



## **1. Next General Meeting –**

November 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-**

Peggy Fillion, Jan Gardner, Hillary Goldstein, Mae Grant

## **REMINDERS**

1. Board Meeting

November 21

2. No Meeting in  
December

3. December

Holiday party to be announced at the November meeting.



## ***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*

***October 2024***



Hi, Town & Country members.

Aren't we the lucky ones? Not just for the pretty-perfect weather we are enjoying, not just for the breath-taking colors as we drive around our special town or, better yet, hike on our many beautiful trails, not just that we are close to the most spectacular foliage towns like Litchfield Hills, Kent, Cornwall

and not just that we're in driving distance to the most historic and well-known cities in the world like Manhattan and Boston. No, we're especially lucky to receive a newsletter like this each and every month...

We can thank God for October. We have only one person to thank for our consistently interesting, colorful, informative and well-thought-out newsletter that we receive each month - - Josie. Aren't we the lucky ones?

Let's all take the time, during this beautiful month, to look around and to appreciate our friends, our town, the picture-perfect colors and, of course, our club, that we all work so hard for. I'll take the opportunity, here, to thank all of our members who help make this club a respected and valued part of the Newtown community.

I hope you all voted for our Scarecrow Witch at Fairfield Hills! See ya all on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Chris

**ASTERS**



**WINTER BERRY**



**Christmas cactus**



**amaryllis**



**poinsettia**



**OCTOBER 9 GENERAL MEETING**

**PROGRAM Native Vs. Invasive plants**

Allison Middlemass presented a very interesting program on the following:



What are Native Plants and how are they important?

What are Invasive plants and how are they damaging our ecosystems?

How to ID and best removal practices for Invasive plants in our area.

Recommended Native plants to plant in your garden.

Q & A at the end of the presentation

**NOVEMBER 13 GENERAL MEETING**

**PROGRAM** “Holiday Trifecta – Cactus, amaryllis, and poinsettia. Jeff Eleveld, the author of “How to Kill a House Plant” will speak about the history and care of these three popular holiday plants.

**EXIBITS** North America “Harvest Time”- Dried arrangement in **design of your choice**, plant material may be treated



**HORTICULTURE** House plant of your choice

The aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights, was visible in Connecticut on Thursday, October 10,



## OCTOBER 9 EXHIBITS ASIA "Land of Mystery"

Arline Shanley



Barbara O'Connor



Jane Vouros



Josie Schmidt



### **HORTICULTURE** Colorful branch with leaves or berries





Island one would like to send a big thank you to Connecticut Foodshare. Their donated pumpkins look great on our island. Connecticut Foodshare is a great organization that provides food assistance throughout Connecticut. They currently have two locations in Newtown, Sticks and Stones and CVH and are worth your support. **Mary Ellen**

### Island 2 workers

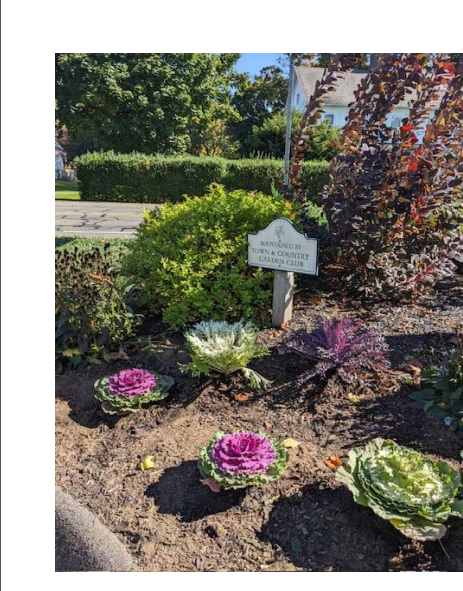


## THE ISLANDS ARE DECKED OUT FOR FALL

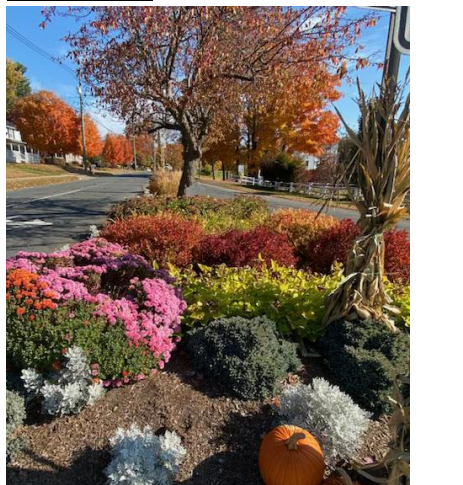
### ISLAND 1



### ISLAND 2



### ISLAND 3



# THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCARECROW CONTEST

Teri Doern again volunteered to be chairman of the Scarecrow project. The other team members were Chris, Denise, Peggy, Mary Ellen, Jane, Nancy, Barbara McCann and Josie. Our first meeting was just to gather ideas.

The second day we started construction at Peggy's house.

Day three we worked at Teri's -Chris planned the hair, Jane the watering can, and Mary Ellen and Teri worked the witch.



Day 4 we finished everything we could at Teri's before the installation on Oct 17.



## Medicinal Plants and Herbs

By Nancy Azzaro



Ginkgo biloba- commonly known as ginkgo or ginkgo, is also known as the maidenhair tree. It is a deciduous tree, native to East Asia. Since the leaves look like maidenhair ferns, the ginkgo has been called the “maidenhair tree.” Early in human history, the tree was cultivated and therefore it is considered a “living fossil.” They are large trees, growing to a height of up to 115 feet, with some trees in China being over 165 feet tall. The trees are usually resistant to disease, the wood is insect resistant, and the tree is overall durable, making it a tree that can live over a 1,000 years. It is the world’s oldest living tree species, which is why it’s called a “living fossil.” Ginkgoes are prized for their autumn foliage which is a deep yellow.

Extracts from the leaves of the ginkgo tree are used for medicinal purposes. The medicinal use of Ginkgo can be traced to traditional Chinese medicine. In Chinese medicine it is prized for “benefits to the brain,” relieving of symptoms of asthma and coughs and is an antioxidant that contains flavonoids and terpenoids.

having antioxidants.

It is commonly used today to treat blood disorders and memory problems. Studies have shown that it improves blood circulation by opening up blood vessels. Ginkgo has been shown to benefit senility including Alzheimer’s disease, when used in the early stages. It is also used to treat anxiety. The standardized concentrated extract of Ginkgo leaves has shown great pharmacological effects. The leaves contain flavonoids and terpenoids which are considered antioxidants. Side effects are rare, and it is considered safe, though not recommended for children.

It is available in tablets, pills, dried leaves for tea or liquid extracts.

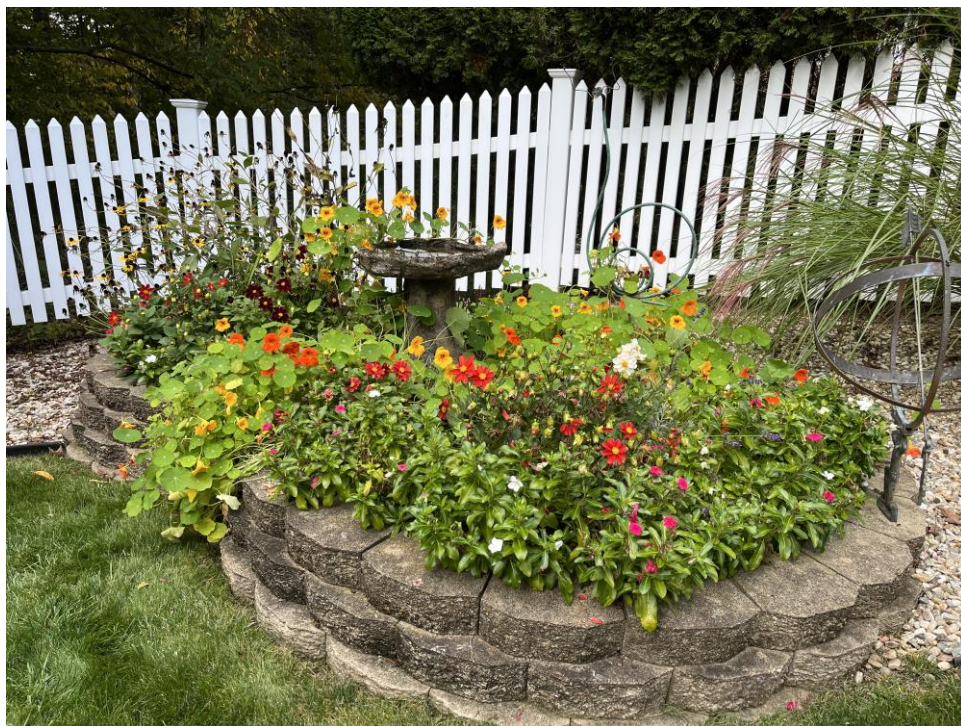
Arline's beautiful dahlias



This was my final rose of summer.  
(Josie)



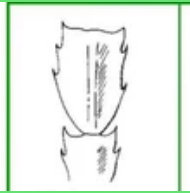
This is a photo of what Margareta calls her "little cutting garden" where the nasturtiums were going wild into October.



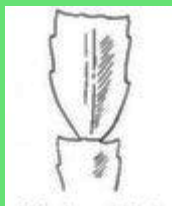
And here are her two healthy looking Crown of thorns plants, she said, "That's how they look after spending the summer outside, but now they will have to rest inside for the winter!"



Truncata  
Thanksgiving



S. BUCKLEYI- True  
CHRISTMAS CACTUS



RHIPSALIFOPIS  
GAETNERI - EASTER



ASK THE EXPERT

Margareta also has a cactus that she leaves out all summer, she took it in a few weeks ago, and she thinks it got all the energy to bloom now! She wants to know more about it from “the Plant expert” .



QUESTION:

What type of cactus is this, and are there other cactus varieties?

ANSWER:

Schlumbergera A/K/A Zygocactus has several different species. They like warm 70-80 degrees during the growing season and 55 to 65 and at least 12 hours of full darkness for bud set. If it's blooming now or soon it's probably a Thanksgiving Cactus, *S. truncata*, and has points on the end of its flat leaves. It can be red, pink, peach purple, orange or white.

*S. buckleyi* or *S. bridgesii* is Christmas Cactus and can be magenta and white with slightly rounded leaves at the tips.

*Rhipsalidopsis gaetneri*, an entirely different genus is Easter cactus and has tiny bristles at the ends of its rounded leaf segments.

They can be dry to the point of leaves getting wrinkly and still be 'ok.' So, Margareta's is probably a Thanksgiving cactus.

**Barbara O'Connor**



## Mary Ellen Weiner's Gardens



autumn crocus

The Franklina is a deciduous small tree or large shrub growing fifteen to twenty feet high and ten to fifteen feet wide, with elongated, dark green leaves that turn red, orange, or pink in the fall.

asters



sedum autumn joy



Benjaminia Franklinia tree blossom



clematis



Barbara O'Connor said her impatiens were still blooming their little heads off on September 30



# Shakespeare's

## GARDEN

25 Obtuse Rd. S, Brookfield, CT 06804

Phone: (203) 775-2214



Autumn is still in the air - - which means I'm heading up to Shakespeare's Garden, AGAIN! No matter when, or how often I go, it is a sight to see ! They just keep changing it up - - transforming their property from Spring's exciting new growth to summer's hot, bright colors to Fall's splash of cool, soft, muted colors. I'm always amazed at what their expertise and knowledge can do.

They still have spectacular Fall containers as well as some amazing Halloween ideas, which will outdo your neighbors. And, as we all know, (as the exceptional gardeners that we are), this is the best time to plant perennials, shrubs and bulbs. There's nothing better in the Spring – after a long winter – than to see the results of our work in the Fall, popping up, (sometimes that we have forgotten we even planted - - which makes it even better!)

Mark and Steve, owners (who are always willing to help), as well as any of their experienced staff, can give you great advice on what, how, where and when. Now is the time to decide what you want to see in the Spring. Maybe even, something like this:

Chris





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



**Margherita Pizzetta**



**Fried Calamari**

Town & Country Garden Club members, as well as most Newtown residents, feel especially lucky to have Sal e Pepe's Restaurant so conveniently located and so extraordinarily delicious. This special Italian Bistro is my **Go-To** place, hands down. Specializing in veal, steak, seafood and pasta, they offer a welcoming feel and peaceful ambiance, which calms you immediately upon entering. We sometimes feel like it's our own personal little goldmine, when, in fact, they are very well known and bring in people from all over Connecticut.

I hope you've all been voting for Sal e Pepe's for the well-known, competitive CT Magazine contests, (which has been open for voting through Oct. 30, 2024). The fact that they keep consistently winning these prestigious awards show just how good they are, in a myriad of areas.

And, if you enjoy a drink with your mouth-watering meal, – and like to change it up - they offer delightful Craft Cocktails, Mocktails, Beers and wines. You should try them all.

They also do catering (which I found out at a recent birthday party). Check out their website under: CATERING "FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS." Try them when you have an event that you want to be exceptionally good... and long remembered.



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

Mission



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

**Second V. P.  
Kelle Ruden (Westport Garden Club)**

**Recording Secretary  
Kathy Harris (Evergreen Country Gardeners Garden Club)**

**Treasurer  
John Davis (Quiet Corner Garden Club)**

**Corresponding Secretary  
Lynda Brown (Manchester Garden Club)**

**Finance Officer  
Terry Lubman (Riverside Garden Club)**

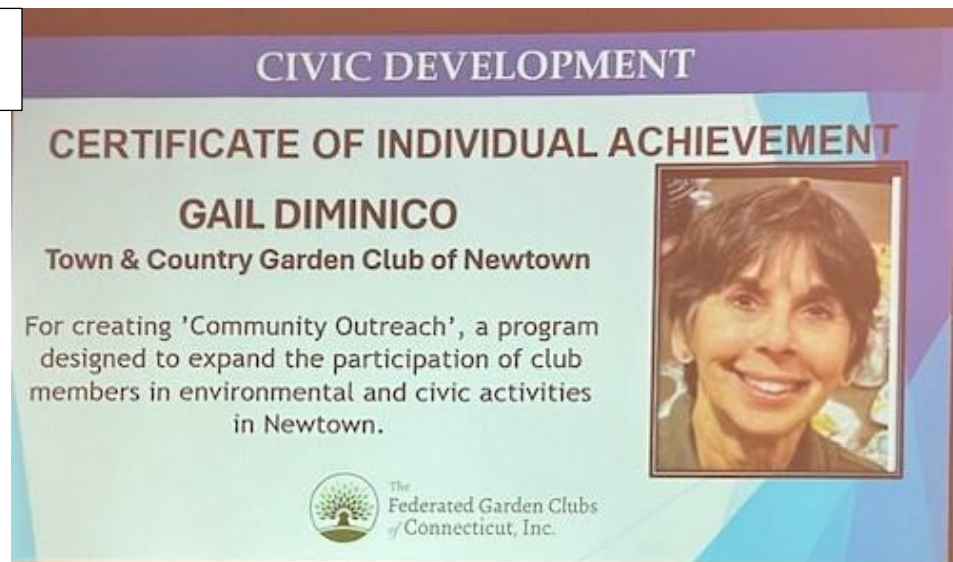
The Federated Garden Club of Connecticut held its Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon on October 16, 2024. Our club received 5 awards.

1.



The team members for this project were: Chairman Teri Doern, Jane Vouros, Mary Ellen Weiner, Denise Rod, Chris Lincoln, Mae Grant, Gail Diminico and Josie Schmidt.

2.



Thanks to her guidance and reminders, members became involved in invasive plant removal, spring clean-up, gardening assistance for the elderly, scarecrow contest, and the Lions Club Lose the Litter on Earth Day. She also encouraged members to learn more about town environmental issues.

Our Awards  
Committee

Barbara McCann, Jane  
Sharpe and Joy  
Kopesky.



This team has done a  
wonderful job of filling  
out the often-  
complicated  
applications involved to  
apply for all of these  
awards.



Chris Lincoln accepted  
this award for Barbara  
O'Connor, Margareta  
Kotch, Peggy Townsend,  
and Arline Shanley.

3.



The award was given for the 4 members who stepped forward to mentor new members and reinforce good design principles by holding design workshops. The first workshop was for club members and the second was open to the public.

4.



Over the past six decades Chuck has been an invaluable supporter and friend of our club. His dedication to our club has been nothing short of extraordinary.

5.



Teri has assumed many leadership roles in our club including current treasurer, past civic chairman, captain of Island 1, second vice president, and for the last two years chairman of the scarecrow project at Fairfield Hills.

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

1. Simply Organized - club member Ellen Kutner's service to declutter and organize spaces  
www. simplyorg.com - [simplyorg521@gmail.com](mailto:simplyorg521@gmail.com)
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](mailto:info@deluciaconstruction.com) or [ddelucia61@yahoo.com](mailto:ddelucia61@yahoo.com)
9. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Recommended by Chris who says he's the best plumber.
10. [Pilarhouseclean@gmail.com](mailto:Pilarhouseclean@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](mailto:mgmasonry76@yahoo.com) .  
Recommended by Josie Schmidt.