

Photo: Virginia Hallman



Gloria Arthur

Gloria Arthur passed away on November 10th following a stroke she suffered on October 26th. Gloria had been a member of the Garden Club since 1970, and was always a big presence on the Anna Jacques Hospital decorating committee. She was a funny, lively person, and a "hot ticket," and we will all miss her and her fabulous laugh. She has been an active person around West Newbury and Newburyport, a ton of fun to be around, and generous with her backyard full of wonderful greens, which are in all the Garden Club wreaths around town this holiday season.

Gloria loved her friends and was always ready for a party, and she was in the midst of planning our Holiday Party with her friends and for her friends when she was stricken. We are all so sorry to



lose her, much too early. Please let's plan to remember her at our Party, raise a glass (which she would have loved!) and say a few words in her memory.

December 7 Ribbon Rose Workshop

Sandra Meyer Cohen is an expert in the art of making flowers and leaves out of richly-hued French wire ribbon. Tonight, she will lead us as we create rose pins and brooches to wear on a hat or lapel, or to give as a special gift.

Do you have a favorite outfit or hat that has been waiting for just this ornament? Bring it in, along with scissors, a needle and thread, and match your outfit to the ribbon for a knockout fashion statement.

This workshop requires simple sewing. Sandra will supply materials at a cost of \$7.00 each (or less.)

Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Linda Schaeffer and Ginger Selman** along with **Dot Cavanaugh, Beth Chafe, Diane Dobson, and Sandi Preble**



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And in the Worth A Try column:

"More and more I am coming to the conclusion that rain is a far more important consideration to a gardener than sun, and that one of the lesser advantages that a gardener gains in life is her thorough enjoyment of a rainy day."

— Margaret Waterfield 1907

Club News **Holiday Party—December 14th**

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual Holiday Party and Yankee Swap! Start those balls rolling by grabbing your cookbook and whipping up your most delectable canapés, finger foods, nibbles and sweets to share with all your friends.

The Yankee Swap is always a lot of laughs, whether you participate in the swapping or not. Bring a gardening-related gift, wrapped or bagged, which costs no more than \$12, if you would like to take part.

For the second year in a row, we will be celebrating the season at Donna Greene's warm and welcoming home at 17 Barberry Lane, and rumor has it that we will be lighted on our way by ice candelaria again this year.

Hospitality by **Marilyn Kent** and **Helen Thumser** along with Janet Gilchrist, Joan Guptill, and Mary Jarvis.



Club News **Help Decorate Hills House**



Hills House Open House

The historic Hills House in West Newbury will be having an Open House this year on Sunday, December 10th, and Dot Cavanaugh, who is on the Hills House committee, is looking for a few more good decorators to help

decorate for the event. Decorating will take place as a group effort during the week before the Open House, and prior to that, Dot will host a meeting to review the plans and old photos from past Open Houses. The decorators are in need of greens, too, so if you have greens or berries, please get in touch with Dot, or simply join the committee. It should be a lot of fun, and is a great way to give something back to the townspeople! Even if you cannot help out, make a note to visit Hills House that Sunday!

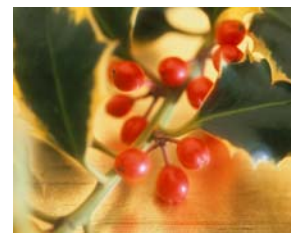
Maritime Society House Tour

In addition to the Hills House tour on Dec 10th, the New-

buryport Maritime Society is hosting a Holiday House tour on Saturday December 9th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 978-462-8681 for details and ticket information.

Holiday Decorating Contest with Prizes

And if that weren't enough, The Newburyport Garden Club is conducting a Christmas Decorating Contest. IT is so simple, I could do it! All you do is decorate your home, the doorways, mantels, table arrangements, trees, whatever, and then take a photo of it. Send the Photo to the Newburyport Garden Club at PO Box nn in Newburyport, MA and you will be entered to win a prize. No judges will visit your house, no one will sneer (in front of you) at your pitiful attempts at beauty, and you might win a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Members of Garden Clubs from Salisbury, Amesbury, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury are invited to enter.



History **Call for Records, Photos, etc.**

We would really like to get our stuff together! As the members of our club accumulate bits and pieces of history, and as the presidents come and go, our files and documents have gotten a bit scattered. We are making a concerted effort this year to pull everything together, and put it all in

one place. If you have ANYTHING that relates to the history of the club which you feel should be in a central archive, please bring it to the next meeting you come to, or call Marsha Cope, and she will come get it. Thank You so much!

Members in the News **70th Anniversary—Stories**

As we noted in the last issue of the WNGC.comPost, the 70th Anniversary Committee, would like to publish a series of garden-related stories from West Newbury's past in our local newspapers to celebrate and publicize our anniversary.

Published on a monthly basis, the stories will recount the history of our gardeners and gardens, and would be drawn from the members reminiscences. This is a way to capture the historical memories of the long-term members of the garden club, with stories both about the Garden Club, and the way the town was "back in the day."

For example, Kathy Krajeski noted that in the 1990's, members all brought their own coffee mugs to club meetings to

conserve paper products. At the end of the meeting, you just rinsed out your mug and took it home til next time.

We intended to have a story-telling component to our last meeting, but with all the dashing about for greens and such, we didn't quite get there. So this time, please jot down a few notes, or make a mental note, for those of us who still have the capacity (let's me out) and then talk about it at our Ribbon Rose workshop on the 7th. **Virginia Hallman** is spearheading the effort, and working with **Jane Jeffers** to get our oral history published.

Club & Federation News **The Plant Sale Returns**

Jane Jeffers, Kathy Krajeski, and Jan Vynorius have united in a mad attempt to re-create the Infamous Brain Trust of years past, and pilot the West Newbury Garden Club Annual Plant Sale and Baking Extravaganza through the treacherous waters and dangerous shoals of New England spring weather, the depredations of voles and woodchucks, and the requirements of garden designers who feel that "this 8 foot clump of rare trillium is **truly** not yet ready for dividing." More details will follow, but they have brow-beaten, uh, accepted the kind offers from the these members to head up the various tables:

Sun: **Rosemarie McCobb** and **Linda Schaeffer**

Shade: **Deb Zoltai** and **Joan Tranfaglia**

Knapps: **Liz Scheld**, perhaps?

Herbs: **Diane Dobson**

Donated: **Pollyann Statom**

Digging: **Donna Greene**

Break-Down: **Gloria Kuran**

Publicity: **Jane Jeffers**

Set-up: **Kathy Krajeski** and **Jan Vynorius**



Bake Sale, Choice, and Children's are still looking for chairs, so please let Kathy, Jan or Jane know if you would like to join the crowd. They promise it will be fun!

Flower Arranging **Flora in Winter at WAM**

Looking to escape the winter doldrums? Make a note to visit the Worcester Art Museum and Tower Hill Botanic Garden on the last weekend in January to take in the sights and smells of Flora in Winter, "a riveting and beautiful exhibition of live floral arrangements." Garden clubs and floral designers from throughout New England will create 22 floral arrangements at the Museum inspired by its world famous permanent collection of art. Arrangers will also create 20 floral displays for Tower Hill, celebrating classical Rome in the form of a Roman deity, architecture, or a famous Roman quotation. For more information, visit their web site at http://www.worcesterart.org/Events/Flora/flora_in_winter_2006.html They will be holding opening party celebrations,

special programs and guided tours at both locations.

The show runs from Thursday, January 26 thru Sunday, January 29, 2006





WNGC

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*Gardens for beauty,
learning, and sharing*

The West Newbury Garden Club was founded in 1936 to encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in protecting and conserving our natural resources, to further the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty. For more information, please contact Marsha Cope at 978 388 2076, at bpgroup@verizon.net, or at 30 Merrimac St, Amesbury MA, 01913.

Next Board Meeting
January 11, 2006 7:00pm



Ask Peony December

Dear Peony,

I have recently seen the plant known as "Angel's Trumpet". What can you tell me about this beauty?

Gabrielle

Dear Gabby,

The name Angel's Trumpet, of the genus *Brugmansia*, refers to the large, very dramatic, pendulous trumpet-shaped flowers, 14-50 cm long and 10-35 cm across at the wide end. They are white, yellow, pink, orange or red, and have a delicate, attractive scent with light, lemony overtones, most noticeable in early evening.

The family is [Solanaceae](#), native to subtropical regions of [South America](#), along the [Andes](#) from [Colombia](#) to northern [Chile](#), and also in southeastern [Brazil](#).

Brugmansia are large [shrubs](#) or small [trees](#), reaching heights of 9-35 feet, with tan, slightly rough bark. The [leaves](#) are alternate, generally large, 10-30 cm long



and 4-18 cm broad, with an entire or coarsely toothed margin, and are covered with fine hairs.

But beware, Gabby, don't blow this horn! This trumpet is no angel. ALL PARTS of *Brugmansia* are highly toxic. The plants are sometimes ingested for recreational or shamanic intoxication as the plant contains the tropane alkaloids [scopolamine](#) and [atropine](#); the potency of the toxic compounds in the plant is variable, the degree of intoxication is unpredictable and can be fatal.

Brugmansia are easily grown in a moist, fertile, well-drained [soil](#), in full sun to part shade, in frost-free climates. They begin to flower in mid to late spring in warm climates and continue into the fall, often continuing as late as early winter in warm conditions. In cool winters, outdoor plants need protection, but the roots are hardy and will re-sprout in April or May. Most *Brugmansias* may be propagated easily by rooting 10-20 cm cuttings taken from the end of a branch during the summer.

You can usually find this plant at local nurseries or order from the internet.

Good luck, Angel,

Peony