



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

September/October 2021

LETTER FROM THE TRI-PRESIDENTS

Welcome back to the fall season of our Needham Garden Club. We are excited to be able to meet in person again. Thanks to our amazingly creative and dedicated members, we have thrived as a club and made the best of the year during a pandemic. We had some amazing general meetings over Zoom and were able to keep our club together and vibrant.

In addition to great Zoom meetings, we were able to host the in-person plant sale on the lawn at the Congregational Church in May. It was a tremendous success thanks to all of the hard work and participation of so many of you. So, thank you again, and a big shout-out to Trish Cruickshank and Terry Luskin, who managed to navigate the pandemic restrictions and put on a successful plant sale as first-time Co-Chairs of the Horticulture Committee.



Visit us online at

www.needhamgardenclub.com

Upcoming Calendar

September 21, 9:30 a.m. September General Meeting, in the Community Room in the library.

October 19, 9:30 a.m. October General Meeting, in the Community Room in the library.



SAVE THE DATE...September 21, 2021, 9:30 a.m. Join us in the Community Room at the library for the first program of the season.

We're looking forward to getting together with the whole garden club.

Tri-Presidents: Martha Schleck, Debbie Wentworth, and Jane Lischewski



PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

Our first program of the new season will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the community room of the Needham Public Library on September 21st. “Fun with Flowers” will be presented by floral designer, Kathryn Leva, who will teach us how to express ourselves through the art of floral design. She will give us some simple steps to help us learn to create our own beautiful floral arrangements. Be sure to join us.

To comply with the CDC’s recommendations for indoor gatherings, we ask that you wear a face mask to the presentation. We will also monitor any COVID restrictions or recommendations that the library may require.

Program Committee Co-Chairs: Patricia Hession and Bonnie Waters

FLOWER ARRANGING COMMITTEE NEWS

Our October 19th program, a members-only “table-scapes” club mixer, will be sponsored by the Flower Arranging Committee. The theme will be “**Guess the Fairy Tale/Children’s Story at the Table**” (examples listed below). The purpose of this mixer is to meet new members, mingle with old friends, and share ideas. COVID protocols will be strictly followed throughout the mixer; masks must be worn, and proper distancing will be adhered to.

The only opportunity to sign up in person will be at the September meeting, where a sign-up sheet will circulate. If you will not be able to attend the September meeting but would like to participate, email Lyn Jekowsky lynjekowsky@comcast.net by **September 19th**.

The Flower Arranging Committee will meet following the September meeting to assign members to 3-4-person teams. To allow time for creative planning, a few weeks before the October meeting the Committee will contact a member of each team, who will in turn convene the team. At the October meeting, each team will create a table-scape, including place settings for two and a floral interpretation inspired by a children’s fairy tale/story. Each team will use a card table/area the size of a card table to create their table-scape.

Any concerns about COVID will be addressed. Please contact Lyn Jekowsky or Carole Grossberg carolegrosberg2@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Children's Fairy Tales/Stories (examples): Alice in Wonderland, Snow White, Cinderella, Three Little Pigs, Rumpelstiltskin, Beauty and the Beast, Robin Hood, 101 Dalmatians, Princess and the Pea, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood.

Flower Arranging Committee Co-Chairs: Lyn Jekowsky and Carole Grossberg

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

The club's Garden Therapy Program at the local nursing homes remains on hold as of now. Since it involves working closely with vulnerable nursing home residents, we need to make sure we can make this fun project a safe one. There will be more information forthcoming via email or at our September meeting. Please continue to collect the small baskets and the plastic deli containers that we use for the arrangements.

Also, this fall we are aiming to resume our practice of having members place a plant or flower arrangement in the library reception area. Since that area of the library now has a different, more COVID-safe layout, we will need to find an appropriate location for our flowers. We will then be asking members to display a favorite plant or a flower arrangement on a weekly basis. Look for signups in September.



Be sure to have a look at our Noyes Park Garden as you drive by the corner of Great Plain and Central Avenues. In the spring we added three native plants, Canada Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). We are considering replacing the Japanese Spirea shrubs, since they are on the Massachusetts list of invasive plants. We would like to replace them with native plantings that will grow well in our part-shade and average soil location. We welcome your suggestions.



In May we were able to install the newly purchased urns and get them planted in time for the library reopening and Memorial Day. The next time you visit the library, be sure to have a look at the new urns. After much searching and discussion, we were able to locate planters that fit perfectly into the existing wrought iron enclosures.



We hope you agree that the library urns and the garden at Noyes Park all look beautiful.

Many thanks to all of our watering volunteers for keeping our plantings lovely: Anne Brain, Jane Brand, Anne Carlson, Amy Chan, Diana Conroy, Trish Cruickshank, Christine Fleskes, Pat Hession, Caryl Johnson, Bette Lavery, Jane Lischewski, Amy Liss, Fabienne Madsen, Karen Taggart, Mary Toran, Bonnie Waters, Isabell Wells, Debbie Wentworth, and Nancy Yablonski, plus Mary Toran's granddaughters.



Community Outreach Co-Chairs: Lynne Jones and Cathie Cummings

NEEDHAM GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



The Needham Garden Club Scholarship for a graduating High School Senior for 2021 was presented to Tillie Slosser by Martha Schleck and Jane Lischewski, Co-Presidents for the club.

Tillie is an avid and enthusiastic gardener. We had the pleasure of meeting Tillie and her Mom Lucy to present her the award in her yard where she has installed both a

vegetable and a pollinator garden helping the local bee population as well as growing endangered native plant species. Tillie has taken classes in "Gardening for Pollinators" and "Plants 101" through the Native Plant Trust.

Tillie's commitment to the environment will continue with her education at Smith College where she will major in Environmental Sciences and Environmental policy. Her commitment to the environment shows even in her summer job at the Powisset Farm in Dover, mentoring young campers and future gardeners.

Congratulations to Tillie. We look forward to hearing about all her adventures as she pursues her future education in Environmental Policy.



WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE NEWS

August finds the Ways and Means Committee thinking about our annual Wreath and Arrangement Sale and crossing our fingers that the Massachusetts health recommendations allow us to proceed with our in-person sale on Saturday, December 4.

After our wreath rack collapse disaster in 2019, intrepid members Trish Cruickshank and Martha Schleck are going to use their wood-working skills to construct a new rack for the sale, and possibly rehab the old rack that is left. These racks will be designed to be multi-use and will be constructed also to allow their use in the 2022 plant sale for displaying the

flower arrangements that have proved so popular. Shown are Martha and Trish in the early planning stages of the process.

We will be keeping our eye on the prices of greens and wreaths this year. With the wildfires in Oregon, and the intense heat in the Mid-West, this will NOT be an optimal year for buying wreaths and greens. As a committee, we decided to offer a small number of artificial wreaths this year -- this will be a nice option for folks in living situations that forbid live greenery, and will be a way to offer a multi-use selection for those who like to have a truly “evergreen” look.



We are working with the Festival of Trees Committee to have some of the overflow decorations from their Scandinavian-themed tree to use at the sale. Pictured is a Scandinavian woven star, which could be used as a tree topper, or in a table arrangement.

We wish you pleasant summer days and good health as we gear up for the coming season.

Ways and Means Tri-Chairs: Diana Conroy, Fabienne Madsen, and Nancy Yablonski

UNSUNG HEROES

The COVID restrictions kept us from holding in-person annual meetings and appropriately recognizing our club’s two most recent “unsung heroes.” The 2020 recipient was Lynne Braley. Over the years, Lynne has graciously hosted board meetings at her home, organized the bow-making workshops for our annual Wreath and Arrangement Sale, hosted the nominating committee meeting and our committee for the NGC Mass Hort Festival of Trees entry. Our 2021 recipient is Lyn Jekowski. Lyn organized a committee for an NGC Festival of Trees entry, as well as headed the Flower Arranging Committee. Thanks to Lyn's creativity we were all introduced to Pecha Kucha (a slide show of photos set to music), an October pumpkin decorating program, a November program on Orchids, and for December, front doors decorated for the holidays and another Pecha Kucha. Thank you to both Lynne and Lyn for your contributions to the club.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, and PUBLICITY

Visit our Club Website [NeedhamGardenClub.com] and Facebook page often to stay abreast of Club news.

Social Media, Website and Publicity Tri-Chairs: Nancy Agler, Lyn Jekowsky, and Gail Davis

NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter. The deadline for submissions for the November/December issue is October 10. Please let us know about any Garden Club news or other information you'd like us to include.

Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs: Carol Alper and Amy Cicala