



## **1. Next General Meeting –**

November 12 - Senior Center. Anyone who wishes can come any time from 5:30 on. Those who are bringing exhibits should be there no later than 5:45. The general meeting will start at 6:00.

### **Hostesses-**

Nancy Azzaro  
Hillary Goldstein  
Mae Grant

### **REMINDERS**

1. November 12 next general meeting.
2. Nov. 26 Board Meeting
3. Holiday Party December 10

# ***Town & Country Garden Club***

## ***Newtown Connecticut***

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

*October 2025*

### **Co-presidents**

Jane Vouros



Holly Walczak



Dear Garden Club Members,

October is here, and with it comes the full swing of our club's fall season! We are thrilled to share how energized and inspired our first meeting was. Thanks to our wonderful handbook and the dedication of our program committee, we have a lineup of engaging speakers. And the best part? There are even more fascinating speakers scheduled in the months ahead—so check out the handbook for the full description!

This time of year, invites us to pause and soak in the beauty around us. Connecticut's autumn is a masterpiece of color, and our local trees are putting on a spectacular show. Look around and you'll see: **Sugar Maples** – glowing in brilliant oranges and fiery reds **Red Oaks** – deep burgundy and russet tones **Birches** – shimmering gold and yellow. And while the trees dazzle above, our gardens continue to delight below. Fall flowers are in full bloom, adding texture and color to our landscapes. Of course, **mums** are the stars of the season, but don't overlook these other autumn beauties: **Asters** – vibrant purples and blues **Sedum (Autumn Joy)** – rosy pinks that deepen to burgundy **Goldenrod** – bright yellow plumes that attract pollinators and **Montauk Daisies** – cheerful white petals with sunny centers.

Let's take time this month to appreciate the changing landscape, gather inspiration from nature, and share our garden joys with one another. Whether you're planting bulbs, tidying beds, or simply enjoying a walk through the leaves, may your November be filled with color, connection, and calm.

**Mae - Toad Lilly**



**Holly- winter berry**



**Arline Dalia**



**Heather  
ornamental corn**



**Review -General Meeting October 8**

**Program:** George Trecina presented a slide show about hardscape used in flower design:

**Exhibits:** Hattertown

Make an arrangement using a hat.

Josie



At the May meeting Barbara O'Connor challenged members to try to grow a Snake Plant from one piece. Here are the two that were brought back to the meeting

Josie

Joan



**Preview: Next General Meeting November 12**

**Program:** “Brighten your Spirits with Long, Low, Holiday Floral Designs” presented by Master Flower Show Judge, Cathy Rich After Cathy demonstrates how to make arrangements the designs will be raffled off.

**Exhibits:** Botsford known in Newtown’s past for button making. Make an arrangement of your choice incorporating buttons



**Horticulture: Non-blooming houseplant**

### SUNFLOWER



Want an easy way to support wildlife? Plant a sunflower. A single sunflower can support dozens of bee species, provide seeds for birds, and attract butterflies all season long.



## **Be Bear Aware**

Conflicts with bears continue to follow a long-term increasing trend in Connecticut, with bears observed in all 169 cities and towns across the state. DEEP has documented nearly 40 bear home entries across 16 municipalities so far in 2025, a concerning pattern that officials say remains far higher than neighboring states.

DEEP recommends several key practices to avoid attracting bears:

- Never feed bears, as intentionally feeding them is illegal in Connecticut
- Avoid putting out birdfeeders when bears are active
- Store garbage in secure airtight containers inside garages
- Put garbage out the morning of collection, not the night before
- Keep barbecue grills clean and stored inside
- Supervise dogs at all times when outside and keep them on short leashes
- Never leave pet food outdoors
- Use electric fencing to protect beehives, crops, and livestock

Officials also recommend investing in bear-proof trash containers, which have proven effective at breaking the habituation cycle by preventing easy access to human food sources.

**Chris, Arline, and Jan recently saw this bear while out walking on Toddy Hill.**



Nancy

## **SCARECROW PROJECT**

### **Hat Decorating**



### **Umbrella Supplies**



Teri Doern chaired the scarecrow again for the fourth year. Committee members were Mary Ellen Weiner, Chris Lincoln, Josie Schmidt, Jane Vouros, Denise Rod, Susan Day and Heather Strasburger. Our first meeting was to brainstorm ideas. After our discussion we came up with the idea of Mary Poppins as our theme. At the second meeting we discussed her outfit etc. and Bob Schmidt presented the design form and engineering of the installation! We came up with what Mary Poppins entire outfit would consist of. At the third meeting we started getting her all together.



Heather worked on the vignette and figured out the lights.



Jane and Chris decided how to secure her hat.



Bob worked to secure her, and we worked to keep him from falling.



## PRESENTING MARY POPPINS OF POPPINS' LANE



We all celebrated with champagne and gave a big thanks to Bob Schmidt for help with construction and installation of Mary.

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**Barbara O'Connor  
celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup>  
birthday on  
October 26.**

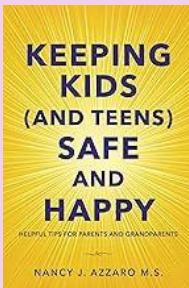


## WHAT'S NEW WITH CLUB MEMBERS

In October Arline and Ed Shanley celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



**Nancy Azzaro**



**On Saturday  
November 1<sup>st</sup> at  
1:00 pm, club  
member Nancy will  
be at Southbury  
Barnes & Noble,  
775 Main Street S.  
to sign copies of her  
book "Keeping  
Kids (and Teens)  
Safe and Happy".**

**Chris, Jane and Joy  
were among many  
of our club  
members who came  
to the festivities.**



**Lynne Farrah**



Lynne started House of Harrison to honor her late son Harrison, who died in August 2023. At that time, it was under Newtown Parent Connection. On October 23 she relaunched the local new beginnings boutique to support

people in need, as her own 5019(c) (3). Their mission is to restore dignity to individuals experiencing homelessness, transitioning from treatment, or facing hard times by providing daily essentials that offers comfort, confidence, and hope for a new beginning.

**On October 21  
Bob & I, of Solid  
Gold Times Two  
helped FONS  
celebrate  
Oktoberfest.  
Club member and  
FONS Officer,  
Joan helped the  
fun by selling  
chances  
on the fifty-fifty  
raffle.**



Mae was out in her yard recently and noticed some forsythia leaves turned color and there were flowers!

She has had the bushes for more than 25 years, but this was the very first time that she noticed the color and flowers. She is wondering if there's something strange going on this year, or if this happened every year and she just never paid attention.

Has anyone else ever noticed this?

## HOW ARE THE FALL GARDENS BLOOMING?

**Mae Grant**

Coreopsis



Asters



Mae said that she just put the Coreopsis and Asters in this year. The Roses, and Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis Formosana* 'Gilt Edge') have been in their spots for many years.

Roses



Toad Lily



## ARLINE'S GAERDEN FLOWERS

### ECHINACEA



### FALL CLEMITIS



### HYDRANGEAS



### **The Folklore of Fairies: Where It All Began**

The concept of fairies has been a part of human culture for centuries, with roots in the folklore and mythology. These tiny, magical beings were often seen as guardians of nature, or mischievous tricksters.

In the 1970s and 80s, there was a resurgence of interest thanks to the growing popularity of fantasy literature and movies.

<https://www.victoria-raikel.com/>

### Barbara McCann

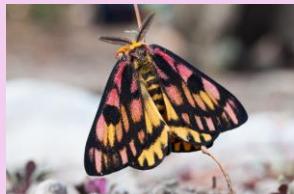
Barbara made this fairy garden for her granddaughter, and she has loved playing with it.



### Garden Moths

Moths like butterflies benefit Connecticut gardens by acting as pollinators, especially for night-blooming flowers. They are active at night and pollinate plants when bees and other daytime pollinators have stopped. Moths also serve as a vital food source for birds and mammals. If you want to encourage moths in your yard, they prefer fragrant pale or white color flowers: examples include moonflower, evening primrose, honeysuckle.

### Sheep Moth



### Spongy Moth



<https://www.newtownbee.com/10292025/my-backyard-habitat->

## Sue's Yard Is Bursting With Flowers



## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE ISLANDS THIS FALL

Island I Team - worked to rake, trim and transfer plants

Joy and Mary Ellen



Josie



Denise and Teri



The last blooms on Island 2



Island 3 Team after cleanup –

Donna, Barbara, Chris, Karen and Elaine





## A Thank You to the Brunch House 1850



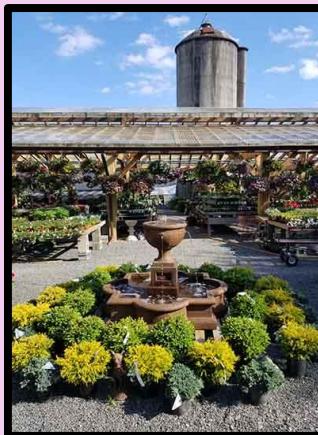
Our club held its first fund-raiser of the year at the beautiful Brunch House 1850 in Southbury on October 20, 2025. Members of the club brought friends and family to enjoy a delicious brunch menu in a stunning and peaceful setting overlooking the Silo Golf Course.

We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to Melissa Dayton (above left) and Fiancé Igli Telo, Owners, as well as their exceptional and experienced waitstaff (for their friendly, pleasant and efficient service) making the day not only a success for the club but a pleasant dining experience for everyone who participated. It was no effort for our club to make a profit of \$260 that day just by enjoying delicious food with our friends and families.

If you didn't get a chance to be with us on October you should check out this restaurant at 137 E. Hill Road in Southbury, for an exceptional dining experience, and once you go, it will become your Go-To destination.

Call (860) 362-1034 or check out their website at: [brunchhouse1850.com](http://brunchhouse1850.com).

Chris Lincoln,



# *Shakespeare's* GARDEN

**25 Obtuse Road South, Brookfield, CT 06804804**

Our own Go-To place, Shakespeare's Garden, offers an irresistible place to stroll, to meander, to saunter leisurely (no rushing allowed) .....as there is so very much to see, admire, desire, covet and crave -- and not be able to resist. Take a short ride and a long stroll ! It's a world of colorful discoveries that'll raise your spirits, put a smile on your face -- and remind you that

**Don't Forget a Gift Card**



Gift cards offer recipients the flexibility to choose their preferred items from a wide range of products or services, making them an ideal choice for any occasion for anyone who enjoys beauty, whether an experienced gardener or not. They provide a convenient and personalized gifting option that allows recipients to indulge in exactly what they want.

*Chris Lincoln*



Autumn!! That word (one of my favorites) has a delightful undertone and October (one of my favorite months) has a soothing feel that brings pleasing thoughts and memories – with its still-warm but crisp temperatures, perfect to keep us gardeners outside, planning, planting, transplanting and cleaning up for Spring. Not to mention the splendid scenery all around us.

After the satisfying labors of Autumn, -- when tired and hungry -- we need a “reward” for our efforts, by heading over to our first choice... Sal e Pepe’s ... with their warm (and pleasant) atmosphere, efficient staff, and exceptional chef.



You can’t help but have a good appetite upon entering this friendly restaurant (after working outdoors in Autumn) where you’ll be engulfed in the scents and smells of great homemade Italian food.

Reward yourself, make a reservation:

[www.Salepeperestaurant.com](http://www.Salepeperestaurant.com)

97 South Main Street  
Newtown, CT 06470  
**203-426-0805**

*Chris Lincoln*



**Nan Merolla**  
President 2025-2027  
The Federated  
Garden Clubs of CT,  
Inc.

MaryAnn Lynn,  
Assistant Treasurer

John Davis,  
Treasurer

Ginny Casanova,  
Corresponding  
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NormaJean  
Macauto, 2nd Vice  
President &  
Membership Chair

Kathy Harris,  
Recording Secretary

Kelle Ruden, 1st  
Vice President &  
Headquarters  
Manager

Terry Lubman,  
Finance Officer

Jean Stetz-Puchalski  
Parliamentarian



**The  
Federated Garden Clubs  
of Connecticut, Inc.**

The Federated Garden Club's 96th Annual Awards Meeting and Luncheon was held on October 22, 2025 to celebrate the end of another wonderful gardening season with friends from across the state.



### Award Winners From Our Club

Chris Lincoln received a Club Certificate of Appreciation from the club for her remarkable dedication, leadership, and generosity since joining in 2013. As President, her organizational skills, commitment, and steady presence have strengthened the club in countless ways.

Jane Sharpe received a Good Deed Citation from the club for her longstanding generosity in hosting the club's summer gatherings at her beautiful Lake Zoar home.

Our club received a Civic Development citation for creating a dazzling tree display at the Newtown Community Center inspired by our diamond anniversary theme.



**15 If you have any suggestions for services that can help club members please send them.**

**LOOKING FOR A HAND? HERE ARE SOME CLUB MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Simply Organized - club member Ellen Kutner's service to declutter and organize spaces  
[www.simplyorg.com](http://www.simplyorg.com) - [simplyorg521@gmail.com](mailto:simplyorg521@gmail.com)
2. Helen, Seamstress. She used to work for David's Bridal  
203-258-0750, 5 Hemlock Rd Recommended by Barbara O'Connor
3. George Papajani-contractor, home projects-painting &? repairs. licensed & insured 203-996-6643- Recommended by Arline Shanley
4. IT person for computer, TV, Home phone problems & set-up-Brian Mullins 203-300-4060 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.
5. Mason work- sidewalks, patios, stone walls-George Pani- 203-482-5589 - Recommended by Arline Shanley.
6. TEED AND BROWN "Lawn Doctor"- recommended by Peg Fillion
7. Danny Casarella DMC Painting Inc. 914-623-2798 Recommended by Barbara McCann
8. Mike Bigelow 203-417-2922. Carpenter and miscellaneous small jobs. Great guy and great price Recommended by Holly Walczak.
9. Dean DeLucia, Carpenter/Contractor (203) 258-1513 Recommended by Chris  
[info@deluciaconstruction.com](mailto:info@deluciaconstruction.com) or [ddelucia61@yahoo.com](mailto:ddelucia61@yahoo.com)
10. Joe Butkus (203) 525-3253) Recommended by Chris who says he's the best plumber.
11. [Pilarshouseclean@gmail.com](mailto:Pilarshouseclean@gmail.com) 203-733-3594 Recommended by Chris who says best house cleaning I've ever had.
12. UBREAKIFIX in the Shoprite shopping center in Brookfield on Federal Road. Hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 PM. Recommended by Barbara O'Connor
13. M.G. Masonry new installations & repairs – email [mgmasonry76@yahoo.com](mailto:mgmasonry76@yahoo.com) . Recommended by Josie Schmidt.
14. Helping Hand Gardening and Yard Work Weeding, Mulching, Planting, Mowing & Rock Wall Repairs - **Call Chrissy 203-707-4807**