



## News 'n Notes



December Display Case Highlighting Garden Therapy and Civic Activities

The Garden Club of Orange

Vol. No. 15, Issue No. 2

March, 2024

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

Spring and working in our own gardens and those of our Club will soon be upon us.

We had a wonderful Silver Tea at the home of Ginny Proestakes. Visiting with active and associate members was lovely. The food was delicious.

The Case Memorial Library was decorated. The wreaths for the Town of Orange buildings were beautiful and appreciated by the Town.

Margherita Lisi's great monthly programs continue to attract active and potential new members. We learned about house plants in January. Sally Denny and Eileen Eisenman's February pressed and dried flower workshop was enthusiastically received. A great new skill was learned. Lana Ho presented her yearly educational workshop on Floral Design in March. Her topics were Focal Point and Rhythm. More than 25 members participated or just observed. It was terrific.

We will complete the year learning about trees, going on a field trip, running our May Market and installing new members at our June Luncheon at Stonebridge Restaurant.

I would like to thank our Board and active members for participating and contributing to our many activities.

Sandy Horling  
President

## **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**

### Spreading Holiday Joy

The members of The Garden Club of Orange have been busy decorating the Case Memorial Library rotunda and making wreaths for the Town Buildings to help brighten up the dark winter days.

### **WREATH MAKING**

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, over 25 members of The Garden Club of Orange met to make and decorate nine wreaths for our town buildings.

Members gathered greens and embellishments from their yards to make these wreaths.

Wreaths were hung at the Town Hall, the Stone-Otis House, the Academy, the Visiting Nurses Association, the High Plains Community Center, and the Bryan-Andrew House.



Marianne Bauer and Pat Nizen  
Civic and Conservation Co-chairs



### **DECORATING THE LIBRARY**

Lana Ho and her team of members gathered on November 27<sup>th</sup> to deck the library rotunda with swags and roping.



## **OSBORNE HOUSE**

Every winter the Garden Club of Orange decorates one of the rooms in the Osborne Homestead Museum located in Derby, CT. This year's theme was "Holiday in the City".

Our city was Storrs, Connecticut and our rooms were the milk room, ice box pantry, and back porch.

The Kellogg Foundation Trust income from the Frances Kellogg estate is still used today for scholarships and agricultural needs at UCONN. Her legacy lives on.

Our rooms were decorated beautifully with "cow" holiday decorations by the following members: Eileen Eisenman, Ginny Proestakes, Margherita Lisi, Violet Nastri, Marianne Bauer, Pat McCorkle, Pat Riordan, Sally Denny, Betty Hadlock, Pat Nizen, Sandy and Steve Horling, Diane Geary, and Laurian Kehoe

I am delighted to announce that Ginny Proestakes will be our leader next year.

Diane Geary  
Osborne Decorating Chair



## SILVER TEA

The Hospitality Committee hosted the Silver Tea Luncheon at the home of Ginny Proestakes on December 12, 2023, to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Linda Bradford was Chair of December's committee that provided a delicious variety of foods. The event was very well attended in Ginny's festively decorated home. The seven exhibitors designed beautiful arrangements around the theme *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*. All attendees enjoyed visiting each other and offering good wishes for the holiday season. As is the tradition, members attending the Silver Tea donated money to be presented to the Orange Food and Fuel Bank. Thank you to Ginny Proestakes, and Linda Bradford and her committee for a lovely time.

Laurian Kehoe



**SILVER TEA DESIGNS**

**Designers' Choice**

The 2023 Silver Tea at the home of Ginny Proestakes was the perfect setting for the holiday monthly floral designs created by our members! All designs captured the spirit of the season, in their unique use of colorful flowers, greenery and festive embellishments. Designs were separated into 2 classes of 4 designs each, with each class being evaluated separately, by our 3 visiting judges. Congratulations to everyone for their beautiful designs!

Violet Nastri



Class 1 Blue Ribbon  
Diane Geary



Class 1 Red Ribbon  
Violet Nastri



Class 1 Yellow Ribbon  
Pat Nizen



Class 1 White Ribbon  
Teresa Evangeliste



Class 2 Blue Ribbon  
Diana DeFilippo



Class 2 Red Ribbon  
Betty Hadlock



Class 2 Yellow Ribbon  
Lisa Stackpole



Class 2 White Ribbon  
Lana Ho

**JANUARY MEETING**

On January 9, the first regular meeting of 2024 took place at High Plains Community Center. As the delicious lunch ended, a special birthday cake was presented to member Teresa Evangeliste who was celebrating 80 years young! After that and the general meeting, Program Chair Margherita Lisi introduced our guest speaker. Life-long gardener, experienced lecturer, landscape designer, and columnist for West Hartford Magazine, Karla Dalley shared tips on how to care for house plants. Karla was accompanied by a large number of her own house plants. She answered questions and shared a wide wealth of knowledge to prove that anyone can have vibrant, colorful, and interesting easy-care plants in their home.



Betty Hadlock



**JANUARY DESIGNS**



Sandy Horling  
Blue Ribbon



Cindy Evangeliste  
Red Ribbon



Priscilla Barnes  
Yellow Ribbon



Radhika Malhotra  
White Ribbon

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The snowstorm-postponed February meeting took place on February 27th at High Plains Community Center. Hospitality chairs Laurian Kehoe and Ginny Proestakes provided hot tea, coffee and cookies to sustain us through a wonderful program led by our Horticulture chairs Sally Denny and Eileen Eisenman. Using dried and pressed flowers, members creatively displayed their designs in frames or shadowboxes. Some will be sold at our May Market!



Betty Hadlock



## **MARCH MEETING**

Unfortunately, our March speaker was not able to present. Hopefully we'll get to hear the presentation in the near future. Since our program for March took a turn, we searched from within for inspiration. When it comes to doing a design, it seems that the majority of us have a few sleepless nights, never sure if what we're doing is on track. So, some seasoned club members, Maryellen Bospuda, Diana DeFillippo, Gail Nixon, and Diane Geary, who all combined, have 115 years as members of the Garden Club of Orange, explained to us their process in doing a design. They were informative, exact, and entertaining. They handled questions with their expertise and helped alleviate this fear of design that so many of us feel. We deeply appreciate each of them for stepping forward and making the March program a successful one!

Margherita Lisi

Both February and March designs and horticulture were on display.

## **FEBRUARY DESIGNS "Love is in the Air"**

### **Parallel Designs**



Linda Bradford  
Blue Ribbon



Pat Dray  
Red Ribbon



Diana DeFillippo  
Yellow Ribbon



Patti Logioco  
White Ribbon



**MARCH DESIGNS "Tell Me What Spring Is Like"**  
**American Traditional Mass Designs**



Maryellen Bspuda  
Blue Ribbon



Fran Castiello  
Red Ribbon



Ginny Proestakes  
Yellow Ribbon



Sery Kang  
White Ribbon

**HORTICULTURE BLUE RIBBONS**



Pat Dray  
Andromeda



Sally Denny  
Cactus



Marianne Bauer  
Aloe Vera

## LANA HO'S DESIGN WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, March 19, Lana Ho led a workshop for members on elements of design. In preparation for the workshop, Lana mailed members the following information.

### **Focal Point & Rhythm**

A **Focal Point** in a floral design is the piece that forces the eye to a particular area and anchors the design. A large flower or group of flowers to create a focal point placed slightly off-center in a design will have movement and will make it more pleasing to the eye. A dominant color is a great way to create Focal Point quickly and easily!

For a flower arrangement to have **Rhythm**, it needs to be built up and evolve as you develop the look. Repeating shapes in the design and the mechanics can create rhythm. Repetition in color is also important. Always use more than one type of plant material. Use of a second or a third type of plant material in a different position creates balance and rhythm! A few of the same colors throughout the design can create more rhythm and harmony! Transition helps in flower arrangements, as well. We start with the bigger, more compact middle, and move outwards to the lighter and smaller blooms, twigs, and leaves that flow in transition.



There is such a thing as too much stuff in an arrangement and it's often the time you can say, that's enough, that makes a good designer. Too many overlapping leaves, too many overlapping flowers, buds, and branches can muddy the rhythm of an arrangement and have no way for the eye to move through a design with ease. Some arrangements with very little plant material often have a stronger rhythm than those packed with plant material. Using contrast in a flower arrangement can make the monotonous and dull, bright and exciting. One of the easiest ways to add contrast is with color, as can be seen by making use of The Color Wheel. Colors across the color wheel add instant contrast. The use of contrast and scale promotes rhythm. Other ways to add contrast are by using shape and texture.

Scale is an easy element in floral design to see in an arrangement – flowers are too big for a small container or flowers are too small for a big container.

Proportion goes together with scale in a lot of ways. In scale, the concerns are sizes relative to each other and surroundings, while the proportion is more about the amounts relative to each other and surroundings.

Some principles that create harmony include things like repetition, texture, or using a shape to form a relationship. Take a vase in one color and bring in tones of that same color in the flowers and foliage.

Lana Ho



## MORE ABOUT OUR DESIGN WORKSHOP

If you ever dreamed of being a judge of floral design, you had an opportunity to do so at Lana's workshop on March 19, 2024. Not only did participants critique designs by others, but they also created their own. The arrangements were to be in five classes: parallel designs, traditional line and line mass designs, as well as creative line and line mass designs. Wasn't it a fun surprise to find out which design type you were making by opening your paper bag! In addition, labeling and containers inside the bag indicated where to look for the plant materials to be used. Anyone observing could see prospective members happily working alongside active members, with everyone showing an eagerness to learn and to grow.

There are so many design categories presented by our National Garden Club, and each year we get to choose one of them to complete in our monthly exhibits. Kudos to our club for making this continuing practice in floral design possible! And how marvelous that Lana Ho can educate us with these yearly workshops! Lana is meticulous in planning, organizing, preparation, and in saving money. Did you know that she gathered milk cartons, sticks, soup and sushi containers, and cut and painted many of them? Plant materials were selected, conditioned, sorted and placed by her. The day went smoothly. It felt like the room was bursting with a rhythm that would lead toward blooming and growing in floral design!

Linda Bradford



## MEMBER NEWS

Associate Member, Terry Azoti, recently had two photographs accepted by the Arts and Humanities Jury of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The photos, *An Apple a Day* and *Amaryllis Starburst*, will be published at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) in mid-April on the spring DKG Gallery of Fine Arts, an online gallery of works of arts and letters.

DKG is a professional honor society for women educators with more than 55,000 members. Established in 17 member countries around the world (400 members in CT), the Society defines its mission as promoting professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Terry Azoti

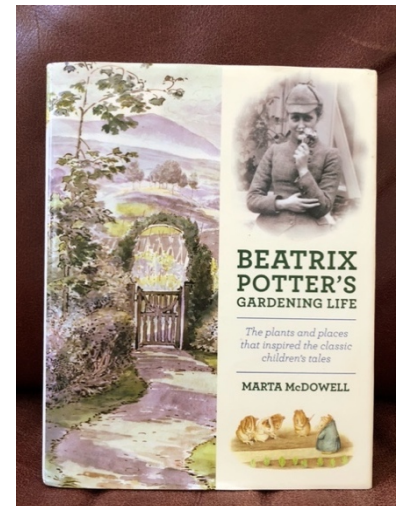


## BOOK SUGGESTION

I highly recommend this delightfully illustrated and written book by Marta McDowell. Filled with Beatrix Potter's original watercolor drawings and historic photographs, this book traces Beatrix's life as a gardener, from her childhood interest in plants through her years as an estate farmer and naturalist. You learn about her life in the Lake District of England and read about all the plants that were growing each season that fill her drawings.

I have been a fan of her wonderful tales and inherited a collection of Beswick Pottery figures of many of my favorite characters including Mrs. Tiggy-winkle, Jeremy Fisher and Squirrel Nutkin from my dear Aunt Betty.

Betty Hadlock



## HELP NEEDED FOR OSBORNE HOUSE

Each year the Garden Club (along with other garden clubs and organizations) help to decorate a room at the Osborne Homestead Museum in Derby, CT. The Osborne Homestead has annual holiday tours, and our Club has participated regularly in them. This year we are going to be decorating the Studio with a deep ocean theme. We need your help and support in 2 ways to make this year as successful as past years have been. Your contribution, no matter how small, will make a significant impact on our project.

1. Collect toilet and paper towel rolls, colored plastic soda bottles, medicine bottles, seashells, and egg cartons. These materials will be repurposed into festive and themed décor.
2. Help supporting this effort. Whether you are a seasoned crafter, or just looking to try something fun and new, we welcome everyone to come and lend a hand. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our club members' creativity and contribute to our community. If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Proestakes chair of this event this year.

Date: Tuesday, April 23

Time: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Location: High Plains Community Center, Room 4

Activity: Christmas Ornaments -- pre-cut wooden ornaments and seashells that need to be embellished

What to bring: Scissors, wooden toothpicks and ***if you have one*** - Glue gun and glue sticks. Please also bring any of the materials listed above that you may have gathered by that time. These will be used in future sessions.

Ginny Proestakes

Dear Members,

Here it is at last --- my second newsletter for the Garden Club of Orange! This newsletter needs YOU to make it as good as it can be. While I continue to work to master new techniques in WORD, you can contribute ideas, articles, and news. Wishing everyone a wonderful spring!

**BE SURE TO LOOK AT OUR WONDERFUL WEBSITE FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION!! THANK YOU TO WEB- DESIGNER FRAN CASTIELLO!!!! [www.gardenclubforangect.com](http://www.gardenclubforangect.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.

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Photos – Linda Bradford, Fran Castiello, Margherita Lisi, Eileen Eisenman, Pat Dray, Betty Hadlock, Terry Azoti, and Sandy Horling

