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www.warnertheatre.org

For Immediate Release

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Torrington Celebrates State-wide Event with Free & Discounted Activities at Downtown Arts & Cultural Attractions

TORRINGTON, Conn. – On Saturday, June 14, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism is sponsoring the 4th Annual Connecticut Open House Day, a one-day statewide event designed to pay tribute to Connecticut's unique world of history, art, film and tourism. The intent of this special celebration is to increase awareness of Connecticut's rich cultural attractions among residents and their out-of-state friends.

Locally, Downtown Torrington will celebrate the state-wide event from 12-4pm with more than 15 arts, culture and entertainment attractions offering free or discounted admission as well as special exhibits. Downtown restaurants and various merchants are also adding to the festivities by offering special sales and discounts for event participants. Walking maps will be provided at each location, courtesy of Franklin Print Shoppe and for those not interested in walking, the Northwest Transit Authority will also be providing a free shuttle bus which will stop at each location periodically throughout the event.

"Most residents may be familiar with one or two individual groups in Downtown Torrington, but when you step back and take notice of all of the amazing offerings within our compact Downtown area, it's really quite impressive. This event will hopefully get people to start thinking of our Downtown district as a real entertainment and tourism destination for the region," said Steve Criss, marketing director of the Warner Theatre and one of the organizers of the city's local event.

Last year the Torrington Historical Society, the Warner Theatre and Artwell collaborated on the event and had approximately a hundred people visit each organization. This year the group hopes with more attractions participating that number will increase.

"Torrington is the metropolitan hub of Litchfield County and our downtown district is the heartbeat of our city—a heartbeat that is growing stronger everyday. New restaurants and stores are opening up, young professionals are moving into renovated downtown apartments, new arts facilities are being built and our downtown parks have been revitalized. These are all signs of an emerging and revitalized downtown and CT Open House Day is a great way for people to come out and see the progress our city is making," said Torrington Mayor Ryan Bingham.

Rose Ponte, Director of Economic Development for the City of Torrington, added, "We are so fortunate to have a collaborative and varied group of arts organization that call Torrington their home. On June 14 visitors and residents alike can enjoy discovering the treasures that Torrington has to offer."

The local event is sponsored in part by the Community Foundation of Northwest CT, Franklin Print Shoppe and Radio Media Sponsor FM 97.3 WZBG.

The following organizations will be taking part in Torrington's CT Open House day. For a complete listing of offers, participating restaurants and merchants, please visit the city's website at www.torringtonct.org.

Artwell

19 Water Street I (860) 482-5122

www.artwellgallery.org

OFFER: Tours of the Water Street Gallery featuring works by Ron Sloan and free class demo in the organization's Creative Learning Center

Artwell Gallery is a not-for-profit community arts organization serving Northwest Connecticut and beyond. Founded in 1995 by Stewart Wilson, Artwell's mission is to encourage and promote the visual, literary and performing arts and artists in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. The organization has steadily grown and evolved into a major cultural force, enriching the lives of the people who participate in the many exhibitions, performances and special events held throughout the year.

Art Xperiment Gallery

199 Water Street I www.axgallery.freeyellow.com

OFFER: Tours of the gallery featuring an exhibit entitled "Where Did You Sleep Last Night?" works by Sharon Cole

The Art Xperiment Gallery (AX), housed in a large industrial factory space, holds exhibitions of emerging and established contemporary gallery artists as well as a rotating exhibit of visual and conceptual guest artists. Exhibitors include painters, sculptors, installation artists, digital media artists and photographers. The AX Gallery is committed to supporting artists in the exposure of their work to a broader audience by hosting events designed to critically engage the public. Art Xperiment endeavors to excite and generate discussion in an educational context through its artists' talks, gallery presentations, exhibition openings and special viewings for collectors.

Authentic Workout Enclave (AWE)

221 Water Street I (860) 803-3929 I www.awe-sport.com

OFFER: fencing, self-defense and kettleball lifting demonstrations all day

Founded by nationally-ranked Russian Fencing Master and author of the book "Powerful Fencing Footwork" Marc Ganych, AWE is a fitness club that offers kettleball training and classes in fencing and self-defense.

Cuisine with Jill Nicolson Cooking School

184 South Main St I (860) 489-1003

www.cuisinewithjill.com

OFFER: Free cooking demonstrations and complimentary samples available.

Housed in a spectacular 1885 Victorian home outfitted with a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, the school offers culinary classes for all ages featuring top chefs from all over New England. The unique ambiance and winning class offerings make for an exciting outing for students of all skill sets. The facility also hosts private parties and theme dinners and the staff provides event planning and catering for special events.

Coe Park

Main Street I (860)489-2274

www.coeparkgardens.com

OFFER: The park is open to the public to enjoy and tour the gardens. During the event, the Torrington Development Corporation will have an information booth detailing the downtown revitalization efforts and information on downtown businesses.

Coe Memorial Park and the Coe Memorial Park Civic Center are located on the green, in the heart of downtown. Coe Memorial Park is the site of Summer Concerts-on-the-Green (June-August), Heritage Days and hosts horticultural programs that include tours of the breathtaking gardens. Among other events, Coe Memorial Park Civic Center is home to craft fairs, and is used as a general meeting place. The site is managed by the Torrington Parks & Recreations Department.

Joyful Noise

220 Prospect Street I (860) 496-8841

www.chorusangelicus.org

OFFER: Information booth, located at Trinity Episcopal Church, on the renowned singing group and their upcoming concert schedule.

Joyful Noise is the parent organization for the renowned children's and adult choirs, Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus. Founded in 1991 by three-time Grammy Award-winning composer, Paul Halley, Joyful Noise's choirs perform approximately 25 concerts annually. Their concerts feature the great choral masterworks from Gregorian chant to the modern mystics, as well as contemporary world music and some of Halley's own works. Performances have included collaborations with the Hartford Symphony and the Paul Winter Consort in venues such as Boston's Symphony Hall and The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Kil'n Time Pottery, Workshops & Events

29 Main Street | (860) 618-3316

www.paintyourownpottery.org

OFFER: Tour the studio, observe the various activities and meet the staff who will be providing coupons for a Free Studio Fee for one project (\$7.00 - \$9.00 value)

More than just a pottery studio, Kil'n Time offers pottery painting, pottery wheel workshops, classes in glass pendant design, jewelry making and scrap booking. Pottery wheel rentals are available.

Northwest YMCA

259 Prospect Street | (860) 489-3133

www.northwestctymca.org

OFFER: From 12 noon until 4 p.m. there will be free activity stations for arts and crafts, basketball, soccer and floor hockey, healthy snacks, and open swim from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The Torrington Branch of the Northwest CT YMCA serves the people of Northwest Connecticut to build healthy spirits, minds and bodies. Located in the heart of Torrington, Connecticut, the Y offers a great facility and very friendly and helpful staff. Their large facility includes a large facility that includes: 6 Lane - 25 Yard Pool, Gymnasium, Racquetball/Paddleball Courts, Childcare Center (Ages 6 Months to 12 Years), Cardio Fitness Center , Strength Training Center , Locker Rooms , Aerobic Studio , Y-House - 42 Resident Rooms , Men's Health Center - Private locker, towel service and sauna, Men's Steam Room and Women's Sauna.

Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts

58 Main Street | (860) 482-4413

www.nutmegconservatory.org

OFFER: Tours of their state-of-the-art dance studios and a glimpse into the training process of their internationally-acclaimed ballerinas

The Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts, housed in a stunning state-of-the-art facility is home to the internationally-acclaimed Nutmeg Ballet, a premier dance training facility founded in 1970 by Sharon Dante. The Nutmeg Ballet is committed to producing world-class dancers through quality pre-professional training, education and performance opportunities. The Ballet maintains a complete performance season including Fall Repertoire, Spring Repertoire, and the International Summer Festival. Students, hailing from all over the world, also appear in full-length productions including NUTCRACKER, COPPELIA, CINDERELLA, SLEEPING BEAUTY and other classics.

Studio 59

59 Barber Street | (860) 482-6801

www.studio59music.com

OFFER: Free piano performances and grand opening of the new art gallery space featuring an exhibit entitled "Nature's Mandala's" by Priscilla Newcomb.

Pianist and owner, Timothy Alexandre Wallace, has transformed a historic church on Barber Street into a quaint performance gallery reminiscent of 18th century Paris. Studio 59's centerpiece is a magnificent German Steinway concert grand piano surrounded by eclectic art, rich decor, comfortable wing-back and parlor chairs. Patrons enjoy evenings of private concerts, presentations of works of art and other special events that embrace the elegant

ambiance of a long forgotten era.

Torrington Development Corporation

40 Main Street, 2nd Floor I (860)482-6077

www.torringtondevelopment.org

OFFER: Information booth to be located in the revitalized Coe Park on the Past, Present and Future of Downtown Torrington.

The Torrington Development Corporation (TDC) is an independent, non-profit organization charged with coordinating the enhancement and revitalization of Downtown Torrington.

Torrington Historical Society

192 Main Street I (860) 482-8260

www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org

*OFFER: Artisans demonstrating historic crafts and Civil War re-enactors on the Museum grounds. Free admission to the museum and 1/2 off admission to the Hotchkiss-Fyler House. **Sponsored in part by the Community Foundation of Northwest CT.***

Housed at the former Hotchkiss-Fyler Estate, the Historical Society is a non-profit educational institution which operates three on-site museums and a historical reference library. The Hotchkiss-Fyler House Museum is a late Victorian-period home housing a noteworthy collection of fine glass, porcelain and paintings by Connecticut artists. The Torrington History Museum, features the acclaimed "No Place Like Home Exhibit" chronicling Torrington's History. The Society's Carriage House Museum houses the award-winning industrial history exhibit entitled "Pursuit of Precision: The Hendey Machine Co. 1870 – 1954". The John H. Thompson Memorial Library houses a large, varied collection of historical and cultural materials.

Torrington Library

12 Daycoeton Place I (860) 489-6684

www.torringtonlibrary.org

OFFER: Viewing of the Library's "Flood of 1955" exhibit, family games, refreshments and screening of family-themed movie.

Founded in 1864, the Torrington Library has developed into a learning center for the people of Torrington through the generosity of many benefactors.

Torrington Twisters

Fuessenich Park I (860) 482-0450

www.torringtontwisters.org

OFFER: Meet the 2008 Roster of players who will be autographing baseballs. Plus, get discount admission to that night's game when the Twisters face off against the Danbury Westerners.

Part of the New England Collegiate Baseball League which consists of college student-athletes who come from baseball powerhouses from around the nation, The Torrington Twisters play at the renovated Fuessenich Park baseball stadium on South Main Street. The team offers baseball clinics to the public throughout the summer and their games make for an enjoyable night out for the family.

Trinity Art Series

220 Prospect Street I (860) 482-4411

www.trinityartseries.org

OFFER: Narrated tours of the church's stained glass windows and church architecture.

Founded in 2000, the series presents a full season of events including a wide variety of musical performances by world-reknoned musicians and specialty events like an annual Medieval Banquet—all set against the backdrop of Trinity Episcopal Church's stunning gothic architecture.

Warner Theatre

68 Main Street | (860) 489-7180

www.warnertheatre.org

OFFER: Free behind-the-scene tours of the original 1931 Art Deco main theater as well as the brand new Carole and Ray Neag Performing Arts Center, including the Nancy Marine Studio Theatre and the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education. Sneak peak of Opening Night preparations for the play AMADEUS.

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace, the Warner Theatre was described then as "Connecticut's Most Beautiful Theatre." Damaged extensively in a flood, the Warner was slated for demolition in the early 1980s until the non-profit Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts (NCAA) was founded and purchased the theatre. The Warner reopened as a performing arts center in 1983, and restoration of the lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and some 92,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. The organization recently opened the state-of-the-art 50,000 sq. ft. Carole & Ray Neag Performing Arts Center in the historic former Mertz Department Store building adjacent to the original theatre on Main Street. The new center houses the 200-seat Nancy Marine Studio Theatre, new facilities for the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education, and a 200-seat restaurant. NCAA's mission is to preserve the Warner Theatre as an historic landmark, enhance its reputation as a center of artistic excellence and a focal point of community involvement, and satisfy the diverse cultural needs of the region. To learn more about the Warner Theatre, visit our website: www.warnertheatre.org.