



Thinkers • Educators • Artists

**Welcome**

Richard Epstein, Co-chair, Westport Arts Advisory Committee

**Opening Remarks**

The Honorable James S. Marpe, First Selectman

**Does Art Impact Societal Change?**

Kathie Bennewitz, Art Historian and Town Curator

**Introduction of Panelists**

Nancy Diamond, Co-chair, Westport Arts Advisory Committee

**Art and Social Change**

Miggs Burroughs and Murk Yurkiw

**You've Got to Be Carefully Taught**

From South Pacific, 1958, Rogers and Hammerstein  
Charlie Widmer, Tenor, Frederic Chiu, Piano

**Theatre and Social Change**

Carole Schweid and Michael Barker

**The Times They are A'Changin'**

Bob Dylan, 1963  
Fran Southworth, Jeff Southworth, Alan Southworth

**Literature and Social Change**

John Dodig and Haris Durrani

**Presentation of Horizon Award**

Richard Epstein

**Q & A with Panelists**

**Reception**

Westport Historical Society  
Featuring *Waving Through a Window* from Evan Hansen, 2015,  
by Benji Paske and Justin Paul  
Sung by Ben Roland Staples HS '20

Thank you to our community partner: Westport Library  
[www.westportarts.org](http://www.westportarts.org) [westportartsawards@gmail.com](mailto:westportartsawards@gmail.com)



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

JAMES S. MARPE  
First Selectman

October 29, 2017

Dear TEA Talk Attendees:

Welcome to TEA Talk, Westport's annual discussion exploring ways the arts impact our everyday lives.

As First Selectman, I am particularly proud that Westport deeply values the arts. We are blessed with a diverse and vibrant group of arts organizations, a school system committed to making the arts available to all students and an amazing wealth of creative professionals who call Westport home. Through TEA Talks, the Westport Arts Advisory Committee has created a forum for informative conversations among these resident professionals. Today's panel of Thinkers, Educators and Artists will draw from their own experiences to discuss ways in which the arts can affect social change.

For over a hundred-years, Westport has been a renowned arts community. In today's talk, we have the opportunity not only to celebrate that history, but to examine the present and anticipate our future as the Horizon Award is presented to Haris Durrani, a graduate of Staples High School. This talented young writer and soon-to-be-lawyer began with an education that stressed the importance of critical thinking, science and the arts, an invaluable foundation for success in any field. Please join me in congratulating Haris; I look forward to watching his career flourish.

Since the creation of the Westport Arts Advisory Committee in 1991 by Burt Chernow, it has been the committee's mission to advocate for and increase exposure to the arts; and to recognize both new and established artists and the philanthropists and advocates who are their collaborative partners. I would like to thank the committee members and today's panelists Mark Yurkiw, Miggs Burroughs, Michael Barker, Carole Schweid, Haris Durrani and John Dodig for their insight and their contributions to the vibrancy of our town.

Thank you for joining the conversation.



James Marpe  
First Selectman, Town of Westport

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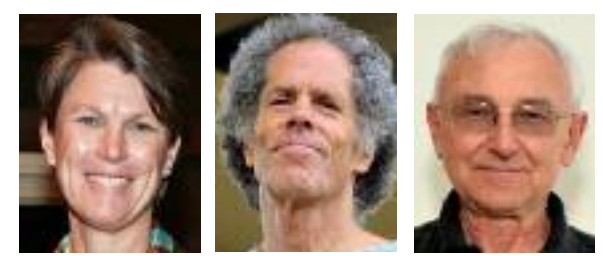
waac Westport Arts Advisory Committee



Thinkers • Educators • Artists

**Westport Artist Honor Roll November 2016 - October 2017**  
**Our Heritage Honor Roll recognizes artists and patrons in our community we have lost in the past year:**

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Brenda Lewis      | Opera Singer         |
| Donald Sappern    | Jazz Musician        |
| Maureen Zlatkin   | Musician/Arts Patron |
| Eileen Shea       | Artist               |
| Jay Disbrow       | Artist, Illustrator  |
| Joan Lewis        | Artist               |
| Robert Osborne    | Actor                |
| Herb Meyers       | Arts Patron          |
| Bill Buckley      | Filmmaker            |
| John Valiante     | Musician             |
| Lucia Nebel White | Photographer         |
| Eleanor Shull     | Artist, Illustrator  |
| Nat Hentoff       | Writer               |
| Al Brodax         | Filmmaker            |
| Miller Pope       | Artist, Illustrator  |
| June Parker       | Artist               |
| John Travers      | Film director        |
| Joe Marquette     | Photographer         |



Three 20-minute moderated conversations on  
**Art and Social Change**

**OCT 29 • 2PM • TOWN HALL**  
[www.WestportArts.org](http://www.WestportArts.org)



**Kathleen Motes Bennewitz**, as Westport's town curator, oversees the care of Westport's extraordinary public art collection. Also an independent art historian, Kathie has worked as a collections and exhibition curator for cultural and historical organizations in Connecticut and art museums across the country. She received her AB in Art & Archaeology from Princeton University and MA in Art History from University of Delaware.



**Miggs Burroughs** has been creating art and graphic design since 1972. At 26, he was chosen to design a Commemorative U. S. Postage Stamp and several covers for TIME Magazine, one of which resides in the Smithsonian Institution. Miggs has designed hundreds of logos, websites and print material for commercial as well as non-profit organizations. His acclaimed work with lenticular imagery has been exhibited widely and is held in many private collections. A graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, Miggs has taught graphic design at Fairfield University and UCONN. He is a founding member of the Westport Artists' Collective at the Westport Arts Center, and is the first Artist in Residence at the Westport Library. [www.miggsb.com](http://www.miggsb.com)



**Mark Yurkiw** is a self-defined "Artrepreneur." At Hunter College studying astrophysics in 1974, he ran one of the first Mini-Main Frame computers at Philip Johnson's Seagram's building. He switched to Fine Art in graduate school, then left to start a business creating 3D storytelling art. Mark's work has appeared globally in magazines, book covers, advertising, television, film, art installations and museums. For New York Cares, Mark's studio created a homeless Statue of Liberty for a coat drive that continues to bring in winter coats for the homeless. He also built a 21st century one room schoolhouse from LEGOS for Make-A-Wish. [www.think3-d.com](http://www.think3-d.com)



**Carole Schweid** performed on Broadway in *Pippin* (for Bob Fosse), *Minnie's Boys*, and the original Broadway cast of the Pulitzer Prize winning *A Chorus Line*. Regional: *Caroline, or Change* (Baltimore's Center Stage), *Cabaret*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Crossing Delancy*, *Ruthless!* She studied Theatre at Boston University and has her BFA from Juilliard (Dance). Carole is the author of *Staged Reading Magic*, published by Smith and Kraus and has directed over a hundred staged readings of short plays as co-founder and Artistic Director of CT's lunchtime play-reading series, *Play With Your Food*.

### Thank You to Today's Performers:

**Charles Widmer**, Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance, Western Connecticut State University, 2016. Professional credits: New Haven Symphony, Ivoryton Playhouse. Awards: James Sommers Opera Scholarship, 2015 NATS Regional Competition, James Furman Honors (2014, 2015, 2016).

**Frederic Chiu**, international performer, recording artist, teacher. Extensive repertoire includes Prokofiev, Chopin, Liszt and masterpieces of Mendelssohn and Rossini. His 25 recordings have included Record of the Year (Stereo Review), Top 10 recordings (New Yorker) and raves from the Wall Street Journal and the NY Times. [fredericchiu.com](http://fredericchiu.com)

**The Southworth Family.** Frannie Faith: lifelong performer and meditator; Jeff: performer, composer, arranger, producer, singer and songwriter; and Alan: singer, bassist, and pianist.



**Michael Barker** joined Westport Country Playhouse in 2016 as Managing Director. Previously he was the Marin Theatre Company's managing director, general manager of Laguna Playhouse, managing director for the The Antaeus Company (Los Angeles) and Seattle Repertory Theatre's 2008 Managing Director Fellow. Barker holds an MFA in theater management from Yale School of Drama and an MBA from Yale School of Management. He is a member of the inaugural class of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Facilitators trained by artEquity, a national advocacy organization focused on social justice and the arts.



**John Dodig** was principal of Staples High School from 2004 to 2015. Prior to coming to Westport, John had been principal of Fairfield High School, Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven and Cheshire High School. John holds a Masters in Administration and Supervision from Fairfield University. Awards over the course of his career have included: Connecticut Principal of the Year (1991); Lambda Legal Award *Making the Case for Equality* (2015) and CT PTA Principal of the Year Award (2015).



**Haris A. Durrani's** debut book, *Technologies of the Self*, won the Driftless Contest. His fiction, memoirs, and essays have appeared in *McSweeney's The Lifted Brow*, *Analog*, *Lightspeed*, *Catapult*, *The New Inquiry*, *Buffalo Almanack*, *The New York Review of Science Fiction*, *Mithila Review*, *Poet's Country*, *Skin Deep*, *Comparative Islamic Studies*, *Media Diversified* and more. He is a JD candidate at Columbia Law School, holds an MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Cambridge and a BS in Applied Physics from Columbia University, where he co-founded The Muslim Protagonist literary symposium.



## 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, Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu,  
John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Wendy Morgan Hunter,  
Sandra Lefkowitz, Deirdre Price, Kelle Ruden,  
Carole Schweid, Elizabeth Strick  
Honorary Members: Ann Chernow and Ann Sheffer