



## **1. Next General**

### **Meeting –**

March 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-**

Josie Schmidt  
Barbara O'Connor  
Joy Kopesky  
Betsy Rickert

### **REMINDERS**

1. Board meeting,  
April 24, 5:00 –  
7:00  
Genealogy Room



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

### ***Newtown Connecticut***

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

*February 2025*



Dear Members,  
The bluster, snow and cold of January and February are behind us - - and March is upon us. March offers the promise of warmer weather, long-awaited-for extended daylight hours, and best of all, includes the first day of SPRING. If you take a walk around your property, you'll probably discover some determined little crocuses, snow drops, or daffodils popping up- - designed to raise

our spirits and dispose of our winter blues. It seems almost like a miracle to me to see these tiny flowers struggle up through the heavy wet leaves, fallen branches and even snow.  
March will be a month of planning and learning from our upcoming programs "Nighttime Jewels in our backyards," "Survival by Degrees" and "Shady Characters." We'll be busy planning our plant sale in May and our installation of new officers' dinner in June - - while looking forward to the Duck Race in June and our summer picnic in July. We'll also be rescheduling our workshop which we, unfortunately, had to postpone due to weather.

March brings us closer to seeing the fruits of our efforts of last year and fosters our plans for our gardens for this year. I hope you'll all be able to attend the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chris



Hear is a heartwarming story about our holiday tree from Barbara McCann.

When I was 12 years old in 1966, my father was transferred to Brussels, Belgium to head up a European operation for his company. We moved from Syracuse, New York, sailing aboard the *SS France*, and took as much as we could with us, but we knew we would need to buy most of our furniture in Europe. Once we found an apartment, my mom and dad went on a shopping trip to London and brought back a boatload of European style furniture, including a Marie Antoinette bedroom set that included a crystal chandelier. Years later, when we moved back to the States, the only thing my mom couldn't part with was that chandelier, so it made the trip back aboard the *SS United States*.

Recently, Mom turned 95 and made some practical changes at home, and she asked me if I might like to have the chandelier. It certainly doesn't match my decor, so I said I would take it and find some use for it. And with Jane's and Alexis's help, I did! Some of the crystals adorned our garden club's 60th anniversary Christmas tree! Mom visited this year, and I made a point to bring her by to see the tree. She thought it was spectacular!



There first stop was Dublin, where they saw these step dancers



## ARLINE AND ED SHANLEY TRAVEL ABROAD

While we were home preparing to celebrate the holidays here, Arline and Ed were off to Germany to visit her daughter and her husband. Here are a few highlights from the trip.

This is a photo of a frosty December morning in Munich.



This is the Munich Marienplatz. At 11 and then 12 noon everybody looks up at the tower of the Neues Rathaus. The Glockenspiel rings out: Shortly after 11am, the Bavarian knight reliably removes the Lorraine rival off his horse using a lance; after this comes the animation dance of the Munich Schöffler (barrel-maker), followed by the cheers and the spectators' applause.



Arline saw mistletoe all over Germany. This one was in the garden where her daughter, Audra and her husband have a garden.

Barbara O'Connor made this beautiful centerpiece for her Thanksgiving table.



Later she put it out on the porch and the squirrels, who love carnations came for their Thanksgiving feast.



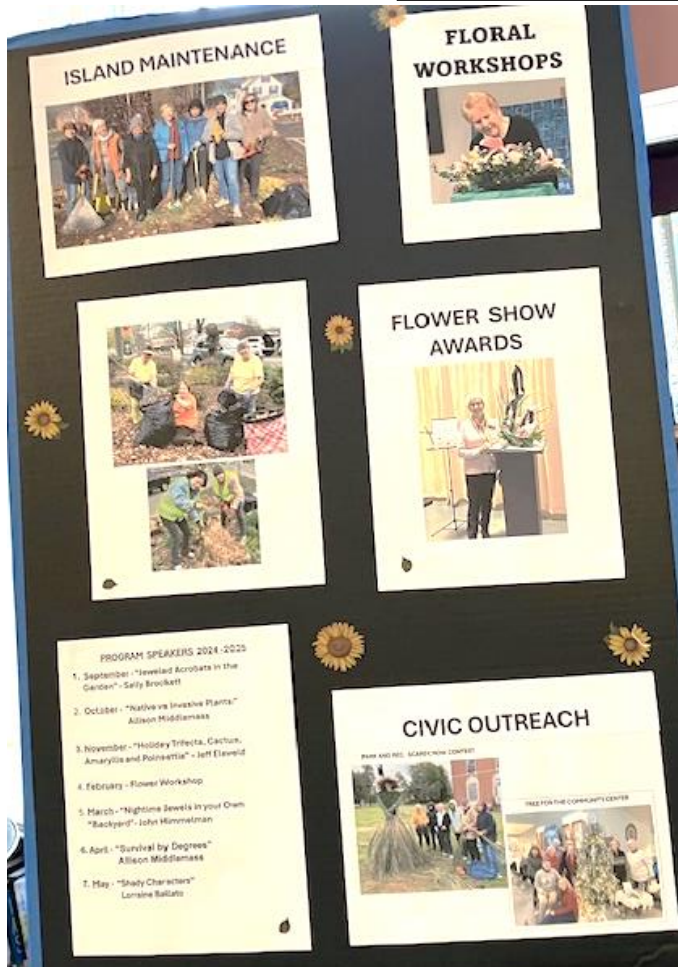
## GLOBAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY

On Saturday, January 25, from 1- 4 pm, C.H. Booth Library hosted a Global Community Engagement Day. This was an opportunity for the community to learn more about the diverse organizations in town and what they have to offer everyone. Chris, Teri, Joy, Joan and I were there representing our club.



### A Club Activity Poster

### Floral Design Pictures



Crescent



S-Curve



Circular



A-symmetrical Triangle



# MARCH 12 GENERAL MEETING

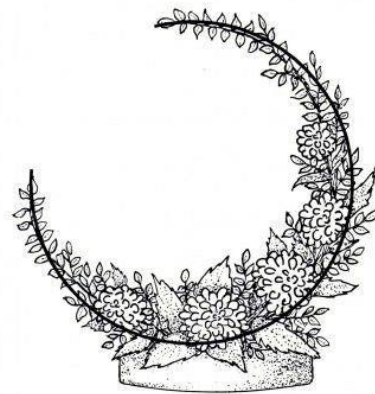
**PROGRAM:** “Nighttime Jewels in your Own Backyard”- John Himmelman



John is a naturalist who makes his living as an author and illustrator. While most of his 70+ books are for children, he also authors books for adults on various topics of natural history. His first in this genre was “Discovering Moths; Nighttime Jewels In Your Own Backyard.” He will explain how to attract moths with lights, and bait and when and where to observe them.

**Exhibits: Antarctica** – “Bottom of the World”

**Artistic** – Line Mass Design similar to line but using more materials. It combines a linear pattern with a mass of plant material in the center. The design uses contrast in color, texture, and line to create a dramatic effect.



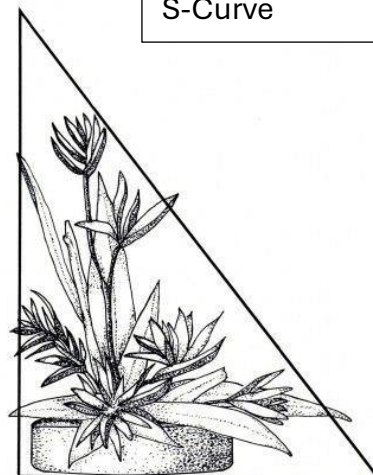
Crescent



S-Curve



Circular or Oval



A-symmetrical Triangle

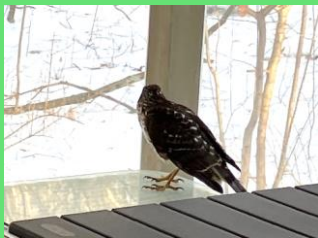
This hawk found his way onto our screened in porch. The door was closed so I haven't figured out how he got in.



After hitting the screen for awhile he hid under the table.



We propped the door open, cleared a straight path, laid down a path of suet and closed the drapes and he was able to fly out to safety.



Josie



# The Federated Garden Clubs of CT SIGNS OF SPRING An NGC Standard Flower Show February 20-23, 2025

Peggy Townsend received a blue ribbon in Division II water signs Pisces, Artistic class **Daydreamer**. Here are a few other designs exhibited.



**Functional semi-formal table for two**



**Petite Underwater Design**

**Reflective Design**



**Landscape Display**

**Low Profile Design**



*Shakespeare's*  
GARDEN

25 Obtuse Rd. s  
Brookfield CT

Hours

Sunday 9 AM–5 PM  
Monday 9 AM–5 PM  
Tuesday 9 AM–5 PM  
Wednesday 9 AM–5 PM  
Thursday 9 AM–5 PM  
Friday 9 AM–5 PM  
Saturday 9 AM–5 PM



*Shakespeare's*  
GARDEN

Shakespeare's Garden, between Christmas and Spring, is unusually quiet and white, with snow-covered tables (instead of usual enthusiastic crowds and green and bright colors) but it remains open and welcoming and always has someone who can help you find something special or answer any questions you might have on plants, shrubs, trees, landscaping, gifts and accessories.

It's still my go-to place (no matter the time of year) for rare succulents that you won't find anywhere else or house plants to get you through the winter. A ride to Shakespeare's Garden is always worth the trip.

Owners, Steve and Mark, don't rest during these few quiet months. They use the time to replenish and research and travel to find products that keep this unique business heads and shoulders above all the rest.

*Make a quick visit, it'll be worth your time.*



**Winter Hours: Thurs.-Sat. 8-5**

**Sun. 9-5**

**25 Obtuse Rd. S. Brookfield, Ct**

**(203) 775-2214**

**Chris**



**Location & Hours**

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

Monday | CLOSED  
Tuesday - Thursday |  
Dinner 4:00 - 8:30  
Friday | Dinner 4 - 9  
Saturday | Lunch &  
Dinner 12:00 - 9:00  
Sunday | Dinner 3:00 - 8



**SAL e PEPE**  
CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN BISTRO

*Thank you*

Connecticut Magazine readers, for voting us  
2025 Statewide Winner  
BEST ITALIAN, FAMILY FRIENDLY,  
MOST ROMANTIC, and OUTDOOR DINING

READERS' CHOICE  
best restaurants  
CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE 2023

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FINALIST  
FINE DINING

203.426.0805 | 97 SOUTH MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN  
WWW.SALEPEPERESTAURANT.COM

*Thank you, T & C members who voted !*

Not to be repetitious (to the box above) but it looks like my favorite restaurant DID IT **AGAIN** ! Of course, I'm not surprised. Sal e Pepe has been voted Best Italian, Family friendly, Most romantic and best outdoor dining by CT Magazine, statewide - - and a Fairfield County finalist for Fine Dining. That's no small feat, considering there are almost 11,000 restaurants in CT.

They prove, again and again that what they say ("Sal e Pepe never disappoints! The food is always excellent and served hot and fresh") is the honest truth.

*If you haven't been, find out for yourself. If you have, refresh your memory.*

*Call for a reservation soon at*

*(203) 426-0805*

*Or check out their menu at [salepeperrestaurant.com](http://salepeperrestaurant.com)*

*Chris*





**FGCCT President  
Karin Pyskaty (2023-  
2025)**

**Mission**



**First Vice President  
Nan Merolla (Wilton  
Garden Club)**

**Second V. P.  
Kelle Ruden (Westport  
Garden Club)**

**Recording Secretary  
Kathy Harris  
(Evergreen Country  
Gardeners Garden  
Club)**

**Treasurer  
John Davis  
(Quiet Corner Garden  
Club)**

**Corresponding  
Secretary  
Lynda Brown  
(Manchester Garden  
Club)**

**Finance Officer  
Terry Lubman  
(Riverside Garden  
Club)**



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

**Upcoming State Events**

March 25 - March 26 Zoom Presentation [Landscape Design School](#)

**Events Around Us**

1. March 6 • 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm [‘The Dahlias!’ – Bethel Garden Club](#)
2. March 20 • 10:00 am - 11:00 am [‘Seed Starting 101’ – Garden Club of Brookfield](#)  
Valley Presbyterian Church 21 West Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT

**Mission Statement of The Federated Garden Club**

**To coordinate, stimulate and encourage higher standards in all aspects of Garden Club work. To protect and conserve our natural resources, preserve our heritage and promote civic beauty.**

WHAT DO YOU GET by paying part of your dues to the Federated Garden Club?

As a Garden Club member you pay dues, \$ 6:00 out of your dues is paid to the Federated G.C. of CT (FGCCT). One dollar out of that covers dues to be a member of the National Garden Clubs, NC(NGC) and .25 (cents) to the New England Region Garden Clubs.

These are the Benefits:

1. Attend Environmental School , Gardening School , Landscaping School and Flower Show School . These are usually offered twice a year.
2. Attend Annual Meeting, Awards Luncheon and President’s Day information Meeting.
3. Apply for Grants.
4. Receive Newsletters, by-monthly by FGCCT, monthly by the NGC and quarterly by NEGC.
5. Participation FGCCT’s sponsored Garden Tours in the USA as well as abroad.

For more information go to : The Federated Garden Clubs of CT. Inc.

[www.ctgardenclubs.org](http://www.ctgardenclubs.org) Username: fgct , password: charteroak

PS.

On point 1; Many members have attended these schools, and it inspired them to new professions.

On point 4; Articles about environmental issues

*Margareta Kotch*

**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 - [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.