

# West Newbury Garden Club



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Next Meeting – December 1<sup>st</sup> - 6:45 pm - Annex Building

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## **Holiday Town Decorating**

Our December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be dedicated to wreath decorating for the town and table top arrangements for the residents of the WN Community Housing. How great that we can meet again this year as a club and share in creating decorations for our community! The club will supply the wreaths, decorative materials, and bows created by Gail Dinero. Members are asked to come with greens from your yard and decorations that you would like to use or offer to others. Please also bring cutters and wire to help fasten the embellishments. This is an all hands-on-activity, and we need you, your ideas, your nimble fingers, and your plant materials.



A local Brownie troop will be joining us at the December meeting for their wreath making badge, anyone interested showing the scouts how to make a wreath using a wire frame please reach out to Lori Boudrow.

We will be collecting donations for the Pettingill House Food Pantry at the Dec. meeting. Please bring your donation of staple foods, personal care items, or local establishment gift cards (i.e Market Basket, Walmart).

*Celebrate the holiday season with your garden club friends on Sunday, Dec. 11th from 3-6pm at Café Sarina.*

*A payment of \$20 is needed by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*Need a ride? Ask a member or reach out to the board and we can coordinate transportation!*

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## **Japanese Inspired Gardens** by Christine Gerzon



At our November meeting, expert gardener, Christie Dustman, principal owner of Christie Dustman and Company, a garden design firm based in Boston gave an informative and entertaining presentation on how to incorporate Japanese inspired design principles into our own home gardens. Using clear, effective slides, she showed us photos of the gardens she has visited over the years in both Japan and in this country, including the Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon. She also showed us photos of gardens she has designed for her clients. What they

all have in common are some design principles that can transform any garden into an evocative, natural environment sure to entice your family and friends.

One principle is the use of vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines to clearly define your space. These lines can be created with plants, shrubs, statues, trees and elements like stone, fences, and even intentional empty spaces. The use of clear lines can provide our garden with a sense of dynamic rhythm. Horizontal lines can evoke a sense of serenity while vertical lines evoke tension and power, and diagonal lines might evoke excitement.

Another principle found in all Japanese gardens is the concept of balance which is used to provide visual dynamism. Unlike English gardens which use *symmetry*, in Japanese gardens, *asymmetry* creates a sense of mystery. When an arbor or entryway is used, it is placed off center to create a compelling invitation to enter discovering what cannot be seen at first glance.

Japanese gardens often mimic the nearby natural landscape. Home gardens are designed to incorporate "borrowed scenery" recreating in miniature the view of features outside the garden such as hills water and buildings. This practice makes the garden seem larger than it really is. Japanese gardeners use a limited palette of plants including evergreens, shrubs (rather than flowers), stones, gravel, statues, bamboo, moss, and bonsai (which is pruned to mimic what the natural elements would have done).

Creating a Japanese inspired garden is within reach of every gardener and using these principles can help us revitalize our own gardens. If you are interested in seeing some Japanese garden designs, please visit <https://japanesegarden.org> or Christie's website at <https://christiedustman.com>.

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## ***Saving Forests \$68 At A Time***



We rarely have an opportunity to make a minimal investment, requiring minimal effort, which guarantees abundant beneficial returns. Penny Pines, a California conservation program founded in 1941 that eventually expanded to all 50 states, offers a proven chance to make a positive environmental change.

### Penny Pines Program

As members of a qualifying garden club, for a donation of \$68.00, (or multiples of \$68.00), the USDA Forest Service will apply our contribution to the cost of planting "approximately 200 replacement seedlings" indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or a natural catastrophe, pine trees and other lost trees will be replaced. The plantations are a part of the regular National Forest reforestation program.

### How can you contribute?

We would love to see 100% participation. No contribution is too large or too small. We suggest you set up a "Penny Pines vase" at your home to collect loose change from NOW until March 2, 2023 for this special cause.

### What will the WNGC do?

At our March 2, 2023 meeting, in conjunction with our scheduled presentation "Gardening in a Changing Climate", Diane Teed has offered to collect everyone's change and coordinate the joint submission to Penny

Pines. **Please consider participating in this uniquely worthwhile project. We welcome any amount that is right for you!** We will be sharing examples of the national success of this program over the next few months. Watch for our monthly reminders!

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### ***Herbal Corner*** – by Alison Reyes



For many of us, the holidays are a special time to create new memories with family and friends but also a time to revisit recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation. Some of my favorite holiday spices include ginger, rosemary, and sage. Ginger was first discovered almost 5,000 years ago and is used in every country and culture. Medicinally, ginger is useful for nausea, inflammation, and indigestion. A staple for gingerbread cookies and pairs well with carrots and honey. Rosemary is native to the Mediterranean coast and is a symbol of remembrance. A powerful antioxidant and immune booster, you can add it to potatoes or ham and be sure to use the fresh sprigs for extra flavor. Sage is also native to the Mediterranean region and, can support brain health and memory. It pairs well with stuffing, apples, squash, and turkey. Spice up your holidays with these herbal wonders!

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### ***Upcoming Holiday Events and General Reminders:***

#### The Museum of Old Newbury (Cushing House)

Members are encouraged to visit the Cushing House at the Museum of Old Newbury - 98 High St, Newburyport on Sat. Dec. 3 & Sun Dec 4 from 10-4. This is a FREE event. Thank you to Margo Pullman, Hannah Page Koch, and Karen Coggins for their willingness to decorate the China Trade Room.

#### Plant Sale Pot Drive



The WNGC is planning a pot drive to replenish our inventory of pots needed for our annual plant sale. Members are asked to bring your pots to the Town Hall building (across from the library) on Saturday November 26 and Sunday November 27 from 10-3. Recycle containers will be set up along the east side wall of the building. In the event of wind, please leave the pots secure or consider bagging them. Please be selective when donating and make sure your pots are free of debris.

Our highest volume is 1-gallon pots, roughly 7”H x 7”W and “6 Pack” rectangular peat containers. Please limit the number of 12” wide or larger pots and note that smaller pots (less than 6” wide) are not needed at this time. We appreciate any donations that fit these criteria!

## ***Reminders and Notes from the Board***

### Digital Documents

Thank you to Barbara Merrill, Dot Cavanaugh, Joanne Gay, and Kathy Mandeville, for their hard work and recommendations to digitally archive our clubs' various documents. A long-discussed action and the board is happy to see it come to fruition!

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## ***Welcome New Members!***

Megan Chiango  
Heidi O'Connor

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WNGC Newsletter  
Alison Reyes & Sherry Loudon

Contributing Columnist  
Andrea Caswell, WNGC Member

Facebook  
Chris Gerzon

WNGC President/Website  
Lori Boudrow

West Newbury Garden Club  
P.O Box 11 West Newbury, MA 01985  
Email: [mrcwebmaster@comcast.net](mailto:mrcwebmaster@comcast.net)

### 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.

### **Stay Connected to WNGC**

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