

# West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter

## Editor's Notes

*It seems especially important this year to take time to value all of the abundances in our lives and to share what we can with those less fortunate. May we each enjoy happiness and peace in the new year to come.*

### Page 4: Member Stories

*This month you'll find a story from me; but we'd like to feature **your story** in the next issue! See me, email me, or call...and thanks for sharing.*

*Have suggestions/input for the newsletter? Share them with me anytime—in person or in writing at a meeting, or by phone at 508-361-1442, or via email at: [vahallman@comcast.net](mailto:vahallman@comcast.net).*

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

**REMINDER: There are no Club or Board meetings in January.**

*NOTE: Photos are taken by Virginia Hallman or are designated "free-to-use" per Google unless otherwise noted.*

*PHOTOS this page and Page 2 are Google free-to-use images.*

## December 7th, 6:45

### *Holiday Decorating for the Town*



On this evening, club members will decorate purchased wreaths, make and decorate swags, and create centerpiece arrangements. **Please gather and bring** "greens" for making the swags and centerpieces such as white pine boughs, boxwood, holly, cypress, etc.

**Also bring** your floral snips or clippers, gloves, and decorations (pine cones, ornaments to donate for the centerpieces, etc.)

## December 14th, 6:00 *Annual Holiday Party*

**LOCATION CHANGE:** For logistical reasons, the club has decided to **hold the party at the 1910 Building Annex, not at the Village at Newburyport** as previously planned and announced in the Yearbook.



In addition to your holiday spirit, please bring an appetizer, side or main dish, or a dessert to share. If you'd like to "Yankee Swap" with other club members later on, also bring a wrapped gift valued around \$15. As in prior years, we will also collect non-perishable food items for **Pettengill House** at this meeting so **remember to bring your donations.**

## November Board Meeting Highlights

Board members reviewed proposed recommendations from the Ferry Lane Garden Committee for enhancing the park. These recommendations will be refined and shared with club members at the the February meeting. Logistics of the Annual Holiday Party planned for a site in Newburyport were discussed. The club will not be participating in the MFA's *Art in Bloom* event in 2018 because no volunteers were available, but plans for decorating at the Cushing House (Museum of Old Newbury) are well underway.

**December 7th Meeting  
Hospitality Members**

**Chair: Lynn Boyd**

- Barbara Berkenbush
- Karen Doliber
- Susan Dougherty
- Barbara Haack
- Barbara Warne

**December 14th Party  
Hospitality Members**

**Co-Chairs: Carrie  
Crowley & Jeanne Pucci**

- Carrie Hometh
- Linda DeCoste
- Karen Diombala
- Priscilla Styer

**Updates for Your YearBook**

*Welcome New Members!*

**Kathy DiStefano**

**Hannah Page Koch**



# December Holiday Events of Interest



**Historical Society of Old Newbury**

*98 High Street, Newburyport*

**Holiday Open House**

December 2nd—December 4th  
10:00 AM—4:00 PM

**Groveland Historical Society**

*Washington Hall, 100 Washington Street, Groveland*

**Festival of Trees**

Now through December 2nd  
1:00 PM—8:00 PM  
**Donation: \$5.00**

**Nunan's Florist and Greenhouses**

*269 Central Street, Georgetown*

**Make Your Own Boxwood Tree Class**

*Current classes in December are filled, but an additional class may be scheduled. Call 978-352-8172 to check availability.*

**Cost: \$40**

**Lake Street Garden Center**

*37 Lake Street, Salem, NH*

**Make Your Own Boxwood Tree Class**

Saturday, December 2nd  
10:00—11:30 AM

**Check availability; Register: 603-893-5858**

**Cost: \$40**

**Poinsettia Open House**

Saturday, December 16th  
9:00 AM—5:00 PM

[More Photos](#)



## November Meeting's Highlights

The club had not had a flower-arranging program in some time. With that in mind, our Program Chair Jane Jeffers invited members Margo Pullman, Helena Dion, Lori Boudrow and Elisa Colstad to demonstrate floral arranging basics and tips, and to offer direction to club members as they tried their hand at making an arrangement.

Margo and fellow members provided flowers, greens, and pre-soaked foam OASIS blocks. Members brought containers and clippers, and arranging went into full swing. Their creations were varied and creative and as you can see, a wonderful time was had by all. *(Thanks to Kathy Mandeville for the photos!)*



West Newbury Garden Club  
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[www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org)

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westnewburygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/westnewburygardenclub)

*Inspirations...a space for members to share gardening experiences, successes, lessons learned, memories, favorite plants, field trips and more...*



#### **Photos & Story Contributed by Virginia Hallman**

Over the past 22 years, my garden has taught me many things. None have been as dramatic nor as challenging as the lesson delivered by the recent late October storm. In addition to losing electricity, I woke to find the 80-foot Spruce tree at the rear of my shady meditation garden splintered in half. We later found that at some point in time, carpenter ants had riddled its interior trunk at the breakage point. Its fall was kind, sparing two out-buildings and all but one of the garden statues beneath it. It did not spare a graceful viburnum I loved and the falling limbs partially crushed a row of vintage lilacs. Thus within a single moment, nature transformed a shady, sheltered retreat into a largely empty, sun-drenched space.



For several days I focused on loss and sadness. It wasn't until the bulk of debris clean-up was completed that I noticed the inviting, gently curving and leaf-filled path through woods that was now visible. It led towards the back of our property where I could now see two grey rock outcropping. Squirrels romped on the path. Birds flitted among the bent lilac limbs, darting back and forth into the newly revealed woods. As for me, I began to think about opportunity instead of loss.