



REMINDERS

1. Next General Meeting –

March 13 Senior Center. Anyone who wishes. can come any time from 5:30 on. Those who are bringing exhibits should be there no later than 5:45. The general meeting will start at 6:00.

Hostesses-

Jane Vouros
Donna Miklaszewski
Lina Williams
Karen Boyle

(It would be helpful to have a small notecard on the table to identify your appetizer or dessert)

**2. Thursday
March 21
Board meeting
5:00 – 7:00
Genealogy Room**



Town & Country Garden Club

Newtown Connecticut

Member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.

New England Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc

February 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, fellow members:

I say “members” instead of “gardeners” because gardening is the farthest from our minds in the midst of the cold, ice and snow of February. As we look out at our leave-less trees, appearing almost lifeless, they seem to be stoically, though patiently, waiting to spring back to life - - in Spring. Their branches, though, are still lovingly refuges and resting places for our friends, the multitude of birds that remain in Connecticut, in spite of its weather. These friends are sometimes our only saving grace in the middle of a rough winter when we can watch their happy shenanigans at our bird-feeders - - if you don't forget them, they won't forget you.

Some of these brave souls that will keep your spirits high during this (sometimes bleak) month are the House Finch, Chickadee, Junco, Cardinal and Downy Woodpecker. They'll be staunchly at your feeder in early morning or late afternoon (as long as you're willing to supply a smorgasbord of different seeds, especially hulled sunflower seeds, peanuts, or mealworms). If you prefer the “sound” rather than the “sight” of the bird, you can tempt the Song Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse or Mourning Dove to serenade you. A beautiful bird (and they all are) silhouetted against the bright white snow, is an inspiring and uplifting sight.

In May, we have the Audubon Society presenting a program called “Birding,” to learn more. In the meantime, support our CT birds in the cold and they'll faithfully grace your yard and remain your friends all year long.
Chris



Donna Miklaszewski

I'm Donna Miklaszewski and I'm originally from Westfield, NJ where I spent my early childhood. When I was in Jr. High we moved to Old Greenwich and excepts for a few brief stints in various other places, I have lived in CT most of my life, 53 years in Sandy Hook.

After college I taught 2nd and 3rd grades in Norwalk, Fort Benning, GA and Orange, CT before leaving to have my daughter and son. When they were of school age, I worked for a company called Interior Scape, installing and maintaining plantings in corporate offices in lower Fairfield County. I loved that job, a combination of horticulture and public relations.

Then I married my husband, Ed, and left my job to have 2 more daughters and raise our growing family which included Ed's daughter. When the older kids were teenagers, I began a certificate course at Naugatuck Community College titled "Landscape Design and Maintenance." After a few classes I discovered the maintenance piece was maintaining and using lawnmowers and chain saws- exit NCC.

I moved on to a part time job in the greenhouse at Lexington Gardens which was wonderful but not too profitable with a large store discount! With 3 kids then approaching college age I began teaching at Newtown Congregational Nursery school where I stayed for 18 years until my retirement in 2008.

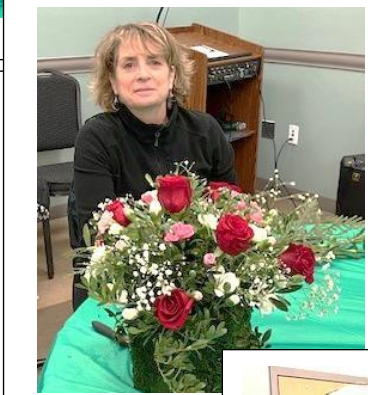
Since then, Ed and I have been enjoying extensive travel, wonderful times with our 5 children and 12 grandchildren and during my "at home times", I enjoy painting, sewing, knitting, book club, volunteering and, of course gardening. I am truly enjoying my time with the garden club since 2022.

After the business meeting on February 14 Arline gave us a demonstration on making a centerpiece table arrangement.



The members then each worked on their own centerpiece with help from Arline, Margareta and Barbara O'Connor.





“Wicked and Wonderful Weeds....and what to do about them.



Michele MacKinnon, a certified Advanced Master Gardener, will present a show and tell of common weeds and how to control them organically.



Did you know that if you garden in your backyard naked your neighbors will build you a privacy fence for absolutely no cost to you.

MARCH 13 GENERAL MEETING

EXHIBITS: Oceans

Artistic -Angular design using an angular container, angular abstraction, or placement of plant material.



Horticulture: Succulent or Cactus – a single specimen in a container or planter or a container with several specimens.



FEBRUARY FROM BEGINNING



This is Joy's Kalanchoe blossfeldiana a commonly cultivated evergreen house plant of the genus Kalanchoe native to Madagascar. It is known by the English common names flaming Katy, Christmas kalanchoe, florist kalanchoe and

Madagascar widow's-thrill.



Arline's Amaryllis

It started cold and snowy.



Josie's Backyard



Teri's snow pictures and snowman



Arline's Hawk



Mae put this hellebore in the ground March/April this year and promptly forgot about it. Imagine her surprise when it started to bloom around Thanksgiving. The white flowers last 4-5 weeks before turning pinkish.

TO END

Arline's snowdrops started blooming the beginning of February.



LAVENDER

Medicinal Plants and Herbs
by Nancy Azzaro



Lavender (Lanvandula)

The name lavender comes from the Latin root Lavare, which means “to wash.” Lavender probably got its name because it was used in baths to help cleanse the body and spirit. It is a genus of 47 known species of flowering plants, in the mint family-Lamiaceae. It is a bushy perennial. It grows from 1 to 3 feet tall and its small blue-violet flowers on spikes with blue-green needle-like foliage, attract bees, butterflies and pollinators. It loves hot sun and dry soil. The oils in the flowers give it its fragrance. It is often used in soaps and shampoos.

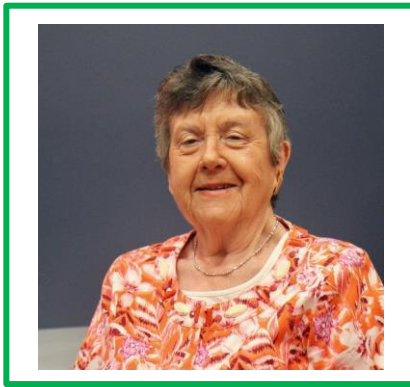
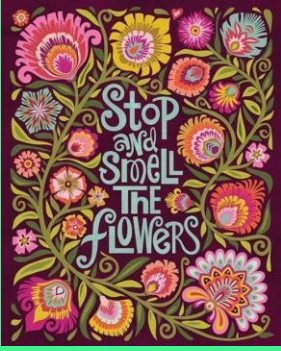
Lavender has medicinal uses as well. Lavender essential oils produce a calming effect when inhaled and people (including myself) use a little lavender oil placed under the nose, as a sleep aid. It has calming properties which reduce anxiety. In ancient times as well as other time periods, lavender flowers were sewn into sachets and worn to promote sleep and reduce stress. Sometimes it was placed in purses. Lavender sachets are still used today to freshen up closets and drawers.

In the kitchen, dried lavender can be used in rubs, marinades, sauces, cookies, tea and sorbets. It can also be added to a simple syrup mixture and used to flavor lemonade or iced tea. (Purchase lavender for cooking and not lavender from craft shops.)

Make your own lavender tea:

1. Boil 8 oz. of water.
2. Place 4 tsp. of fresh lavender buds into a tea ball or sachet.
3. Place the tea ball and water into a teacup.
4. Let steep for 10 minutes.
5. Relax and enjoy!





ASKED AND ANSWERED

Joy Kopesky asked Barbara O'Connor whether it is better for perennial plants to be cut back in the fall or spring. Here is Barbara's answer:

Although it can look messy by the end of winter, many people like to leave stems with seed pods for the birds to eat during the cold months. But, according to Chuck Newman, any perennial with a hollow stem should be cut back in the spring. Water collecting in the stems that freezes over the winter can harm the buds beneath. That includes grasses with hollow stems as well.

Special Note: Butterfly bushes have hollow stems and should never be cut back until late winter or early spring

ISLAND 2 AWARD



This is the plaque for the sculpture on Island Two. It was paid for by a grant from the Newtown Arts Commission. Jane Sharpe and Peggy Townsend Island 2 co-chairmen applied for the grant in June. and won,

The plaque took a while to get here, so they haven't put it up yet because of the cold weather. However, as soon as the pink azaleas flower, and the island looks "happy," they will install it -- with Arts Commission people invited to the installation along with Garden Club Island 2 members.

One thing no one talks about when it comes to being an adult is how much time we debate keeping a cardboard box because it's, you know, a really good box.

FLOWER DESIGN WORKSHOP MARCH 27



On March 27 Arline will present a dining table arrangement workshop, using seasonal flowers for Easter and Passover. at 7:00 pm at the Booth Library,

First: Arline will give a demonstration on the placement of the greenery and flowers.

After she completes the demonstration, participants will be invited to use the provided container, oasis and greens to construct their own arrangement with help from Arline and Barbara McCann who will walk around and give helpful hints and suggestions.

The cost of the workshop is \$30.00 per person. If you plan on attending, you need to let me know (josieschmidt@gmail.com) by March 12 to give Arline time to order the flowers. Then send your check made out to Town and Country Garden Club to Teri Doern - (20 Flat Swamp Rd Newtown, 06470).

The workshop can only accommodate 30 participants and the invitation will be extended to Newtown Garden club and other non-club members through advertising, so make your reservation as soon as possible.



OUR SPONSORS



(203) 755-2214
25 Obtuse
Road, South
Brookfield,
CT 06804

Shakespeare's Garden may not have the same appeal in February as it does in May through September with its jaw-dropping assortment of flowers and colors. In fact, if you drive by, you may not even think it's open. But it is - - because Mark and Steve are busy regrouping, restocking, reinventing, researching, reinvesting and reevaluating.

The gift shop is open and always has new merchandise that will call your name and enhance your home (you deserve it) or as a gift for that special someone who has everything.



It's also the go-to place for a wealth of unique succulents and house plants to refresh your home and get you through the winter.

Take a quick trip and find the thing that you didn't even know you couldn't do without.

Winter Hours: Thurs.-Sat. 8-5

Sun. 9-5

25 Obtuse Rd. S. Brookfield, Ct

(203) 775-2214

Chris



SHOW THIS COUPON FOR A
10% DISCOUNT
On all plant products
From Shakespeare's Garden to
Town & Country Garden Club





203) 426-0805
97 South Main
Street
Newtown, CT



FEBRUARY! *With all its cold rain, snow and ice. No green leaves on the bare seemingly-dead trees - - no FLOWERS - - no GARDENING. YIKES! it's no wonder that we can get depressed after the holidays are over. But, in MY case, there's another, even better reason - - I haven't been to Sal e Pepe's in more than a MONTH.*

Take a look at Sal e Pepe's website, with its new enticing menu and endless choices, and to learn more about them – Angelo and Renia Marini and their authentic Italian style and warmth. From their CRAFT COCKTAILS (I can't even pick my favorite anymore, all of them scream to be tried), to their appetizers, entrees and desserts, all homemade with high-quality ingredients at reasonable prices.

THEY are not absent owners. They're usually on the floor greeting and welcoming their patrons, often with their sleeves rolled up, helping whenever needed. It's easy to see why this business is considered the "Best Italian Restaurant" in CT.

Go Comfortable ! Go Hungry ! Go Anytime ! Just GO !

And if you don't want to GO, get

FAMILY STYLE DINNERS TO GO

Sal e Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro
97 S Main St, Newtown, CT 06470



**FGCCT
President
Karin Pyskaty
(2023-2025)**

Mission



**First Vice President
Nan Merolla
(Wilton Garden Club)**

**Second V. P.
Kelle Ruden
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**Recording Secretary
Kathy Harris
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(Riverside Garden Club)**



The Federated Garden Clubs
of Connecticut, Inc.

CONNECTICUT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW 2/24/2024



Peggy Townsend won two third place ribbons for design. One was in the multi-rhythmic category Rhythm of the Day. The second in the category of Art Explosions, hers inspired by Jackson Pollock

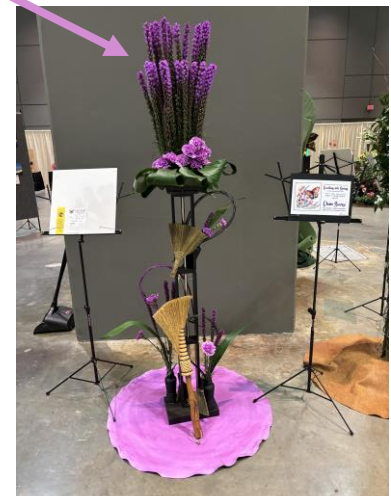


Her horticulture andromeda entry won her a blue ribbon.

The Garden Club of Newtown won a first-place blue-ribbon award for their horticulture club project in the category of House Plants Can Clean the Air. They also won the rosette for the Connecticut State Club competition I that category.



They also won third place for entry called Clean Sweep.



Garden Club Web Address Username - FGCCT
Password- Charteroak*2022

**LOOKING FOR A HAND? HERE ARE SOME CLUB MEMBER
RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Helen, Seamstress. She used to work for David's Bridal
203-258-0750, 5 Hemlock Rd Recommended by Barbara O'Connor
2. George Papajani-contractor, home projects-painting &? repairs. licensed & insured 203-996-6643- Recommended by Arline Shanley
3. IT person for computer, TV, Home phone problems & set-up-Brian Mullins 203-300-4060 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.
4. Mason work- sidewalks, patios, stone walls-George Pani- 203-482-5589 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.
5. TEED AND BROWN "Lawn Doctor"- recommended by Peg Fillion
6. Danny Casarella DMC Painting Inc. 914-623-2798 Recommended by Barbara McCann
7. Mike Bigelow 203-417-2922. Carpenter and miscellaneous small jobs. Great guy and great price Recommended by Holly Walczak.
8. Dean DeLucia, Carpenter/Contractor (203) 258-1513 Recommended by Chris
info@deluciaconstruction.com or ddelucia61@yahoo.com
9. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Recommended by Chris who says he's the best plumber.
10. Pilarshouseclean@gmail.com 203-733-3594 Recommended by Chris who says best house cleaning I've ever had.
11. UBREAKIFIX in the Shoprite shopping center in Brookfield on Federal Road. Hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 PM. Recommended by Barbara O'Connor
12. M.G. Masonry new installations & repairs – email mgmasonry76@yahoo.com . Recommended by Josie Schmidt.
13. Makeahomect.org will pick up furniture for \$100 donation Recommended by Peggy Fillion