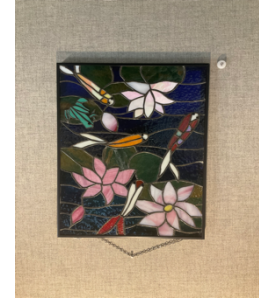




## News 'n Notes



Stained glass by Radhika Malhotra

**The Garden Club of Orange**

**Vol. No. 15, Issue No. 1**

**November, 2023**

Founded 1930

Orange, Connecticut

**Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., New England Garden Clubs, Inc., and The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.**

**NGC Mission:** to provide education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

**FGCCT Mission:** to protect and conserve our natural resources, preserve our heritage, and promote civic beauty.

**GCO Mission:** to promote and encourage garden skills and knowledge, both individual and civic, and to further an understanding of horticulture, floral design, pollinators, and conservation.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Dear Members,

We have had a wonderful start to the Garden Club year.

Lana Ho provided a very creative demonstration of Art and Flowers at the September meeting which was very well attended.

The Orange Agricultural Fair and the October Tag Sale were very successful Ways and Means ventures. The support from members was excellent.

We learned all about terrariums and their construction at a joint meeting with the Garden Club of Woodbridge.

We had an exciting workshop in November creating a floral design in a cornucopia presented by our Floral Design Chair Violet Nastri.

The Silver Tea in December is always enjoyed by both active and associate members.

I would like to thank everyone for their outstanding participation and support of all our activities.

Happy Holidays,  
Sandy Horling  
President

## **SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**

After a postponement on June 28th, we were able to finally get together for a Garden Party on July 7th, 2023. Both Ginny Proestakes and Joanne Duran worked very hard over several weeks to bring their gardens up to perfection. The animals, the bugs, and the weeds never rest, unfortunately. I joked with Joanne that a perennial gardener's lament is "You should have seen these flowers last week". But nonetheless, the gardens were gorgeous. We had a lovely sandwich lunch at Ginny's, courtesy of BJs and Big Y. Ginny kindly donated eggplant parmesan to provide a vegetarian option. The party continued at Joanne's house where we wished a Happy Birthday to Joan Held, Sally Denny, and Ginny Proestakes with a birthday cake and other dessert options. Elly Torello provided an additional cake.



Thanks to Ginny and Joanne for being such good sports for allowing us the privilege of touring their gardens, and by showing us how it is done. Thanks also to Violet Nastri and Sally Denny for providing table arrangements at Ginny's house, and Sandy Dadlani and Pat Dray for helping us set up the tables and chairs at Joanne's house. Thank you to everyone else for turning out to support our Garden Party, especially Linda Bradford for taking pictures, Elly Torello for donating a cake, and all who

helped in any way with setting up and cleaning up when it was all over. Overall, this was a great start to our next year!

Eileen Eisenman

### **ORANGE COUNTRY FAIR**

It was so great to have Patrick Eisenman with our crew setting up for the Orange Country Fair! Patrick was a big help in getting our new, larger canopy up, as well as our original, smaller one.

Gary DeFillippo assisted in getting the arbor decorated and Mike Bradford helped take care of the numerous tasks involved in assembling our booth. The chrysanthemums and pumpkins arrived in a timely manner from Jim Zeoli, Town of Orange First Selectman, and could be promptly arranged. Pitching in for all tasks were members Eileen Eisenman, Radhika Malhotra, Patty Riordan, Maryellen Bepuda, Pat Nizen, Diana DeFillippo, Gail Nixon, Teresa Evangeliste, and Linda Bradford.

Saturday, was a fiercely, windy day, which made covering our six tables with green plastic (donated by Eileen Eisenman) quite difficult. Also, nailing down educational materials, posters celebrating our club activities, signs advertising our prices, and membership materials became a daunting task; we endlessly taped and tied. Kudos to Teresa Evangeliste for providing three floral designs to attract attention to our area. Flora, our mascot, was most welcoming to children, and oftentimes was the scene for a photo opportunity, as was our glorious seasonally-decorated arch by Diana DeFillippo and provided by Roy Cuzzocreo of Orange Fence & Supply. Special thanks to Lisa Stackpole and Patty Riordan for managing the pumpkin decorations and to Eileen Eisenman for providing the stickers.

At 2:00 p.m., our first floral design presentation began: a traditional mass design by Teresa Evangeliste; this was followed by Sally Denny demonstrating a line design; finally, Violet Nastri showed the audience how to create a cascade design. The exquisite floral arrangements received many accolades, and the recipients from the drawing walked away happy.

There were 61 pumpkins sold and decorated on Saturday along with 79 chrysanthemums, potted and hanging ones. Sunday was a beautiful, sunny day. There were 55 pumpkins and 104 chrysanthemums sold.



Members that worked shifts for the two days included: Nancy Bartle, Marianne Bauer, Maryellen Bispuda, Linda Bradford, Diana DeFillippo, Sally Denny, Joanne Duran (and husband Alex), Eileen Eisenman, Teresa Evangeliste, Diane Geary, Sandy Horling, Laurian Kehoe, Margherita Lisi, Pat McCorkle, Pat Nizen, Patty Riordan, and Lisa Stackpole.

Lucien Binderberger, a student from Amity High School, was an enormous help washing pumpkins, carting the chrysanthemums to parking lots for buyers, and assisting with our sales. Much appreciation to the Eisenmans for donating a wagon to our club that can forever be used to carry items, as well as two more plastic chairs that they graciously sprayed.

Participating in the Orange Country Fair is always fun, and we were successful in raising funds.

Linda Bradford,  
Co-chair with Teresa Evangeliste





## **SEPTEMBER MEEETING**

We started the September program with a power point presentation by Margherita Lisi of the Fine Art and Flowers exhibition at the Wadsworth Atheneum (April 2023). Lana Ho demonstrated painting with flowers, while being inspired by art work of a local artist, Ed Lisi. The designs were later raffled for the members.

Margherita Lisi  
Program Chair



## SEPTEMBER HORTICULTURE – BLUE RIBBON AWARDS



Lana Ho  
celosia



Ginny Proestakes  
sunflower



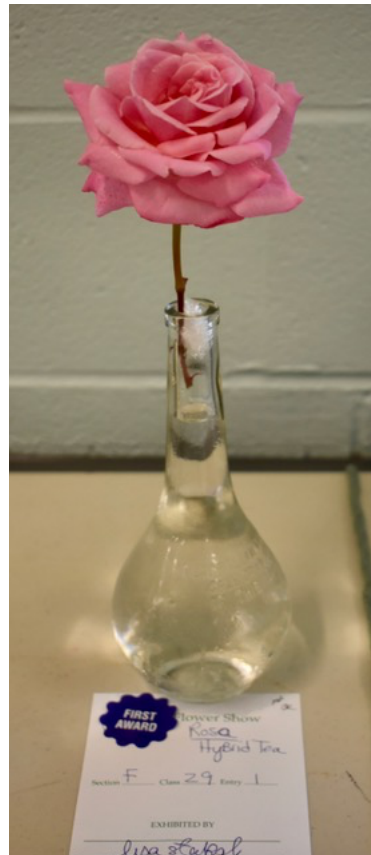
Betty Hadlock  
tomato



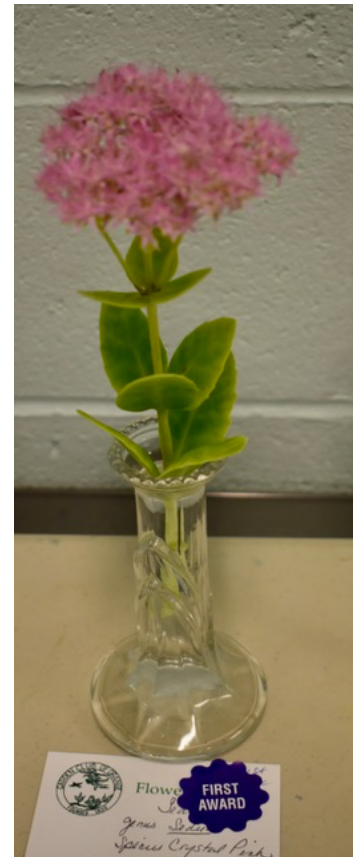
Eileen Eisenman  
salvia



Cindy Evangeliste  
*rudbeckia*



Lisa Stackpole  
rose



Violet Nastri  
sedum





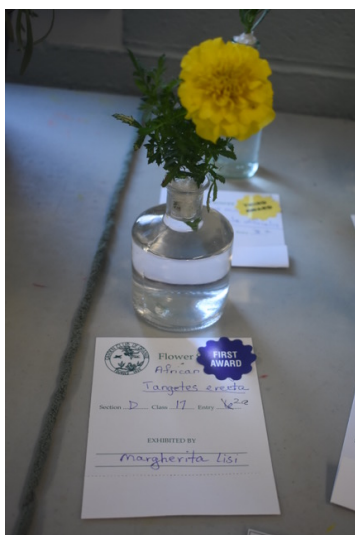
Betty Hadlock  
mandevilla



Maryellen Bepuda  
lavender



Betty Hadlock  
coleus



Margherita Lisi  
marigold



Margherita Lisi  
hydrangea

## SEPTEMBER FLORAL DESIGNS “REFLECTIVE”



Margherita Lisi  
Blue Ribbon



Sandy Dadlani  
Red Ribbon



Sally Denny  
Yellow Ribbon

## OCTOBER MEETING



The October meeting was held jointly with Woodbridge. Tovah Martin presented a slide show of varieties of containers that can be used and terrariums that she has made. She then demonstrated building the layers in preparation for the plants and how to take care of them. The terrarium was raffled off to the joint members.

Margherita Lisi  
Program Chair

## **TAG SALE**

What a chilly day we had for our Tag Sale on Saturday, October 14! When we arrived for setup at 7:00 a.m. it was still dark out, too. But there are lights at the High Plains Community Center Pavilion, and what an ideal place for our tag sale and bake sale! There is no charge for us from the town; it sprinkled a bit, but we were covered; the town perfectly placed sixteen picnic tables for us in the space; we could string clothesline in-between the posts for hanging items; there are trash cans available; and parking is convenient for customers as well as for loading and unloading. Wow, what a variety of great items there were for sale, all donated by garden club members!

Members were also awesome in placing their items on designated tables - with like items together - just like in the stores. It's our third annual tag sale and our experience helped in tagging the items, too, prior to bringing them in on the day of the sale. (We know that customers will suggest another price if they feel the price is too high.) Our profit for the day was \$843.45 (Tag Sale) and \$253 (Bake Sale) making a total of \$1096.45. There were no expenses. Some items are still being sold on Facebook Marketplace and will be adding to our profits. Remaining items were donated to Savers, Goodwill, the Case Memorial Library Book Sale, or returned to the donors.

Special commendations are given to the following members for their contributions:

Advertisement: Pat Dray in newspapers and online; Teresa Evangeliste with placement of flyers and signs; The Bradfords with construction and placement of a big sign on Orange Center Road.

Cashiers: Lana Ho and Pat McCorkle

Covering Tables: Maryellen Bospuda, Patty Riordan, Teresa Evangeliste, The Bradfords

Jewelry Display and Caretaker: Diana DeFillippo

Bake Sale Administration: Joanne Duran and Eileen Eisenman

After-Sale Deliveries: The Dennys, The Eisenmans, The Bradfords, Teresa Evangeliste, Fran Castiello

Volunteers on Sale Day: Maryellen Bospuda, Linda Bradford, Fran Castiello, Diana DeFillippo, Betty Hadlock, Sally Denny, Pat Dray, Eileen Eisenman, Teresa Evangeliste, Diane Geary, Lana Ho, Sandy Horling,



Raye MacLellan, Pat McCorkle, Violet Nastri, Pat Nizen, and Ginny Proestakes

Associate Members for their Participation: Susan Chernock, Caroline Dirsa, Joanne Friedrichs, Joan Held

With appreciation for club support in our fundraising,  
Co-chairs, Ways & Means

Linda Bradford, Teresa Evangeliste



### **AWARDS AT AQUA TURF**

The Garden Club of Orange proudly nominated Lana Ho, Maryellen Bespuda, Patti Logioco, and Raye Maclellan to receive awards at the October 2023 Awards Meeting. Fifteen Garden Club of Orange members happily attended the meeting and luncheon to cheer for our nominees, surrounded by 350 members of Garden Clubs throughout the state. It was an outstanding occasion.

The FGCCT, Inc. Award, The Lillian M. Rathbun Award, is presented annually to an individual involved in all phases of garden club work. This award is considered the highest award presented to an individual garden club member. To quote, "Our 2023 Lillian M. Rathbun Award recipient is the incomparable Lana Ho of The Garden Club of Orange".

Maryellen Bespuda received the FGCCT, Inc. Horticulture Tribute Award for Youth. This Award encompasses all the work Maryellen has accomplished through the years; revitalizing with her husband, Walter, the

Country Fair which had been defunct for many years; under her leadership and in collaboration with the Orange Historical Society, restored the Historic Herb Garden at the Stone – Otis House; Maryellen opens her gardens to groups of school children, who learn her gardening methods for “what to plant, where and why”.

A Horticulture Award, The Joyce P. Harris Award recipient is Patti Logioco. This award is presented for outstanding horticultural achievement by a club, individual, or group in their community. Patti participated in many Civic Committee endeavors, and as a member of the Orange 2022 Bicentennial Committee, organized and financially supported a club project planning and researching ever-blooming tulip and daffodil bulbs, supplying soil amendments and treatment, and bulb protection methods, including planting the bulbs in wire caging.

Raye MacLellan was awarded the FGCCT, Inc. Club Certificate of Appreciation. Established in 1978, this award allows each individual club to recognize outstanding work, length of service or whatever is applicable to honor one of its members in a fitting manner. Raye exemplifies the best qualities of a garden club member. She has actively participated on the board and in all club projects and in many club offices. At the same time, Raye has willingly headed the Sunshine Committee, making calls to members who are sick or homebound, delivers a plant or flowers to members who undergo surgery or have been hospitalized. Raye sends Get Well cards and condolence cards to members and their families and telephones members who do not have email. She generously contributes to the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees in memory of members and their spouses

In January, committee chairs are requested to submit their reports to the Club President. These reports are sent on to the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut for their review. As these reports are read, valuable information is gleaned by the reviewer, who sets the report aside for the possibility of being “Award Worthy”. And that is why we received many awards for which we did not apply. What a delightful surprise when our club received the following awards:

Report submitted by Lisa Stackpole. FGCCT, Inc. Garden Therapy Club Certificate of Achievement to The Garden Club of Orange which meets monthly from September to June with an average of twenty-five residents who participate in the Garden Therapy program with nature and holiday themes.

Report submitted by Maryellen Bespuda. FGCCT, Inc. Historic, Memorial and Public Gardens Club Citation for maintaining the perennial and pollinator plants at the Stone – Otis House.

Report submitted by Sally Denny. FGCCT, Inc. Horticulture Awards Club Citation for planting, in celebration of the Town of Orange Bicentennial year, 100 daffodil bulbs and tulips around the Town Hall. In its efforts to “Plant the Town Orange,” the club also filled planters in front of the 3 elementary schools, the kindergarten/Board of Education building and the Amity Middle School with a variety of orange annuals to plant the town Orange!

Report submitted by Pat McCorkle and Laurian Kehoe. FGCCT, Inc. Public Relations and Membership Awareness, Publications – Newsletters Certificate of Merit for a Medium Club.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Gail Nixon

### **CELEBRATING AT AQUA TURF**





## **STONE-OTIS GARDENS AND COMMUNITY GARDEN**



Maryellen Bospuda and Sally Denny and their teams worked throughout the spring and summer to ensure that the historic herb garden and perennial gardens at the Stone-Otis House on Orange Center Road remained in tip top condition. On July 20, an Open House was held with herb infused water being served. Garden Club members also planted begonias in the flower bed in front of High Plains Community Center that



remained in full bloom until October. After the first frost, the team gathered again to put all the beds to rest for the winter.



## **NOVEMBER MEETING**

The November program was a sold-out event! Violet Nastri led the members in a workshop creating floral designs in cornucopias. Flowers and supplies were provided by the garden club. Members brought in greens and other embellishments. All were happy with their results.

Margherita Lisi  
Program Chair





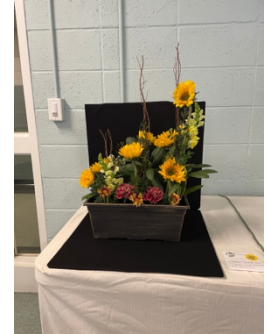
**FLORAL DESIGNS NOVEMBER "TRADITIONAL LINE"**



Laurian Kehoe  
Blue Ribbon



Gail Nixon  
Red Ribbon



Eileen Eisenman  
Yellow Ribbon

**NOVEMBER HORTICULTURE**



Cindy Evangeliste  
Japanese maple



Margherita Lisi  
holly

Dear Members,

Here it is at last --- my first newsletter for the Garden Club of Orange!  
This newsletter needs YOU to make it as good as it can be. While I work to master new techniques in WORD, you can contribute ideas, articles, and news. Wishing everyone a beautiful holiday season! May 2024 bring you joy, happiness and peace!

**BE SURE TO LOOK AT OUR NEW WEBSITE! THANK YOU TO WEB-DESIGNER FRAN CASTIELLO!!!! [www.gardencluboforangect.com](http://www.gardencluboforangect.com)**

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NOTES: Any information for the next newsletter? Please send to Betty Hadlock, 305 Goose Lane, Orange, CT 06477, email: [bhadlock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhadlock@sbcglobal.net)  
Let me hear from you! Tell me your good news! What would you like included in the next newsletter?

Send changes to the Directory to Nancy Mellone, 228 Old Grassy Hill Road, Orange, CT 06477, email [nmellone@aol.com](mailto:nmellone@aol.com) or 203-795-5536.

News 'n Notes Staff: Volume 15, Issue 1:

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Photos – Linda Bradford, Fran Castiello, Margherita Lisi, Eileen Eisenman, and Joanne Duran

