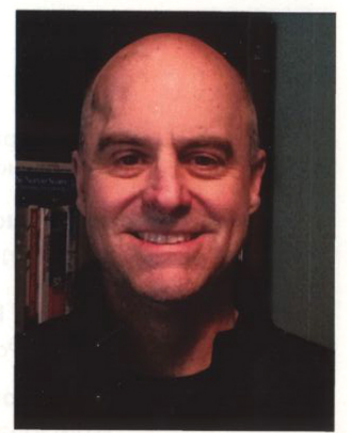
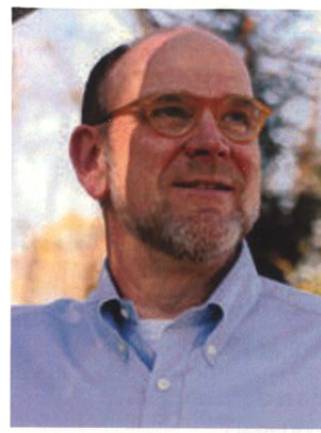


**Evie Lindemann, Nell Bernegger & Jahmane West  
discuss the healing power of the visual arts**

Evie Lindemann is an Associate Professor in the Master of Arts in Art Therapy Program at Albertus Magnus College and at Yale's Summer Institute in Bioethics on end of life issues. She is also a printmaking artist whose work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally.

Nell is a full-time artist and mother-of-three based in her native town of Westport, Connecticut. In addition to painting, she volunteers at the Smilow Cancer Center at Yale-New Haven Hospital, facilitating therapeutic arts with patients in a program connected with the Westport Arts Center, called "WAC Gives Back".

Jahmane's artistic career began with street art and graffiti, and has expanded to include works on canvas, photography, mural painting and fashion design under the label KULTJAH. Jahmane's sensitivity towards social awareness led him to collaborate with the Westport Arts Center Project at Bridgeport's "Homes for the Brave" program where he works with veterans as a teaching artist.



**Richard Epstein and Craig Gillespie  
discuss the healing power of music**

Richard is a musician, radio programmer, dentist, and a native Westport resident. He plays bassoon with the Norwalk Symphony and has hosted a biweekly program of eclectic musical discovery on WPKN, 89.5FM for over 37 years.

Craig Gillespie is dedicated to the healing properties of music. As a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and board-certified music therapist with a Master's degree in Music Therapy from New York University, Craig currently practices at St. Vincent's Behavioral Health in Westport CT, and facilitates a music therapy program for cancer patients at St. Vincent's Hospital, Bridgeport CT.



**Kristin Fox and Judy Dworin  
discuss the impact of arts on the prison community**

An ardent advocate for the arts, Kristin produced the award-winning documentary *Years in the Making: A Journey into Late Life Creativity*, was the executive director of the Fairfield Arts Center, is a curator, photographer and tech enthusiast currently working on software for art museums.

Judy is a dance/theater artist and teacher and also a Professor of Theater & Dance at Trinity College. She founded the Judy Dworin Performance Project (JDPP) in 1989 based on the important role the arts can play in challenging and creating change in our universe. JDPP's Bridging Boundaries program is a comprehensive outreach to those affected by incarceration.



**Westport Arts Advisory Committee**

**The goals of the Committee, founded in 1994 by the late Burt Chernow, are to:**

- Enhance the visibility of the arts in our community
- Serve as a bridge between the arts and education
- Encourage cohesiveness among artists, arts and cultural organizations and the general public
- Strengthen the role the arts play in the lives of Westport residents
- Preserve Westport's artistic heritage
- Perpetuate Westport as a thriving center for artistic and cultural activity

**Westport Arts Advisory Committee**

Nancy Diamond & Richard Epstein, Co-chairs  
Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Ann Chernow,  
Frederic Chiu, Kristin Fox, Sandra Lefkowitz, Deirdre Price,  
Katherine Ross, Elise Russi, Carole Schweid, Ann Sheffer,  
John Simon, Elizabeth Strick