

# West Newbury Garden Club



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Next Meeting – September 8<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm - Annex Building

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## **Welcome Back!**

As is our tradition, our September meeting will feature a potluck dinner, slideshow highlighting past club events, update from the board, a brief presentation from [Nourishing the North Shore](#), and ample social time to connect with new and existing members. Members will receive their club 2022-23 Yearbooks thanks to the hard work of yearbook Editor Lynn Boyd, with help from committee members Wendy Gus, Linda Schaeffer, Maureen Harris, and Anne Sanchez Felix. Big thanks to Jane Jeffers and Elisa Grammer for updating our website!

*Members who have last names starting with A-G, please bring an appetizer, main dish, or dessert. Members who have last names starting with H-Z will be asked to contribute to our May meeting.*

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## **June Meeting and Flower Arranging**



Our June meeting featured WNGC member Margo Pullman who shared her flower arranging expertise. Members enjoyed learning about mass design, color theory, contemporary design, and floral mechanics. A big thanks to the hospitality committee which included Dot Cavanaugh, Chair, and members Sharon Dahn, Susan Dougherty, Sally Fabian, Joanne Gay, Joan Quakenbos, Marie Scher, Claudia Woods-Estin, Gini Mazman, and Ann Selig.

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## **Memorial Day Parade**

The annual West Newbury Memorial Day Parade featured WNGC members who shared their enthusiasm and love of gardens and veterans. Burt Knowles, longtime resident of West Newbury, once again generously trucked the decorated float, and members enthusiastically paraded Main Street to promote our club and mission. A big thanks to Maureen Harris, WNGC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, who organized the event and to all members who participated!



Elisa Grammer & Lori Boudrow



The Marching Crew!



Alison Reyes & Chris Gerzon

## ***Board of Directors News***

Many thanks to our past and newly elected Board of Directors. Leaving the Board are Kathy Mandeville having served as a Board Director for 2 years and President for 5 years; Jane Jeffers - board member since 2006 having served as a Director, President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer; and Linda Schaeffer – board member since 2007, having served as a Board Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and President.

Welcome to new Board Directors Jean Berkenbush, and Hannah Page Koch, along with Claudia Woods-Estin who will serve as Treasurer.

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## ***Art in the Garden – by Margo Pullman***

Art in the Garden 2022 was a great success with a 16% increase in ticket sales from the previous garden tour. Feedback from visitors, gardeners, musicians, and artists was overwhelmingly positive. A comment we heard from everyone was that the ticket price was low for the quality of the event, and this was a great compliment to the garden hosts, artists, and musicians!

The event had many challenges including the closing of the Rocks Village Bridge and the Merrimac gardens had to be deferred to 2025 and 4 new gardens were added. All this added to a condensed timeline which was duly met by the WNGC and the West Newbury Cultural Council. To top it off, there was a helium shortage for balloons but located in Plaistow, NH.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the WNGC members who tirelessly supported this event... PR team, website coordinator, newsletter team, treasurer, garden attendants, and of course our garden hosts! Thanks to all who promoted Art in the Garden to their friends and family. A special thank you to Irene Hartnett and Lori Boudrow for their steadfast support, can-do attitude, and sense of humor. Now, to end on a high note, here are some comments from attendees:

*“The gardens and music were magical.”*

*“The tour had the best variety of gardens.”*

*“I thought I was just on a garden tour but ended up buying art which was a bonus.”*

*“Can’t wait for next year.”*

*“I’m so inspired for my own garden.”*

*“We had the best time exploring the hidden pockets of the area.”*

*“The tour was so organized.”*

*“Better than the Newburyport tour.”*



## ***Open Gardens 2022***

For the second year, WNGC club members had the opportunity to informally socialize and share garden ideas in a relaxed garden setting. This summer Deb Whitaker, Anne Sanchez-Felix, Margo Pullman, and Carrie Hometh graciously offered to open their gardens to club members. Some brought family members whom we enjoyed meeting. The events were enthusiastically received by 20 - 25 attendees at each garden, The hosts offered wine and light refreshments which were appreciated by all. Thanks to our hosts who made this possible! Thanks also to member, Barbara Merrill, who took this idea and made it a delightful happening.



Margo Pullman's Garden



Carrie Hometh's Garden

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## ***Memorial Donation***

For many years, gardeners in the area have appreciated Byfield Greenhouses, a nursery run by the Sforza family. Susan Sforza Nico worked with her father as farm manager there for the past 15 years, and in May, was killed by a tragic accident while working at the greenhouses. Sadly, the family made the decision not to reopen the nursery. To honor Susan's love of animals, the WNGC donated to the NH SPCA.

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## ***West Newbury Council on Aging now called "The Sage Center"***

The club is pleased to have contributed to some of the many changes happening at our town's senior center. Located on the first floor of the 1910 Building, the town purchased planters for the patio adjacent to the center. This summer, WNGC board members funded and planted four of the patio planters. Pictured are members Gail Dinero, Karen Clagett and Anne Sanchez-Felix.



**WNGC Field Trip - Brave Boat Harbor Farm** by Kathy Mandeville

A big thanks to Barbara Merrill for organizing a day trip to this horticultural gem in York, Maine. Barbara described the trip: “We were greeted with lovely gardens and fields overlooking the ocean. Two generations of owners designed and worked these gardens for 75 years. There were many perennials including deep blue delphinium at peak bloom, unusual poppies, and many others. There is an impressive stone house surrounded by cottage gardens. Afterward many of us enjoyed a convivial lunch at a local eatery.” Enjoying the day with Barbara were Lynn Boyd, Karen Clagett, Irene Harnett, Jeanne Pucci and Carrie Hometh, and husband, Rod.



Lynn Boyd, Karen Clagett,  
Irene Harnett, and Barbara Merrill



Lynn Boyd, Karen Clagett, and Jeanne

For more information on this lovely garden, go to: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days/garden-directory/braveboat-harbor-farm>

Special gardens are always more interesting to visit in the company of other gardeners. If you have gardens that YOU would like to recommend as a club field trip, contact Barbara Merrill at [barbmerrill2@aol.com](mailto:barbmerrill2@aol.com)

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**Notes from a Novice Gardener** by Andrea Caswell



Whenever I’m lucky enough to travel, I try to visit local gardens if possible, to see “what’s growing on.” On a recent trip to Michigan, I spent an afternoon at the impressive [Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park](#). Set on 158 acres in Grand Rapids, the outdoor portion of the park features a world-renowned sculpture collection (including a Rodin), perennial and farm gardens, a children’s garden, meadows, woodlands, and wetlands. Indoor facilities include conservatories featuring different plant types (such as tropical, desert, and carnivorous), as well as rotating horticultural and art exhibitions. I especially enjoyed an “orchid wall” in the tropical section, and a stroll through a Victorian garden decorated with fountains, greenhouses, and benches, amid ferns and other greenery.

The highlight of my visit was seeing the glorious Japanese garden, an oasis of peaceful beauty spread across eight acres. It was designed by Hoichi Kurisu, a master craftsman I’ve written of in a previous column. Like other

sacred spaces that Kurisu has created, this special garden incorporates recognizable design elements such as waterfalls, arched wooden bridges, natural boulders, a bonsai garden, and a traditional teahouse. For an hour I followed winding pathways among hundreds of pines, sat on stone benches in shaded nooks, and wound my way through a bamboo forest. Other trees included flowering cherries, Japanese maples, willows, aspens, and cedars. Pink flowers blossomed on water lilies; haiku poetry was etched into rocks. In short, this magnificent garden epitomized much of what a garden can be: a place of tranquility, of wonder at nature's beauty, of quiet reflection, and of renewal in the face of modern busy life.

The Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park is open 362 days a year, throughout the Michigan winter. On Tuesdays the grounds remain open until 9 p.m. During the summer, concerts and picnics can be enjoyed at an outdoor amphitheater. Year-round, programs also include classes and horticultural presentations. There's really something for everyone! Members of the American Horticultural Society and select other botanical gardens enjoy reciprocal admissions privileges. For more information, visit [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org).

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WNGC is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. Read their quarterly newsletter *Mayflower* for articles, announcements, events and workshops.

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### Stay Connected to WNGC

Note: WNGC Board meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Board members' homes. Please contact Lori Boudrow if you wish to attend.