

Westerly Armory Restoration, Inc.

Mail: PO Box 614 Westerly, RI 02891 Location: 41 Railroad Ave
www.westerlyarmory.org Telephone: 401.596.8554

Westerly Celebrates 350 years: 1669-2019

Some of you are old enough to remember the Westerly celebration of its 300th anniversary in 1969. Fifty years ago, the town held its anniversary ball at the Westerly Armory. I was in attendance and remember the wood floor of the drill hall being quite rough. My cousin, Lido Mochetti and I went together to see the festivities. I wore a black Victorian gown made in 1869. That gown is presently at the Armory and available to see. It's too delicate to wear now (a good excuse for not fitting into it). Margaret Spargo of Stiles Studio took formal pictures of Lido and me in our Victorian attire with a backdrop screen she pulled down, probably made before 1900. Margaret's work was amazing and some can be seen at the Armory. We hope to have an exhibit later this year.

That was in my youth – and now what we'd like to do at the Armory is pair youths (age 6 and up) with an artifact from the Armory's museum. We are creating a pictorial presentation that may be shown at the anniversary ball and/or at one of the anniversary events. We need young volunteers to step forward – to take about 15 minutes for a photo shoot. Fifty years from now at Westerly's 400th, they can look back, as I do now, at the anniversary celebration. If you or your young one would like to participate, please email me at westerlyarmory@aol.com. Open Mondays AND Thursdays from 9am to 4pm.

Cheers to the Town of Westerly, *Roberta Mudge Humble*

■ Be a part of the history of the community.

WOW: The **Westerly Band** is 167 years old and their home is at the Armory. The Band is America's oldest active community band.



Events at the Armory

January 30, Wednesday

Leadership Rhode Island
First monthly meeting, 8-5

February 16, Saturday
Sweet & Swinging 7-10 pm
Valentine's Dessert & Dance

April 13, Saturday
Member Appreciation Evening
6:00 pm (doors open at 5 pm)
By reservation only (no tickets)

April 27, Saturday
Immaculate Conception Event
Dinner & entertainment

May 5, Sunday
Spring Children's Concert
Westminster Youth String Ensemble
At 3:00 pm
Tickets \$10 adults, kids free

May 17, Friday
Westerly 350th Gala
6-10 pm Tickets: \$75 pp at
Chamber of Commerce

June 6, Thursday
**Tribute to the 75th Anniversary
of the D-Day Landing**
2:30 pm
With Westerly High students

June 9, Sunday
WHS Sports Boosters Banquet
Award Night

New in the Armory's Museum



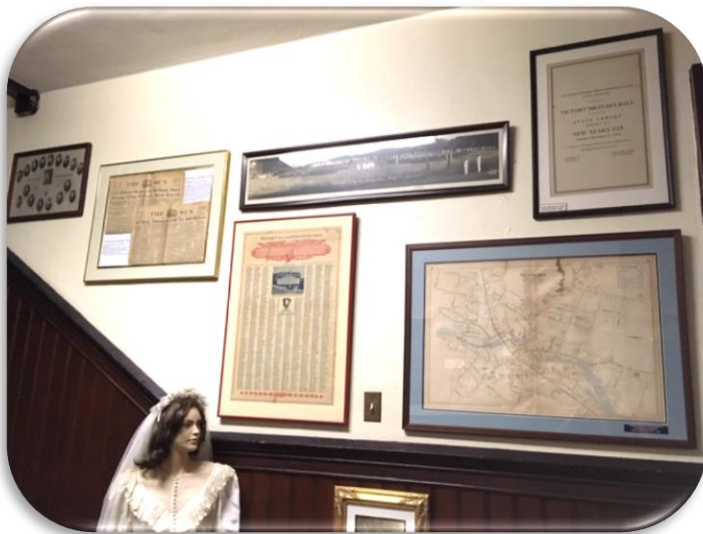
In the '40s & '50s, children in Westerly could be seen in these wonderful **winter wool outfits** from Dorothy May (store) in Providence. The little fellow's leggings are real leather and his ensemble is cashmere & wool. The little lady is in wool with a touch of fur on her collar and hat. A well-known member of the Westerly Historical Society said that when he was a boy, he

wore such clothes, and they called him *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

Right: a display case with **Medals of Honor**. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the US. The Medal is generally presented to recipients by the President. Sales are illegal under federal law, and punishable by fines of up to \$100,000 and a year in jail.



Below: a look at the **main hall wall** which displays an 1895 Westerly-Pawcatuck map (donated by Bruce & Elizabeth Greene), a 1919 photograph of Wilcox Park, a poster listing WWII veterans from the



area, a 1918 poster of the Centennial Victory Ball of WWI, two issues of *The Westerly Sun* – with hurricane headlines from 1938 & 1954, and officers from the 1931 Coastal Artillery. The

bride below is wearing the gown of Jenny Tassone, bride of Anthony Algieri (once Westerly Police Chief) and mother of Marilyn Dwyer.

Notes & Projects

Thanks to The Washington Trust Company and Senator Dennis Algieri, the Armory has an **automated external defibrillator** (AED) and the training of 8 volunteers on how to apply CPR and the AED to stop arrhythmia and save a life. The device is installed in the drill hall.

An **arched doorway** in the Armory's coal room will be created to offer two means of egress to and from the room. The coal room is slated to become a museum display area and workshop. If you haven't seen it, the stone walls are amazing.

Fifty-one drill hall windows now have **interior storm windows** installed. This includes the "dormer" windows up high in the hall. Additionally, the exterior windows have been re-painted. These were restored 10 years ago.

Heritage Harbor Foundation has awarded the Armory a \$3,500 grant to revise and print copies of the booklet (not the book): ***The Historic Armories of Rhode Island***. All 18 of RI's historic armories will be included. Roberta Humble is editor.

The Westerly Armory's bar sports a new long and low **refrigerator** to enable better storage of cold beverages.

Two large **UBS signs** were donated to the museum by Michael Slosberg.

Membership Appreciation Evening: April 13, 2019

Members, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13 at 6 pm sharp (doors open at 5 pm) for an evening devoted to good eating, superb entertainment, and the honoring of four outstanding people of service.

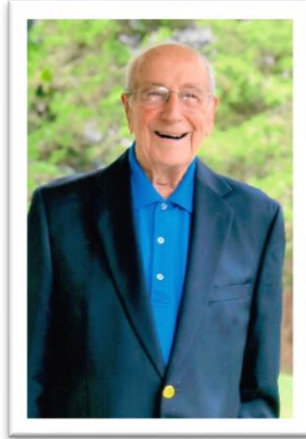
You won't want to miss this evening which features a delicious buffet dinner and the dazzling entertainment of the Yale Spizzwinks(?). The Spizzwinks(?) sing over one hundred concerts every year, entertaining audiences across the country and around the world with the vast diversity of our repertoire of literally hundreds of Spizzwink(?) arrangements. They sing jazz standards, contemporary pop, classic hits, and everything in between. No Spizzwinks(?) performance would be complete without a generous dose of their unique brand of humor and cleverly integrated choreography.

And here are the **best reasons** to come: 4 honorees for service to community, state, and nation. They are:

Mary Jane Patriarca DiMaio



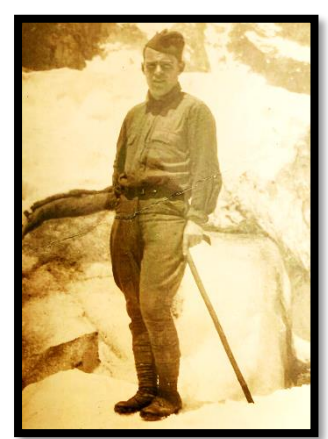
Joseph N. Cugini



Angela Smith



Stephen Macomber



Member ticket is \$8 pp (and there is still time to join – see www.westerlyarmory.com); **non-member or guest of member ticket is \$35 pp.**

BY RESERVATION ONLY: please call 596-8554 or send in your reservation count and check to PO Box 614, Westerly 02891 soon in order to secure a place for this very special evening which is expected to be a sell-out. Wine and beer will be available at the Armory's bar. The evening will be spectacular, created especially for Westerly's 350th.

A Partial List of Events Held at the Armory in 2018

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Family reunions | Cub & Boy Scouts Open House |
| Martial Arts | RI Foundation Community Meeting |
| Wedding receptions | Viking Supply Vendor Show |
| Leadership RI Meeting | WHS Sports Boosters Awards Banquet |
| Halloween Concert | Westminster Strings holiday concerts |
| Smithsonian Museum Day | Westerly Band Christmas Concert |
| Membership Evening | Family Memorial gatherings |
| Veteran's Day Ceremonies | Pitch Tournaments |
| Salute to Firefighters | Flag Day Ceremony |



SWEET & *Swinging*
VALENTINE'S DANCE

Saturday, February 16, 2019

7:00 – 10:00 pm at the Westerly Armory

Desserts by **Vesta Bakery** (part of the ticket price)

Music by **The Mondellos**

from the '40s to the '90s

for your dancing & listening pleasure

Wines & beers available at the Armory's bar

Tickets: \$20 pp at the Westerly Armory

Call to reserve at 401-596-8554

or send check to PO Box 614, Westerly 02891

Benefits the Westerly Armory

***Come listen even if you don't dance. Great music; great desserts.
Lead singer, Len Renzi replicates many vocalists such as Orbison and Sinatra.***



Looking for . . .

1. Students to do senior (or other) projects with the Armory
2. Volunteers to help one time or many times at the Armory (including guides)
3. Community memorabilia for the museum (such as: the Bob Mearns' Men's Shop bag & the 1895 map of Westerly-Pawcatuck)
4. Ideas that you think would be unique and suitable for events and exhibits at the Armory (email: westerlyarmory@aol.com or call 401-596-8554)