

W.A.R. NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERLY ARMORY RESTORATION, INC.

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ANNIVERSARY YEAR: 1901-2011

FALL 2011

ARMORY RECEIVES GRANT

The 1772 Foundation Supports the Armory
Matching Funds Needed



The Westerly Armory has received a \$15,000 restricted grant from The 1772 Foundation for sealing the masonry of the Armory's headhouse. Last spring, the Foundation announced funding in the form of one-to-one matching grants of up to \$15,000 that would be made available for a limited number of historic

preservation projects including surface restoration. The grants would be given only in the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

A letter of intent was first required by the Foundation by April. After that, invited applications were due by June 25 and required with them a cyclical maintenance plan, condition assessment, and restoration plan in addition to history of the organization and building and a description of the project needing funding. The Armory was invited to apply. A check arrived on August 11, and the sealing project will begin this fall.

The 1772 Foundation was so named in honor of its first restoration project. Liberty Hall in Union, New Jersey, was built in 1772 by Governor Livingston, the first governor of that state. The recent grant is the Armory's second grant from the Foundation. In 2005, the Armory received \$20,000 to help match the \$300,000 Save America's Treasures grant from the United States Congress.

In the 1950s, the Armory was sandblasted, removing the bricks' finish and leaving the masonry more porous. Over time, moisture has seeped into the bricks and very gradually into the interior walls. Sealing the exterior of the headhouse is important to maintain the integrity of both exterior and interior walls of the historic building.

The Armory has come a long way since October 1992 when the project began. This grant is important to the very life of the building. Water and sunlight are the enemies of all structures. The sandblasting of the Armory removed its hard external skin. The building will be sealed to prevent moisture entering and preserve the life of the building. The Armory is the community's museum, home to the Westerly Band, and rentable for events. It is useful, memorable, and worthy.

The grant requires *matching funds*. Assistance from the community would be welcome. The Armory is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 4:00, the mailing address is PO Box 614, Westerly 02891, and the website is www.westerlyarmory.org.

CELLPHONES FOR SOLDIERS

Armory Supports Our Troops

The Westerly Armory is participating in the *Cellphones for Soldiers* Program sponsored through the Military



Officers Association of America. Judy Babcock, wife of Colonel William Babcock, is managing the program in the South County area. Colonel Babcock served in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The Babcocks are members of the Armory and thought it a good place to receive the retired phones.

If you have a retired cellphone, bring it to the Armory (a box in the hallway is marked) and know that you are giving a member of the military serving abroad telephone time with loved ones.

The program buys prepaid phone cards and distributes them to airmen, Marines, sailors, and soldiers to call home. Each phone provides 60 minutes of prepaid talk time.

This program runs until the end of January, so make a brighter day for a military member abroad and bring in those cell phones.



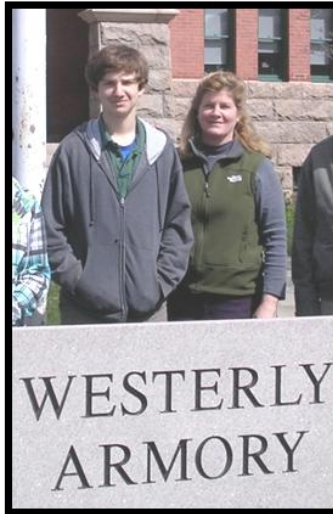
Board Members of the Armory

Accomplishments



Kathrynn Cabigting Burns, Executive Board Director, graduated from Roger Williams University in May at the top of her class. Last spring, Kathrynn was inducted into the prestigious honors society for business, Beta Gamma Sigma. She has served on the board of the Armory for four years and has chaired a USO dance and assisted with many other events. Kathrynn is married to William Burns.

Karin Schwer Gatch, Executive Board Director, has been nominated by a number of organization for the Athena Award. The Athena Award was invented in 1982 in Lansing, Michigan, to recognize outstanding business and professional women in the community and to create leadership opportunities for women. Over twenty years later, the program continues to honor those who help foster the potential of all women as valued members of and leaders of the community. Karin is not only a supporter of the Armory, but of the Adult Day Care Center in Westerly, St. Michael's School, the Westerly Library, the Westerly Economic Development Commission, and several sailing organizations. Karin has two sons: Hayward IV and Harrison. Hayward (pictured with Karin) was a member of the Armory Board in his senior year in high school. Karin is married to Hayward Gatch III. The Athena Award, sponsored by the Chamber, will be announced on October 26.



Roberta Mudge Humble, Board President, was featured in *SO Rhode Island* magazine in September and the Westerly Armory was a part of the cover. *SO Rhode Island* editors selected a number of community "stars" – people who had committed to much volunteer work over time. Her work with the Armory was key, but the article mentioned her Rhode Island books & games and her dedication to telling the "story" of Rhode Island's treasures. Roberta has a new game (*Rhode Scholar*) & new book (*Little Rhody & the Other 49*) coming out soon. Roberta is Jr Vice Commander of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, Rhode Island Commandery this year. She teaches English at Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick, the city in which she lives.



Seabees from WWII

Visit the Armory

Board member, Ernie Cassis is a WWII Seabee and he brought his buddies from around the nation to Westerly for a September reunion. They stayed at the Winnapaug Inn and toured the Babcock-Smith House and the Westerly Armory. They spent a day in North Kingstown at the Seabee Museum and took a boat tour of Rhode Island's lighthouses. The Seabees are the (CB) Construction Battalion of the US Navy – the can build and they can fight. We are proud of this greatest generation.



Seabees and spouses in front of the Armory. Ernie Cassis, far right.

WAR Board has Cook-Out

Karin Gatch (right) suggested an August cook-out for the Executive Board. It was pot-luck and a terrific evening at the Armory. Karin even brought her own grill, cooking marinated flank steaks (outdoors).



Mary Alice Jaconetta (left) made a vegetable ragout.

It's the 100th anniversary of the Westerly-Stonington Thanksgiving Day Football Rivalry. To top that, it's the 20th anniversary of the Stonington and the Westerly high school football teams who each won their respective state championships. – And it's the Armory's 110th anniversary (built in 1901). Get your ticket early because seating will be limited to 300. Classmates, fans, team members, coaches, and all of the community are welcome.

Westerly-Stonington Football Rivalry Reunion Evening

for team members, coaches, & fans



Saturday, November 19

Celebrating three important anniversaries in 2011:

- 100th year of Westerly-Stonington football rivalry
- 20th year of the Westerly and Stonington State Champions
- 110th year of the opening of the historic Westerly Armory



Social hour, dinner, recognitions

featuring Championship Coaches Jim Murano and Bob Mitchell
at the historic Westerly Armory
social hour 5:30-6:30 pm dinner at 6:30 pm

Tickets: \$30 in advance (\$35 at the door)

For information or tickets, visit the Armory, call 401-596-8554
or buy online at www.westerlyarmory.org

As of 2010, Westerly High School and Stonington High School have met 151 times with Stonington leading Westerly 69-65-17. However, when strictly looking at Thanksgiving Day games, Westerly leads 43-39-10 for a total of 92 Thanksgiving Day games played.

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Present Occupant or

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WESTERLY BAND

chosen this year as **Grand Marshal** of the Columbus Day Parade.



Let the band play on – America's oldest active civic band
with home at the Westerly Armory.

COMING EVENTS AT THE WESTERLY ARMORY

Sept 16	St. Michael's School Dance
Sept 24	Smithsonian Museum Day – Open House (11 am – 2:30 pm)
Oct 15-17	Ninigret Quilters Show
Oct 22	Children's Halloween Concert, Musica Dolce (1 pm)
Nov 12	Veterans Day Ceremony (following parade)
Nov 19	Westerly-Stonington Football Rivalry Reunion Event
Dec 4	Westerly Band Christmas Concert (2 pm)
Dec 10	Wrestling
Dec 11	Musica Dolce Christmas Concert
Jan 21	Armory Membership Appreciation Event (snow date, Jan 22)
Feb 11	Rory Raven, Mentalist (a Westerly Armory special event)
	And 3 wedding receptions this fall

Note: The Armory is **open** non-holiday Mondays & Thursdays from 9-4 (out at lunch time) and by appointment & chance. Be sure to see the Westerly Armory's website at www.westerlyarmory.org. Visit the Armory's museum – always growing. Teachers & students, bus tours, visiting tourists, and local citizens are encouraged to come see the community's museum.