



## REMINDERS

### **1. Holiday Party**

Wednesday,  
December 7, 2022,  
5:00 p.m. Newtown  
Country Club

### **2. Next General Meeting –**

February 8 - 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-**

**Denise Rod  
Donna Miklaszewski  
Nancy Scallon  
Elaine Sullivan**  
**(It would be  
helpful to have a  
small notecard on  
the table to identify  
your appetizer or  
dessert)**

### **3. Thursday**

**February 23**  
Board meeting 5:30 –  
7:30  
C.H. 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*

*November 2022*



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear T & C members:

What a special time of year, the Holidays ! Thanksgiving starts it off. Reuniting and reconnecting with family, friends, - - lots of laughs, hugs, kisses, and, of course, FOOD - - we eat and eat some more – (more food than we should be able to consume, and still survive). Delicious, traditional dishes that we love so much but sometimes only enjoy once a year. Why is that?

Then there's the celebration of the 8 nights of Hanukkah and the 12 days of Christmas, coming up quicker than we would like. A house to decorate, candles to light, expectations to live up to, beloved people to find the perfect gift for that they'll love. Though it's a wonderful time of year in many ways, it's not easy. Personally, I feel there's nothing easy about the holidays. We care too much to keep it easy. We try too hard, we over-do, over-think, over-spend, and over-stress.

There are a few things, though, (and places) that can make it easier. One is our local, "home away from home," Sal E Pepe's. When you're wiped out from shopping or wrapping, and too tired to cook, just head over to relax and enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner. OR, with that hard-to-buy-for special person in mind, run up to Shakespeare's Garden's unique gift shop. It's true, our sponsors are happy to make the holidays easier.

We're hoping to see you all at our Holiday get together on the 7<sup>th</sup> and wish you all a beautiful, enjoyable, and "easy" holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, and Merry Christmas !!

Chris Lincoln

**Anyone who hasn't sent in a check for \$20 or \$40 for the Holiday Party on December 7<sup>th</sup> can contact Joy to get on the list:**

**203-895-2929 or [Wjkhvct@earthlink.net](mailto:Wjkhvct@earthlink.net)**

## CELEBRATING DIANA JOHNSON



Located in a small park across from Ram's Pasture where Elm Drive forks left, and a dirt road forks right you can visit this stone bench and plaque in Diana's honor. It was the joint project of our Garden Club and Newtown Parks and Recreation.



**Nancy Azzaro**

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York in the late 50's and 1960's. It was an interesting time to grow up and Brooklyn was and still is a vibrant, diverse, culturally rich place to grow up in. I lived in a two-family house filled with Italian family members, great food and a fascinating cast of characters who came over to eat the delicious food and share in the laughter and fun we all had in that house on East 52nd Street. The neighborhood I grew up in, was a short car ride to the beach on the Atlantic Ocean. The city (Manhattan) wasn't too far away either, and Brooklyn neighborhoods were and still are great places to explore as

I had one sibling, a brother, Arthur, who was three years younger than me. He was very bright, and he took in all the stimulation in that house and did exceptionally well in school. He became the first doctor in our family who not only was smart, but also very funny. Unfortunately, he died at the young age of 42 from cancer. It was a devastating loss for me. I not only lost my brother but my best friend, and also since he was a psychiatrist, I lost my therapist as well. It took me many years to get over his death and my faith and the faith community I belonged to, was instrumental in helping me cope with the loss.

My parents were fun loving and so I had a happy childhood. We also had fun and entertaining friends and neighbors. Yet I was always a little different. I loved to have fun too, but I was drawn towards the spiritual and religious, as I had a great-grandmother who was very religious, and she influenced me.

I met my husband Anthony, on the block in Marine Park, Brooklyn, where my family moved when I was a teenager. We bought a one family house, as we needed more room, but we always missed the two-family house on East 52nd Street. No house would ever compare with that one. I was married at the young age of 21. I have two sons, one lives here in Newtown with his wife and two children, which is the reason we moved here last year. We help them when needed. My other son hasn't married yet, though he came close a few years ago. But that's another story. He lives in a trendy neighborhood in Brooklyn. I visited him recently and stayed over in his apartment so I could go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art the next day. I love art and museums.

I have always been an educator. I studied early childhood education and psychology in college and taught preschool for many years. Later in life, I studied for a master's degree in Religion and Religious Education and received a degree from Fordham University.

I lived on Long Island with my family for 17 years after moving out of Brooklyn and before moving to Newtown. I never wanted to leave Brooklyn; I loved it there. I loved sitting on my front stoop with neighbors or friends, which has always been a part of Brooklyn life. (Stoop is a Dutch word and stoop sitting began with early Dutch settlers in New York). We moved to Long Island when my children were older, as it was an easier commute for my husband to work.

I love books, both fiction and non-fiction. I love flowers, nature, and gardening. I love having a deep faith. I love writing and hope to do more writing in Newtown. Prayer and Scripture study are also a big part of my life.

That's a brief biography. It's not finished, I'm hoping to accomplish much more. But I have to get going, I'm getting older and I'm going to have to stop procrastinating and try to reach my goals.



## November 9 Program “The Marvelous Mason Bee”

Sally Brockert



Sally, a member of the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven gave a presentation on the life and behavior of mason bees. We not only learned about their life cycle but how very impressive their pollinator skills are in pollinating our fruit trees. We also got instruction in how to care for Mason Bee houses.

## FEBRUARY 8 PROGRAM

There has been a change to the program listed in the Handbook. The design workshop that was listed will be February 1 at the library.

Randy Walker from the Pootatuck Watershed Association has agreed to come to speak at our February 8 meeting.

In 2006 several oil and pesticide spills at Fairfield Hills impacted Deep Brook. He is trying to raise awareness of water quality and supply issues plus advocate for sustainable land use practices.



# NOVEMBER EXHIBITS HARTH AND HOME

**Arline's  
Christmas Cactus**



Artistic – Cascade Design featuring an “Antique” item as the container or accessory with the arrangement.

**Jane Vouros**



**Peggy Townsend**



**HORTICULTURE-** Plant grown for bloom



**Margareta Kotch**

**Joy Kopesky**

# CLEAN UP ISLAND ONE

**Keith Fitchett a fellow Newtowner, saw us hard at work and volunteered to take all of our full trash bags to the dump for us.**



Jane



Teri



Holly



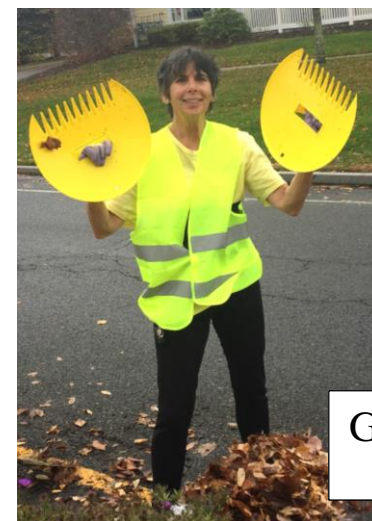
Mary Ellen



Denise



Our team spent the morning trimming, cutting, and raking to get Island 1 cleaned up.



Gail



## **FEBRUARY 1 WORKSHOP**

The Library is booked for the 2-hour evening workshop (time to be determined) on Feb 1. . Peg Townsend, Margareta Kotch, Barbara O'Connor, and Arline Shanley will teach the class. Four different designs will be demonstrated, and attendees will choose one to try. Line, Line Mass, Traditional Mass and a 360-degree table arrangement will be the designs offered.

### **Line Design**

Line designs are adaptations of Japanese styles. A linear pattern is dominant. Line arrangements are characterized by restraint in the quantity of plant materials used, with an emphasis on the beauty of individual blooms or foliage. Line arrangements are usually bold and dramatic, with importance placed on the contrast of form and texture, with an open silhouette

### **Line Mass Design**

Line-mass designs combine the strong line of Japanese styles with the massed effect of European designs. Line-mass arrangements have a clean, uncluttered look, with definite line, a well-defined mass, and plenty of open spaces. The dominant line is combined with a mass of plant material at the focal area; additional material is used to enhance and develop the linear shapes. A design combining unusual components and using more plant material than a Line arrangement

### **Traditional Mass Design**

Mass designs are adapted from European designs. They have a thick, full look, with a closed silhouette. Mass design uses more plant material than Line or Line-Mass designs; usually a large amount of plant material is used. The emphasis is on the whole colorful mass of flowers and foliage, rather than on individual components

### **360 Degree Table Arrangement**

A 360 arrangement is one where no matter which way we turn it we can still use it.

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME**

## OUR SPONSORS

### *Shakespeare's Garden*

The staff at Shakespeare's Garden have been working hard to create a beautiful winter wonderland, with wreaths to die for, greenery and arrangements to knock your socks off, or, if you'd rather make your own, ideas, there are examples and reasonably-priced greenery to make it easy and fun.



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



Trust me, if you don't walk in with the Christmas spirit – you won't walk out without it. Their creativity helps you see what can be done with natural things easily found such as branches, birch, moss, and pinecones. It's a thrill to turn them into a work of art - - and yourself into a Martha Stewart.



Their welcoming gift shop offers unique gifts for those hard-to-please loved ones who have everything. Take a ride, Shakespeare's Garden will make your Holidays easier... and prettier.

Chris Lincoln



## *Sal e Pepe*



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



<https://salepeperestaurant.com/menus/FamilyStyleMenu.pdf>

As we all know, the holidays can be challenging. Wonderful in many ways but busy and often stressful. In the midst of it all - - the shopping, searching, wrapping, planning, decorating, cooking, and visiting - - sometimes we need a little break!

The break could be Sal e Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro - - so close, so comfortable and welcoming, so insanely delicious. It has been my no-brainer, go-to place for a long time now, whether I want to dress up or down, plan ahead or not at all, just drinks or a full-course meal. I never tire of it, and I never stop being impressed with whatever I have.

If you're too worn out to cook but don't want to go out, either check out their Family Style Menu which is reasonably priced, enough for the whole family, hot and ready for you to pick up at curb side. Make your holidays easier. Angelo and Renia, owners of Sal e Pepe are ready and happy to help. You'll never regret it.

Chris Lincoln



Meet our  
President

*FGCCT*  
*President*  
*Polly Brooks*  
*(2021 – 2023)*

First Vice  
President  
**Karin Pyskaty**

Second Vice  
President  
**Nan Merolla**

Recording  
Secretary  
**Kathy Feller**

Treasurer  
**Shirley Hall**

Corresponding  
Secretary  
**Lynda Brown**

Finance Officer  
**Terry Lubman**

Parliamentarian  
**Jean Stetz-  
Puchalski**



The  
**Federated Garden Clubs**  
*of Connecticut, Inc.*

## 41st Annual CT Flower Show

February 23, 2023, • 10:00 am - February 26, 2023, • 7:00 pm



For a wonderful experience, mark your calendar for the Connecticut Flower show, February 23-26. . Visiting the show is a great way to learn about Design, Horticulture, see great garden exhibits created by CT. nurseries and land-scape designers. There are Venders offering a variety of items. The Show starts on February 23, 2023 and ends Sunday Feb. 26th. Judging will take place on Feb. 22, 2023.

If you want to do more than just visit you can get involved by volunteering as a Hostess or Judges clerk. If you are interested you can contact Barbara O'Connor or Arline Shanley to learn more about that.

Peg Townsend is full of information, and Margareta Kotch who has been active in the planning and implementation of the show for many years will be one of the design judges this year.