



# WEST NEWBURY GARDEN CLUB



Next Meeting – February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:45pm Annex Building

## ***Mystery Author and Gardener, Neal Sanders***



Our February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will feature mystery writer, Neal Sanders and his perception about life as a gardener. Neal has written 15 mystery novels using horticultural or garden club settings and his latest publication is entitled, *Murder Brushed with Gold*. Neal enjoys writing about strong, independent women and adds a touch of humor throughout. Just a quick glance at the titles of his [publications](#), leaves you wanting to read them all. Hope you can join us for a fun, and educational evening!

***Given the current risk of Omicron, NO REFRESHMENTS will be served. Members are asked to wear masks throughout the meeting.***

***The February presentation does not lend itself to be well received on Zoom. We are sorry for the inconvenience and hope you can attend in person.***

*Neal will have copies of his mystery books on hand for purchase! Books are \$14.00 each - cash or check*

## ***December Meeting Highlights***

Fragrant greens, berried branches and holiday baubles in hand, over thirty members came together to decorate holiday wreaths, and swags for West Newbury's municipal buildings as well as to create festive table arrangements for WN community housing residents.

***Thank you for your donations to the Pettingill House! Collectively, WNGC member donations totaled \$600.00***



Christine Gerzon and  
Donna Greene



Carrie Crowley



Rosemarie McCobb



Dianne Faulkner and  
Dot Cavanaugh

## **Annual Wreath for Anna Jacques Hospital**

Cheryl Straub, director of volunteer services at Anna Jacques Hospital shared the follow message with WNGC members:

*“Just wanted to be sure to say another THANK YOU to you and your fellow West Newbury Garden Club members for the beautiful wreaths you create for the hospital! They look so nice. I’ve received many compliments! I wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday”*



Jane Jeffers, Karen Clagett, Jeanne Pucci and Donna Greene (also Dianne Faulkner, not pictured)

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## **Elegant Decorations for Cushing House**



Lori Boudrow, WNGC President shared the following comments about the Cushing House Décor:

*“I was amazed and so proud to be WNGC President and member when I visited the Cushing Museum on Saturday! The front entry hall was BEAUTIFUL! I loved the garland on the lower part of the handrail, the multiple arrangements on the stairs, the elegant sideboard, antique lantern, greenery, lights and more under the rising staircase. It was fun to see the beautiful blue accents, so rare in holiday decorating but such a welcome change! Phenomenal!”*

*“The garden hallway was DELIGHTFUL! Wreaths gracing the staircase with the touch of oranges, lemons, spices, and herbs really tells the story of the space’s function. The graceful flow of the handrail garland with more petite wreaths brought your eye up to another lemon infused arrangement at the top. Bravo!*

Margo Pullman, Chair and Committee Members Irene Harnett, Jane Jeffers, Peg Duchemin and Kathy Krajeski.

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## **WNGC Member Shares Local Tree Décor** by Alison Reyes



WNGC Member, Carrie Hometh shared this picture of her beautifully decorated Christmas tree. This past August, she cut branches from a hydrangea tree in her yard and, hung them upside down in her basement to dry. The tree was cut locally at the Ash Street Christmas Tree Farm and is adorn with white lights, white ribbon, and wooden ornaments. Thank you, Carrie for sharing!

**Be a Bee Keeper?** by Kathy Mandeville

In October of 2020, our club was fortunate in having speaker William Hamilton, from West Newbury's own Black Birch Farm Apiaries, discuss the cycle of honeybees. [Black Birch Farm Apiaries](https://blackbirchfarmapiaries.com) offers a Bee School, providing the "necessary hands-on novice and specialized education to become a more successful and sustainable beekeeper."



The Introductory Class of 5 sessions is being held via zoom, starting on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> through February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a fee of \$80. For more information and to register go to:

<https://blackbirchfarmapiaries.com/education-workshops>

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**Sad News**

We are saddened to learn of the recent passing of long-time club member, Helen Thumser. Helen was a member of the WNGC since 2003, having been active on the Anna Jacques Hospital Wreath Committee. Our condolences go out to Helen's family.



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



Brady  
2014-2022

*There are some simple truths...and the dogs know what they are.  
~Joseph Duemer*

Between our house and our neighbors' stand of arborvitae, there's a stretch of grass, about 15 feet wide, which functions as a sort of transition from the front yard to the back. The grass there is protected from the afternoon sun, and it grows lush and dense each summer. We call that area "Yorkshire" because of how beautifully green the grass becomes, not unlike the English countryside.

A few weeks ago, I took our dog on her last walk in Yorkshire. She was a French bulldog, darling and brindle, and plagued by back problems due to her short spine. Her name was Brady. It was that sunny afternoon before the first snowstorm of January, and her appointment at the vet was for 5:30. I felt grateful for the sunshine, not too much wind, a pseudo-spring day near forty degrees. For this last walk, I set Brady down by the backdoor and followed her lead. She walked along the house, past the steps and front door, then she turned right to enter Yorkshire. It had always been one of her favorite parts of the yard.

She sniffed the first boxwood; I suspect one of her deer friends had been there. She stopped at the next one and decided it was the chosen spot to pee. She continued down the gentle incline, and I gave her as much leash as she wanted. She walked past the blue hydrangea I named "Cranky" and reached the threshold of the garden,

the part where Yorkshire ends, and the backyard really begins.

Then she devoted her attention to the grass. With that smooshed-in nose, she really had to put her whole face in something to smell it. She reminded us of Flower, the skunk in Bambi who liked to sink his face in petals. She sniffed the grass for a while, became excessively interested in it, which could only mean one thing: deer poop. Aka dog candy. Normally I'd shoo her away, but I knew it couldn't hurt her now. I let her eat some candy.

She retraced her steps back through Yorkshire. She turned left at the front walkway and trotted the length of the house to wait by the back door. I carried her inside and we spent a quiet afternoon together. My husband and I have always loved that section of the yard; just this fall we finally prepared a bed for planting. We'll select flowers Brady would have liked to sniff, perhaps zinnias or phlox or forgot-me-nots.

#### WNGC Privacy Statement

We respect the privacy of our members. Membership information in the Yearbook and/or in the Newsletter is for WNGC use only. Member Contact information is not to be released or used except within and for WNGC communication, and never for commercial purposes.

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**

Please remember to notify Linda Schaeffer, Membership Chair, when you change your mailing address, email address, and/or phone number. [linda-schaeffer@verizon.net](mailto:linda-schaeffer@verizon.net)

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.