



GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD

*The First 100 Years*

1916 – 2016





THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD  
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF MAKING HISTORY

MOUNTAIN LAUREL  
FRONT COVER IMAGE  
BY DEBRA HERR

*At the turn of the 20th century, over 3,000 women urged Connecticut's state legislature to adopt the beautiful Mountain Laurel as the Connecticut state flower. However, not everyone embraced the idea at first. One senator grumbled that floral emblems were unnecessary. Ultimately though, as supportive lawmakers received sprigs of Mountain Laurel on their desks, it prevailed, becoming the state flower of Connecticut in 1907. Mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia) is also called ivybush, calico bush, sheep laurel, lambkill, clamoun, and spoonwood (native Americans used to make spoons from the wood). Almost all of the parts of the mountain laurel are poisonous to wildlife and humans.*



*Oak Leaf Logo*

Created in 2002 by Lisa Stout.



*Bee Celebratory*

Silver Bee Pin with Gold Plated Stripes  
Crafted by Lux, Bond & Green.  
"GCH 100" engraved on back.  
Height 2.5 cm



*Centennial Scarf*

100 Stones for 100 Years, Silk Scarf  
Designed by Sandra Fromson.  
"1916" and "2016" gold lettering  
in opposite corners. 70" x 14"



*Centennial Plant*

Clethra alnifolia "Hummingbird"  
was a gift to each member at the  
May 3, 2016 Annual Meeting.



*Centennial Book*

Distributed to members at the  
October 4, 2016 meeting.



GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD

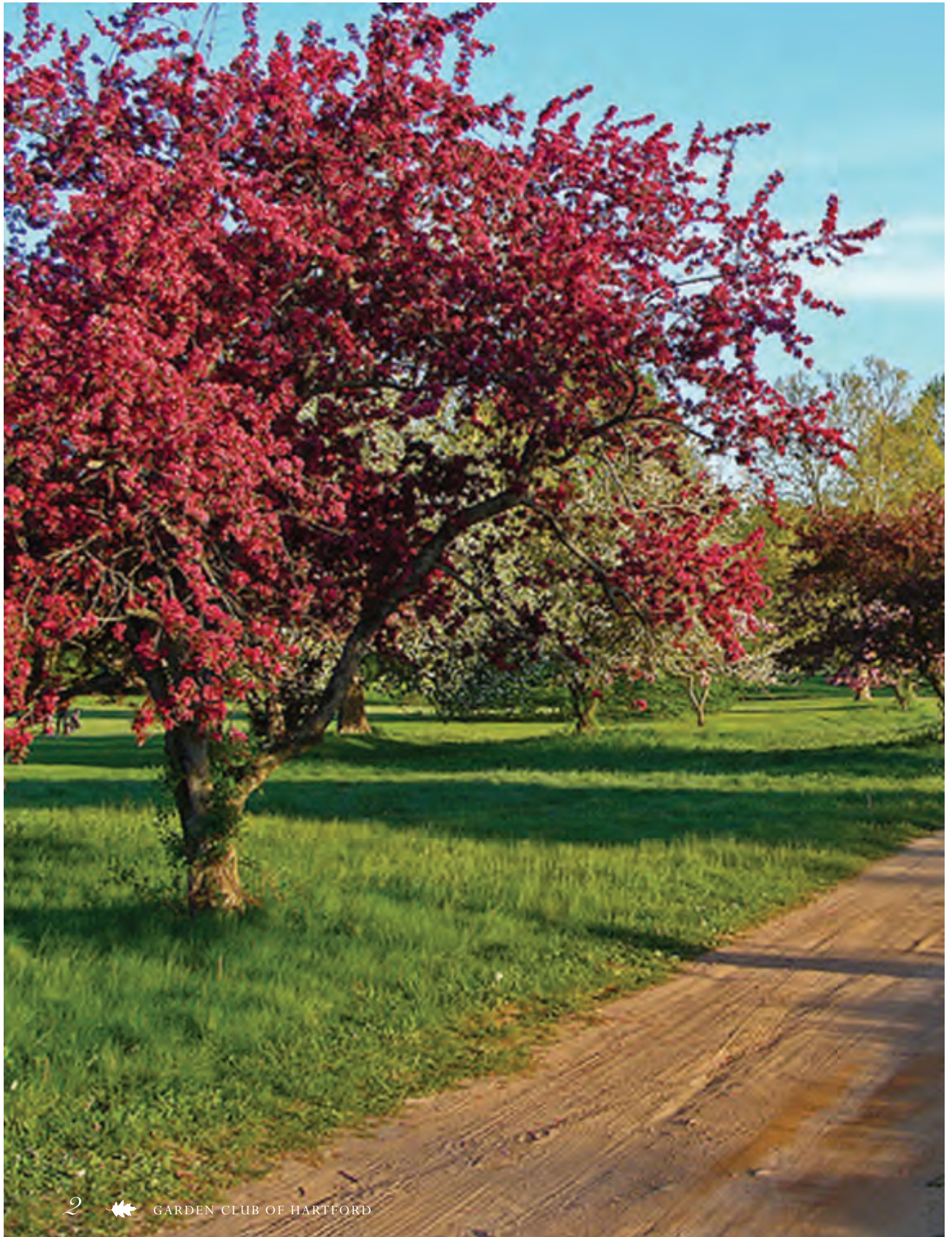
# *The First 100 Years*

1916 – 2016

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*The Mission of the Garden Club of Hartford is to  
“stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening; to share the  
advantages of association by means of educational meetings,  
conferences, correspondence and publications; and to restore,  
improve and protect the quality of the environment through  
educational programs and action in the fields  
of conservation and civic improvement.”*







MARCH 16, 2016

*Centennial Celebration and  
Skit about Our Founding*

Celebration of the 100th  
anniversary of the first meeting  
of the Garden Club of Hartford

Governor's Residence  
990 Prospect Avenue, Hartford

MAY 3, 2016

*Annual Meeting, Awards  
and Plant Exchange*

Photo: Home of Holly Holden  
130 Main Street, Farmington

Meeting: Home of Brie Quinby  
148 Main Street, Farmington

JUNE 7, 2016

*Year End Evening Picnic*

Home of Barbara David  
344 Joshuatown Road, Lyme

*100th Anniversary  
Centennial Committee*

*Committee of Past Presidents*

**Co-Chairmen**

Nannie Brown  
Donna Stout

Kathryn Cox  
Barbara David  
Clare Edwards  
Nina Hayes  
Nora Howard  
Nancy Macy  
Joyce Magee  
Mary Sargent  
Betty Stanley  
Alice Willard  
Brie Quinby,  
*President, ex officio*

**Centennial Historians**

Nora Howard  
Joyce Magee

**Centennial Book Editor**

Joyce Magee

*Photo by Brooke Mallory*

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# “Let’s Have a Garden Club”

## “LET’S HAVE A GARDEN CLUB:” 1916

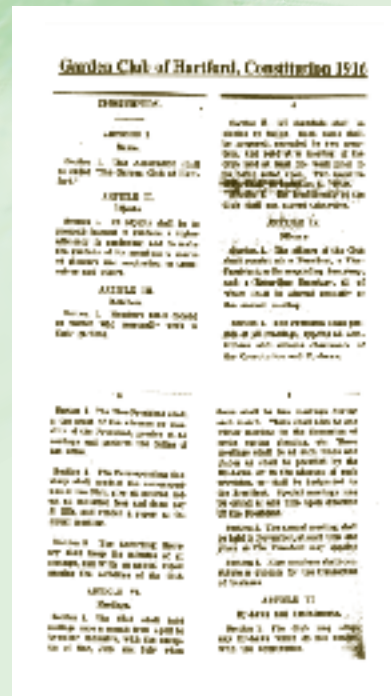
By Mrs. R.W. Gray (Mary), January 1939

“About twenty three years ago in the early spring, having nothing better to do, I set down and wrote a little constitution for a garden club – at that time I had in my back yard a long rose bed and three peonies. In wording this constitution I drew quite freely on the constitution of the Thursday Club. I remember that in one of the articles of this tentative constitution of the Hartford Garden Club, men were to be eligible for membership – perhaps not full membership, but if they assisted their wives in carting water or lifting heavy plants they could become associate members.

Armed with these written suggestions, I went to see my friend, Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice who lived on the corner of Niles and Gillett streets. Mrs. Prentice had a real garden and knew the Latin name of all her plants.

‘Let’s have a garden club’ I suggested genially with the confidence of sublime ignorance. ‘You be the president and I will be the secretary and write all the notes. Here is a little constitution that I have drawn up, and next week we can have a meeting.’ It was just like that.

We had our first meeting very soon at the home of Mrs. Prentice with eight original members present, and Mrs. Wistar Morris to advise us against various pitfalls: ‘Keep the club small,’ she urged, ‘and do not have any dead wood.’ Alas, for the men! It was voted, after some discussion, not to have them.”







*On March 16, 1916, the first meeting of the Garden Club of Hartford was held; eight women were elected members. On March 16, 2016, the current members celebrated the club's 100th birthday. For a century, GCH members have been seizing opportunities and creating change in the greater Hartford area. To commemorate the Centennial and celebrate the history of GCH, Centennial historian, Nora Howard, wrote the following skit, which members presented during the birthday meeting.*

THE GARDEN CLUB OF  
HARTFORD PRESENTS

*"Let's Have a Garden Club!"*

by Nora Howard

Governor's Residence, Hartford  
March 16, 2016

NORA HOWARD  
(stage manager)

Good afternoon! On behalf of the Garden Club of Hartford Centennial Committee, thank you – distinguished guests and devoted club members – for being here today – our 100th birthday! I will start this festive presentation by setting the stage! This is what happened in our founding year: 1916.

- President Woodrow Wilson created the National Park Service.
- The Lusitania had been sunk the previous year, and next year the United States would enter World War I. 63,000 Connecticut residents would serve overseas.
- Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to the US House of Representatives – in a state where women had had the vote for almost 50 years.
- Margaret Sanger opened the first family planning clinic in the United States, in Brooklyn, New York.
- Norman Rockwell created his first cover for the Saturday Evening Post.
- Famous people who died in 1916 were: novelists Henry James and Jack London, and painter Thomas Eakins.
- Famous people born in 1916 were: Betty Grable, Walter Cronkite, Gregory Peck, and Jackie Gleason.



Nora Howard





Nancy Macy

### WELCOME BY NANCY MACY

I’m Nancy Macy, and I am honored to introduce the club’s eight founding women! They will tell you about themselves, and about their first meeting on March 16, 1916 at Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice’s house. Notice that the married ladies in the club were formally known by their husbands’ names. That custom survived the club’s first 70 years. These eight founders would wonder, ladies of 2016, where are your hats and gloves? They WOULD, however, recognize your fine friendships, and your devoted work. Let’s meet the eight founders of the Garden Club of Hartford!

### NANNIE BROWN

Good morning! I’m Mrs. Robert W. Gray (Mary) – I had the idea for a Garden Club of Hartford, and used the Thursday Club’s constitution as a guide. The Thursday Club was a perfect model – a small club in Hartford for women who met regularly to pursue topics of intellectual and cultural interest.

This is exactly what I did after I had the idea. I “went to see my friend, Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice, who lived on the corner of Niles and Gillett Streets in Hartford. She had a real garden and knew the Latin name of all her plants. “Let’s have a garden club,” I said genially with the confidence of sublime ignorance. “You be the president and I will be the secretary and write all the notes. Here is a little constitution that I have drawn up, and next week we can have a meeting. It was just like that.”

### CLARE EDWARDS

Yes, Mary came to see me – Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice (Anne) – on that cloudy and cold day. You may be sure that our constitution was well formed. We had help in writing it from my husband, Mr. Samuel Prentice – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. On March 16, 1916, eight women met at my house to organize the club, elect officers, and adopt the constitution. There were eight in the club: five from Hartford, and three from West Hartford. We paid annual dues of \$1, and had to “personally work” in our gardens. A Visitation Committee checked up on this requirement! At that first meeting, Mrs. Benjamin Wistar Morris, visiting from New York City, advised against pitfalls. Mrs. Morris’s Hartford connections were impeccable. Her father, the Rev. Francis Goodwin, was Hartford Parks Commissioner. It was her father who convinced Charles Pond and Henry Keney to donate their estates for Elizabeth Park and Keney Park. This is what Mrs. Morris advised...

### *A Voice from the Audience* NINA HAYES

“Keep the club small and do not have any dead wood.”

### NORA HOWARD

What else did Mrs. Morris tell you to do?

### *Same Voice from the Audience* NINA HAYES

“Apply for membership in the Garden Club of America!”

### NANNIE BROWN

We DID join the Garden Club of America, three years later in 1919. I was club president twice, treasurer, and the club’s delegate in 1929 to England – for the garden pilgrimage of the English Speaking Union. Removing billboards remained our civic focus. In 1932, I reported to the club that through the efforts of garden club members, “over 2,000 ‘wayside signs’ had been removed from Connecticut, and signage removed from 695 fields during the year.”

### KAY COX

I’m Mrs. James Andrews (Julia). I was a member for 53 years! I was a club president, and



Nina Hayes





Betty Stanley

president of the Colonial Dames of CT, president of the national Colonial Dames, and president of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society. I was a Charter member of the Town & County Club, and helped preserve the Ancient Burying Ground.

#### ALICE WILLARD

*I'm Miss Antoinette Frances Beach.* I was the most senior woman at the founding meeting, at age 64. I loved opening my home and garden for club meetings. My home with my sisters and brother was called Vine Hill, on South Main Street in West Hartford. It was a dairy and sheep farm, and our garden was among the finest. The first general meeting after the initial March 16 meeting was at Vine Hill.

#### KAY COX

I described Miss Beach for a club history: "Vine Hill had a special quality which the young of today will never know... the flower borders... the greenhouses with exotics, the famous strawberries, the house with its inheritance of generations, and Miss Beach herself, detached but aware, kind and wise as a force of nature."

#### BARBARA DAVID

*Hello! I'm Mrs. John H. Buck (Edith).* I was the youngest member, about age 33 when the club was founded. I was the first club secretary, and made award-winning flower arrangements. The club members were women "with many interests and responsibilities," and they "considered the Garden Club of Hartford as a wholesome relaxation." My passion was also getting rid of billboards. The Hartford Courant called our club's work against billboards "a large task of importance" appreciated "by every lover of beauty."

#### JOYCE MAGEE

*I'm Mrs. Albert S. Cook (Charlotte).* I was the club's first vice president. My interest may surprise you, but I shared it with at least six of the club's eight founders: We six were against the vote for women – opposed to women's suffrage. I held a luncheon in 1915, for the Connecticut Association Opposed to Women's Suffrage. This is perhaps not what you might expect of your club founders, but we worried about change, and losing our traditional place in our homes.

#### BETTY STANLEY

*I'm Miss Bertha Parker Dennis, a life member of the Connecticut Humane Society.* In the club, I promoted awards, horticulture, membership, and plantings at the Newington Home and Hospital for Crippled Children.

#### MARY SARGENT

*I'm Mrs. Robert W. Huntington (Constance).* I was a member for 49 years. I wrote a book review

for the Hartford Courant in 1965. I said "Neither [a] book nor [a] picture [is] any substitute [for] a flower lover out in the weather, trowel in hand, knees in the soil..."

#### CLARE EDWARDS

*Anne Prentice here again!*

Mrs. Gray and I gathered six of our friends to start the club. I was the club's first president. I was also president of the Union for Home Work. The name sounds so quaint, doesn't it? But don't let the name fool you.

We worked hard through the Union to make Hartford a better city. The Union for Home Work, founded in 1872, provided Hartford immigrants and residents with classes, job training, laundry services, shelter and food, and much more. The Union would get so big that, today, it includes Camp Courant, Channel 3 Country Camp, Hartford Neighborhood Centers, AND the United Way of the Capitol Area. When the garden club founders met at my house on March 16 in 1916, that founding meeting was "full of inspiration."



Mary Sargent







Donna Stout



Mary Alice Stielau



Amy Schuster

### NORA HOWARD

We stand on the shoulders of these eight women, and those who came after, during our 100 years. We have built on their traditions and have continued their record of community service. The club has had over 350 members, including our only man, Honorary Member Ostrom Enders. Our members have come from 28 towns – and have contributed mightily to the Garden Club of America as volunteers at all levels.

### KAY COX

Our members have served in many Garden Club of American Zone II positions, and on national committees too. We only have time today to note those who led national committees. Garden Club of America Board of Director members were: Elinor Robinson (Mrs. Lucius Robinson Sr., 1933-1935), Peggy Britton (Mrs. John D. Britton, 1967-1970), and Ginna Miller (Mrs. Charles Miller). Tulie Goodwin (Mrs. James L. Goodwin) was the chairman of the Board of Associates (1959). Mary Sargent (Mrs. Joseph Sargent) was the national chair of the Public Relations Committee. Ginna Miller

(Mrs. Charles Miller) was the national chair of the Finance Committee. Our members have received Garden Club of America certificates, awards and medals of merit. Recipients were Amy Anthony (Mrs. Charles Anthony), Barbara David (Mrs. George David), Mary Edwards, Deb Eddy (Mrs. Roger Eddy), Ostrom Enders, Jared and Clare Edwards, Nora Howard (Mrs. Roger Howard) Carol Kohn (Mrs. Bernhard Kohn), Anne Johnson (Mrs. Edward Johnson), Ginna Miller (Mrs. Charles Miller), Betty Stanley (Mrs. Frank Stanley) and Donna Stout (Mrs. Samuel Stout).

### DONNA STOUT

*Speaker for Archives of American Gardens, Club Meetings, NAL*

We are proud of other club traditions: Photographs taken of our gardens span the century, and are in the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens. Club meetings have always featured experts speaking on topics to keep our members educated and proactive – on flower design, conservation, horticulture, photography, and garden history and design. We annually support scholarships through the Garden Club of America and also for

local recipients. Participating in the GCA National Affairs and Legislation Committee meeting, our members have traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in annual workshops and to visit our Senators and Representatives. Following that model, we have held our own Legislative Workshops in Hartford, organized policy discussions at the State Capitol, and supported local conservation issues.

### NORA HOWARD

We will now glance at some of our Civic Projects in each decade. They represent a century of all that is good and gracious and generous about the Garden Club of Hartford.



Susan Rathgeber





Mally Cox-Chapman

**A MEMBER SPEAKS FOR EVERY DECADE:**

**MARY ALICE STIELAU**  
*1916-1919: The First Years*

Our first Civic Project occurred in 1917, the year after our founding. We planted gardens at the Connecticut School for the Deaf, and welcomed children from the Union for Home Work to view members' gardens.

**AMY SCHUSTER**  
*1920s: The Roaring Twenties*

In the 1920s, Ruth Goodwin (Mrs. Charles Goodwin), helped plan and plant the historic garden of the Webb House Museum.



Lisa Bermel



Tanny Clark

**SUSAN RATHGEBER**  
*1930s: The Depression Era*

In the 1930s, we planted 212 trees at Trinity College, including trees that were grandchildren of the Charter Oak. Our work beautified "a desolate, wind-swept tract of several acres" on the campus – at the south end, on Summit Avenue, and on the east border. Under Mary Chapman's leadership, 100 trees were planted in Bushnell Park. We joined the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut in 1934.

**LISA BERMEL**  
*1940s: The War Years*

In the 1940s, during World War II, Edith Kingsbury (Mrs. Isaac Kingsbury) had charge of the Victory Garden at the Old State House. We established Victory Gardens and plantings at Bradley Field, where soldiers embarked for Europe. The club agreed to "stand ready to serve when called."

**MALLY COX-CHAPMAN**  
*1950s: The Fabulous Fifties*

In the 1950s, Mary Edwards, a professional landscaper, designed and supervised the Old State House plantings. Peggy Britton (Mrs. John Britton) fought



Kitty Hickcox

against billboards, and improved the Old State House grounds with new garden beds and trees. She was Club president twice.

**TANNY CLARK**  
*1960s: The Swinging Sixties*

In the 1960s, Mary Edwards wrote the preservation plan for the Seaverns Estate. It was a woodland paradise, donated to the Hartford College for Women by Garden Club of Hartford member Mary Seaverns and her husband Appleton. Helen Waterman oversaw its landscaping and tree labeling.

**KITTY HICKCOX**  
*1970s: The Feel Good Decade*

In the 1970s, Nina Stanley (Mrs. Talcott Stanley) and Nancy Percy (now Nancy Grover) helped the club restore the Mark Twain House landscape for the house's centennial. Hattie Lidgerwood (Mrs. William Lidgerwood) chaired the committee that, along with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club, installed 35 tree identification markers in Bushnell Park in the 1970s. And the club joined with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to raise over \$60,000 to improve the landscape the Old State House grounds.





Katy Sargent

**KATY SARGENT**

*1980s: The Me Decade*

In the 1980s, we raised \$25,000 to plant 25 Kwanzan Flowering Cherry Trees around the pond in Bushnell Park, and they bloomed in time for the 350th birthday of Hartford in 1986. With the Connecticut Valley Garden Club, we raised \$73,000 to restore the Hill-Stead Museum’s sunken garden, based on the original design by Beatrix Farrand. And for this the two clubs won a GCA Zone II Historic Preservation Award.

*[White gloves removed with a flourish, as Katy continues to speak slowly...]*

In 1989 we began to be known by our own names rather than our husband’s names!

**MARCIA HALL**

*1990s: The Networking Nineties*

In the 1990s, the club raised \$4,500 selling Kousa dogwood trees to fund a Knox Parks Foundation program to train Hartford teachers in indoor gardening. We also raised money to pay the utilities for Knox Parks’ new community greenhouse on Whiting Lane.

The greenhouse propagated hundreds of plants for “Hartford Blooms.” We provided 500 daffodil bulbs to Knox Parks’ landscape training program for students to plant in Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground.

**SALLY RICHTER**

*2000s: The Millennium*

In the first decade of the 2000s, we hosted the Garden Club of America’s Zone II Annual Meeting in Hartford – with the theme “Urban Green.” We helped revitalize Pope Park in Hartford by establishing a master plan still in use today – and planted shrubs and 1,000 daffodils. We replanted and irrigated around Bushnell Park’s newly refurbished Corning Fountain in 2003. To celebrate our 90th birthday, we planted 90 trees in Hartford.

**BROOKE MALLORY**

*2010s*

In the past few years, community gardens became our focus. With Knox Parks Foundation, we supported improvements to the Affleck Community Garden in the south end of Hartford. At the Earle Street garden (now



Marcia Hall



Sally Richter

known as the Mount Moriah Community Garden) in the north end of Hartford, members added raised beds, installed irrigation, and raised funds to build a hoop house and a pavilion.

**MARIAN KELLNER**

*2016*

And here are some of our most significant accomplishments on a nationwide stage: two of our civic project proposals have won funds as runners-up for the GCA Founders Fund Award. In 1940: to fund a one-year Scholarship at Columbia University to study Sclerotium delphinni (Black Rot) at the New York Botanical Garden. In 1981: a joint effort with the CT Valley Garden Club to enhance the landscaping of the Old State House.

**NEWS FLASH!**

*GCH voted today for our Keney Park project for the GCA Founders Fund! And we will hear now about our third Founders Fund project!*



Marian Kellner

LINDA LYDON

*Civic Projects / Keney Park*

Our relationship with Keney Park began in 1916, just a few months after our founding. The Superintendent of Keney Park, George Hollister, was a speaker at a June 1916 meeting. He suggested ways in which we could help beautify Hartford, such as covering hideous utility poles with vines, and working with children to create a desire for more gardens in Hartford.

We are now working with Keney Park on a major club project! In 2014, we teamed up with the City of Hartford to rejuvenate Keney Park's five entrances. A \$3,000 award from the Garden Club of America's Partners for Plants program allowed us to put out a challenge to regional university students in landscape architecture to design more inviting entrances to the park. Six teams participated; the first place prize went to a team from Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

In 2015, we voted to plant the Barbour Street entrance as its 2015 Civic Project. Club members, City of Hartford parks staff and members of the Keney Park Sustainability Project and the Keney Park Garden Club worked to clear invasive shrubs, trees and vines and install native plants according to the winning design. In October 2015, we proposed a series of projects at Keney Park for our Garden Club of America Founders Fund award. Our application is called Building Sustainability at Hartford's historic Keney Park. We submitted this project to the Garden Club of America for a Founders Fund award, and are honored to have been chosen as one of the three finalists in the country for 2016. We were a runner-up with a \$10,000 prize, to continue our work in Keney Park.

BRIE QUINBY

*President's Conclusion*

During our initial get-togethers in 1916, the idea of doing service to the greater Hartford community "took root." Today the Garden Club of Hartford can point to a long history of proj-



Brooke Mallory

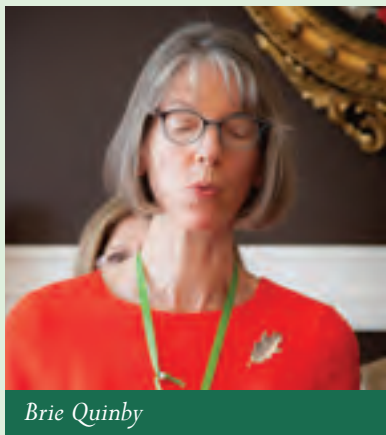
ects that have raised awareness about the environment and made the greater Hartford area greener and more beautiful in ways large and small. We have also planned flower shows, participated in the Wadsworth Atheneum's Fine Arts & Flowers events, shopped at wonderfully creative Holiday Auctions to fund our club's civic projects, gone to Flower Show School, Master Gardener School, and Landscape Design Study School. We've learned about spices, bees, soil nourishment, the best ways to photograph gardens... and everything in between.

Since its founding, our club has donated almost half a million dollars for Civic Projects, and our members have devoted hundreds of thousands of hours of community service. This is a legacy of which we all should be extremely proud. This is a legacy that is sure to inspire our members in future years. The interests and passions of our founders still define our mission. Let us redouble our efforts to embrace their traditions and aspirations and strive to be worthy heirs of the club's best efforts.



Linda Lydon





Brie Quinby



Carrie Hammond



Barbara David



Kathryn Cox

## “CENTENNIAL SERENADE”

Lyrics by Kathryn Cox, sung by Carrie Hammond,  
with accompaniment by Kathryn Cox and Barbara David

*Centennial cheer we hold so dear,  
Our Garden Club of Hartford.  
We weed and seed – we know we need  
To beautify our Hartford.*

*In parks and landmarks we demand  
Harmonious plantings for the land,  
We waived all hats and Snow White gloves  
For Latex feet and brawny hand.*

*We are the very model of a proper club aff-il-i-ate,  
We work and learn prodigiously  
And all our members stimulate,  
We meet and greet and mud our feet.*

*Good conferences we populate,  
[Last four lines sung by Kay Cox, Barbara David,  
and Carrie Hammond together]  
Tea sandwiches, a bit of wine  
And speakers who elucidate...  
(Tea sandwiches, a bit of wine  
And speakers who elucidate)*

– Gilbert and Sullivan, *Pirates of Penzance*, 1879

*Committee strong, we all belong,  
We practice conservation  
In flower design we hold the line,  
And preach Good Preservation.*

*We propagate, know when to prune,  
To Climate-gate we're all attuned,  
Our pollinators we protect,  
Our vectors cause creation.*

*One hundred years of gardening lore  
And friendships we have treasured,  
The rules and tools we learn in both  
Their wisdom can't be measured.*

*So join our song to Celebrate  
The Dames who make our club so great,  
Our GCH March 16th date  
By gardening we'll be pleased.*

– O Tannenbaum, Ernst Anschutz, 16th Century

*Happy Birthday, Ba--aaby!, Marilyn Monroe*

*“Happy Birthday to You” then played by Susie Barney,  
followed by applause and birthday cake.*



Susie Barney

## NOTES ON THE TEXT

**Quotes** were statements written by the founders, and are also found in our 90th Birthday history book. The history is also found in this book, pp. 26, 28-29, 43, 85, 94-95, 110, 112-113. The 1932 billboard history is also in the 1932 GCH Annual Report. Mrs. Buck’s citation letter in the Hartford Courant was on May 24, 1925.

**Alice Fenwick Goodwin Morris** was the daughter of the Rev. Francis Goodwin, Commissioner of the Hartford Parks Commission. He convinced friends

Charles Pond and Henry Keney to donate their estates for parks. Her husband Benjamin Morris was a famous architect and they lived in New York City. The “dead wood” line is a quote from an early club history.

**Knox Parks Foundation** is known presently as “Knox.”

**The Thursday Club**, founded in 1883, was a woman’s club that met weekly. It featured discussions, debates, readings, essays, music, and lectures on topics as diverse as composers, literature, pollen, and women’s education. The membership was limited to thirty, with several men as honorary members. Mrs. Robert W. Gray (Mary), GCH founder, was a member of the Thursday Club in 1916. Information about the club is at the Connecticut Historical Society in the file MS 101133.

**Spouses Names:** The last time we listed members in our annual Directory, in the style of “Mrs. James S. Doe (Jane),” was 1988-1989. Starting in 1989-1990, we listed members as “Jane Doe (Mrs. James S.)”

**1940s:** The club agreed to “stand ready to serve when called...” quote from GCH website history by Brie Quinby.

**The Conclusion** was written by President Brie Quinby, and its final paragraph by Nannie Brown.

**The Performance** took about 30 minutes.

**Turn of the Century Music Played by Susie Barney:**

- Waltz of the Flowers by Tchaikovsky, 1892
- Grace and Beauty by James Scott, 1909
- Alice Blue Gown, Lyric: Joseph McCarthy, Music: Harry Tierney, 1919
- Gladiolus Rag by Scott Joplin, 1907
- Fig Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin, 1908
- Happy Birthday by Mildred J. Hill and Patty S. Hill, 1934





# The GCH Founders

*When the Garden Club of Hartford held its first meeting on March 16, 1916, its founding members were part of a groundswell of interest in public and private parks and gardens. Long before 1916, Hartford had established impeccable credentials in its commitment to green space. In 1853, the Hartford City Council had been the first in the country to vote to spend public funds on a public park and voters approved the motion in early 1954. Goodwin Park, Cedar Hill Cemetery, Keney Park, Elizabeth Park, home to the nation's first municipal rose garden, Colt Park, Pope Park and Riverside Park — all had been established by 1916. By 1916, Hartford was a city of around 125,000 — and a proud leader in the urban parks system. Against this background, the Garden Club of Hartford began.*

*On March 16, 1916, eight women met at Anne Prentice's home to organize the club, adopt a constitution, elect officers and do other business. Five of these charter members lived in Hartford and three in West Hartford. The day was cloudy and cold. Club dues were \$1, and Mrs. Prentice was the first president. A month later, on April 11, 1916, the club held its next meeting and elected six more members. A vote was to include only "women who work personally" in their gardens. The minutes of the first meeting, April 11, 1916, said it was "a meeting which was full of inspiration."*

## MARY KREMER GRAY 1881–1969

It was Mary Kremer Gray's idea to have a garden club. She wrote later that "in the early spring, having nothing better to do, I set down and wrote a little constitution for a garden club...I went to see my friend, Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice...I said genially with the confidence of sublime ignorance. You be the president and I will be the secretary and write all the notes...It was just like that. We had our first meeting very soon at the home of Mrs. Prentice with eight original members present, and Mrs. Wistar Morris to advise us against various pitfalls." [Mrs. Wistar Morris was Alice Fenwick Goodwin Morris, daughter of the Rev. Francis Goodwin, Commissioner of Hartford Parks. Mr. Morris was a famous architect and the couple lived in New York City.]

Mrs. Gray was the club's first treasurer and its second president. The Garden Club of Hartford joined the Garden Club of America in 1919 when she was president. She was club delegate to the 1929 garden pilgrimage of the English Speaking Union. In 1932, Mrs. Gray reported for the State Billboard Committee that more than 2,000 "wayside signs" had been removed and 695 fields

cleaned up during the year. Mary Kremer grew up in New York City. She married Robert Gray, 1876-1945, who would become president of Gray & Prior Machine Company, in 1904, carrying a bouquet of lilies of the valley. The Hartford Courant featured her garden in its June 12, 1927 article on the spring gardens of club members. Mary Gray wrote poetry about nature, friends and the seaside, which she collected into two books, *Selected Poems, Hartford: 1936*, and *Spring Tide, Hartford: Press of Meyer & Noll, 1941*. Mary Gray is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

## ANNE PRENTICE 1864–1924

Anne Combe Post Prentice, was born in New Jersey, and married in 1901. Her husband, the Honorable Samuel Oscar Prentice, (1850-1924), graduated from Yale in 1873. He was Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court from 1913-1920, and helped write the garden club's first constitution. Judge Prentice was also president of Watkinson Library and the Hartford Public Library Association. Anne Prentice was the club's first president from 1916 to 1919. Mary Gray said that her club co-founder, "had a real garden and knew the Latin name of all her plants."

Mrs. Prentice was president of the Union for Home Work, 1910-1924. Upon her death, its superintendent, Mrs. William A. Ayres, noted that Mrs. Prentice was a remarkable woman. "She took a broad view of life in all its aspects... She was a woman of strong impulses for good, and a very firm character, always standing for the right. She delighted in doing good, was thoughtful in caring for others, and never spared herself when she could be of assistance to those in need of help of any kind. She had... a gentle spirit." Mrs. Prentice was on the boards of the Hartford Orphan Asylum and the Visiting Nurse Association. She was a member of the Colonial Dames of America, the golf clubs of Fenwick and Hartford, the Art Society of Hartford, and the Hartford Musical Club. In 1920 she was appointed vice-chairman of the Republican State Committee. She subsequently served that position as an elected official and served in two victorious state political campaigns. In 1924 she was Delegate-at-Large for the Republican National Convention but could not attend the Cleveland convention. [Republican State Committee details in Mrs. Prentice's obituary, Hartford Courant online, July 2, 1924]

Anne Prentice died on July 1, 1924, and her funeral was at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church. Her husband died shortly after on November 2, 1924. His will directed gifts to Hartford: a free bed endowment at Hartford Hospital (if the bed was unoccupied, Asylum Hill Congregational Church could designate someone for it); genealogical books and local histories to the Watkinson Library; and books to the Hartford Public Library.

## JULIA L. ANDREWS 1869–1969

Julia L. Andrews, was born in Chicago. She married a man who was a Supreme Court of Connecticut reporter; she was widowed around 1936 and then lived at 843 Prospect Avenue in Hartford. Mrs. Andrews helped plant at the Webb House and Newington Home for Crippled Children. She was on the billboard committee, 1920s, and club vice president 1924. As club president 1927-1929, she attended the GCA Annual Meeting in Rye, NY. On June 12, 1927, the Hartford Courant included her garden in an article about the club members' gardens. She wrote the 25th Anniversary Club History.

During World War I, she belonged to the Hartford Committee to support Belgian Relief Work. Her letter to the Hartford Courant, January 10, 1915, described visiting New York City's American Headquarters for Belgian Relief. Another letter to the Courant, June 28, 1922, supported the Committee on Americanization and adult education. In another letter to the Hartford Courant, December 19, 1944, she urged that the "Old Burying Ground Should Be Regarded as a Memorial." "As citizens of Hartford, we have before us a rare opportunity. At a comparatively small cost, we may restore to our city an historic piece of ground, and in so doing we shall not only add greatly to the dignity and beauty of the heart of the city but also create a memorial to the founders of Connecticut who lie buried in that soil. But the time for decision is now; and unless we act promptly, another chance to preserve a priceless landmark will have passed..."

Julia Andrews was the first chairman of Wethersfield's Webb House Museum; most likely she strongly advised the Colonial Dames of Connecticut to purchase the house in 1919. She was president of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America 1927-1935, president of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society 1942-1945, and then its Honorary Trustee 1961-1969. Mrs. Andrews was a Charter Member of the Town & County Club and then president 1939-1942; she was also a donor to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's "Legacy Society." Mrs. Andrews moved to California around 1948, but moved back to Hartford later in her life; when she died she was living at a Hartford convalescent home at 80 Wethersfield Avenue. At her death she left only a cousin. Her funeral was at Christ Church Cathedral, and she is buried in the Old North Cemetery in Hartford.

*Mrs. James Parkhill  
Andrews, Julia.  
1055 Prospect Ave,  
West Hartford.  
Charter Member  
1916-1939,  
Honorary  
1940-1969.*





## FRANCES BEACH

1852–1937

Frances Beach was born in Hartford, and she lived at the family home, Vine Hill. She shared it with her siblings, Charles, Edward, Edith and Mary Elizabeth. Today Vine Hill is on the National Register of Historic Places. Miss Beach hosted one of the Garden Club of Hartford's first regular meetings at Vine Hill, 416 South Main Street, West Hartford. Thereafter, it was the popular site of club meetings, teas and the 1917 Strawberry Breakfast.

At 64, Miss Beach was the most senior woman at the 1916 inaugural meeting. She loved opening Vine Hill and its garden and farm to the club and community. Frances Beach's father, Charles Mason Beach, had established Vine Hill as one of the largest dairy and sheep farms in the state. He was a founder of the American Jersey Cattle Club, the American Guernsey Cattle Club, and he was a director of Hartford Steam Boiler.

Frances Beach was active in all aspects of the club; her club lectures included "Palms and Color in the Autumn-Winter Garden." She worked with Mrs. Gray on civic plantings at the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, which the club minutes

of 1918-1919 said were "heroic labors." She was among a group of club members whose entry won the second prize at the 1929 Wadsworth Athenaeum's Flower Show for hardy borders. In 1930, the club visited Vine Hill to see hundreds of blooming Candidum lilies. Gardens and horticulture were central to Frances' book collection, which her brother inherited upon her death in 1937. Miss Beach is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mary Gray wrote a letter to the Hartford Courant in 1937: "The death of Miss Frances Beach is not only a loss to her wide circle of friends but also to all those who are interested in horticulture. Her garden was a delight and an inspiration. From early spring till late fall it presented a series of pictures created by an artist's hand. Here were the long sweeps of color that one sees in English gardens; at Vine Hill one felt as one does when viewing the famous borders at Hampton Court. Miss Beach knew her flowers intimately, their names and their habits, and she was as much at home in the greenhouse as out of doors. The writer has been privileged to see many famous gardens both here and abroad. The garden at Vine Hill, the work of a true gardener, is worthy of a place among the best."



*Miss Frances Antoinette Beach.*



*Vine Hill Parlor. Photo courtesy of Historic New England.*

**EDITH ALBIN BUCK**

1883–1943

Edith Albin Buck was the club's first recording secretary and, at about 33, its youngest Charter Member. She was on the Billboards and Conservation Committee from 1923 to 1935 and perhaps longer. In 1925, she was chosen by the Garden Club of America to chair the eastern zone of the national Billboards and Roadside Committee. This was a great honor, as at this time there were only two chairs, the eastern and the western. The Billboard committee was an effective one. By 1925, the Hartford Courant was reporting that "the committee already has accomplished a great deal, and is carrying forward a large task the importance of which is realized by every lover of beauty." In 1925 Connecticut apparently passed a law levying three cents per square foot on billboards. By 1929, Mrs. Buck was speaking to out of state groups on ways to restrict billboards, noting that the law had noticeably reduced billboards in Connecticut.

Mrs. Buck was originally from Concord, New Hampshire, and she completed two years of college. She belonged to the Woman's Saturday Afternoon Club. Edith's husband, John Halsey Buck, 1869-1957, was a lawyer, and the son of Congressman John R. Buck. He held civic and business posts, and was president of the Twentieth Century Club. Mr. Buck was on the board for 50 years of the "Deaf and Dumb Institute." He invited the Garden Club of Hartford to plant 200 bulbs and evergreens on the Institute's property, and this was the club's first civic project. The bulbs were donated by Miss Dennis and Miss Beach. At John Buck's death, he was a senior member of law firm of Buck, McCook, and Kenyon.

The Buck's garden was included in a Hartford Courant article in 1927 on spring gardens of the club members. Edith Buck was active in flower arranging, and 1932 minutes praised her "flower arrangements of infinite variety." In the 1939 club history, she wrote that the club's members had "many interests and responsibilities," and that they considered "the Garden Club of Hartford as a wholesome relaxation." The Buck's also owned a home in Glastonbury called "Wassuc."

**CHARLOTTE B. COOK**

1869–

Charlotte B. Cook, born in 1869, became the club's first vice president in 1916. Interestingly, in 1911, she, along with five other charter members, had signed a petition against suffrage. It was also signed by Mrs. James P. Andrews, Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice, Mrs. Robert W. Huntington, Miss Bertha P. Dennis, and Mrs. John H. Buck:

"We, the undersigned women citizens of the State of Connecticut, do hereby petition the Assembly of our state not to pass the woman's municipal suffrage bill which will come before it. In spite of the demands of a few insistent women, the large majority of women in this state have not asked for and do not wish any further extension of suffrage, and the attendant burdens which it would force upon them."

By 1913, Charlotte Cooke had a car registered in her name. Her husband Albert Cook was president of Asa S. Cook Co. In May, 1928, reported the Hartford Courant, the Cook's returned from spending the winter abroad and went to Washington, Connecticut for a month.

**BERTHA PARKER DENNIS**

1867–1946

Bertha Parker Dennis took part in many club activities – awards, horticulture, membership, and planting at the Newington Hospital grounds. She was a life member of the Connecticut Humane Society.

The Hartford Municipal Register for 1900 recorded that Bertha Dennis lived on Washington Street with Rodney Dennis, Grace Dennis Cutler, and Charlotte W.D. Little. The Cutler name would appear in the GCH membership rolls for several generations. Miss Dennis' garden on Washington Street, reported the Hartford Times on July 8, 1916, was "mellow," "age-ripened" and "one of the oldest in the vicinity."

Miss Dennis later resided in Hartford at 84 Forest Street and at 50 Forest Street. Miss Dennis had a summer home in South Lyme. In 1921, she and several others donated Javanese marionettes to the Wadsworth Atheneum to use in shadow plays. Bertha Dennis is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.





CONSTANCE ALTON  
WILLARD HUNTINGTON  
1881–1965

Constance Alton Willard Huntington was born in Lexington, Massachusetts, and graduated from Radcliffe College in 1903. In 1906 she married Robert Huntington, who became president of Connecticut General Life Insurance Co.

In the 1920s, Mrs. Huntington chaired the Garden Club of Hartford's Wildflower Committee. In 1932 the committee successfully stopped the City of Hartford from using ropes of Laurel as Christmas decorations. In 1926, she attended the GCA Annual Meeting in California. She won first prizes at the 1930 Connecticut Horticultural Society Flower Show, was club president, 1939-1941, and was the fourth recipient of the club's Josephine H. Maxim silver Oak Leaf Award in 1940. At the club's 25th anniversary celebration, held May 22, 1941 at the Town & County Club, there were silver baskets of white flowers decorating the table. At one end sat Mrs. Huntington, surrounded by ex-presidents, who were presented with halos – a tribute to having survived the strenuous life of being a garden club president. The halos were “properly adjusted at the most becoming angles,” noted a club history. Entertainment included skits, poems, stories, songs.

Mrs. Huntington was a trustee of Radcliffe College, a trustee of Bushnell Memorial Hall, and a founder of the Oxford School for girls. From 1931 to 1939, she was on the Garden Club of America's Board of Editors. Trinity Episcopal Church's Huntington Hall, on Sigourney Street in Hartford, was Mrs. Huntington's gift in memory of her husband. Their son, Trumbull Huntington, youngest of their six children, established Huntington's Bookstore in Hartford, Middletown, and West Hartford. Constance Huntington is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

*In 1955, she reviewed House & Garden's New Complete Book of Gardens for the Hartford Courant:*

*Our garden work done, Mr. Wright tells us to use this volume before an afternoon nap. Neither bedroom nor flower bed seems its best habitat, but the desk or table, where sitting with it pages open before us, we may travel from Texas to California, and back again via Miami to Cape Cod. One can spend hours at this flower show without aching feet or the need of any wheel chair.*

*What I miss in this picture book is reality. The stage is set but it is deserted. The outdoor world has no people about. Surely all the gardeners and laborers could not have put up their shovels and gone home? Where are the guests for the empty chairs set around overloaded tables on lonesome terraces?...The camera in these clever hands today has almost brought the garden into the house and to the shut-in. Neither book nor picture are any substitute to a flower lover out in the weather, trowel in hand, knees in the soil and rose bush of his own raising, near his nose.*



*Constance  
Alton Willard  
Huntington.*



# The First 100 Years

Since March 16, 1916, Garden Club of Hartford members have been meeting to enlarge their own and the public's knowledge of horticulture, conservation, flower design and so much more. Frequent meetings coupled with speakers, workshops, demonstrations and hands-on projects have helped educate members on topics from garden layout and flower arranging to the importance of good river ecology and trees in the urban landscape.

From the beginning, the group has been determined to hold as many meetings as possible in members' homes. Every member was also to be subjected to an annual visitation of her garden from a club delegation to make sure things were up to snuff! During these initial get-togethers, the idea of doing service to the greater Hartford community "took root," and today, GCH can point to a long history of projects that have raised awareness about the environment and made the greater Hartford area greener and more beautiful in ways large and small. We have planned flower shows, participated in the Atheneum's Fine Arts and Flowers, documented gardens, shopped at wonderfully creative and financially productive Holiday Auctions, gone to Flower Show School, and learned about spices, bees, soil nourishment, the best ways to photograph gardens, taken Master Gardener courses and everything in between.

The first members, eight in all, committed themselves to beautification, among other goals. That first year, they voted to spend \$200 to plant a strip of unused land at the Connecticut School for the Deaf, then located on Asylum Avenue. Today it is known as ASD, American School for the Deaf. Since then, GCH has raised nearly \$450,000 to either initiate or support such varied projects as restoring the landscape at Bushnell Park's Corning Fountain, assisting with Pope Park and Jubilee House landscaping, giving Hartford youth training in horticulture, and partnering with Knox Parks Foundation to create community gardens in a number of Hartford neighborhoods.

## 1920s

### THE ROARING TWENTIES

In 1919, the club was admitted to the recently-formed Garden Club of America. And early in the 1920s, GCH began another beautification project. The Colonial Dames had acquired the old Webb home in Wethersfield in 1919; the home "in which Washington stayed, and where he is said to have planned the Yorktown campaign... [and] the club looked with favor on the idea of restoring the garden, or at least of creating a period garden; and Mrs. Charles Goodwin was appointed chairman." This garden was a border running along the front of the house; today, not much of it survives.

The Twenties saw a further commitment to beautification with plantings at such institutions as the Mitchell House Settlement and the Hartford Social Settlement – now part of the Hartford Neighborhood Centers – as well as the Newington Home for Crippled Children and the new YWCA building.



Right: Photo by Brooke Mallory





1930s

## THE DEPRESSION ERA

The early 1930s saw a change in some of the club's financial focus. The resources of many club members, and the money raised by an annual Flower Mart, meant that significant donations could be made to such organizations as the Unemployment Relief Fund of Community Chest. Children's art classes were funded as were scholarships for teachers to attend various nature camps. The club joined the newly-formed Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, first paying dues as a member in 1934.

But the horticultural focus never ceased, and by 1934, the Flower Mart proceeds (\$1,769) were being funneled to the restoration of the grounds at the Old State House. In 1937, the club took on a major tree planting project at Trinity College – the “beautifying of a desolate, wind-swept tract of several acres on the Trinity College campus (the south end). The horticultural committee had charge of the planting which followed an existing landscape plan. As 1937 was the sesquicentennial of the signing of the Constitution, it seemed fitting to dedicate three (20 foot) white oak trees to the three Connecticut signers of the Constitution (William Samuel Johnson, Oliver Ellsworth, and Roger Sherman).

“These were planted at a special ceremony on March 30th and were accepted by President Ogilby on behalf of the college. A row of 25 pin oaks, each donated by a member of the club, was also planted on Summit Avenue, as well as 80 Japanese cherry trees given as a memorial to a former member. On the east border a screen planting was put in consisting of 50 Douglas firs, 17 Austrian pines and 34 dogwoods. The Hartford Superintendent of Parks, George Hollister, obtained three grandchildren of the original Charter Oak from Peter Cascio, which were donated. In all, 212 trees were planted, representing an investment of \$579.00.” (Taken from the minutes of the 1938 annual report.) Today, some of those Summit Avenue oak trees still remain.

1940s

## THE WAR YEARS AND BEYOND

In 1940, GCH members voted to end the Flower Mart efforts – the work involved detracted from the energies needed for the war efforts. Labor and gas shortages during the war years meant that both harvesting and shipping food to markets was hard. The government solution was to call on citizens to plant Victory Gardens so families could become more self-sustaining. Told, “A garden will make your rations go further” and “Our food is fighting,” the public sprang into action. Urban rooftops, backyards and empty lots became gardens and suburban vegetable gardens were enlarged, all in the patriotic effort. Families were encouraged to can their own produce so that commercial foodstuffs could go to the soldiers. Answering the call, Americans bought 315,000 pressure cookers in 1943, up from 66,000 in 1942.

Following the directive of the Federated Garden Clubs to “help the Land Army in every way possible,” the Garden Club of Hartford, along with other garden clubs in the area, became quite involved in encouraging Victory Gardens and in supporting the war effort in a variety of ways, including establishing plantings and Victory Gardens at Bradley Field, a major embarkation field for bombers on their way to Europe.

By March 1944, beautifying Bradley Field had become a major focus of our Club. With all the manpower available at the base, and with planting and cultivating gardens considered “recreational work” by the staff at the Bradley Field Hospital, the state had offered 100 trees to beautify the grounds. The minutes of the March 28th meeting reveal the club would “like to plant shrubbery and flowers in the Red Cross Area, as this is very barren now. The soldiers will care for these.” By June, the quadrangle at Bradley Field had been successfully planted with shrubs and hollyhocks under the supervision of the Cascio Nursery Co. and with the help of men from the base.

Victory Gardens and war efforts weren't over, though. In 1944, GCH members agreed to help man a booth for three days “at G. Fox's, where literature will be given out with information concerning vegetables...Mrs. Terry offered \$5.00 for charts, which will explain about vegetable planting, and can be given out at the booth.” By April, Club members had also agreed to “stand ready to serve when called” to help at a local garden near the State House.

## 1950s

## THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

The early 50s saw a concerted effort to invest in education with donations made to aid educational efforts at UConn and Yale and for tuition for summer nature camp attendees. Two teachers were sent to the University of Connecticut for summer conservation courses in 1953, and that same year, conservation information was placed in 17 West Hartford schools. Apparently, these packets were impressive enough for a Mr. Kiersted of the Ford Foundation to order 30!

By the mid 50s, the club's attention was again turned to the Old State House, when, in 1954, Mr. Piester of the State Park Board asked for GCH's help in enhancing the State House grounds. Mr. Tunnard, civic planner and professor at Yale, was hired by the club to make landscape plans and by 1955, a five-year plan was in place. The plan cost \$5,500, and with assistance from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the club moved forward. By 1958, members were planting, watering and maintaining beds. 30 elms and 10 dogwoods had been planted, their maintenance handled by the city.

As a result of work of the Conservation Committee, in 1957, two youth achievement citations were awarded in Hartford schools by the Garden Club of America: one to the Audubon Club of West Middle School for their Science Museum and another to members of a social studies class at Weaver High School for their fish brush shelter (an interwoven pile of brush; when anchored 8 to 12 feet down in a lake it provides both habitat and food for fish – and a convenient place to settle in for the catch).

## 1960s

## THE SWINGING SIXTIES

By 1960, the club had completed the re-landscaping of the Old State House grounds (1954-1959), and garden club members were searching for another major civic project. That spring, Club member Mrs. Robert Huntington proposed that the club consider the former Seaverns estate grounds at the Hartford College for Women for its next civic project.

Mrs. Charles Seaverns had been a beloved GCH member (member-at-large, 1926; member 1929-1947). The club's annual report for 1962 noted that "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seaverns left this beautiful estate to Hartford College. It is most fitting that our club is active in helping to maintain the lovely grounds, as Mrs. Seaverns was a member of this club and both Mr. and Mrs. Seaverns were members of the Garden Club of America."

The Hartford Courant reported that the Seaverns estate "was once renowned for its rare shrubs, beautiful trees and native wild flowers." The Garden Club's aim was the "preservation of a heritage at the Seaverns estate...a woodland paradise in the heart of Hartford."

Club member and professional landscaper Mary Edwards created the master plan. The college and the club identified such needs as repair of the 1/4 mile hedge bordering the street, called "shaggy and toothless" by the college president, planting additional azaleas on the east bank (Mrs. Seaverns had collected azaleas) and transplanting pachysandra.

The club hired Mr. Ludwig Hoffman to prune straggling specimens, but real improvement took awhile. Program Committee Chairman Helen Waterman wrote that "Some viewers think Hartford College looks a little worse, if that is possible, for the tender care lavished on it by the Garden Club." The Committee had removed so much dead wood from the hedge that there were a "couple of 'telegraph poles' where formerly stood wistful holly trees. But NEXT year things will be different." By 1965, the club declared the project finished to its and the College's satisfaction.

In the Fall of 2005, Club members Margah Lips and Nora Howard visited the College grounds. Larry Jesse, groundskeeper for 32 years, showed the visitors around. They found that most of the club's work was no longer there. As times changed, security issues had taken precedence over lush landscaping and extensive upkeep wasn't possible. Mr. Jesse acknowledged the changes. "It had its day," he said. Such is the ephemeral nature of gardens.



## 1970s

### THE FEEL GOOD DECADE

In 1970, several GCH members completed the project of furnishing the Mark Twain House Memorial Conservatory with both a pictorial chart of plant material and the plant material authentic to the time of Samuel Clemens. By 1973, the Club had grander plans for the Mark Twain House, voting unanimously to approve the restoration “to its original” of the grounds in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the house. The membership approved a request for \$2,000 to restore the grounds to its late 19th century state. The project was completed in 1974.

Next on the agenda was the first of the club’s projects in Bushnell Park, a milestone in the history of public spaces. In 1854, the people of Hartford, under the leadership of the Rev. Horace Bushnell, voted to create this public park, making “City Park,” as it was called until Bushnell’s death the first in the world to be voted for and financed through popular referendum. It was also the first public park planned as a graceful landscaped setting rather than a formal European garden or a traditional New England square. The Swiss-born artist and draftsman, Jacob Weidenmann, designed and oversaw landscaping for the new park.

One of the first projects for the Park undertaken by GCH involved naming and labeling its trees. According to the club’s May 1975 annual report by the Civic Projects Committee:

“During the fall, Nina Stanley and Nancy Percy, both of this Committee, met several times with Sarah Seymour of the Connecticut Valley Garden Club and with Victor Jarm and Jerry Allen of the City Parks and Recreation Department to plan our joint project for placing tree identification markers in Bushnell Park. Approximately thirty-five trees will be identified in the area between Jewell Street and Elm Street. . . \$125 was voted for this project by our Club last December. . . This Committee feels that much more planting could be done in Bushnell Park. Should the club wish to expand the Bushnell Park project in the future, I believe that a good working relationship has been established.”

## 1980s

### THE ME DECADE (BUT NOT FOR US)

And, in fact, GCH did endorse more planting in the park. In May 1983, the club voted to raise \$25,000 to fund tree plantings, including soil preparation and labor, of the pond area in Bushnell Park. This was part of an overall restoration plan for the Park prepared by Peter Rothschild of the landscaping firm Quennell Rothschild Associates and under the direction of Sandy Parisky of the Bushnell Park Foundation, Inc. The plan called for 26 flowering cherry trees to be planted in groups around the pond. Trees were planted by the spring of 1985 so they would flower for the 350th birthday of the city of Hartford in 1986. The trees eventually chosen were 21 Sargent cherries, which have light pink blossoms, turn vivid red in the fall, have interesting tactile bark and are proven good “street” trees in terms of withstanding city pollution. There were also five Shirhofugen cherry trees with blossoms that open pink and turn white.

Not resting on their laurels, in the winter of 1985, GCH voted on a joint project to raise \$50,000 with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to restore the Sunken Garden at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington.

The Hill-Stead was built as a country house in 1901 for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Atmore Pope. Plans for the home were drawn by their daughter, Theodate, one of America’s first women architects, who worked with the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White to design a clapboard house in the Colonial Revival style. Its main garden, the walled Sunken Garden, had been grassed over in the 1940s when it became impossible to maintain due to World War II and labor shortages. The garden clubs, with the Hill-Stead Board of Governors, made the decision to restore the garden to the era of 1910-1930. The Board of Governors hired Chauvan Towers of Peter Roland Associates to be the landscape architect. The clubs worked with her to research the types of plants that would have been used in that time, hiring Diana Balmori as an historical consultant.

Shauvan Towers used old photographs from 1910 and documents from the museum archives to create a layout like that of the original garden. Using the 1901 Summerhouse as the center feature, the intent was to duplicate the character of the old garden, which had been designed to follow the geometry of the eight-sided Summerhouse.

## 1990s

## THE NETWORKING NINETIES

In the spring of 1986, Jared Edwards, husband of GCH member Clare Edwards, saw the catalog for a traveling exhibit showcasing the work of Beatrix Farrand. Among the 11 practitioners who founded the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899, Farrand had been the only woman. In the catalogue appendix was a list of undated commissions, including one for Mrs. J.W. Riddle, which was Theodate's married name.

Farrand's drawings were located at the University of California's Department of Landscape Architecture and were sent to Hill-Stead. Shauvan Towers' plans proved to be quite similar to those of Farrand; the garden committee, however, decided to follow the Farrand plan as much as possible for historical accuracy in both layout and planting material.

Fundraising for this effort proved extensive. First, a plant and garden sale called May Market was held in 1986 at the museum, highlighting vendors such as Oliver's Nursery and J&L Orchids. The sale also featured perennials from members' gardens, trough gardens made by members, and unusual annuals. (May Market continues to this day, and its proceeds still benefit Hill-Stead and its Sunken Garden.)

A second fund raising effort was a trip to England from May 17 to 31. The trip was sold out and \$150 from every ticket was donated to the project. The group visited the Chelsea Flower Show, had lunch with Sheila McQueen, and also visited country gardens.

The final event was a gala event held at Renbrook School. The black tie event, with an Edwardian theme, was a great success. Tickets cost \$250 per couple and \$500 for patron couples. The evening also featured a brief auction.

The opening of the restored Sunken Garden was held on June 21, 1988. The museum Board of Governors has since maintained the garden with staff and a group of dedicated volunteers. Today the garden continues to give pleasure to museum visitors, and thousands enjoy the atmosphere on summer evenings during the Sunken Garden Poetry Festivals.

Computers, online access and cell phones made for major changes in communications during the 90s. But 1990 also marked the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, the American Forestry Association's call for "Global ReLeaf" and President George H.W. Bush's urging Americans to plant "one billion trees per year for the next ten years." GCH responded with the sale of Kousa dogwood trees to raise \$4,500 for a Knox Parks Foundation effort to train five Hartford teachers in the indoor gardening program, including supplies, equipment and a classroom grow lab.

Throughout the 90s, the Garden Club of Hartford teamed up with the Knox Parks Foundation in a variety of ways. We started "the Greenhouse Project" and provided electricity, gas and water services for Knox Parks' new community greenhouse at the old Whiting Lane greenhouse in West Hartford. We used the greenhouse for planting hundreds of pots for the "Hartford Blooms" citywide project. Knox Parks landscape training program students planted our gift of 500 daffodil bulbs in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground. GCH's commitment to beautification was – and is – still going strong!





## 2000s

### THE MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

GCH kicked off the new century with great style. The Garden Club of America's 200 member clubs are divided into zones: GCH is one of 20 Connecticut and Rhode Island clubs in Zone II, and 2000 was our year to host the Zone II annual meeting. The theme was "Urban Green," and one focus was the project GCH was then deeply involved in – the revitalization of Pope Park.

Colonel Albert Pope gave this park to the city in 1895 for the use of city residents and his employees who worked at the Pope Manufacturing Company, at that time the world's largest manufacturer of bicycles and high quality automobiles. Pope's workers lived in city tenements, and he had hopes of improving their living conditions with the creation of the park. The Olmsted brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, designed the park in 1898. Originally 93 acres, the park included a large meadow, a sunken garden, tennis courts and a meandering walk along the Park River.

Time, however, had not treated the park well. The meadow was replaced with sports fields; a new road was cut through the park; Interstate 84 was built along its edge, taking yet more land; and the Park River was buried. Park use dropped and vandalism increased, but the building of the Pope Park Community Center in 1995 reversed this trend. The formation of the Friends of Pope Park, to help promote community involvement in Park issues, led to the Garden Club of Hartford's involvement. The club was invited to join the Friends' Board and its Beautification Committee.



*Zone II 2000 Logo*

Staff at the Community Center, the City of Hartford Parks Department, the Department of Public Works, HART, and committee members from GCH spent two years planning the changes that would give Pope Park a more welcoming face. The work began with plantings around the entrance to the center and digging in 1,000 daffodils in October 2001. The overall master plan, reflecting new uses of the park while preserving and honoring the original Olmsted design, was adopted in the fall of 2002. The Garden Club of Hartford, along with the Friends of Pope Park, hoped for a park that: fit the needs and desires of the community; was not further compromised; called attention to the fact that Pope Park is historically important; stressed the importance of conserving and restoring city park space; and encouraged future financial support from the corporate and private community. Today, Pope Park is a thriving and beautiful community-gathering place.

Urban Green was also at the heart of the replanting efforts around Bushnell Park's newly refurbished Corning Fountain in 2003. And to celebrate our 90th anniversary, we vowed to plant 90 Trees for 90 Years throughout the city of Hartford. This was accomplished throughout 2004-2006 working with Knox Parks Foundation.

Another ongoing project for GCH members has been documenting gardens for the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens ([www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research](http://www.gardens.si.edu/collections-research)). "The Archives of American Gardens (AAG) offers landscape designers, historians, researchers, and garden enthusiasts access to a collection of over 100,000 photographic images and records documenting historic and contemporary American gardens," notes the website. Since 2000, GCH has documented 12 gardens, and the effort is ongoing.

## 2016s

WE CELEBRATE 90 YEARS...  
AND THEN WE ARE 100!

As Garden Club of Hartford members looked forward to the club's 2016 centennial, civic projects in the Hartford area continued to be a chief focus. To fund these, the club called on the creativity of members and embarked upon two major ventures. Beginning in 2008, members spent two years cooking, tasting and sharing recipes as they winnowed down the choices and arrived at the best for a club cookbook, "Simply Sensational," a collection of recipes our families and guests have raved about! And in 2011, the club turned to its photographers for images of trees to use in a series of notecards, which went on sale in 2012. Both resulted in healthy additions to the bottom line of the Community Trust Fund.

Since our 90th birthday, community gardens – creating homegrown food sources in neighborhoods where access to fresh food may be less than ideal – has been a focus of a number of Club projects. In 2010, GCH again worked with Knox Parks Foundation – now called simply Knox – this time on improvements to the Affleck Street Community Garden in Hartford. The two groups added more raised beds to the existing garden, installed a tool shed and improved the irrigation system. The Mt. Moriah gardens were next; located at Earle Street in Hartford's North End, they were the focus of efforts to prepare beds, build greenhouses, add a pavilion, and extend water lines to the new beds and the small orchards.

Today, Keney Park is getting our attention. In 2014, the club was awarded a grant from the Garden Club of America's Partners for Plants program, working in partnership with the City of Hartford, to initiate a regional design competition for the five entrances to the Olmsted Brothers-designed Keney Park. Regional landscape architecture and design students were challenged to create more beautiful and welcoming entrances. Students were asked to use native trees and shrubs, as the original designers had done, and to focus on plants that would attract endangered pollinating insects such as bees and Monarch butterflies, provide multi-season color and interest – and not need much maintenance! Students were also asked to devise plans for invasive plant removal. First place

was awarded to Stephanie Hsia and Lara Mehling, students at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. The judges noted their plan was "beautifully presented, thoroughly researched [with] a remarkable sensitivity to the Olmsted legacy."

In 2015, the club applied for the 2016 Garden Club of America Founders Fund Award, a \$30,000 GCA award given annually to a club for an exceptional community project. Building on the work at Keney Park, we suggested a number of ways that we might spend those funds – from signage, to planting the entrances, to developing a training course on urban park care for the City Parks staff and the many volunteers who care for Hartford's 2,000 acres of city parks. We are honored to be one of three finalists.

With our March 16, 2016 birthday celebration come and gone, we are proud to be the club we have always been – one that looks forward to a dynamic future while continuing a legacy of great projects, learning and fun.

Stay tuned...

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*Holly Holden, Diane Brown, Nannie Brown, Patty Kent  
celebrate the 90th Birthday.*



# 25th Anniversary 1941

## THE HARTFORD GARDEN CLUB: 1916 – 1941

by Mrs. James Andrews

*In March of 1916, the Hartford Garden club was organized at the house of Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice. The anniversary party of last April marked the span of twenty-five years, and our President, Mrs. Huntington, to whom one can refuse nothing, has asked for a history of the club's quarter century. So here is the offering, and with it may the deponent suggest some of the difficulties that face such a task? No audience of today, used to a comfortable chair and a radio switch, has the patience to sit under long discourse, and of all possible dullness, lists of names and causes, however worthy, take the blue ribbon. But how to do justice in a scant half hour to so many years of concerted effort? Compromise is the answer; you will hear today only the airiest outline of our story, but a business-like summary, giving names, dates and figures will be filed for reference.*

One word more. Since Hollywood has robbed our language of all the adjectives that the daily press had left unspoiled, there will be few in this plain tale – no glamour, nor allure, no excitement – and if the scribe once terms anything “outstanding,” may she be cast into outer darkness. And as for the names of persons, let us remember as we read that each member who has in these years taken on a responsibility for the club, from the founders, Mrs. Prentice and Mrs. Gray, down to our youngest president, has left the imprint of herself on our life-story, and so may we recall each one with warm remembrance.

There is an almost humorous likeness between the story of any organized group and that of an individual – infancy, adolescence, maturity – and a quality that most biographies have in common is that the earlier years are the most interesting for they contain the seed of all that is to come; as the botanist of today analyzes the adobe brick of which the California Padres built their missions in order to identify the plant life of the time. So if we dwell more on our first years than on the later, there is a reason.

The women who met that March day were:

Miss Frances Beach	Mrs. Robert Gray
Mrs. John H. Buck	Mrs. Robert Huntington
Mrs. A. S. Cook	Mrs. Prentice
Miss Bertha Dennis	and the writer.

First election, following week:

Miss Browne	Mrs. Kingsbury
Mrs. Ballard	Mrs. E. K. Root
Mrs. Glazier	Mrs. E. C. Terry

Their first act, after deciding on a name, was to adopt a constitution, and would that any perennial in our borders were as hardy as that modest document, which has undergone every treatment from first-aid to major operations, and though the statement that this is a garden club is, I believe, the only one left of the original articles, it is still the Constitution. Its objects were to promote interest in gardens and gardens and to make the gardens of members a source of interest to themselves and to others. The initiation fee was to be two dollars, the annual dues, one. Such was the Age of Innocence.

The first regular meeting was held at Vine Hill with Miss Frances Beach, the initial gathering of the many that were to follow, as the years passed, in that house and garden, with their special quality which the young of today will never know, for already it was of another time; the vast flower-border harboring almost every plant hardy in the vicinity, the greenhouses with their exotics, the famous strawberries, the house with its inheritance of generations, and Miss Beach herself, detached but aware, kind and wise as a force of nature.

Nothing was said in the Constitution about cooperation with other agencies, but since this is New England, that was promptly attended to; in the first year we find a contribution to the Horticultural Society, and a plan for making plantings on the grounds of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum where now the Hartford Fire has a man and a hose-outlet for every ten blades of grass. If you will bear with a list, here are some of the organizations to which we have contributed:

Billboards Committee  
Lowthorpe School  
Audubon Nature Camp  
French Fruit Growers  
Connecticut Arboretum  
Hartford Arboretum  
Conn. Forest and Park Association  
Hurricane Replacement  
Ragweed Control  
Women's Landscape Architects Exhibition.

This is surely a respectable list and probably not a complete one.

In that first April of our days, we were advised by Mrs. Benjamin Wistar Morris to apply for membership in the Garden Club of America, and so was planted a vital germ of growth; another was the raising of the annual dues to \$2.00 – but raising dues became less a germ disease than a chronic complaint.

*In 1923 we revised the Constitution.*

With the excitement of a girl booked for Farmington or Dobbs, we hailed our admission to the Garden Club of America in May, 1920, and the privilege of “giving till it hurts” was bestowed with the accolade of membership; so began those close and loyal relations with the parent society which have lasted through the years. Mrs. Knapp was our G. C. A. Bulletin correspondent, and our accredited delegates went to the annual meetings and brought back witty and discriminating reports for the stay-at-homes, giving us pictures of how the other half lives in Newport, Bar Harbor, Santa Barbara, Chicago and the Main Line of Philadelphia, in which ambrosian food served on heirloom lace cloths, pools and statuary, wild-gardens, gardens in one color, parks, pleasantries and cocktail parties mingled cubistically on the screen of memory.

After World War No. I, which was noted as perceptibly curtailing our activities, a plan for World Regeneration grew on every bush. One such scheme much favored in Boston promised peace, disarmament and universal solvency if one chewed each mouthful of food, hard or soft, no less than seventy times; nor was the Garden Club of America wanting in its formula, stated in sixteen points – or just four times four freedoms – for the Chicago meeting. But Mrs. Root's Minutes breathe a sigh of utter relief that this crusading plan was then and there rejected, allowing us to settle back comfortably to gardens and tea.

Another milestone, or perhaps rather a weather vane showing how the wind was setting, was the honorable mention given to Mrs. Enders and Mrs. Glazier for a flower basket exhibited at the New York Flower Show of 1919; a happy augury for the long series of prize winning both at home and abroad by those of our members – artists in line and color – who have been willing to take the infinite pains that such competition entails.



THE HARTFORD DAILY COURANT: TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1920

**Social and Personal**

The Garden Club of Hartford has been honored by being admitted to the Garden Club of America. The original officers of the local club were as follows: President, Mrs. Samuel O. Prentiss; vice-president, Mrs. Albert S. Cook; secretary, Mrs. John H. Buck; treasurer, Mrs. Robert W. Gray. In addition to these, the charter members are Mrs. James P. Andrews, Miss Frances Beach, Miss Bertha P. Dennis, Mrs. E. K. Root, Mrs. Lucius F. Robinson, Miss Mary C. Barton, Miss Lucy A. Perkins, Miss Alice Foster, Miss Virginia P. Browne, Mrs. Charles A. Goodwin and Mrs. John O. Enders.







*Garden of Alice Foster 1920. Photo: Garden Club of America Collections, Archives of American Gardens, Smithsonian.*

Meanwhile our own social gatherings were many and delightful; there were strawberries at Vine Hill in June, luncheons indoors and out, picnics in the parks and in the country, champagne-cup at Litchfield during Prohibition – lyrically noted by the secretary – and at least one evening party where husbands came in white ties and tails and two of them – Mr. Lucius Robinson and Mr. Maxim – spoke to us in person.

A combined touch of art and the perfect garland of friendship was the decoration of the Maxim house and garden for our own Percy Lee’s wedding; could it possibly have been in 1926?

It was in May of that year that we held a Tenth Birthday party at the newly formed Town & County Club; a jolly gathering but, as the secretary sadly records, attended by too few members; the reason probably being that we had been asked to come as vegetables or flowers, and though as women we love clothes, how earnestly we hate to “Dress”!

For Shows of our own, the first was held in Center Church House, under Mrs. Root as president and Mrs. Lucius Robinson as chairman. It was designed and carried out with a combination of professional skill and that quality of delicate taste, which the professional hand seems so often to lose a distinguished success, giving pleasure and enlightenment to the community, it received high praise from the experts in flower-showing.

The second show was held at the Morgan Memorial in June 1929, with beautiful effects achieved in that stately setting; and it brought over three thousand visitors.

After an interval of some years, the Flower Marts succeeded the Flower Shows and from 1932 to 1940 one followed another as punctually as the procession of the equinoxes. Each one was a gay and pretty sight, in each the Connecticut Valley Club cooperated whole-heartedly with ours, the chairmanship alternating between the two; in each year, a substantial sum of money was cleared and given to some worthy cause; the chairmen of the different divisions and their aides worked like stevedores, and we all bought liberally of one another’s wares, besides stripping our gardens for flowers and our houses for the White Elephant table.

We reveled in lilacs, cut roses, gardenias, lilies of the valley and burlapped plants; we ate the box luncheons and bought the cakes and brought friends to do the same, going home at the end, dog-tired but happy. I think the only possible question in the collective mind of the club is whether after all that, Mr. and Mrs. Public quite understood what we were doing or rated our civic contribution at its full value; or whether – horrid thought- if the Show had been one huge White Elephant table, they would not have liked it almost as well.

And this brings us to the subject of civic work in general. While we were pleasing ourselves with garden taste and culture, we did not forget our less happy neighbors. After that first gesture of our infancy, the planting at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, we gave window boxes to the North Street Settlement, flowers for the School for the Blind, for Wangum Lodge, Newington Home, Mitchell House, the Veterans Hospital, Webb House garden, planting at Trinity College and – saving the mark-in partnership with the Connecticut Valley and the Little Garden Clubs, we undertook the remaking of the triangle at the corner of Asylum Street and Farmington Avenue. The cost of this project was \$2,184.00. of which we gave \$700.00 plus, besides raising an additional sum for the inevitable deficit.

We need not deal further with the details of this plan, entered into with such generous enthusiasm and so disappointing in its results, except to point the moral, which seems to be that the fundamental differences in outlook and method between city officials and amateurs usually bars success in joint enterprises. There is also the factor of public taste. Our people who have not inherited the stately and verdurous parks of Italy and France, like cannas,

pampas grass, crotons and petunias in a nice rich jumble. A contemporary wail to the Courant expresses their feelings. “what was the point, asks the writer, in permitting a club to usurp the work of our Park Superintendent, a professional, trained to the work who can be counted on to do the right thing every time! We wanted lots of flowers, and why will the ladies interfere in civic affairs anyway.” End quote. Why Indeed? A saying of our wise friend Montaigne is perhaps pertinent: Give others your money if you must but never ask how they spend it.

In April of 1933, we were able to offer warm congratulations in the commission to the Garden Club of America of our godchild, the Connecticut Valley Club, and to take pride in the gift of a medal to the Garden Club of America by one of her members, Mrs. Gibbons.

The Trinity College project was another story. The plan for redeeming the ugly stretch of land just south of the College was warmly welcomed by President Ogilby, who on March 30, 1938 assisted at the dedication of the three white oaks given in honor of the three signers of the Federal Constitution, Oliver Ellsworth, William Samuel Johnson and Roger Sherman. A screen planting of Douglas firs and a line of pin oaks was made possible by individual gifts, many of which were memorial ones, and in memory of Miss Frances Beach, her brothers and sisters gave eighty Japanese cherry trees. In years to come when these trees raise their branches toward the level of Trinity towers, this contribution of our club will, indeed, be a beautiful memorial to those whose memory it is intended to keep green.

It was in 1937 – and this time with a steam shovel – that our long-suffering Constitution was again revised. An executive committee “with power” was created, to relieve the club meetings of dreary details and to deal more efficiently with the ever-difficult technique of admissions. On the gardening side, a series of horticultural round-tables was provided for, with Mrs. Gray in charge, which met a long felt want. It was also in this year that Percy Lee instituted the Josephine Hamilton Maxim Award in memory of her mother. The token was a silver oak leaf, reminiscent of Mrs. Maxim’s summer home in Maryland; it was to be given for distinguished service to the club in any type of work. It is hard to express the feelings of mingled pride and affection with which this award was received by the club. The recipients of the leaf have been

Mrs. Lucius Robinson, Sr.   Mrs. Robert Gray  
Miss Mary Chapman        Mrs. Robert Huntington

Our literary output during all the earlier years of the club was of no mean quality. Excellent papers were given by members on garden problems, on gardens visited at home and abroad, and on seeing America in some of her many aspects. The first Bulletin we issued was one on roses by Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Sumner and in the same year, Miss Dennis arranged a list of desirable garden books. In 1927, a successful booklet on Connecticut Highways and Byways was published with Mrs. Gray as chairman of the committee, and in 1928, the Hartford Chamber of Commerce asked for a short history of the club for its magazine. In later years, Mrs. Huntington was a member of the editorial staff of the Garden Club of America Bulletin, in charge of the department on pests and remedies.

As for lectures, it would be hard to name any subject connected with gardening, closely or otherwise, about which we have not heard. We began with a talk on raising Celery and Salad Greens – herbs not yet having come into fashion – and went on to soil, table arrangement, the history of gardens for two thousand years, propagation, color-schemes, garden architecture, how to put the garden to bed and how to wake it up, manure, hydroponics, the art of the Japanese, and Luther Burbank’s progeny, coming down to a recent diatribe by Richardson Wright who scolded us so roundly for our sins that there seemed no health in us. Yet he really should have been mollified by the delightful collection of rare and valuable garden books assembled for his latest talk on herbs and herbalists at the Town & County Club; a mark to show how far we have traveled on the road of knowledge since those early days. Since engaging lecturers is a polite form of gambling, we can all recall hours of anguish arising from these appearances, but on the whole we have reason to be proud that our Club has heard from so many men and women who are expert in some field related to the gardener’s art.





One pursuit that the club has followed faithfully, though with aching feet, is garden visiting at home. We have strolled, tramped and plodded through one another's gardens in all their dimensions and in all weathers, each owner thinking, if not saying, "If only it had been either last week or next" – and we have seen those that ranged from perfection to undaunted hope, noting, admiring, sympathizing – year after year, decade after decade. Flower arrangements have also held our unswerving loyalty, and we have dealt faithfully with flowers, berries, and stalks, moss greens, shadow boxes, miniatures almost invisible to the plain sight; we have gone from figurines and brocades to kitchen bowls and marigolds, from Venetian glass and orchids to chromium and lead and china cornucopias, and throughout all this jungle of material, the beauty and rightness of composition in structure, line and color have charmed the onlooker.

Membership has given us the usual headaches, and the question is ever with us; whether to be small and static, knowing just where we stand, or to grow, perhaps weedy and spread like a bouncing bet into unknown pastures. Was it in a recent Broadway play that someone asks, "Do Garden Clubs exist for anything but to keep someone out?" Our answer was to take in two groups as a whole, first an associate membership of fourteen, all of whom later became active members, and second, the Little Garden Club of fifteen members. And only yesterday – after revising the Constitution – an Honorary membership was added, for which the writer, who was one of the first to be admitted, registers her profound appreciation. So we have grown, rejoicing in the young element that has been like vitamins in a diet for the middle-aged.

"Evaluate" is a word that no self-respecting report may omit today, so let us write it down and see what follows. Daughters of the Puritans as we still are, though by several removes, we can never be satisfied without giving our pleasures a deeper significance than the surface glint and ripple. What then has the Garden Club done in addition to affording us a good time? Figures I leave to those for whom they are familiar symbols and not stubborn hieroglyphics, but even at a glance it is plain that our contributions in actual money have gone out in a generous stream. More than \$12,000

has been realized from the Garden Marts alone; we raised a thousand dollars for the Garden Club of America Founders Fund, besides contributions to the Redwood Fund, Fellowship in Rome and other special objects, with yearly payments for the National Committee work which the budget did not cover, (this however not without an occasional official grumble at what to our thrifty Connecticut seems a loose financial management.) All this will add up to a surprising total. Conservation, billboards, and roadside committees have been given substantial help, both personal and financial, and as the record shows, we have experimented generously in civic cooperation.

Like all groups that live and breathe, we have had our doldrums for no tangible reason, and our brisk sailing weather; we have grounded occasionally on this or that sandbar of rule or precedent, but have pulled clear; we have loyally promoted the welfare of other groups, such as the Horticultural and the Art Societies, and our members do have charming gardens. "What is an herbaceous border?" asked the teacher, and the answer was, "An herbaceous border is one who stays through the week and goes home on Sundays." No such luck for the conscientious gardener, for all they know that these peaceful and well-ordered plots are the result of unending care, with no week-ends off except when snow lies heavy on the beds snuggled under their evergreen blankets.

But there is an influence wider than that of our own parish; in driving through our unbelievable country, the regions which are outside of the Garden Club mandate contrast vividly with those over which it holds sway. To return from those vast spaces where the sweep of sky and plain is the only visible beauty, to our countryside where the dear, familiar flowers bloom in every dooryard is a double home-coming, for we know that our work has reached out and touched many people.

Today we face a chaotic world, but our old planet has turned topsy-turvy before and somehow righted itself. As Spring comes in New England and October's matchless pageantry returns to woods and fields, I think that groups such as ours will carry on the Gardener's Dream "still nursing the unconquerable hope, still clutching the inviolable shade."

## THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY OF THE GARDEN CLUB

Commencing with cocktails for the members past and present the 25th Anniversary party of the Hartford Garden Club made a grand start at Mrs. John T. Roberts on Prospect Avenue on Tuesday, May 22nd. All had a glorious time, and everyone managed to make the trip to the Town & County Club with no accidents or running through stop lights which was quite an accomplishment considering the wonderful hospitality which we had enjoyed. At the Town & County Club we met again and found that Mrs. Enders had with Mrs. Glazier's help decorated the tables most appropriately with silver baskets of lovely white flowers. At one end of the long table Mrs. Huntington was seated surrounded by seven Ex-Presidents of the Hartford Garden Club who were promptly presented with halos as a tribute to having survived the strenuous life of being a Garden Club President. After their halos were properly adjusted to the most becoming angles the evening entertainment began in earnest. First Mrs. James Andrews read a poem which she had composed, in honor of Mrs. Huntington, then a Garden Club alphabet was read by Mrs. Morgan Bulkeley. Both were so clever that they should be preserved for the next Anniversary.

Mrs. Robert Gray told of the Founders gift which now amounts to \$930. Mrs. Philip Cheney and Mrs. Kingsbury told several most amusing stories, and then a short play written by Mrs. Charles Goodwin was presented with Mrs. Richard Cole and Mrs. Austin bringing out the highlights of a Garden Club meeting. Percy Lee in her farmer clothes and her accordion were something to remember and her skit in four acts ending with the unveiling of a most wonderful and poisonous ragweed tree couldn't have been more clever. After singing a Garden Club version to the tune "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay!" we were invited to visit the Chamber of Horrors where what not to make as a flower arrangement were on display. Altogether the 25th Anniversary party could not have more of a success and we all ended the evening with the feeling that the Mrs. John Robinson and her committee who were responsible for arranging all the details for our enjoyment should certainly be given a vote of thanks from all the Garden Club for all they did for us.



*Respectfully submitted, Ruth B. Cutler*



## FROM THE MINUTES OF EDITH S. BUCK, NOVEMBER 1916

*"The Garden Club of Hartford is already an institution, so much so that your President and Secretary have been mercilessly pursued by the ever-restless newspaper reporter, until it was necessary to pacify the Press by furnishing their representative with a small amount of data, and a very creditable article about the newly organized Garden Club of Hartford appeared in the Daily Times on the date of July 8, 1916."*

*Photo of the July 8, 1916 Hartford Daily Times at the Connecticut Historical Society.*



# 50th Anniversary 1966

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD, INC.: ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS, 1916 – 1966

By Frances W. Britton

*The Garden Club of Hartford, Inc. has reached the half century mark which makes this an appropriate time to review its accomplishments and its failures and to take a look into its future. We, who are members today, owe our existence to the eight charter members, the Mesdames Andrews, Buck, Gray, Huntington, Prentice and the Misses Beach and Dennis, who gathered in March of 1916 to form this club. Their enthusiasm to share with each other their knowledge of plants and flowers was indeed contagious. The club has grown in 50 years from 8 to 87 members divided into Active, Associate and Honorary categories. The original Constitution drawn up by Mrs. Gray, aided by Judge Prentice, has had to be amended only seven times and the last change has made us an incorporated and tax exempt organization. Our purposes have remained as stated in 1916: To promote an interest in gardening among our fellowmen.*

In order to achieve this eleemosynary status of tax exemption, we have had to prove to the powers that be that, although we enjoy our teas and our bridge, we are not basically a social club nor have we expended our gardening talents only in our own backyards. Our charter members were a civic minded group and set the pattern for us by recognizing that there was an outlet for their energies in creating flower beds, window boxes and donating seed packets to local agencies such as the School for the Deaf, the Newington Home for Crippled Children, the School for the Blind where smell and form were more important than color; and in making financial contributions to the Connecticut Horticultural Society, the Audubon Nature Camps, the Wild Flower Conservation Committee, the Hartford and Connecticut Arboretums and the Connecticut State Forest and Park Association.

Reports of our activities spread outside of Hartford. In 1920, the Garden Club of America invited us to become affiliated with them in order to share our knowledge and enthusiasm on a national scale. To the Garden Club of Hartford members, this honor came as a mixed blessing. The Secretary's Minutes of that year contain many references to the size of the donation requested from each member and at one point a sharp letter was dispatched to the national headquarters asking that "they pare their own expenses as we had no intention of supporting them more fully."

Besides the civic activities, the members of the garden club found time to hold two flower shows of their own, publish a list of gardening books, a "Bulletin On Roses," "Comments on Connecticut Highways and By-ways," and to contribute articles and poems to the Garden Club of America Bulletin. In 1965, we ranked second in the country in the number of contributions printed.

Through the 1930s the Garden Club of Hartford continued to make seed, plant and flower donations to the local agencies; the Bellevue Housing Project, the Women's Day Care Center, the Family Service Center and Elizabeth Park; and contributed to more national projects; Save the Redwoods, the Contributor's Fund of the G.C.A., the National Arboretum in Washington, the American Red Cross, the Anti-Litter Campaign and the National Park and National Roadside Committees. By 1933, the club had grown large enough to wish – one wonders why since it was the depth of the great depression – to take on a major project, civic in nature. The beautification of the triangle formed by the union of Farmington and Asylum Avenues was chosen because the members felt that it "lacked color and charm" and they wished to establish a "memorial to the Gallaudet Family for their work with the deaf." This endeavor was not a great success because of differences of opinion between city officials and the lady gardeners and led the

Hartford Courant to report the results as follows: “Why will the ladies interfere in civic affairs anyway?” Undaunted by this public recognition of their talents, in 1938 they assumed another larger project; that of redeeming a barren stretch of land on the south side of Trinity College by planting pin oaks, white oaks and fir trees which still stand as a tribute to their initiative.

It soon became rather obvious that all these projects, donations and contributions could not be supported with muscles and enthusiasm alone. Fund raising became a must. Together with members of the Connecticut Valley Garden Club, our members spent countless hours growing, begging, borrowing and occasionally even stealing plants and white elephants to be sold at Spring Flower Marts. That their efforts were well rewarded is attested to by the fact that they raised over \$12,000 during a period of ten years. In fact, this was a busy decade. Mrs. Lucius Robinson served on the Board of Directors of the Garden Club of America, Mrs. Robert Huntington on the staff of the G.C.A. Bulletin, the club was admitted to membership in the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and then was hostess to the Regional Meeting of the National Council of State Garden Clubs and the Federated Garden Clubs of America. The Connecticut Horticultural Society honored Miss Mary Chapman by awarding her a gold medal for her interest in arranging to have one hundred trees planted in Bushnell Park in honor of Mrs. E. K. Root, one of our charter members.

The European crisis and the entry of the United States into the second World War ushered in the next decade. Our horticultural activities were channeled toward Victory gardens at home and at the surrounding Army camps, Red Cross Centers and the Veterans Hospital. Seeds were sent to Great Britain. Club meetings were held to a minimum. Although the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Garden Club of Hartford was celebrated with a gala dinner at the Town & County Club, austerity was our by-word. The end of the war marked the end of an era for us. Gone was the plentiful household help, the leisurely tea, the food and gas rationing and the W.P.A. In came the age of space, of scientific development, of nuclear and atomic power, of strikes and wage increases, of new drugs and pesticides, of new highways and billboards.

The garden club moved with the times. We took in new members, we enlarged our Executive Committee and we revived our interest in flower arranging, conservation and pertinent legislation. We gave scholarship aid to teachers in the Hartford Public School system to enable them to attend Audubon Nature Camps, and the University of Connecticut and National Parks summer workshops so that they could more enthusiastically create an interest in these fields among the children of the city. In retrospect, these years of the late 1940s appear to have been our time for growth and consolidation.

The 1950s and 1960s show the results. As we continued the civic activities and financial contributions that had been established in the 30s, we undertook another major project. From 1954 to 1959, the Garden Club of Hartford again involved itself with city officials by re-landscaping the grounds of the Old State House on Main Street. The overall plan was supplied by Mr. Christopher Tunnard of Yale, the selection of plant material was done by Miss Mary Edwards who also supervised the planting, watering and weeding performed by hardy members of the club under broiling sun and drenching rain. This project was blessed by approval. Not only did the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving give us financial aid but from the City of Hartford came a letter of commendation for our work and from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut a Citation of Achievement.



ANNUAL MEETING MAY 6, 1958  
HOME OF MRS. JOHN LARUS, JR.

*The annual meeting minutes said they were the  
“chicest chicks to be found in staid old Hartford.”*



*Below, Top: Mary Ernestine Goodrich.*

*Center: Francie Stout.*

*Bottom: Nathalie Swan.*

*Mrs. Swan won the Queenship.*

*1st prize: a large bag of bonemeal.*



*Above, Top: Deb Eddy, Mary Carey, Nina Stanley, Ginna Miller.*

*Bottom: Peggy Whitman, Ellie Oakes, Peggy Britton.*



A fourth major project was undertaken in 1960. The campus of the Hartford College for Women was showing the ravages of time and errant automobiles. Miss Helen Waterman, with the help of members willing and able, pruned, re-planted and then labeled trees, plants and bushes surrounding the college buildings providing the students with an attractive area in which to study and a source of botanical information.

In addition to the major projects carried out by the Garden Club of Hartford, we mention of some of the work done by individual members. Awareness of the encroachment of highways, business and building developments upon open land has led us to write letters to our Congressmen in support of legislation against roadside litter and billboards and in favor of the preservation of our natural resources. In 1954, Mrs. John Parsons alerted city officials, newspaper and garden club members to the desecration being wrought by chain saws in the hands of insensitive roadbuilders on Woodland Street. Several elms were saved and twenty-four Norway Maples were planted to replace those trees already gone. Mr. and Mrs. James L. Goodwin made a gift to the State of a tract of land in eastern Connecticut to be preserved as a natural forest for the benefit of the citizens. Mr. and Mrs. John Stout have reclaimed a swampy area and created a wildlife sanctuary in Bloomfield. Mr. and Mrs. Ostrom Enders have developed a North American Wild Fowl Collection in Avon which is receiving wide recognition. Largely through the efforts of Mrs. Roger Eddy and Mrs. John Britton, billboards are now controlled on our interstate highways. Credit must be given to Mrs. James Ford and Mrs. Gordon Clarke for their work in preserving Talcott Mountain as a natural area through a bill enacted by the 1965 session of the State Legislature. Many other members are known for their extensive knowledge of particular flowers or plants; for their contributions to their communities by serving on the Conservation Commission in Bloomfield, Avon, Simsbury and Farmington; for their ability to arrange flowers for their friends or in competition – two have even had the temerity to become flower show judges and one is a Daffodil authority; for their love of gardening which will always be a source of pleasure to themselves and to all of us who are fortunate enough to share it with them.

To give recognition to club members for distinguished service to the club, a silver oak leaf award was donated by Mrs. John G. Lee in 1937 in memory of her Mother, Josephine H. Maxim, and in 1953 a pewter bowl was purchased by the club to be awarded to the member accumulating the most points in flower arrangements or entries in the horticulture classes.

Lest this 50 year record of the Garden Club of Hartford leave the impression that we are all too serious, too earnest, too dedicated, let us not forget the meetings at which one of our members wore a lily on her chest, or the undaunted dames clambering over stone walls in voluminous raincoats, or the lecture on "Survival" which was immediately followed by a lengthy electrical blackout of the eastern seaboard, or the flower show held at the Wadsworth Atheneum in 1958, or the Garden Club of America Southern New England Zone Meeting in 1963 when we and the Connecticut Valley Garden Club were hostesses to our friends from all over the state.

Our first fifty years are now on record. We look forward eagerly and with anticipation to the next half century. May we spread our knowledge and share our enthusiasms with another generation of gardeners. May we even have a field trip to the moon?



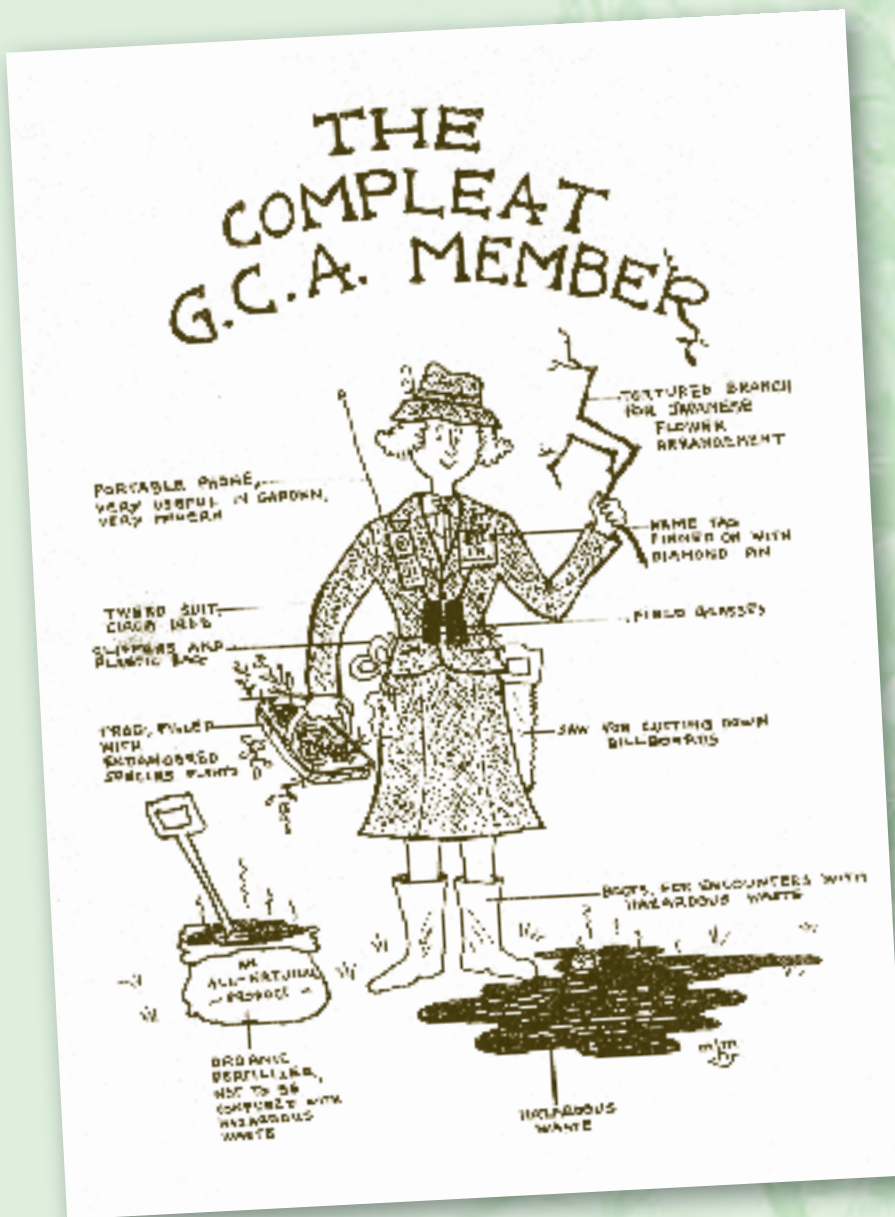
*Augusta Robinson, Katherine Barney,  
Alice Enders, E.G. Cramer.*



# 70th Anniversary 1985

## HISTORY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD: 1963 – 1985

Editors: Karen Clarke, Deb Eddy, Ginna Miller, Polly Peck, Lorrie Roberts  
Cover Concept: Phyllis Franklyn, Cover Art: Marian Heath Mundy



Cover of the 1963-1985 Anniversary Book.

The Garden Club of Hartford was founded in 1916 by a few imaginative and energetic ladies of Hartford who really liked their gardens and enjoyed exchanging ideas and plants. The interest and devotion that these women shared remain the dominant feature of our Club.

One pleasant afternoon in 1920, Mrs. George C. F. Williams donned her prettiest long dress, picture hat and white kid gloves to go to a member's house for tea and a garden club meeting. Ready to leave, she was greeted in the front hall by the apologetic chauffeur who explained that the car was not working. Undaunted by this inconvenience and determined to make her meeting on time, Mrs. Williams hailed a passing motorcycle policeman, and rode to the meeting in the policemen's sidecar. (Hearsay)

Very soon after its establishment the charter members voted to accept membership in the Garden Club of America. Through the association with the GCA, members rapidly became interested in the wider world of gardening. Botany, beautification of cities and billboard control were the earliest interests of the Garden Club of Hartford members. This document is a history of what our Club has done, what holds our Club together and what our Club has accomplished in the years from 1963 to 1985.

Over the past twenty-five years, society has changed and members of the Garden Club of Hartford have changed too. In 1963 there were still great houses, fully staffed. Acres of silver were displayed at every tea. Younger members scrambled to find baby sitters and then appeared like butterflies aglow in afternoon dresses, hats and white gloves. Now we meet at noon and bring our own sandwiches. In cold weather, boots, slacks and parkas are worn. We still meet in members' houses, a monthly treat.

The Garden Club of Hartford became interested in conservation even before the 1960s when we obtained a state law to control billboards. The garden clubs of Connecticut led the environmental movement of the nation by at least ten years and members were active in attending legislative hearings and writing letters to State and national lawmakers. GCH members have served on boards of regional conservation organizations, have held positions on conservation and zoning commissions of Hartford area towns, and have contributed to environmental groups here and around the world.

In recent years, Connecticut has seen important large tracts of land preserved as permanent open space. We are enormously proud that GCH members and their families gave Enders State Forest, Goodwin State Forest and Great Pond State Forest to the citizens of this state. Our members have helped raise money for the State's purchase of Talcott Mountain State Park and have worked to defeat a plan to build a super-highway through the region's City reservoir land. Our club is brought together by civic projects. These necessitate large commitments of money, thought, energy and love. We try to choose projects that bring out our members' talents and skills and always have a favorable formal vote at a club meeting before a project is adopted.

A few of our projects have been devoted to civic education. In 1970 we sponsored a program of Environmental Workshops for School Administrators at Central Connecticut State University. In 1975 we marked trees in Bushnell Park with their common and Latin names and in 1982 we worked on Teaching Gardens for the Public which were planned by the Knox Foundation and displayed in Elizabeth Park. Our major efforts, however, have been landscaping and planting public areas in the city of Hartford.

In the early 1960s we finally finished six years of work on the grounds of the Old State House and started a new project on the campus of Hartford College for Women. There we concentrated on pruning shrubs and hedges.

"After the west side of the Old State House had been planted with the "Goodwin elm tree" and a groundcover of myrtle per Mary Edward's landscape design, I was in charge of watering the project for the summer. Hoses were available and stored in the janitor's spacious domain in the basement. Each week when I went to do the watering, I was amazed to find policemen, firemen and extraneous people standing around silently in the basement which appeared uninteresting and empty except for a desk, a wastepaper basket, a table, a few tools and a chair or two. For weeks I wondered what the attraction was. Only at the end of the summer did it dawn on me that the janitor was a bookie! No wonder the gathered strangers clammed up every time I arrived to retrieve or deposit the hoses." Deb Eddy, Class of 1948.

In 1963 we began the planting of the Wadsworth Atheneum courtyard. The maintenance of this project ended five years later. By 1971 plans were made, and we planted at the Burgdorf Health Center. After wrestling with ornamental boulders at Burgdorf it was pleasant to restore the grounds of the Mark Twain House, as much as possible, to their 19th-century condition. In 1975 we gave thirty-six juniper bushes to the city of Hartford which were placed in planters along Main Street. During the late 1970s, planning, choosing a landscape architect, financing and completing the renovation of the area around the Old State House took almost four years. In 1982 we contributed to a playground for children at the Institute of Living.

We are looking forward to Hartford's 350th birthday in 1986. Our gift to the City for this event has been to Bushnell Park, the first municipal park in the country and the first to be purchased by school children's pennies and donations from the public. We have given \$25,000 to the Bushnell Park Foundation to help renovate a corner of the park with flowering cherry trees. The trees were planted in 1984 so that they will be well established for the City's celebration in the anniversary year. At this writing, as 1985 begins, our club is considering a new, important landscaping project which will occupy us for the next several years.



In most of our projects we have had problems with maintenance. We also have had troubles with some of our relationships in dealing with the powers-that-be in City Hall and elsewhere. As a result of these frustrations, ever since the 1970s we have not undertaken a project without being assured that maintenance was not our responsibility but would be carried out by competent people.

To explain how much energy goes into one of these projects, here is an example. In 1975 we joined with Connecticut Valley Garden Club to work once again on the Old State House grounds as part of a community effort to save the building from demolition. In fact, we invited all the garden clubs in Connecticut to join us in a money raising effort. Many sent in donations. Several other GCA clubs contributed by having booths at a gigantic flea market held at the Old State House.

Our two clubs also held a tail gate sale, a money-raising tour to the Chelsea Flower Show, a raffle, a silent auction, a Gala Auction, and a tag sale after the flea market. We were delighted to receive \$1,500 as a Founder's Fund runner-up. We exceeded our original goal of \$55,000 by \$7,000 and, of course, every penny was needed. The Old State House is now a center for many of the most important state, city, and regional events. We are pleased that the new terrace, brick walks, memorial wall, and brownstone benches are constantly used by the public. In the park area there are now farmer's markets in the summer, carol singing in the winter, and always people strolling or sitting to enjoy the illusion of "country" in the center of the city.

It does appear that the projects our club chooses show what needs to be done. Without realizing it until later, we have been catalysts for completion of important tasks.

Our club is involved in many other activities. We have joined with Connecticut Valley Garden Club in being co-hostesses for the GCA Zone II Annual Meetings in 1963 and in 1980. We hold numerous workshops. No two are alike. We have made wreaths in basements, dried arrangements in attics and baskets in a stable. Other workshops have changed beginners into flower show arrangement winners.

Members have taught each other and our guests how to dig, divide, grow and show everything from primroses to Liliaceae. We have nine meetings for the entire membership each year, many with fine speakers who have inspired us. Members, too, present programs of charm and excellence. Our Club has sponsored bus trips to the Bronx Zoo Aviary and the New York Botanical Garden. Smaller groups have gone to wildflower gardens, greenhouses and forest plantations. Members have attended lectures on every subject from geology to radishes. Our delegates eagerly attend GCA Zone and national meetings.

What else do our members do? We serve as officers and committee chairmen in our club and as Zone representatives and GCA directors. We have written, illustrated and published a cookbook, a cookie book and a garden book, "Much Ado About Gardening." Monthly, we publish and send to all members a news sheet called the "Trumpet Vine." We write articles for the "Bulletin." We continued to sell our endangered species post cards. We exhibit in horticulture and arrangement classes in flower shows. We force bulbs, divide perennials and grow plants from seed. We give scholarships, books, pamphlets and lectures to schools and hospitals.

The Garden Club of Hartford continues to be grateful that one of our members was the inspired donor of the GCA Fenwick Medal in 1934. In the past twenty five years four of our members have been given GCA Zone awards. The National Council of State Garden Clubs gave us the Kellogg Medal Award for Civic Achievement. One of our members and her husband were honored by the National Daffodil Society with a special silver medal. Our club is pleased to have been a runner-up for the GCA Founder's Fund. Hundreds of blue, red and yellow ribbons, to say nothing of honorable mentions and citations, have been added to members' laurels during the past quarter century.

The grand accomplishments of our club have been catalogued. What has not, and can never be listed, are the hundreds of friendly telephone calls, the thousands of postcards sent and the delightful exchanges and kindnesses which go beyond friendship. These are the actions that make our club successful.

A blueprint of how to satisfy members came from the members themselves as we spent a year on Overview, an evaluation of our Club's strengths and weaknesses. We discovered that everyone likes to meet in members' houses, that our multi-generational membership is treasured by all and that the process of selection of new members needed to be made more graceful. We found that we all feel a little shy. We like to work in small groups. We want to share but don't know, unless invited, how to contribute our talents. We all need to tend each other as carefully as we tend our plants. A club can only thrive if the seedlings grow and bloom. Perennials, too, need care. The best stimulus for our Club, maybe for any club, is a mixture of humor and humility. One would think, with all our accomplishments that this is a club of real experts. But, no, we are human and something always goes wrong. It rains or it doesn't. A meeting is planned and a blizzard comes too and if the projector works, the power goes off. If a new plant grows very well, it turns out to be a weed, or, if not, becomes invasive.

To whom do we confess our failures or weaknesses? Who understands, sympathizes, laughs, cheers and likes us more when these blips of life occur? The answer is "just about every member of the Garden Club of Hartford." "H" can stand for Humor and Humility as well as Hartford.

Many years ago, for a Club flower show which was held soon after Easter, each member was asked to bring an arrangement representing a current advertising slogan. Mrs. Pease, one of our most senior members, arrived with two large Easter lilies pinned onto the front of her dress, having "dreamed she went walking in her Maidenform bra"! She won first prize. (A Member Who Was There)

After twenty five years we celebrate, too, that we are a part of a worldwide fellowship of those who wish to share their gardening knowledge and enthusiasm with almost anyone who will listen. The Garden Club of America has helped us to stretch our minds, and to open our eyes and our hearts to the world around us.



June 4, 1985. "Picnic Luncheon Swap," Folly Farm, Simsbury.

*Standing: Kate Robinson, Hattie Lidgerwood, Betty Stanley, Mieke Nicholas, Alice Willard Sally Pease, Prudy Cutler, Kitty Smith, Francie Stout, Patsy Huntington, Marian Ferguson, Amy Hamilton, Nina Stanley, Elinor Oakes, Marcia Babbidge.*

*Seated: Betty McIlwaine, Ostrom Enders, Allie Enders, Mary Edwards, Ellyn Marshall, Henny Bennett, Tulie Goodwin, Marie Race, E.G. Creamer, Karen Clarke, Polly Peck, Kit VanWinkle, Betty Cox, Deb Eddy.*

*Lawn: Susie Barney, Alison Gill, Clare Edwards, Kay Britton, Marie Cox, Meredith Robbins, Lee Helsley, Margaret Hedberg, Katie Sargent, Donna Stout, Anne Johnson, Barbara David, Anne Taggart, Daphne McGill, Arline Whitaker, Anne Alvord.*



# 80th Anniversary 1997

## GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD CELEBRATES 80 YEARS TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1997

By Susan R. Barney and Lucinda Stempf

*Despite two feet of freshly fallen heavy spring snow, scattered power outages, and many fallen trees and tree limbs, dozens of intrepid members of the Garden Club of Hartford made their way to a special birthday celebration on April 1, 1997. The 80th anniversary of the club's founding took place at Barney House in Farmington, Connecticut, and was celebrated with a noon reception, luncheon and highly original program. Since many of the ladies were without power at home, they came with their hairdryers to finish their coif before the start of the meeting! A sudden loss of electricity just as the delectable lunch was being served did not faze Chef Wendell and the Barney House staff, who served up 100 lunches without a hitch.*

Lucy Cartland chaired the 80th birthday committee, consisting of Kay Britton, Nannie Brown, Deb Eddy, Clare Edwards, Muffie Haviland, Ginna Miller, and Lisa Stout. In addition to planning entertainment, the committee produced a special anniversary booklet of GCH memories. They also unearthed a remarkable 1928 video of a luncheon meeting in Mrs. Lucius Robinson's garden. The Flower Show Committee created lovely flower arrangements for the tables and the entrance hall.

GCH President Arline Whitaker extended a formal welcome to members and their guests. Garden Club of America Director Barbie Bartlett received an especially warm welcome, since she had driven all the way from Fairfield amidst a flotilla of snowplows to represent the zone leadership. Arline introduced Hattie Lidgerwood, who spoke with fondness of her years living in Barney House. "It seems fitting to have the 80th anniversary here, as my mother held many GCH meetings in this house," Hattie said. Arline also presented each past president of GCH attending the luncheon with a red carnation.

President Whitaker then turned the meeting over to Lucy Cartland, whose committee created a colorful and entertaining series of historical vignettes and elucidations about the club, complete

with period costumes. Lucy told of how the Garden Club of Hartford was founded in 1916 by eight strong-willed, civic-minded charter members who drew up the original constitution. The founders' underlying principle of civic responsibility has been the basis for the club's activities to this day. Lucy's comments were peppered with fascinating details of local and national events surrounding and following the club's founding in 1916.

With the exhortation, "Let's travel down the garden path to remember the past," Lucy set the stage for the remainder of the program. Ginna Miller regaled everyone with highlights of GCH civic projects and fund raisers, and Clare Edwards shared anecdotes about the club's early history such as the three-year debate about raising dues to \$2.00, and an early well-intentioned "Ragweed Elimination Week," which resulted in two-and-one-half tons of ragweed (weighed on a bathroom scale) being eradicated from the village of Fenwick. Kay Britton told earth mother stories about GCH in the seventies, and Lisa Stout provided glimpses of the club in the eighties. Muffie Haviland spoke of significant contributions to the community by several members, such as Mary Edwards who supervised the Old State House fair in the 1950s, and Tulie Goodwin and Allie Enders who donated property to create three state forests.

GINNA quoted from a letter written by Deb Eddy in 1975: “one would think with all our accomplishments that this club is a club of real experts. Not so...we are human and the best laid plan don't always work...A meeting is planned and a blizzard comes. If the projector works, the power goes off. If a plant grows, it is probably a weed or becomes invasive...‘H’ can stand for humor and humility as well as for Hartford.”

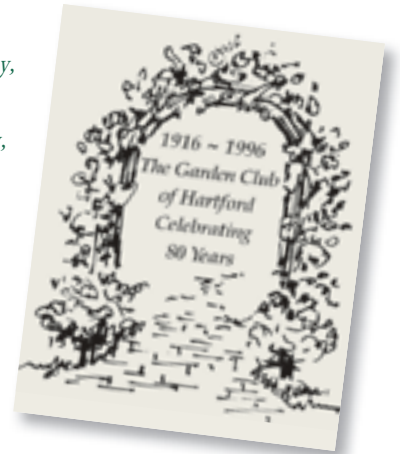
In closing, president Whitaker urged GCH members to read the collection of humorous anecdotes and memorable gardening experiences that had been presented in booklet form to mark eighty years of club history. By the time the meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M., rays from the powerful early spring sun had melted much of the previous night's heavy snowfall, revealing green grass, crocuses, and tremendous potential for new growth, thus ushering in a ninth decade for the Garden Club of Hartford.

*Photo: 1996, 80th Anniversary, Barney House, Farmington.*

*Back: Kyle Conard, Deb Eddy, Gina Miller, Kate Robinson, Sandy Millikin, Lil Prestley, Nina Hayes, Anne Warner, Hannah Steel, Peg Willis, Lucy Cartland, Mary Edwards, Sally Pearse, GCA Director Barbie Bartlett, Barbara David, Prudie Cutler, Kitty Smith, Mary Carey.*

*Middle: Mary Sargent, Lisa Stout, Cindy Stempf, Alice Willard, Hattie Lidgerwood, Arline Whitaker, Ellyn Marshall, Marie Ryan, Donna Stout, Ellie Cuda, Clare Edwards, Muffy Haviland.*

*Front: Susie Barney, Molly Morris, Henny Bennet, Jan Hickcox, Katie Nixon, Betsey Bower, Midge Tilney, Jane Springer, Jo Casey, Margot McDermid, Joan Brown, Diane Brown, Nancy Macy, Kay Britton.*





# 90th Anniversary 2006



## 90TH BIRTHDAY ANNUAL MEETING: "A HIGH TEA"

*May 2, 2006 at the home of Holly Holden, Farmington*

*Front: Lisa Aldridge, Margah Lips, Anne Johnson, Betsey Bower, Tanny Clark, Eunice Groark, Nancy Macy, Cindy Stanley, Mary Sargent, Jo Casey, Mimi Mead, Katy Sargent, Jan Hickcox, Katie Nixon, Ann Louise Price, Donna Stout, Nina Hayes, Nannie Brown, Tita Hyland, Holly Holden, Sandy Fromson, Pat Salner, Joyce Magee, Susie Barney, Kathryn Cox, Diane Birdsall Smith, Anne Holcombe, Christine Doty, Brie Quinby.*

*Balcony: Alice Willard, Mollie Morris, Sandy Milliken, Dorothy Lund, Carole MacKenzie, Mally Cox-Chapman, Ginna Miller, Betty Stanley, Marian Kellner, Clare Edwards, Patty Kent, Diane Brown, Agnes Peelle, Henny Bennett, Ellyn Marshall, Eileen Kraus, Susan Sweet, Arline Whitaker, Susan Copeland, Francie Stout, Peg Willis, Nora Howard, Joan Brown, Lisa Stout, Nancy Zwiener.*

*Active members not present: Barbara Anthony, Lucy Cartland, Elsie Childs, Eleanor Crisman, Callie Cutler, Barbara David, Carol Kohn, Gwendolyn Love, Lillian Nolan, Pat Porter, Catharine Smith, Hannah Steel, Mary Alice Stielau.*

## ANNIVERSARY BOOK

We researched our history and produced a booklet highlighting 90 years of the Garden Club of Hartford. It lists every member (335) since 1916, with names, town, and years of membership. The book also features the club's history, civic projects, awards given and received, photographs, lists of presidents and reminiscences. The cover is a drawing of Morgan Memorial Hall at the Wadsworth Atheneum, and was also used for the 1929 Flower Show program.



## CIVIC PROJECTS AND ARBOR DAY

*April 28, 2006*

We planted 90 trees in public spaces around the city to kick off the Hartford Legacy Tree Fund. We provided landscaping for the historic South Green – Barnard Park in Hartford, and hands-on planting with local elementary school children. Our efforts culminated with an Arbor Day ceremony at the Park with dignitaries including Governor Rell and Mayor Perez, a children’s art show, and Bulkeley High School gospel musicians.

## HIGH TEA AND ANNUAL MEETING

*May 2, 2006 at the home of Holly Holden*

Many members wore festive hats, colorful outfits, and gloves to the High Tea. Among the hats on parade were new numbers, old favorites, vintage treasures from our attics, and a feathery “fascinator” worn with aplomb by outgoing president Nannie Brown. Nora Howard wore an outfit of her mother’s from the 1950s. Clare Edwards recognized a group of members dubbed as our “old growth” who have belonged to GCH for many years.

### **Over 40 years GCH membership:**

*Jane Waters, 1957; Helen Dixon, 1960; Muffie Haviland, 1964; Triq Cooley, 1965; Cilla Wilcox, 1965.*

### **Over 50 years GCH membership:**

*Prudy Cutler, 1947; Ginna Miller, 1947; June Ford, 1949; Grace Walker, 1950; Peg Willis, 1954; Nancy Cobb, 1955; Peggy Pepper, 1955.*

**Longest GCH membership:** *Francie Stout, 1946.*

**Most Senior GCH Member:** *Kitty Smith, 94.*



*May 2, 2006. Clare Edwards, Mimi Mead, Jo Casey, Pat Salner and Cindy Stanley at the home of Holly Holden.*

## 90TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

*June 10, 2006*

Eighty members, spouses, and significant others dined and danced; many wore our anniversary pin of a dogwood blossom. The Town & County Club – also the site for our 25th Anniversary gala dinner – was beautifully decorated. The table centerpieces represented past civic projects. A china birthday cake favor was at each place setting. There was a sprit of friendship and gaiety throughout the evening. In the absence of President Nina Hayes, Vice President Joyce Magee welcomed us. Donna Stout, chairman of the 90th Anniversary Committee, received hearty applause. Jared Edwards made a charming toast, noting especially our important work in preserving landscapes. It was the perfect conclusion to a wonderful year.



*June 10, 2006 Gala.  
Cocktails at the Town & County Club.*



# Centennial Celebration

## GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

March 16, 2016 at the Governor's Residence

The weather smiled on our day, and the group gathered in bright, festive clothes, with shades of red, coral, and vermillion complemented by royal blues, turquoise and the rest of the rainbow. Silver GCH Oak Leaf Award pins and 90th anniversary *Cornus florida* pendants were proudly worn by many members. It was a delight to have with us past president (1996-98) and now affiliate member Arline Whitaker.



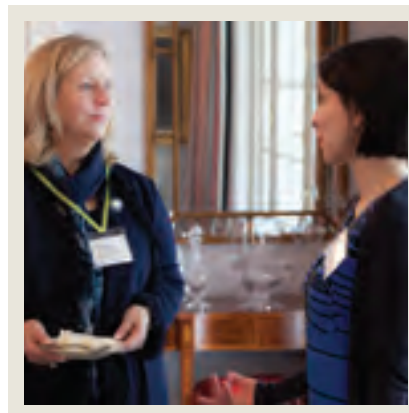
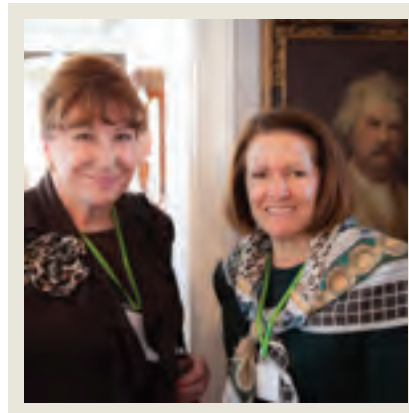
Top: Centennial Celebration Chairs Donna Stout and Nannie Brown outside the Governor's Residence gate on Prospect Avenue in Hartford.

Bottom: Past Presidents outside the gates of the governor's residence: Nannie Brown, Barbara David, Clare Edwards, Mary Sargent, Kathryn Cox, Joyce Magee, Betty Stanley, Brie Quinby, Nora Howard, Nancy Macy, Donna Stout, Nina Hayes, Arline Whitaker, Alice Willard.

*Top: Susan Prentice, Eunice Groark.*

*Center: Gwen Love, Claire Burnett.*

*Bottom: Nancy Zwiener greets Sara Bronin, wife of the mayor.*



*Right: Sharon Michigami, Nora Howard, Diane Brown.*

*Far Right: Betty Stanley, Mary Ann Haar.*

The Governor's Residence was stunning, with arrangements made by club members gracing the dining room table and more. We were treated to an informative talk by a knowledgeable docent who described the history of the house, the paintings and furnishings, some of which had been commissioned by the Margolis shop. A portrait of Mark Twain was on loan from the Mark Twain House.

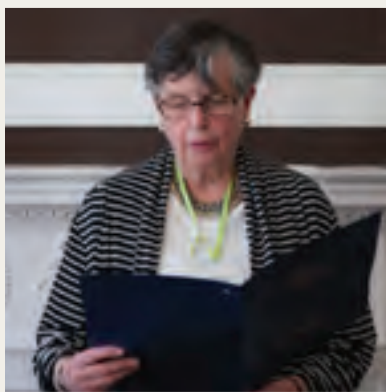
*Below: Susan Stover, Sally Weisman, Kathryn West.*





*Right: Brie Quinby, Mayor Luke Bronin.  
Below: Eunice Groark.*

As an interlude, we enjoyed piano playing by Susie Barney, and Kitty Hickcox spontaneously joined in with vocals on “Alice Blue Gown.” The Connecticut Proclamation was read by Eunice Groark, former Lieutenant Governor and GCH member. Mayor Luke Bronin read the City of Hartford Proclamation and the Garden Club of America Proclamation was read by Mally Cox-Chapman, Chair of GCH Awards Committee. Trays of Prosecco were passed and Brie led the Centennial Toast to GCH.



TOAST WRITTEN AND READ BY BRIE QUINBY:

*Happy Birthday to the Garden Club of Hartford!*

*We don't often get to celebrate a century of life, but I have been to two centennial birthdays so I think that makes me an expert. And what I see they have in common is this: You don't make it this far in life without purpose, focus, commitment to cause, willingness to learn, flexibility in mind, and in the case of garden clubs, body too, without a host of attributes to move you forward.*

*But, though you're hearing a lot about our accomplishments today, what I want to toast to is how we've managed so much in the last one hundred years. We work together, disagree together, figure it out together. Sometimes we step back, sometimes we take the lead. We support one another through hard times, celebrate during good ones, tease, cajole and laugh a lot. So I would like to raise my glass as we step into our next century, say Happy Birthday, and toast that special glue called friendship.*



*Above: Members listen as Linda Lydon describes our Keney Park Civic Project.*

Then began the delightful and informative skit, written by Nora Howard, which brought laughter and cheers. The skit concluded with a Centennial Serenade. Kay Cox wrote the lyrics, Susie Barney played the piano, and Carrie Hammond sang. Accompanying Carrie on the chorus were Kay Cox and Barbara David. The presentation brought tears to a few eyes – for all the memories, the shared accomplishments and enduring friendships.

*Below: Joyce Magee, Mary Alice Stielau (distributing a basket of bee candy bars), Diane Brown, Katy Sargent, Nannie Brown, Donna Stout.*



*Below: Nannie Brown (standing), Jan Hickcox, Judy Howe (seated).*



**Delightful comments that were overheard on our historic day:**

*Is that color on Brie – vermillion?  
How lucky we are to be members of GCH during its 100th birthday!*

*What a LOVELY family home (Governor's Residence).*

*We have a charming, talented, creative group here.*

*Interesting that six out of eight of the original members were not for suffrage; not sure how I would have felt over a hundred years ago. Well, yes, we are on the other side now and it was a vestige of a time, sort of like Downton Abbey, they knew at the end, they had to move on.*

*This event was beautifully planned, with the wonderfully written, in-depth skit cleverly crafted by Nora Howard. It was very entertaining to hear about all of the successful projects this group has accomplished! The proclamations from the governor, the mayor of Hartford and GCA just topped it!*



*Right: Bee candy.*

*Below: Chris Doty, Tita Hyland, Diane Brown.*



*Above: Hannah Steele and Clare Edwards admire the Centennial bee candy bars.*





# Tea & Annual Meeting

## TEA AND ANNUAL MEETING

May 3, 2016 at the home of Brie Quinby, Farmington

*Below: Centennial photo at the home of Holly Holden, Farmington.*

*Balcony: (Left) Sally Weisman, Margah Lips, Lisa Stout, Ellyn Marshall, Carrie Hammond, Jo Casey, Susie Barney, Brie Quinby, Helen Savage, Amy Schuster, June Staunton; (Center, Centennial Committee) Nannie Brown, Nancy Macy, Barbara David, Joyce Magee, Donna Stout, Mary Sargent, Alice Willard, Betty Stanley, Nina Hayes, Nora Howard; (Right) Mally Cox-Chapman, Brooke Mallory, Jan Hickcox, Sally Richter, Tanny Clark, Linda Graydon, Simone Reynolds, Kathryn West, Marcia Hall, Gwen Love.*

*Patio: Jennifer Labinski, Mara Sfara, Claire Burnett, Pat Salner, Betty Standish, Katie Nixon, Ann Marie Price, Jan Whalen, Susan Stover, Holly Holden, Linda Lydon, Debra Herr, Tracy Parks, Diane Brown, Susan Prentice, Anne Holcombe, Susan Rathgeber, Marion Kellner, Agnes Peelle, Eunice Groark.*

*Active members not present: Lisa Aldridge, Lisa Bermel, Kathryn Cox, Christine Doty, LeeLee Duryea, Clare Edwards, Marnie Greenwood, Mary Ann Harr, Kitty Hickcox, Judy Howe, Tita Hyland, Patty Kent, Carole MacKenzie, Sharon Michigami, Logan Rogers, Katy Sargent, Mary Alice Stielau, Marendra Stitzer, Nancy Zwiener.*





Prior to the outdoor photo we gathered in Holly's living room – waiting out the rain.  
Below: Members walked one block in the rain to Brie Quinby's home.  
Right: Holly Holden and Brie Quinby grabbed a ladder for the photographer.



Top of stairs: Jo Casey, Susan Weisman, Gwen Love, Tanny Clark, Midge Tilney, Simone Reynolds, Kathryn West.

Descending L to R: Susan Prentice, Anne Holcombe, Diane Brown, Susan Rathgeber, Eunice Groark, Tracy Parks, Linda Graydon, Helen Savage, Debra Herr, Susan Stover, Brooke Mallory, Jan Whalen, Katie Nixon, Linda Lydon, Ann Louise Price, Sally Richter, Betty Standish, Carrie Hammond, Mally Cox-Chapman, Marcia Hall, Margah Lips, Marian Kellner, Claire Burnett, Susie Barney, Jennifer Labinski, Mara Sfara, Agnes Peelle.



On floor, R to L: Pat Salner, June Staunton, Jan Hickcox, Holly Holden (her house), Brie Quinby (outgoing President), Centennial Committee; Betty Stanley, Mary Sargent, Nora Howard, Nanny Brown, Nancy Macy, Joyce Magee, Donna Stout, Alice Willard, Barbara David, Nina Hayes.

Below: Ellyn Marshall, Lisa Stout and Barbara David enjoy tea before the business meeting begins.



Above: Betty Stanley, Ann Louise Price, Holly Holden, Marian Kellner.





*Recording Secretary Pat Salner, takes notes; beside her Susan Stover, Claire Burnett. Row behind Amy Schuster, Linda Graydon, Jennifer Labinski, Debra Herr.*



*Dessert is often passed during the business meeting. June Staunton, Gwen Love, Mara Sfara, Susan Prentice.*

*Knitting is popular at meetings. Midge Tilney, Donna Stout.*



*Nannie Brown, Marcia Hall, Marian Kellner, Simone Reynolds, Kathryn West, Brooke Mallory and Tracy Parks await awards announcements, a highlight of the event.*



*Margah Lips, Carrie Hammond and Sandy Fromson admire a GCA award.*



*Nora Howard receives the Medal of Merit. Nanny Brown and Joyce Magee applaud.*



*One of Brie's last Presidential Acts is to remove the cat from the business meeting.*

# Centennial Picnic

## CENTENNIAL PICNIC

*June 7, 2016 at the home  
of Barbara David, Lyme*

The Garden Club of Hartford capped the 100th anniversary with a picnic organized by the Centennial Committee.

*Right: Mountain Laurel in full bloom.  
Photo by Susie Barney*



*Above: Before dinner the Canoe Club Band led by Ron Pitz, Knox Parks Executive Director, entertained us with classic rock and country music. Photo by Debra Herr*

*Below: Each Board Committee was responsible for providing one of the delectable courses. We dined under the tent on wild rice and quinoa salad, salmon with fennel and orange, and chicken with pomegranate molasses, prunes and oregano. Photo by Brooke Mallory*



*Above: Cocktails overlooking the Connecticut River on a perfect June evening in a light breeze. Photo by Brooke Mallory*



# Good Times Through The Years



*Below: Donna Stout and Tanny Clark anticipate tea poured by Pat Salner.*



## THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD MEETINGS

*Above: May 2008, Annual Meeting, home of Gwen Love. 11:30 tea is served before our business meetings. Marian Kellner, Tita Hyland, Donna Stout, Clare Edwards.*



*Above: June 2016, home of Brie Quinby. Meetings are generally held in member's homes, during which members wear name tags with colorful ribbons. Gwen Love, Mara Sfara, Jan Hickcox, Helen Savage, Katie Nixon, Linda Lydon, Pat Salner, Nancy Macy, Susan Stover, Betty Stanley, Amy Schuster, Claire Burnett, Linda Graydon.*

*Right: April 2013, New Britain Museum of American Art. Kay Cox and Tita Hyland celebrate their birthdays with Holly Holden at a public meeting.*



GOVERNING BOARD IN OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR



*Left: April 19, 2016.  
Board Meeting, home of Brie Quinby.*

*Front: Marcia Hall, Claire Burnett,  
Nancy Macy, Nora Howard,  
Nannie Brown.*

*Second Row: Katie Nixon, Jan Whelan,  
Linda Lydon.*

*Standing: Judy Howe, Joyce Magee,  
Brie Quinby, Linda Graydon,  
Susan Rathgeber, Eunice Groark,  
Mally Cox-Chapman, Alice Willard,  
Marian Kellner, Lisa Bermel,  
Pat Salner, Carrie Hammond.*

*Not present: Marnie Greenwood,  
Nina Hayes, Anne Holcombe, Brooke  
Mallory, Sally Richter, Helen Savage,  
Amy Schuster, Betty Standish,  
Mary Alice Stielau, Donna Stout.*

*Right (top): April 2016.  
A wonderful tradition continues!  
The Past President's Luncheon,  
with gracious hostess and president  
Brie Quinby, held at her home in  
Farmington. Beautiful hellebores  
from her garden decorated the table.*

*L to R: Betty Stanley, Nina Hayes,  
Kay Cox, Marcia Hall (incoming  
president), Barbara David, Brie Quinby,  
Nora Howard, Arlene Whitaker,  
Nancy Macy, Clare Edwards, Joyce  
Magee, Alice Willard.*

*Not present: Nannie Brown, Anne  
Johnson, Mary Sargent, Donna Stout.*



*Right (bottom): April 2003.  
First Past president's Luncheon,  
home of Kathryn Cox.*

*Back: Clare Edwards, Barbara David.*

*Second Row: Anne Johnson, Betty  
Stanley, Joan Brown, Arline Whitaker.*

*Front: Donna Stout, Mary Sargent,  
Ginna Miller, Alice Willard,  
Kathryn Cox.*

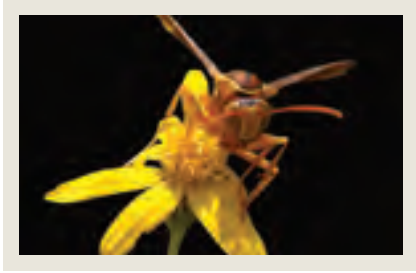




## FLOWER ARRANGING, PHOTOGRAPHY TOO!

*Right: 1991, Flower Show, Aetna Institute. Conservation Express display by Barbara David and Cindy Stanley.*

*Below: 2012, Flower Workshop, Saint John's Church with former White House designer Ruth Loiseau who created spring floral arrangements for Easter. Marcia Hall, Chris Doty, Brie Quinby, Susan Rathgeber, Jan Hickcox, Joyce Magee, Alice Willard, Donna Stout, Julie Shusstari, Tanny Clark, Brooke Mallory, Lil Nolan, Marian Kellner.*



*Above: 2016, "Pollinators at Work" by Brooke Mallory won First Place in Photography at the Zone II Meeting.*

*Below: 2014, asparagus wrapped centerpiece designed by Helen Savage for a meeting at the home of Susan Stover.*



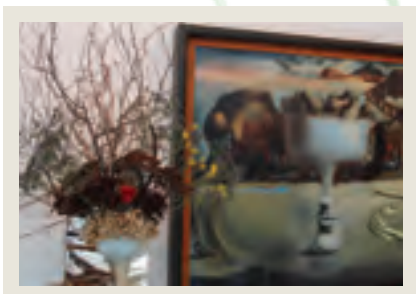
*Above: 2015, designer Ruth Loiseau leads an Easter Basket arrangement workshop with Susan Stover, Amy Schuster and Patty Kent, at the home of Patty Kent.*



*2011, Gwen Love arranges the centerpiece for a meeting.*



*2016, Brooke Mallory and Claire Burnett won honorable mention in Flower Design.*



*2012, Katy Nixon and Amy Schuster's interpretation of Dali's Face and Fruit Dish on a Beach. Fine Arts & Flowers, Wadsworth Antheneum.*



*Left: 2011, Terrarium Workshop, Farmington Library. Alice Willard, Julie Shushtari, Betty Stanley, Marian Kellner, Linda Lydon.*

*Below: 2011, Hypertufa Workshop, Betty's barn. We made our own containers. Alice Willard, Betty Stanley.*



### GCH MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER

*Below (right): 2010, Green's Workshop, Makeshift Theater, Hill-Stead Museum.  
Below (left): 2010, Donna Stout and Nannie Brown at the Greens Workshop.*



*Below: 2015, Photography Workshop, Rose Garden, Elizabeth Park, Hartford. Chris Doty, Susie Barney, Brooke Mallory, Nora Howard.*



*2016, iPhone Photography Workshop, Avon Town Hall. Debra Herr, Brooke Mallory, Donna Stout, LIsa Aldridge, Nannie Brown, Linda Graydon, Betty Standish.*





## VISITING GARDENS

*Left: 2011, Kayaking on the Hudson River as part of a trip to Boscobel in Garrison NY. Boscobel is a NY estate built in the early 19th century overlooking the Hudson River.*

*Below: 2014, High Line lunch, Bottino Restaurant, NYC.*



*Above: 2015, Laurel Hill, Litchfield. Tanny Clark, Marcia Hall, Marian Kellner.*

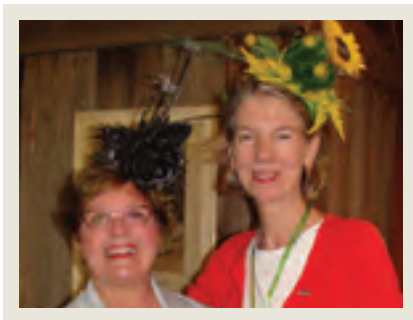
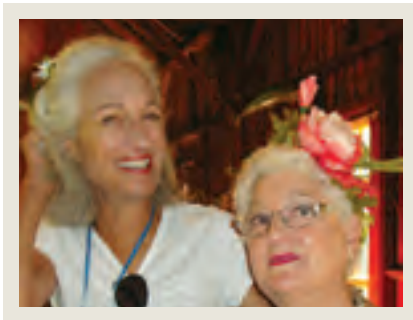


*Above: 2014, Katie Nixon and Debra Herr captivated by the NYC High Line.*

*Left: 2016, Russel Wright Garden, Manitoga, Garrison. Mally Cox-Chapman, June Staunton, Joyce Magee, Mary Alice Stielau, Donna Stout, Mary Ann Haar, Marnie Greenwood, Clare Edwards.*

SEPTEMBER STROLLS

*Left: 2011, East Lyme. Lunch at Eunice's Groark's Black Point home following a tour of White Gate Farm. Linda Lydon, Donna Stout, Hannah Steel, Tanny Clark.*



*Above: 2015, Mary Ann Haar, who helped members design their "Fascinators" & Hostess Lisa Bermel, Helen Savage & Susan Rathgeber, Marnie Greenwood & June Staunton, Linda Graydon & Gwen Love, Margah Lips & Linda Lydon, Brooke Mallory & Brie Quinby, Jan Hickcox & Amy Schuster, Marenda Stitzer.*

*2007, Brie Quinby, Nancy Zwiener, Evan Cowles, Nannie Brown, Put Brown, David Zwiener, and tree expert Ed Richardson, who told us about notable trees at the home of Brie and Evan.*



WE DON'T DO THIS ALONE. WE HAVE HELP!

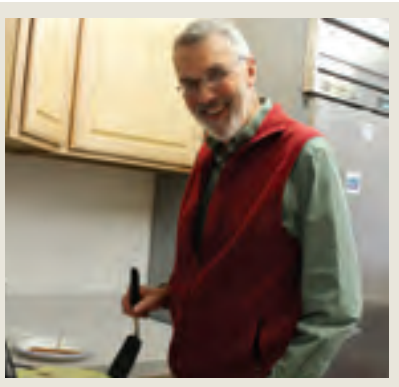
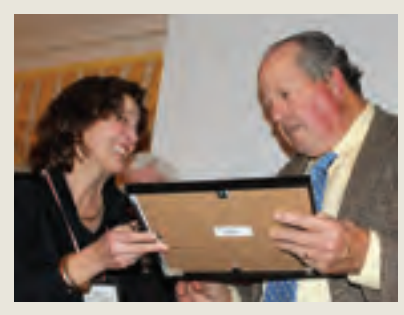
*Below: 2010, Nancy Macy with son-in-law Earl Henrichon, daughter Jane Macy-Painter, and husband Bob Painter plant trees on Main Street, Hartford.*



*Right: 2014. Sam Stout has built, designed, carried, dug, watered, loaded, as well as, bartended for the club over the years. Mally Cox-Chapman presents Sam with the award the club created in his honor for all deserving husbands, the "Sam of all Trades" Award. Appropriately Sam is the first recipient of this award.*



*Above: 2012, Henry Savage darkens a window before a GCH slide show.*



*Above: 2016, Put Brown prepares crepes for the Bird Walk auction item.*

Husbands and even family have always been an important part of our club activities. Ostrom Enders, husband of Alice Enders (member 1954 – 1992), became the only Honorary member of the club in 1985. After his retirement from Hartford National Bank, Mr. Enders developed an extensive breeding program for rare species of North American waterfowl at his home in Avon. He participated in the reintroduction of species into areas where they had become extinct or endangered. Several of these species were given to the National Zoo, Washington, D.C., where their descendants are still present. During this time, Mr. Enders also gathered a comprehensive collection of old and rare ornithological books. He eventually donated the collection to the Watkinson Library of Trinity College, where it now serves as a center for Ornithological study and research.

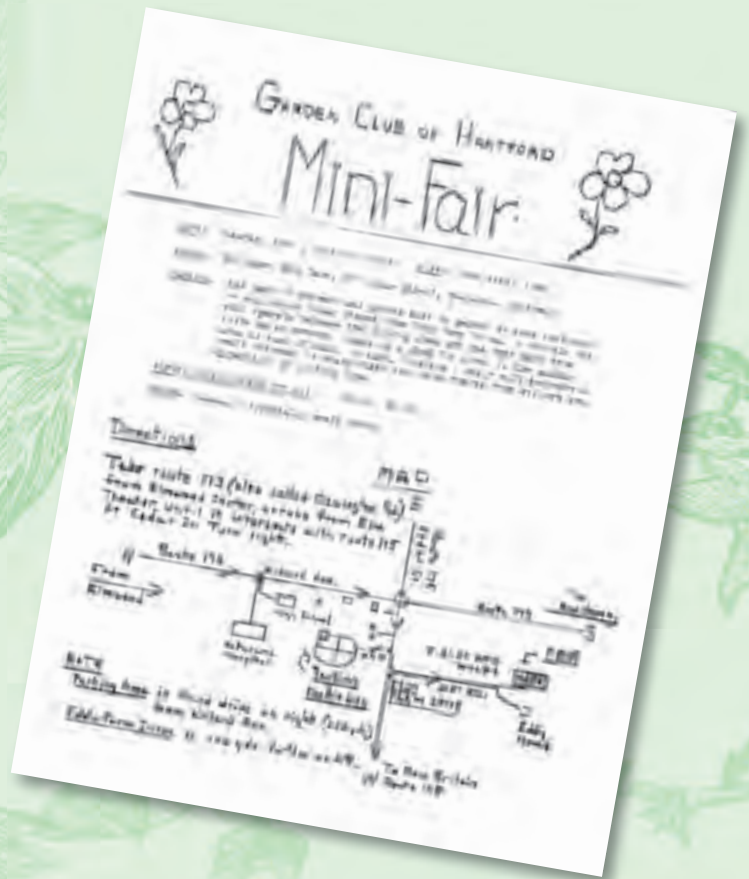
# Then and Now



## HOW GCH MEMBERS COMMUNICATE IN 2016

*Above: First Trumpet Vine 1973. 2008 was the first year that all club members had a computer and an email address. By 2012 the Trumpet Vine is produced electronically only – paper was all but abandoned.*

*Right: Before the computer, GPS and cellphones, GCH mimeographed hand drawn maps.*



*Above: In 2016 members postal and email addresses along with landline and cellphone numbers were listed. The directory contained the meeting and speaker schedule, members' responsibilities, Committee lists, the annual budget, by-laws, awards received the previous year, GCH gifts and donations, the list of Past Presidents and contact info for Zone II and GCA officials.*



*Above: GCA Bulletin 1936 and 2016.*





Lisa Aldridge  
Susan Barney  
Lisa Bermel  
Diane Brown  
Nannie Brown

Claire Burnett  
Jo Champlin Casey  
Constance Clark  
Trig Cooley  
Kathryn Cox

Mally Cox-Chapman  
Barbara David  
Christine Doty  
LeeLee Duryea  
Clare Edwards

Sandra Bender Fromson  
Susan Sweet Gillie  
Linda Graydon  
Martha Greenwood  
Eunice Groark

Mary Ann Haar  
Marcia Hall  
Carrie Hammond  
Nina Hayes  
Margaret Stewart Hedberg

Debra Herr  
Jan Hickcox  
Katharine Hickcox  
Anne Holcombe  
Holly Holden

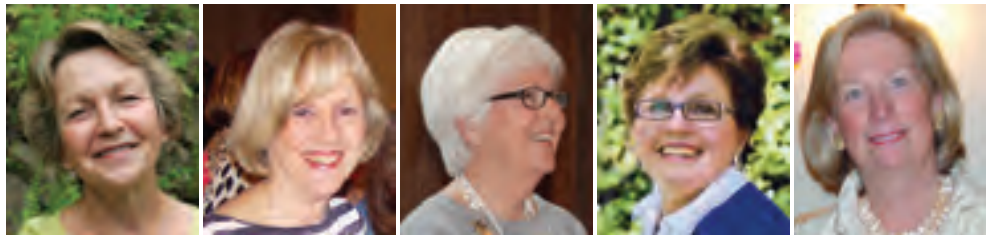
Nora Howard  
Judith Howe  
Tita Hyland  
Anne Johnson  
Marian Kellner



Patty Kent  
Eileen Kraus  
Jennifer Labinski  
Margah Lips  
Gwendolyn Love



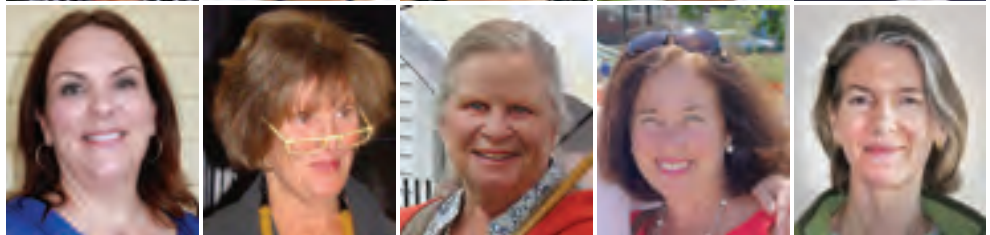
Linda Lydon  
Carole MacKenzie  
Nancy Macy  
Brooke Mallory  
Ellyn Marshall



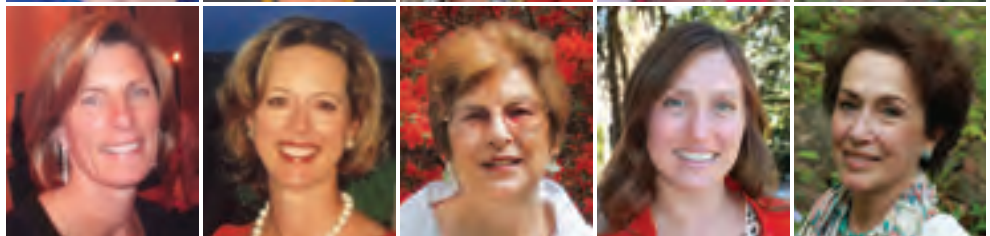
Joyce Magee  
Mimi Mead  
Sharon Michigami  
Katie Nixon  
Lillian Nolan



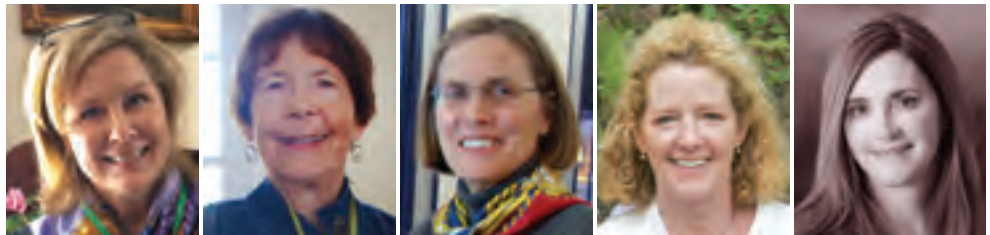
Tracey Parks  
Agnes Peelle  
Susan Prentice  
Ann Louise Price  
Brie Quinby



Susan Rathgeber  
Simone Reynolds  
Sally Richter  
Logan Rogers  
Pat Salner



Katy Sargent  
Mary Sargent  
Helen Savage  
Amy Schuster  
Mara Sfara



Jane Springer  
Betty Standish  
Betty Stanley  
Lucinda Stanley  
June Staunton

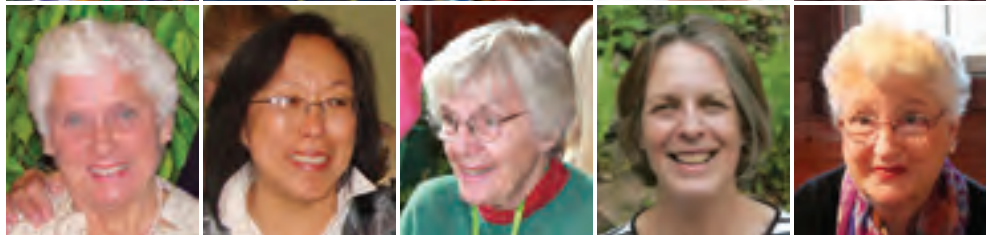






Photo by Brooke Mallory



*Hannah Steel  
Mary Alice Stielau*

*Marenda Stitzer  
Donna Stout*

*Elizabeth Stout  
Susan Stover*

*Margaret Tilney  
Vicki Trainer*

*Sally Weisman  
Kathryn West*

*Jan Whelan  
Arline Whitaker*

*Alice Willard  
Nancy Zweiner*

# Funds Raised



1967, Gardening Book.

By 1941: \$12,000+  
Until World War II, the Flower Marts were the chief source of GCH funding. The war redirected the club member's efforts to war relief.

By 1941: \$1,000  
GCH donation to GCA Founders Fund.

1940: (unknown)  
GCA Founders Fund Award for Scholarship at Columbia University/ NY Botanical Garden.

1956-1957: \$5,500  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving grant for landscaping Old State House grounds.

1958-1959: \$520  
Member's donations to Civic Projects.

1967: \$6,405  
"Much Ado About Gardening" book.

1973: \$1,600  
Mini-Fair at Eddy Barn.



1975, Cookbook.

1975: \$1,575  
"Christmas Concoctions" Cookbook.

1976: \$5,756  
Tailgate Treasures in May.

1978: \$55,000  
Flea Market with Connecticut Valley Garden Club.

c. 1970s: \$5,050  
Several plant sales (\$3,000), Amway products sales (\$600), Christmas wreath sales (\$300), Members' Perennial Sales and two silent auctions (\$1,150).

1981: \$1,500  
GCA Founders Fund Award, as runner-up with Connecticut Valley Garden Club for Old State House landscaping. Total awarded \$3,000 to the two clubs.

1982-1983: \$140  
Sale of GCH postcards of Zone II Clubs and GCA.

1986  
Holiday Auctions begin.

1986: \$70,000  
Hill-Stead Sunken Garden market gala, trip, and auction with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club.

1988: (unknown)  
Holiday Auction at Mrs. Austin D. Barney's.

1990: \$4,500  
Kousa Dogwood Sale.

1992: \$2,750  
Magnolia Stellata Sale.

1994: \$1,500  
Halesia – Mountain Silver Bell Sale.

1995: (unknown)  
Holiday Auction at Kitty Smith's.

1996: \$2,000  
Jacquemontii Birch, Juddi Viburnum, Flower Carpet Rose Sale.

1997: \$8,000  
Evening Holiday Auction at Jane Springer's.

1998: \$600  
Sale of bulbs, pots, and arrangements.

1999: \$8,000  
Evening Holiday Auction at Maria Ryan's.

2000: \$11,000  
Daytime Holiday Auction at Cynthia Gordon's.

2002: \$36,700  
Evening Holiday Auction at Maria Ryan's.

2005: \$11,575  
Daytime Holiday Auction at Nancy Zwiener's to plant 90 trees in Hartford for the 90th anniversary of GCH.

2007: \$15,000  
Evening Holiday Auction at Ellyn Marshall's, for the New Britain Museum of American Art.



1984, Mountain Cranberry post card. Sales to "to benefit the educational and community projects of the Garden Club of Hartford." It was part of a nationwide GCA-sponsored project.





2010, Cookbook.

2009: \$9,666  
Daytime Holiday Auction  
at Agnes Peelle's.

2010-2015: \$4,170  
Cookbook by  
GCH members.

2012-2016: \$3,205  
Notecard Project  
(photographs by GCH  
members).

2011: \$17,821  
Evening Holiday Auction  
at Town & County Club,  
to plant trees in Hartford.

2012, Notecards.

2012-2014: \$268  
Sales of Needlepoint kit  
with GCH Logo.

2013-2016: \$2,185  
Two donations from  
members to Community  
Trust Fund.

2013: \$20,711  
Daytime Holiday Auction  
at Julie Shushtari's for  
Knox Parks Earle Street  
Community Gardens and  
Hoop House in Hartford.

2014: \$2,500  
GCA Partners for Plants,  
for Keney Park.

2015: \$1,000  
GCA Partners for Plants,  
for Keney Park.

2015: \$23,313  
Holiday Evening Auction  
at Town & County Club  
for Hartford's Keney Park  
entrance restoration  
plantings (115 attendees).

2015: \$10,000  
GCA Founders Fund  
Award Runner-Up for  
Keney Park.



## PERENNIAL FUND

June 2016 balance: \$18,055.37

The Nina Stanley Fund, transformed into the Perennial Fund in March 1996. The endowed fund is enriched by gifts in memory, honor, appreciation or celebration of a person or event. The interest from this fund supports the cost of a speaker or a program. A donation to the Perennial Fund may be made by anyone, for any reason – a birthday wish, a memorial, an honorarium, or just from the goodness of your heart. In 2013 the club began using \$500 of earned interest annually to support a speaker for Programming.

## COMMUNITY TRUST FUND

June 2016 balance: \$24,260.48

The Community Trust CD Fund holds any donations the club receives from members that are directed toward community projects. Like the Perennial Fund, this trust accepts donations from anyone at any time! The proceeds from the auctions go here, too, before they are funneled to projects.

## CLUB DUES

Annual Club Dues in 2016 are presently \$200 for Members and Associates, \$110 for Affiliates and \$300 for a new Member. Associate Membership is an honor awarded to GCH members in good standing for twenty years or who have reached sixty-five years of age. Affiliate membership is granted by the Board of Directors to GCH members in good standing whose primary residence is no longer in the Greater Hartford area.



*Looking up! Tom Baptist, Superintendent of Public Works for the City of Hartford, led the wonderful bird walk through Keney Park, stopping to activate the iPhone for bird calls. The 2016 spring bird walk was presented by the GCH Centennial Committee, as its 2015 Christmas Auction event.*



*2015, Evening Holiday Auction, Town & County Club. Auctioneers Mary Alice Stielau and Clare Edwards implore us to raise our bids for a vacation in Arizona.*





# Civic Activity Timeline

*Over the years the Garden Club of Hartford has worked closely with our GCA sister club, Connecticut Valley Garden Club. We appreciate shared enthusiasm in these joint projects.*

1916: Planted strip of unused land west of and belonging to the Connecticut School for the Deaf on Asylum Avenue (\$200). Members contributed flowers to Mission connected with Union for Home Work; members opened their gardens to children who attend the Union.

1918: Beds of fragrant flowers and shrubs planted at Connecticut School for the Blind on Holcomb Street.

1919: A formal planting done at Jordan Lane Blind School. Two oak trees planted in 1927.

1920: Planted triangle at Asylum and Farmington Avenues (\$700).

1921: Planted grounds at Wangum Lodge (vacation house of YWCA). The wild flower conservation committee was active in educating children and motorists. Several thousand leaflets were distributed to pupils and teachers in public and private schools. Slide lectures given.

1922: Planted grounds at Webb House in Wethersfield and Newington Home for Crippled Children.

1927: Undertook resoiling and planting of the Mitchell House Settlement.

1928: Planted courtyard of the new YWCA building.

1928: Children's Museum, (\$10). Rome Scholarship (\$100).

1931: Planted triangle at Asylum/Farmington Avenues.

1932: Proceeds from club's Flower Mart, at the Old State House given to Unemployment Relief Fund of Community Chest. 16 flowering window boxes given to Hartford Social Settlement in conjunction with Connecticut Valley Garden Club. (\$1,874)

1933: Scholarship given to teacher to attend Nature Camp in New Hampshire (\$50). Flower Mart proceeds again given to Unemployment Relief Fund of Community Chest (\$1,500).

1933: For exhibition of Women Landscape Architects at Wadsworth Atheneum's Morgan Memorial (\$15).

1933: Sent a teacher to nature camp, Lost River, NH (\$50).

1934: Proceeds from the Flower Mart given for restoration of grounds of the Old State House. Plants to fill 20 window boxes given to North Street Settlement. (\$1,769)

1934: For prizes at the New York Flower Show (\$25).

1936: Contributed to Lowthorpe School in Groton, Massachusetts for scholarship aid. Raised funds to help Connecticut Arboretum purchase more property (\$222).

1937: Flower Mart proceeds given to Park Board of Hartford for Arboretum (\$1,500).

1937-1938: Planted large piece of bare ground on the southern end of Trinity College. 25 Pin Oaks, 50 Douglas Firs, 17 Austrian Pines, 26 Dogwoods, 3 White Oaks, 80 Japanese Cherries, 3 Elms and 3 offspring of the original Charter Oak (\$579).

1938: Park Board of Hartford, again for the new arboretum (listed in two annual reports, 1937 and 1938 appears to be two separate events) (\$1,500)

1938: Given to the "Contributor's Fund" (\$25).

1939: Proceeds from the Flower Mart given to Goodwin Park to replace hurricane losses (\$1,000). Financed sending teacher from the Children's Museum to Audubon camp for children's art classes (\$400).

1940: Proceeds from 10th Annual (and last) Flower Mart paid for 156 hours of ragweed pulling (\$60), and substantial contributions to the Red Cross, Avery Museum Scholarship, and Elizabeth Park Hurricane damage repairs (\$60+).

1940: Flower Mart given up. Energies and help now given to war relief.

1940: GCA Founders Fund Award for Scholarship at Columbia University/New York Botanical Garden.

1941: Planted around hospital and recreation room of Windsor Locks Air Base, 250 deciduous shrubs and 50 evergreens.

1942: War work intense. Books to Bradley Field service organizations, seeds to England, furnishings and assistance to 79th Regiment, two book carts for Bradley Field Hospital, garden tools to Welfare Officer for the 79th Regiment so that soldiers could have twelve vegetable gardens (\$50).

1943: Planted and maintained grounds around Armed Forces Club. Committee on hand at Victory Garden Information Booth at State House to answer questions and give information.

1944: Planting and maintenance continued on grounds of hospital and other buildings at Bradley Field (\$541). Recreation boxes filled for soldiers. Large shade tree for Bellevue Housing Project playground (\$50).

1944: Christmas decorations in Avon and Bradley Field (\$40).

1944: Connecticut College for land for arboretum (\$25).

1945: Provided garden tools for the blind. Worked for control of Dutch Elm disease. Worked for de-pollution of the waters of the Housatonic River. More planting and work at Bradley at request of Chaplain and officers.

1946-1947: Everyone is exhausted after the war. Gifts, flowers and books sent to soldiers and more seeds to England.

1948: Contributed to the Botanical Garden in New York City for research on medicinal plants (\$300). Tuition given student for conservation course at University of Connecticut.

1949: Contributed to the Children's Museum for educational films to promote interest in conservation by young students (\$600).

1950: Planted Magnolias around Independence Hall in Philadelphia and at Elizabeth Park (\$50). Contributed to Dr. Keinholz, Professor of Forestry at University of Connecticut, for scholarship aid for a nationwide conservation tour (\$50).

1951: Provided Mr. Piester funds to plant Dogwoods in Elizabeth Park (\$50). Donated to Yale University Fellowship Fund, Department of Plant Sciences (\$100). Educational fossils given to the Children's Museum. Contributed to the Women's League Day Care for grading, evergreens and deciduous shrub planting (\$50).

1952: Scholarship given to teacher for conservation course at University of Connecticut. Contributed toward tuition for two girls at summer nature camp (\$50).

1953: Conservation packets placed in 17 West Hartford schools. 10 Elms on Asylum Avenue, marked for destruction in street widening, were saved by efforts of some Garden Club members and their husbands. Two teachers were sent to the University of Connecticut for summer conservation courses. 24 Sugar Maples were given and planted on both sides of Woodland Street. Much effort expended, 1954, in getting city officials to care for the old Elms saved from destruction on Woodland Street. Mr. Kiersted of the Ford Foundation was impressed with the Conservation Packets and ordered 30, making a total of 89 which the Garden Club placed.

1954: 10 Dogwoods were given and planted at the Old State House. Mr. Piester of the State Park Board asked for our help in enhancing the State House grounds. Mr. Tunnard, civic planner and professor at Yale, was hired by the Garden Club to make landscape plans for these grounds. 30 Elms were planted as a start, and a satisfactory plan was arranged with the city for their maintenance. The Conservation Committee prevented the insurance company from destroying existing fine old shrubs and persuaded them to retain the handsome old iron fence.



**1955:** Agreed on five-year plan for the State House grounds, using a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's newly-established Old State House Fund (\$5,500) and other funds (\$3,355). From 1960 annual report.

**1956:** Work at State House continued. Two high schools provided with books, films and educational displays and other conservation material. Five film strips (audio-visual conservation) were given for use in all the high schools. Teacher was sent to summer conservation school at the University of Connecticut. Members dug, transported and planted myrtle at the Old State House.

**1957:** As a result of work of the Conservation Committee, two youth achievement citations were awarded to students in Hartford schools by the Garden Club of America: one to the Audubon Club of West Middle School for their Science Museum and seven to members of a social studies class at Weaver High School for their fish brush shelter.

**1958:** Work at the State House continued with members participating in planting, watering and maintenance. A contribution was given to three teachers so they could attend conservation camps during the summer. Conservation packets and educational material were loaned or given to Newington and Avon schools. 40 Junior Audubon Clubs were started in local areas. National Parks Committee student conservation program (\$35).

**1959:** Contributed to Brackett School teacher for taking pupils on nature study weekend camping trip (\$50). Investigation and research was done to find out if land donated for public parks can legally be taken over by State Highway Department. Also, whether land along highways can be sold for private use. Help was given to eliminate litterbugs.

**1960:** Began project to landscape and rehabilitate grounds at Hartford College for Women (\$1,521). 50 anti-litter posters and 50 handbooks on "Keep America Beautiful" were distributed in public schools.

**1961:** Work at Hartford College for Women continued – planting, pruning and identifying material. Contribution provided to a teacher for further work in providing nature trips to underprivileged children. Two-week scholarship offered at Connecticut Conservation Workshop.

**1962:** Planting at Hartford College for Women continued (\$540). Contributed to a teacher who provided nature trips for underprivileged children. National Arboretum Conservation Scholarships (\$130).

**1963:** Hosted (with Connecticut Valley Garden Club), Southern New England zone meeting of the Garden Club of America.

**1964:** Contributed to West Hartford youth gardens; continued work at Hartford College for Women. Provided Student Conservation Scholarship. Much work to preserve Talcott Mountain.

**1965:** Planted the Sculpture Court at Wadsworth Atheneum (\$6,756). Allowance for maintenance in 1973 and 1974 (\$600).

**1969:** Pictorial chart made of Mark Twain Conservatory, identifying plants by their common and botanical names. Chart was reproduced in GCA's bulletin and resulted in its being featured in Time-Life's book "Flowering House Plants" (\$75).

**1970:** Workshops conducted at Central Connecticut College for administrative and supervisory school personnel of various Greater Hartford towns on how to teach the relationship of man and his environment. This was followed by demonstrations of teaching techniques in participating towns (\$2,500).

**1972:** Planted the grounds of Burgdorf Health Center (\$3,150). Allowance for maintenance in 1973 and 1974 (\$600).

**1973-1974:** Continued supervision of the plantings of the Sculpture Court at Wadsworth Atheneum (\$600).

**1974-1975:** Restoration of Mark Twain Memorial grounds (\$2,000).

**1974-1975:** Hartford streets: Planted 36 planters of Juniper along Main Street, from the Isle of Safety to G. Fox, Bicentennial Project (\$1,500).

**1975:** Labeled 35 trees in Bushnell Park (\$125).

**1977-1979:** Funds raised (with Connecticut Valley Garden Club), for landscaping of Old State House grounds (\$66,153). Additional donations to a memorial fund for two former Hartford Garden Club presidents, Mrs. John D. Britton (Peggy) and Mrs. Bruce Manternach (Josie) were given for this project (\$10,000).

**1981-1984:** Members provided volunteer gardening service at Elizabeth Park to Knox Parks Foundation two days a week for four months of the year.

**1982:** Contributed to Knox Parks Foundation for plant signs, instructions for growing annuals and construction of a flower bed (\$1,000).

**1982-1983:** Old State House and Institute for the Living – two trees and playground (\$300).

**1984:** Provided for a site plan, preparation and purchase of 26 flowering trees and other planting in Bushnell Park (\$25,000).

**1985-1987:** We joined with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to restore the period garden and Summer House at the Hill-Stead Museum. During the research, the original Beatrix Farrand planting plan for the Sunken Garden was discovered in a library in Berkeley, California. With three major fund raising events, we exceeded our goal (\$50,000). These events were: the Garden Market plant sale and gourmet lunch at Hill-Stead on May 9-10, 1986; the Edwardian Gala and Auction on June 14, 1986; and the trip to

England for the Chelsea Flower Show. The restored Sunken Garden opened June 21, 1988, with a GCH/CVGC ribbon cutting ceremony. (\$73,085)

**1990-1999:** We supported Knox Parks Foundation's training of Hartford teachers in indoor gardening, with supplies, equipment and a classroom grow lab. This also marked Earth Day 1990, the American Forestry Association's call for Global Releaf, and President George H.W. Bush's request that Americans plant "one billion trees per year for the next ten years." We started "the Greenhouse Project" and provided electricity, gas and water services for Knox Parks' new community greenhouse at the old Whiting Lane greenhouse in West Hartford. We filled the greenhouse with trays of flower and vegetable seedlings, and helped Knox Parks with 14 community gardens at Bellevue Square. We partnered with Hartford Trees, Inc., to join with students in planting 15 new trees at Fox Middle School. We supported the planting of 12 trees at Mary Hooker School and Goldfarb Park, where the children and police officers "adopted" trees. (\$18,500)

**1990:** Kousa Dogwood Sale (our first pre-order tree sale). Raised funds for the Knox Parks Foundation's expenses of training five Hartford teachers in the indoor gardening program, including supplies, equipment, and a classroom grow lab (\$4,500).

**1996:** Additional donation to Hill-Stead Museum for the purchase and installation of a gate between the Sunken Garden and Sheep Meadow, in memory of Nina Stanley (Mrs. Talcott), a GCH member and Hill-Stead trustee and governor. On June 20, 1996, Hill-Stead Museum presented the Nina Stanley Lecture and dedicated the Sunken Garden Gate. (\$1,338)

**1996-1997:** Spring tree sale of Jacquemontii birch, Juddi Viburnum and Flower Carpet Rose to beautify Greater Hartford (\$2,000).

**1997:** Donated to the spring "Hartford Blooms" project (\$500). We planted hundreds of pots of flowers at the Knox Parks Foundation's Whiting Lane greenhouses for that cause.

**1997-1998:** Jubilee House, in the south end of Hartford, is a community education center operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Working together with students, primarily from Bulkeley High School's G.R.O.W. program, we restored the former courtyard garden and filled the beds with vegetables, flowers and herbs. Some of the specimens went to the New Haven Garden Club flower show.

**1997-1998:** Reprinted 2,000 copies of the New American Lawn brochure, originally written by Darien Garden Club and distributed them through the Farmington River Watershed Association, and in other towns.



1999: Donated 500 daffodil bulbs to Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground, and hired Knox Parks Foundation's landscape training program participants to plant the bulbs (\$450). This program taught unemployed individuals new skills for re-employment.

1999: Contributed to the Knox Parks Foundation for electricity and water to their new greenhouses (\$3,500).

2000-2002: Contributed to the Frederick Olmsted designed Pope Park Project – Phase I (\$6,500) and Phase II (\$3,500). We helped organize a long-range plan for the park. GCH assisted and helped finance the community center entrance and the swimming pool area seating and plantings – spearheading a neighborhood commitment to the park. This included a work day of planting 1,000 daffodil bulbs, with help from 30 children in the Pope Park Recreation Center after-school program. We also planted bushes and trees. Assistance came from the City of Hartford, the Friends of Pope Park, and the Knox Parks Foundation and was covered by Fox 61 TV news.

2000-2001: Riverfront Recapture (\$500); Knox Parks Foundation (\$500).

2000-2001: Donated seed money for the Urban Greens program to enable students to raise flowers for street containers and grow hydroponic salads greens to sell to local restaurants (\$3,000).

2001: The GCH Perennial Fund donated to the Bushnell Park Foundation to replace six Kwanzan Cherry trees around the pond (\$3,000).

2003: Contributed to the Bushnell Park Foundation for restoration of the planting around the newly restored Corning Fountain (1899). Working with the City of Hartford, we refurbished the irrigation system, planned for historically accurate and city-hardy plantings, and installed the plantings (\$35,000).

2005: "Awakenings" Flower Show's Preview Party raised funds for Hartford's GROW Program, for training inner city youth in horticultural and entrepreneurial skills (\$3,400).

2006: The commitment for the club's 90th anniversary was to plant 90 trees throughout Hartford and kicked off Hartford's Memorial Tree Fund. New trees were planted at the Learning Corridor's Boundless Playground and South Green/Barnard Park. The club chose to help restore South Green/Barnard Park because of its importance to the neighborhood. 500 daffodils were planted at South Green. Nine Yews at the Ancient Burying Ground mark the club's nine decades. Most of the Yews have since been "charred" by the reflection of the sun from the Gold Building. Other trees were planted in clusters in playgrounds and parks around the city. The Arbor Day celebration was held on South Green in April, with a theme of "pride in our parks and city." It included a children's art show, debut of a mural by Hartford High School students, and a visit by the Governor and local dignitaries. (\$11,575)

2007-2008: Donated to New Britain Museum of American Art for completion of the gardens in and around the front and cafe terraces of the new Chase Family Building and the restored Landers House (\$15,000). GCH collaborated with NBMAA's landscape firm in the garden design and choice of some of the plant material. Members nurture and maintain the gardens and "watch over" it still today.

2009: This year the Civic Projects Committee considered new projects and evaluated the condition of prior years' projects with regard to sustainability, benefit to and beautification of the community, and reflection of the project on GCH.

2010: Donated to Knox Parks' Affleck Street Community Garden in Hartford (\$10,000). This is an inner-city garden primarily used (at the time of development) by 25 to 30 Somali families who relocated from their war-torn country to this area. These individuals have created and cultivated impressive vegetable gardens to grow food for their families and supplement their incomes by selling extra produce at local farmers' markets. Our monetary contributions helped, and hands-on manpower pruned trees, installed new raised beds, repaired chain link fences, and extended the irrigation system. In addition, we purchased and installed a heavy metal tool shed and contributed for on-going maintenance (\$1,600 of the \$10,000).



2011: Dover Air Force Memorial Garden in Delaware where fallen soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan are returned to the United States (\$1,000).

2011: Refurbishment of Bushnell Park's Corning Fountain Garden after a leak in the fountain flooded the garden and killed many of the boxwoods GCH had planted in 2003. Our contribution funded the boxwood replacements, the addition of several other plants, mulching of the garden, and Knox Parks' labor costs. This project was timely, as the City of Hartford was preparing for the 125th anniversary of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch at the Park. (\$1,500)

2012: Donated to Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative for completion of a rain garden at Classical Magnet School in Hartford, an environmental science department project. GCH members worked alongside students planting wildflowers and groundcovers to serve as a barrier, protecting the Park River by filtering out pollutants from the nearby parking lot run-off. Our contribution paid for plant materials, tools for the students, and garden compost (\$1,000).

2012: As part of Knox Parks' "Plant 1,000 Trees in 10 Years" project, we donned work clothes and joined Knox's Green Team and neighborhood volunteers to plant 43 large, new, city-hardy trees along Main Street, Park Street, and Charter Oak Avenue (\$18,000).

*Elizabeth Park Arch.*  
Photo by Susan Prentice

2012: Elizabeth Park Arch repair after October snow-storm, proceeds from 2010 Cookbook project (\$1,000).

2013-2014: Donated to Knox Parks' Earle Street Community Garden (renamed the Mount Moriah Community Garden), Hartford, for construction of a hoop house (\$6,000), materials provided by the USDA; extension of underground irrigation lines (\$4,000); construction of thirty 4' x 8' raised beds (\$3,000: \$1,000 of which were individual donations by club members); and a 20' x 30' pavilion (\$10,000), an open-air structure with a roof and a cement floor, which is used as a shelter for gardeners and a location for classes, gatherings, and meetings. GCH members

worked on many occasions to construct raised beds, haul soil and compost, weed the orchard, and tackle various other jobs as they presented themselves. Community gardeners have developed impressive vegetable and flower gardens, and care for and harvest from an orchard and berry bushes. The greenhouse is now open for winter gardening. (\$23,000+)

2014-2015: Garden Club of America Partners for Plants grants in Keney Park (\$3,500).

2016: GCA Founders Fund Runner-up Award for Keney Park (\$10,000).

*NOTE: Knox Parks Foundation's name changed to Knox by 2015*





# Major Civic Projects

*During the 2005-2006 90th Anniversary Year the club's major past civic projects were researched and described in the Trumpet Vine. Included here are those reports and an update for the 90th and Keney Park projects.*

## AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

*From the Archives...*

*ed. note: Prepared by Arline Whitaker with Susie Barney, Diane Smith, Anne Holcombe, Jan Hickcox, Eileen Kraus. Taken verbatim from minutes and includes typographical and punctuation errors, as well as possible misspellings.*

***The minutes of the May 24, 1916 meeting of the GCH report on the first project undertaken by the club. The minutes read:***

"Mrs. Robert W. Gray suggested that the Garden Club of Hartford should plant a strip of unused land belonging to and west of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum on Asylum Avenue. The matter was discussed at length and it was finally VOTED that the Garden Club of Hartford should plant the strip of land west of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum and the President be empowered to appoint a committee to have charge of it."

***June 17, 1916:*** "The president read a communication from Mr. John H. Buck, chairman of the executive committee of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, inviting the club to take charge of certain landscape planting on the grounds of the Deaf and Dumb property on Asylum Avenue. The matter was discussed and tabled until the following meeting."

***June 22, 1916:*** "After a long discussion it was finally voted: That the President appoint a Committee to plant the ground of 'The American School for the Deaf.'"

Later minutes tell us that \$200 was voted for this project and two committees of the club are planting these grounds. Six hundred bulbs were donated by the club and Mrs. Robert W. Gray and Miss Bertha P. Dennis, are in charge of this work."

"Another committee composed of Mrs. John H. Buck, Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice, Miss Frances Beach, Miss Virginia Brown, and Mrs. Charles A. Goodwin is developing the remainder of the school grounds with a general landscape scheme of evergreen and deciduous shrub planting."

***At the first annual meeting of the G.C.H. held at the home of Mrs. Lucius F. Robinson on Forest Street, the following was reported:*** "The President explained in detail the general planting scheme of the grounds of the American School for the Deaf, these bulbs were largely donated by Miss Bertha P. Dennis and Miss Francis Beach."

The first home of the Deaf and Dumb Institute (1817-21) was at the old City Hotel at Main and Gold Streets in Hartford, moving to Asylum Avenue and remaining there from 1821-1921, eventually finding its way to North Main Street in West Hartford in 1921. The Asylum Avenue building was torn down about 1925. Perhaps the bulbs and landscaping recognized a 100th anniversary (approximately).

Many of the trees on the Hartford Insurance property are very established. I wonder if any are from the 1916 project? Certainly, the project undertaken in 1916 began a long history of the Garden Club of Hartford's sincere commitment to our capital city and the community at large.

## GARDEN AT THE WEBB HOUSE 1922

*Clare Edwards with Midge Tilney, Agnes Peelle,  
Mary Alice Stielau, Molly Morris, Pat Salner*

The minutes of the early years of the Garden Club of Hartford do not reveal much about a project to create/fund a garden at the Webb House in Wethersfield. But, more about that later. They do reveal a group of women excited about forming a club devoted to the love of gardening. During the first years were they were busy organizing themselves by creating simple by-laws, agreeing on a dues structure, inviting women to join the club and planning programs and trips. From the beginning they were determined to meet in member's houses for tea, a business meeting and a program. The monthly meetings were held "during the growing season," i.e. spring, summer and fall. Members were subjected to an annual visitation of their garden from a club delegation to make sure that things were up to snuff. The programs were varied, stimulating and educational. During the first several years Fletcher Steele came to lecture several times and the minutes record a detailed account of his comments on the principles of landscape design. There were programs on specific plants such as the iris, or the rose, and programs devoted in detail to planting, soil and light conditions and good horticultural practice. Car trips to luncheon parties and garden viewing around Connecticut were surprisingly frequent given the condition of the roads (and the cars) in the 19teens and twenties. On one occasion the GCH ladies were delighted to have been served lunch by "the debutantes of Litchfield."

When the club was admitted to the Garden Club of America in 1919, the minutes reflect that the Hartford women were involved with the shaping of the national organization. Money was collected and sent to cover early deficits, members gardens were photographed in glass slide format, contributions to the Bulletin were made, Annual Meetings were attended (and vividly described in the minutes), and advice was sought and given. So, in 90 years, some things have changed, and much has stayed the same.

Now, back to the Webb House garden:

**May 29, 1919:** "Mrs. Andrews brought before the club the suggestion that it should design and plant the garden of the old Webb house in Wethersfield, in which Washington stayed, and where he is said to have planned the Yorktown campaign. As the Colonial Dames expect to acquire and restore the house, the club looked with favor on the idea of restoring the garden, or at least of creating a period garden; and Mrs. Charles Goodwin was appointed chairman, with power to select a committee to look over the ground and bring in a report on the subject. She appointed Mrs. Prentice and Mrs. Root."

**June 13, 1919:** "Mrs. Goodwin reported for her committee concerning the garden for the Webb House in Wethersfield, that it would be feasible to cooperate with Mrs. Andrews in planting an informal border of old fashioned flowers, and it was voted that it be done."

**October 6, 1919:** "The question of planting at the Webb House was next discussed. Mrs. Andrews thought the ground could be prepared for the club. Mrs. Goodwin would like contributions of old fashioned flowers for this hardy boarder."

**June 5, 1923:** "The Garden Club met at one o'clock at the Webb House, Wethersfield, with twenty – five members present and one guest, Mrs. Sloan, president of the Garden Club of America."

There is no further mention in the minutes of this decade of the Webb House garden.

In a conversation with Donna Baron at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum it became apparent that the garden which the GCH planted was a border running along the front of the house. No known written descriptions exist of the garden although some vestigial plants, which may be original, such as Lily of the Valley and Snow Berry bush survive. A fence was placed between the garden and the street obscuring any photographic image which might have been taken.



The next part of the story is how the GCH may have become involved in this project. Wallace Nutting owned the Webb House for three years and ran it as an historic site to be visited: one in his “chain” of five such properties in New England. In 1918 he was having financial difficulties, compounded by the fact that visitation to his houses had fallen off due to the war. He put his five properties up for sale and initially sought advice from or offered them to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now known as Historic New England), but they declined to purchase them. It is thought that there may have been some connection between William Sumner Appleton, the head of SPENA, and Mr. and Mrs. James P. Andrews of Hartford. Mrs. Andrews was a Colonial Dame and the previously mentioned member of the Garden Club. A fund raising campaign was initiated in early 1919 to raise funds for the purchase of the house with the understanding that the Colonial Dames in Connecticut would be the ultimate owner. The major donors were the Webb descendants, SPENA, residents of Wethersfield and the Colonial Dames. Mrs. Andrews and three or four other women took out a six month mortgage to assure the sale. They did however have to have a Hartford lawyer, Arthur Perkins, carry his name on the mortgage on their behalf, as “women did not own property.” The Dames assumed title to the Webb House in June of 1919 and Mrs. Andrews became its first Chairman and remained a force there for some time until she became the president of the National Society. It was agreed that the Garden Club of Hartford would restore the garden.

The garden which we think of today however, when we think of the Webb house, is not the border at the front of the house but the elaborate Colonial Revival garden at the back. In 1921 Annie Burr Jennings, a Standard Oil heiress from Fairfield, an early preservationist and a Colonial Dame, hired the landscape architect Amy Cogswell to design a plan for that garden. Miss Jennings funded both the plan and the garden. That garden has gone through a variety of interpretations over the years. In the late 1990s the Amy Cogswell plans were rediscovered and a restoration of the 1921 plan is in progress.



## OLD STATE HOUSE 1934–1980

*By Nora Howard for the Team, Ginna Miller, Chairman, Mally Cox-Chapman, Callie Cutler, Eunice Groark, Tita Hyland, Dorothy Lund*

**Background:** The Hartford State House was built in 1796. In 1917, former Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley (the father-in-law of future GCH member Ruth Bulkeley) began a fund raising campaign which saved the building from destruction and allowed for restoration. Three of our members were among those whose families pledged \$5,000 each to the project: Mrs. William E.C. Bulkeley, Fannie Goodwin, and Mrs. Frank Sumner.

In 1959, the Connecticut Historical Society reopened the Old State House to the public. In 1961, the National Park Service named it a National Historic Landmark. In 1975, the city wanted to tear down the Old State house for more parking space. The next year, the City of Hartford and the Old State House Association agreed to a 99-year lease.

The Garden Club of Hartford conducted extensive landscaping work at the Old State House. This report looks at our work from 1934-1980. The following details are from annual reports, minutes, and our History of 1916-1966.

**1934 Civic Project:** In 1934, we donated \$1,769 from the Flower Mart funds for the restoration of the Old State House grounds. (The Flower Mart was our chief source of revenue from 1930-1940, when we stopped it to devote energies to the war efforts.) The club received letters of appreciation from Houghton Bulkeley, Chairman of the Old State House Restoration Committee, and from Mayor Beach, and notice in the Hartford Courant and Hartford Times.

**1955-1960 Civic Project:** In 1954, Club member Katharine Parsons suggested a speaker: Everett Piester, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Hartford. He spoke to the club about civic planting emphasizing famous landmarks, and asked for our help in enhancing the Old State House grounds. In 1954, we agreed on a five-year plan to “do an effective and thorough job” on the grounds. In 1956, President Mrs. John D. Britton reported that “In spite of the weather, the dream of this club that Bulfinch’s beautiful State House will be a focal point of beauty and historical interest is becoming a reality.” She wrote:

*We sleep and dream that all is beauty.  
We wake and find that life is Duty.  
Toil on, thou club, courageously  
That we may find our dream to be  
A Civic Project for all to see*

The club hired Christopher Tunnard, Yale professor in the Department of Architecture and a civic planner, to make a landscape plan. Club member Mary Edwards selected plant materials and supervised planting, watering and weeding by members, work “performed by hardy members of the club under broiling sun and drenching rain.” We paid for and planted ten dogwoods. We planted a thirty-foot tall elm tree. “Not only did the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving give us financial aid but from the City of Hartford came a letter of commendation for our work and from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut a citation of achievement.”

Noted the May 1957 minutes: “Mary Edwards had a word to say about the Old State house. The planting has been accomplished and appears most attractive. Rhododendrons, viburnum and ilex glabra were among some of the materials used. The planting took three days and required five to eight men. Mrs. John Britton attended in blue jeans and jacket giving the occasion an official air.” The Old State House was “a project which required the ingenuity, work and behind the scenes maneuvering of our President, Mrs. John Britton, to establish. Due to her promotion of the Garden Club of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving opened its purse to the establishment of a State House Fund, enabling us the use of \$5,500

for landscaping purposes. Without this enormous boost we could never have entertained such a grandiose project. Mary Edwards very generously gave her time and talent toward the executing of this landscape plan. Now that we have planted and designed, we have the west side of the building yet to finish.”

The May 1958 minutes reported that Mrs. Horace Whitman headed the Old State House Committee and that Hoffman’s Nursery had completed plantings and agreed to maintenance work. “Thanks to the untiring work of Mary Edwards and the green thumb activities of other club members, the Old State House is gradually becoming presentable. Future plans include the extension of the brick terrace around the statue of Thomas Hooker and the widening of the steps and the resetting of the existing fence.” The cost of this was estimated at \$3,000, which the club agreed to raise over the next few years.

The landscape began to take shape. We planted an elm tree on the southwest side, myrtle on the west side, paved the east side walk and west side, and planted nine Moraine Locusts and other trees on the east side. Thousands of myrtle plants, planted by Club members in 1956 on the west side, fell to disease the following year. Out came the myrtle and in went new topsoil and 2,000 pachysandras. Thirty-nine members gave approximately 450 volunteer hours weeding, pruning and watering. Mary Edwards gave many more hours. Club members did much of the hauling, watering, and other work themselves.

In April, 1960, the club completed its Old State House landscaping and the City took over responsibility. The club had raised and spent \$8,855. The Oak Leaf Award went to Mary Edwards. Said the award citation, “She has not only designed the planting at the Old State House, but has supervised the installation of trees, pachysandra, brownstone, pebbles, shrubs, and peat moss. She has given, at a conservative estimate, four thousand hours of time to our club project.” The minutes go on to report that “Miss Edwards, who had fortunately just arrived at the meeting, was further accorded a resounding round of applause.”



**1976-1980 Civic Project:** We joined forces with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club and raised \$62,193 for the grounds, including a brick plaza and crosswalks. The Old State House was rededicated with a large ceremony on May 19, 1979. We submitted this project to the Garden Club of America's Founders Fund award in 1980, and received a Runner-Up designation. Ginna Miller was Civic Project Chairman.

**Afterword:** The Old State House underwent a twelve million dollar make-over from 1992-1996. A recent telephone call to facilities manager Cynthia Brown resulted in this information: there are still some locust trees remaining from the mid-1980s. However, because the landscape was almost completely dug up in the 1990s to create an irrigation system, and to allow for underground improvements including a subterranean room, very little of our landscape work remains.



*Old State House. Photo by Susan Prentice*

## TRINITY COLLEGE 1937-1938

*Kathryn Cox with Barbara Anthony, Lucy Cartland,  
Carole MacKenzie, Sandy Milliken, Pat Porter*

In 1937-38 the membership of the Garden Club of Hartford read like a list of the FFH: the First Families of Hartford: Mrs. Morgan Bulkeley, President, Mrs. Chick Austin, Mrs. Welles Eddy, three Cheneys, two Fergusons, four Goodwins, four Robinsons, and many other illustrious ladies. In addition, a competition garden design was won by Mrs. Paul Swett, first mother-in-law of our own Kitty Smith! On October 5, 1937, the minutes reveal that Mrs. Huntington declared that "in ten years roses will need no spray." All was right with the horticultural world!

A new horticultural project was detailed to the membership by Ruth Bulkeley in January. The annual report for 1938 tells the story:

"This year the Hartford Garden Club (note the name of the club!) undertook as a special project the beautifying of a desolate, wind-swept tract of several acres on the south end of Trinity College campus. The college has had no funds with which to beautify this spot, and as it is in a prominent location, it was felt that attractive planting here would prove beneficial to the city as well as to the college. The horticultural committee had charge of the planting which followed an existing landscape plan. As 1937 was the sesquicentennial of the signing of the Constitution, it seemed fitting to dedicate three 20-foot white oak trees to the three Connecticut signers of the Constitution. (William Samuel Johnson, Oliver Ellsworth, and Roger Sherman). These were planted at a special ceremony of March 30th, and were accepted by President Ogilby on behalf of the college. A row of 25 pin oaks each donated by a member of the club was also planted on Summit Avenue, as well as 80 Japanese cherry trees given as a memorial to a former member. On the east border a screen planting was put in consisting of 50 Douglas firs, 17 Austrian pines and 34 dogwoods. The Hartford Superintendent of Parks, George Hollister, obtained the three grandchildren of the original Charter Oak from Peter Cascio, which were donated. In all, 212 trees were planted, representing an investment of \$579.00."



*Trinity College. Photo by Susan Prentice*

Seventy years can be measured in part by price differentials: the cost of planting the three 20 foot trees was \$35. Each of the donated pin oaks cost \$10; the Douglas firs planted along New Britain Avenue cost \$2 per tree. There was tremendous excitement about this endeavor. Members spontaneously bought trees at meetings; in November the club replaced four spruces, and in 1939 the club continued the project, launching a spring planting of five elms and more evergreens.

The Trinity grounds department head is very enthusiastic about our plantings today. “Come on over any time and see your oak trees...they’re big, they’re beautiful, and they’re not going anywhere!” A comforting comment, as so many planned landscape elements are changed or eliminated for growth or expansion.

This project represents what has not changed about the “Hartford Garden Club”: the enthusiastic undertaking of a landscaping project, working with private nurseries, state arboretums, private institutions, and energized, well-connected members whose phone calls are returned and whose private donations underwrite efforts for the beautification of public and private lands.

At the March, 1938 Trinity tree planting, Mrs. Andrews, a former President of the club, spoke: “As we now place these trees in Trinity’s academic soil, under the shadow of her towers, and as we add other growing things to create beauty both for the eye and for the mind, what better can we hope, both as gardeners and as citizens, than that the beautiful and comforting motto of Connecticut may be perfectly illustrated here:

“What He hath transplanted, He will sustain.”

## VICTORY GARDENS AND THE WAR EFFORT

*Donna Stout with Katy Sargent, Diane Brown,  
Brie Quinby, Betsey Bower*

Labor and gas shortages during the war years meant that both harvesting and shipping food to markets was hard. The government solution was to call on citizens to plant Victory Gardens so families could become more self-sustaining. Told, “A garden will make your rations go further” and “Our food is fighting” the public sprang into action. Urban rooftops, backyards and empty lots became gardens and suburban vegetable gardens were enlarged, all in the patriotic effort. Families were encouraged to can their own produce so that commercial foodstuffs could go to the soldiers. Answering the call, Americans bought 315,000 pressure cookers in 1943, up from 66,000 in 1942.

The US Department of Agriculture estimates that more than 20 million victory gardens were planted, and the harvest equaled what commercial growers produced so the effort did make a difference. In fact, in 1946, after the war was over and the government stopped promoting Victory Gardens, many people didn’t plant. Because commercial growers weren’t up-to-speed yet, America experienced some food shortages.

Throughout 1943 and 1944, the Garden Club of Hartford focused attention on both vegetable gardening and on the horticultural surroundings of the soldiers stationed at Bradley Field in Windsor Locks. The 1700 acres of tobacco fields, which the state had bought in 1940, had been turned over to the US government in 1941 in the face of the impending war. The military base became pilot training grounds; in fact, Bradley Field is named after the first pilot to be killed while in service at the airport. Lieutenant Eugene M. Bradley of Antler, OK, died during a training drill in August 1941, and in his memory the airfield was named Bradley Field in January 1942. Bradley Field became a major embarkation field for bombers on their way to Europe.





Following the directive of the Federated Garden Clubs to “help the Land Army in every way possible,” the Garden Club of Hartford, along with other garden clubs in the area, became quite involved in encouraging Victory Gardens and in supporting the war effort in a variety of ways, including establishing plantings and Victory Gardens at Bradley Field. At the meeting on Dec. 28, 1943, it was reported that Mrs. Barnes read a very appreciative letter from Major Joel thanking our Club for the bulbs and shrubs sent to Bradley Field for the grounds. On Jan. 11, 1944, “Miss Chapman reported that Mr. Crochet was happy over our order for seeds for the soldiers’ gardens, as these men had become so interested that they have bought many more seeds on their own account. Miss Chapman will find out about trees and shrubs for Bradley Field. Mrs. Ingersoll read some very interesting facts from the bulletin of the Office of War Information... Mrs. McCain told about the decorations in the nineteen wards at Bradley Field, and the gifts for each boy. Mrs. McCain desires books, good short stories preferred, for use at Bradley Field. Several Clubs took the responsibility for the decorations and gifts for the different wards. Other Clubs sent money, and Miss Mabel Choate, Chairman of the New England Zone of the Garden Club of America, donated \$75.00. Mrs. Cheney spoke of the Christmas cheer given to the posts in out of way places around Manchester and East Hartford. She visited these with gifts on Christmas day. Mrs. Ramsay helped decorate the Armed Forces Club with Christmas greens.”

By March 1944, beautifying Bradley Field had become a major focus of our Club. With all the manpower available at the base, and with planting and cultivating gardens considered “recreational work” by the staff at the Bradley Field Hospital, the state had offered 100 trees to beautify the grounds. The minutes of the March 28th meeting reveal that “Miss Chapman would like to plant shrubbery and flowers in the Red Cross Area, as this is very barren now. The soldiers will care for these. It was moved and seconded that it be recommended that our Club give up to \$100 for the ‘Red Cross Area’ of Bradley Field as our project.”

Victory Gardens weren’t being ignored, though. At the same meeting, our members agreed to help with a booth “at Fox’s, where literature will be given out with information concerning vegetables. Mrs. Grey said our Club would man this booth for three days. Mrs. Terry offered \$5.00 for charts, which will explain about vegetable planting, and can be given out at the booth.” By April, Club members had also agreed to “stand ready to serve when called” to help at the Local Garden, near the State House.

The Bradley Field project remained our biggest financial commitment. The April executive committee meeting minutes report that a committee was going to inspect Bradley Field with \$150 in hand from the Connecticut Valley Club and the GCH. The Cascio’s Nursery Co. foreman would supervise the planting. In May, however, the site was changed at the request of the Captain in charge of Bradley Field, though it was agreed by all involved that the new area was much more attractive.

By June, the quadrangle at Bradley Field had been successfully planted with shrubs and hollyhocks under the supervision of the Cascio Nursery Co. and with the help of men from the base. Phlox, eupatorium and forsythia had been contributed, and the State foresters donated 100 small pine trees. Members of the Suffield Garden Club planted three beds of annuals and volunteered to maintain and water the areas over the summer. Three large umbrellas and 18 white Adirondack chairs were also purchased, and money left over from the \$441.83 collected from various sources was designated to be used to buy replacement plants and bulbs for fall planting. By October 1944, 1,000 bulbs were scheduled to be planted at Bradley Field and money was appropriated for Christmas decorations for the soldiers.

In May 1945, Germany surrendered, and Bradley Field became a major center for the redeployment of forces from Europe to the Pacific. By August, with the end of the war with Japan, some 3,644 aircraft and 60,146 people had been processed through Bradley Field. It was deactivated as a military base on August 30, 1945.

## THE HARTFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

*In the fall of 2005, we conducted a review of the Garden Club of Hartford's civic project (1960-1965) to improve landscaping at the Hartford College for Women. Research by 90th Birthday Subcommittee Alice Willard, Chairman, with Elsie Childs, Ellie Crisman, Nora Howard, Carol Kohn, Margah Lips.*

**Choosing a Civic Project:** The Garden Club of Hartford was founded in 1916. Two years later, the club's minutes noted that "we hope to do one bit of civic planting each year." (1918-1919 minutes).

Our team reviewed landscaping improvements to the grounds of the Hartford College for Women, 1960-1965. This was the club's fourth major project since its founding, according to the 50th Anniversary History (1966). The History noted that this project resulted in "an attractive area in which to study as well as a source of botanical information."

The Hartford College for Women began in 1933 as a branch of Mount Holyoke College. In 1991, it affiliated with the University of Hartford. It is located at the intersection of Elizabeth Street and Asylum Avenue in Hartford.

By 1960, the club had completed the re-landscaping of the Old State House grounds (1954-1959), and garden club members were searching for another major civic project.

In the spring of 1960, Club member Mrs. Robert Huntington proposed that the club consider the former Seaverns estate grounds at the Hartford College for Women for its next civic project. Mimeographs of four projects under consideration went to all members for study during the summer. That fall, the members chose the Hartford College for Women project idea.

**The Hartford College for Women at the Former Seaverns Estate:** Club President Elinor Oakes noted in the 1961 Annual Report that "Our new project – the Grounds of Hartford College – should prove interesting to us all. We cannot hope to improve on this beauty of the original plantings, but we can try to restore it to its former place as an outstanding garden, and at the same time take a part in the tremendous educational surge which is taking place in Hartford."

Mrs. Charles Seaverns had been a beloved GCH member (member-at-large, 1926; member 1929-1947). The club's annual report for 1962 noted that "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seaverns left this beautiful estate to Hartford College. It is most fitting that our club is active in helping to maintain the lovely grounds, as Mrs. Seaverns was a member of this club and both Mr. and Mrs. Seaverns were members of the Garden Club of America."

The Hartford Courant reported that the Seaverns estate "was once renowned for its rare shrubs, beautiful trees and native wild flowers." The Garden Club's aim was the "preservation of a heritage at the Seaverns estate... a woodland paradise in the heart of Hartford." (May 13, 1962.)

The Project Committee over time included Chairman Mrs. Kingsland (Kate) Van Winkle, Mrs. John Huntington, Mrs. Ralph Dixon, Mrs. Roger Eddy, and Mrs. Edward Nichols. Mrs. Van Winkle noted that the club also had "the promise of brains and brawn from about a dozen other club members when the moment comes to mobilize." (Annual Report, 1961.)

The committee spent the winter of 1960-1961 planning for "the rehabilitation of the planting at the former Seaverns property..." The Project Committee members had several meetings with Miss Laura Johnson, the president of the Hartford College for Women. She was enthusiastic and grateful to the club for its interest.

Club member and professional landscaper Mary Edwards wrote the master plan. The college and the club identified these needs:

- Repair the ¼ mile hedge bordering the street, called "shaggy and toothless" by the college president.
- Plant additional azaleas on the east bank. (Mrs. Seaverns had collected azaleas.)
- Transplant the pachysandra from behind the buildings where it grew in profusion but with no purpose; replant in several areas along the front driveway which abounded in weeds.
- Label unusual trees and shrubs.





Professor Harold O. Perkins, retired professor of Landscape Design at the University of Connecticut, offered to help identify plantings that Mary Edwards could not identify. We do not know if he did so.

The club hired Mr. Ludwig Hoffman to prune straggling specimens. Fathers of students worked on two Saturdays raking oak leaves to pile on the rhododendron beds, weeded and planted pachysandra and pruned shrubs.

By the fall of 1961, Mrs. Van Winkle reported that the hedge had been pruned, azaleas thinned and pachysandra transplanted. In 1962, a Mr. Marshall of Brimfield Nursery, who originally planted the land, helped label rare specimens. He also donated a “handsome ginkgo tree three stories high.”

Wrote Mrs. Waterman “To all this hustle and bustle I regret that Garden Club has contributed only the apparent demolition of a hedge. However it was done under the skilled guidance of Mary Edwards and after two years of anxious inspection I can really see green peeping out of the old wood along Asylum Avenue. In another two years the Elizabeth Street side should begin to take shape. It might even happen sooner if someone, just anyone, would give a hand.” Miss Waterman continued voicing these sentiments, and reported to the 1964 Annual Meeting that “Many came to work from professionals to students and parents and unfortunately, only a few from the Garden Club.”

During the next year, Mary Edwards and Mr. Hoffman pruned, fed and mulched. However, funds were soon to be diverted from this project to the 1963 Southern New England Zone meeting of the Garden Club of America. A call went out at the 1963 annual meeting for more women to help Mr. Hoffman. “...all Club members are urged to supplement professional help by cutting dead wood from the yew hedge.”

At that same time, Program Committee chairman Helen Waterman also wrote that “Some viewers think Hartford College looks a little worse, if that is possible, for the tender care lavished on it by the Garden Club.” The Committee had removed so much dead wood from the hedge that there were a “couple of ‘telegraph poles’ where formerly stood wistful holly trees. But NEXT year things will be different.”

At the May 1962 annual Meeting, Chairman Mrs. Van Winkle reported that the committee had:

- Pruned and fertilized the hedge – resulting in its improved appearance and chances for survival;
- Planted 18 rare English azalea bushes donated by the Rhododendron Society. The plan was to relocate them after they bloomed (according to their colors), and return the rhododendron bank, according to the college president, to “its former glory.”
- Transplanted pachysandra (by the college students under Miss Johnson’s supervision);
- Continued to plan for the students to help label unusual trees and shrubs.

**Project Completed 1965:** In the spring of 1965, after almost five years of work, the club completed its project.

Expenses for “Civic Projects” from 1960-1964 were \$991. (Financial records for 1964-1965 were missing.) As this was the only civic project, we presume that this amount was spent at Hartford College for Women. [\$6,115 in today’s dollars.]

In a letter of thanks, college president Laura Johnson (May 12, 1965) also noted that Miss Waterman had given special attention to a sparsely-needled Japanese pine. It was brought back to life with branches “as bushy as a fox tail.” President Johnson concluded, “For these and many other projects of careful pruning and attention we are deeply grateful. Now that they have been put into good condition we will hope to maintain them. Certainly we are very grateful for this good work which we never could have accomplished ourselves. For the financial assistance and the long hours spent, we do thank you.”

The Committee acknowledged Mary Edwards who so generously gave of her time and expertise, and that the committee members had “simply followed her advice.” Club President Deb Eddy singled out Helen Waterman for her work as project chairman for the past two years, and that all thanks “should go to her for her devoted service.”

Our association with the Hartford College for Women continued after 1965. In May 1968, the club planted several junipers and yews from Gledhill Nurseries, for \$530.



Project Committee Chairman Mrs. Kingsland Van Winkle noted in the 1961 Annual Report that she hoped for a “Before and After” observation in a couple of years. Forty years later, we are doing just that.

In the Fall of 2005, Margah Lips and Nora Howard visited the College grounds. The former Seaverns house is now Butterworth Hall. The interior with extensive wood paneling and a stunning stairway hinted at the grandeur of Mrs. Seaverns’ garden club meetings. Today many college students live on the grounds. There are 200 high school students from the University’s magnet program, and a women’s counseling center located there.

Larry Jesse, groundskeeper for 32 years, showed us around. We found that most of the club’s work was no longer there. As times have changed, security issues have taken precedence over lush landscaping. In addition, the only other grounds person besides Mr. Jesse is often assigned elsewhere.

This is what we found out about the four areas we specifically supported in 1960 to 1965: In order to make the campus more secure, rhododendrons have been continuously removed – some as recently as this year – bushes and pachysandra have been removed, although some pachysandra remain along Asylum Avenue. Only a small portion of the hedge remains. There are no labels – which were removed perhaps when there were no biology students there anymore.

Mr. Jesse acknowledged the changes. “It had its day,” he said.



## MARK TWAIN MEMORIAL 1969–1970 & 1973–1974

*Joan Brown, with Katie Nixon, Susan Copeland,  
Gwen Love, Trig Cooley, Nancy Zwiener*

In 1969, Miss Edwards, Mrs. Worcester, Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Ferguson made a plan to furnish the Mark Twain Memorial Conservatory with plant material authentic to the residence of Samuel Clemens. A label and a small drawing describing the plant would be attached to each of the plants. Also a chart would be printed and made available to visitors. This was completed in 1970. The chart and a drawing of the planting plan is available and will be displayed at a future meeting. The cost of the project was not available.

In 1973, the GCH voted unanimously to approve a project to restore “to its original” the grounds of the Mark Twain Home. This was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of construction of the house. The membership approved a request for \$2,000 to restore to the grounds to the way it was in the late 19th Century.

Mrs. J.C. Canning had carefully researched this project in keeping with the aims of GCA to coincide with the national bicentennial. The civic project committee included: Nina Stanley, Kay Britton, Debby Eddy, Mary Dodd, Gina Miller and Harriet Lidgerwood.

The project was completed in 1974 and Jared Edwards, President of the Memorial, sent a thank-you note to GCH. The cost of the restoration including labor and plant material was \$1,700. No annual maintenance was required of GCH.

(At one time, there was a small school on the third floor of the House and one GCH member went to the school. Also, another member’s father was born in the house when his family rented it and lived there for a few years. Also, in 1973-74, several GCH members were on the board of the Mark Twain Memorial.)

*Mark Twain House.  
Photo by Susan Prentice*







**BUSHNELL PARK**  
1975, 1984, 2001–2002

*Anne Johnson with Holly Holden, Ellyn Marshall, Mimi Mead, Cindy Stanley and Hannah Steel.*

The Garden Club of Hartford has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Bushnell Park over many years. As we all know, Bushnell Park is a living museum of history, art and Connecticut life. Among its green expanses and groves of trees are statues, stonework and structures that reflect New England’s history and its people. The people of Hartford, under the leadership of the Rev. Horace Bushnell, voted in 1854 to turn this land into a public park. Hartford’s “City Park,” as it was called until Bushnell’s death, was the first in the world to be voted for and financed through popular referendum. It was also the first public park planned as a graceful landscaped setting rather than a formal European garden or a traditional New England square. The Swiss-born artist and draftsman Jacob Weidenmann designed and oversaw landscaping for the new park.

One of the first projects for the Park undertaken by our club involved tree-marking in the Park. According to the club’s May 1975 annual report by the Civic Projects Committee, the following took place:

“During the fall, Nina Stanley and Nancy Percy, both of this Committee, met several times with Sarah Seymour of the Connecticut Valley Garden Club and with Victor Jarm and Jerry Allen of the City Parks and Recreation Department to plan our joint project for placing tree identification markers in Bushnell Park. Approximately thirty-five trees will be identified in the area between Jewell Street and Elm Street. The black metal markers with white lettering have been ordered and will hopefully be up by June. \$125 was voted for this project by our Club last December. The two Clubs and the Park



Top: Cherry trees, Bushnell Park. Photo by Susan Prentice  
Below: 1984, Kwanzan Trees Plaque, Northwest pond wall.



Department have worked together successfully and with enthusiasm, the former supplying funds and the latter supplying labor. This Committee feels that much more planting could be done in Bushnell Park. Should the club wish to expand the Bushnell Park project in the future, I believe that a good working relationship has been established with both Connecticut Valley and the Park Department.” Harriet Lidgerwood, Chair; Committee: Karen Clark, Ginna Miller, Birch Milliken, Nancy Percy and Nina Stanley.

November 1975 minutes reveal that the labeling of trees was completed with the help of Hartford area schoolchildren, under the guidance of Mr. Allen, City Forester. There was television and newspaper coverage of the event, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Edwards. “The very next day, when passing through the Park, Mrs. Percy found people already reading the labels.”

The May 1976 Annual Report commented, “...although it took a year and a half to complete, [this project] proved to be worthwhile from both the club’s and Park Department’s point of view. So far, the vandalism that we feared has not occurred, although the summer months may tell a different story.”

Seven years later (May 1983) the club voted to raise \$25,000 to fund tree planting, including soil preparation and labor, of the pond area in Bushnell Park. This was part of an overall restoration plan for the Park prepared by Peter Rothschild of the landscaping firm Quennell Rothschild Associates and under the direction of Sandy Parisky of the Bushnell Park Foundation, Inc. The plan called for 26 flowering cherry trees to be planted in groups around the pond. Trees were planted by the Spring of 1985 so that they would flower for the 350th birthday of the city of Hartford in 1986. The trees eventually chosen were 21 Sargent Cherry which have light pink blossoms, are vivid red in the fall, have interesting tactile bark and have proven to be good “street” trees in terms of city pollution. There were also five Shirhofugen Cherry trees whose blossoms open pink and turn white. In addition a bronze plaque with names of those honored listed horizontally was designed and installed.

*[ed note: Meredith Robbins was Chair of Civic Projects at the time. Another ed note: Plaque still there, installed on a low stone wall by the pond, near the Carousel, with approximately 40 names of Hartford Garden Club members and others listed.]*

Our most recent venture involved restoring the landscaping around the Corning Fountain. The 103-year-old fountain underwent a major restoration and our club re-established garden plantings around the fountain in a pattern evocative of the Victorian era. We awarded \$35,000 as part of a two-year landscaping project, developed in partnership with the city and the Bushnell Park Foundation. Completed in 2003, improvements included installing enriched soil materials, an underground irrigation system and new plant materials within the area.

Every year, more and more people discover – or rediscover – Bushnell Park, a gem in our capital’s center, drawing an estimated 750,000 annual visitors. Our club should be proud of the part it has played in helping to keep it a beautiful public place.



*Right: Plaque at Corning Fountain*

*Above: Corning Fountain, Bushnell Park. Photo by Susan Prentice*



## HILL-STEAD MUSEUM SUNKEN GARDEN

*Mary Sargent with Lil Nolan, Ann Louise Price,  
Nina Hayes, Tanny Clark, Nannie Brown*

In the winter of 1985, the Garden Club of Hartford voted to raise \$50,000 with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to restore the Sunken Garden at the Hill-Stead Museum.

The Hill-Stead was built as a country house in 1901 for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Atmore Pope by the architect Stanford White with the cooperation of the Pope's daughter, Theodate, who was just beginning her architectural career.

The area of the garden was grassed over in the 1940s when it became impossible to maintain it due to World War II. The garden clubs, with the Hill-Stead Board of Governors, made the decision to restore the garden to the era of 1910 to 1930. The Board of Governors hired Chauvan Towers of Peter Roland Associates as the landscape architect. The clubs worked with the architect to research the types of plants that would have been used in that time. Also, Diana Balmori was hired as an historical consultant.

Donna Stout, and Prue Robertson from Connecticut Valley, were named Chairs of the project. The committees were divided up between fund raising and garden.

The fund raising was chaired by Clare Edwards and Karen Harrison from CVGC. Three different projects, all to take place during the spring of 1986, were identified.

On May 9 and 10, a Garden Market was held at the museum, co-chaired by Barbara David and Sarah Martin. There was a presale of geraniums and impatiens as well as Japanese tree lilacs for \$50. Otis Elevator printed the program for the clubs. A gourmet basket lunch for 160 people was very successful. Vendors included Oliver's Nursery and J&L Orchids. Perennials from members' gardens, trough gardens, made by members, and unusual annuals were also available for sale.



*Hill-Stead Museum, Sunken Garden. Photo by Susan Prentice*

A trip to England from May 17 through 31 was a second fundraising effort. The trip sold out and \$150 from every ticket was donated to the project. The trip was organized by Mary Jane Scull from CT Valley with the help of Henny Bennett. The group visited the Chelsea Flower Show, had lunch with Sheila McQueen, and also visited country gardens.

The final event was a gala chaired by Kitty Smith and Carole Bailey at Renbrook School. The black tie event, with an Edwardian theme, was a great success. Tickets cost \$250 per couple and \$500 for patron couples. There was also a brief auction.

Altogether, the three projects netted over \$73,000 for the reconstruction project.

A steering committee became project managers for the garden. The overall managers were Hatty Lidgerwood and Saren Langmann from CT Valley. The committees included Plant Research chaired by Betty Stanley; Selection and Purchase chaired by Arline Whitaker; and Construction Overseer, chaired by Alice Willard.

The landscape architect, Shauvan Towers, used old photographs from 1910 and documents to recreate original plantings. She located beds and walks. Using the 1901 Summerhouse as the center, the intent was to duplicate as much as possible the character of the garden.

The garden was designed to follow the geometry of the eight-sided Summerhouse which is slightly off center in the middle of the garden. Theodate Pope favored blue, pink and mauve, offset with white and silver-gray.

In the spring of 1986, Jared Edwards, husband of Clare Edwards, saw a catalog that was connected with a traveling exhibit showcasing the work of Beatrix Farrand. Beatrix Farrand was the only woman among the 11 founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899. The appendix included a list of undated commissions, with one for Mrs. J.W. Riddle which was Theodate's married name.

Farrand's drawings were located at the University of California's Department of Landscape Architecture and were sent to Hill-Stead. Shauvan Towers' original plans were similar to those of Beatrix Farrand. The committee decided to follow the Farrand plan as much as possible so as to be historically accurate. This included the layout of the gardens and paths as well as flower selection.

The heavy work such as construction of the beds, brick paths and sprinklers, was done by professionals while the research, buying of plants and planting was done by garden club volunteers.

The Sunken Garden opened Tuesday, June 21, 1988. This was a multifaceted and labor intensive project for the two clubs. The museum Board of Governors has since maintained the garden with staff and volunteers.

The garden has given pleasure to many over the past 20 years and has enhanced the quality of the museum's outdoor collection. Thousands enjoy the atmosphere on a summer evening for the Sunken Garden poetry festivals.

*Right: Donna Stout, Garden Club of Hartford President, and Barbara David present a grant check to Knox Parks.*

## KNOX PARKS FOUNDATION

*Barbara David with Kitty Smith, Jo Casey, Marian Kellner, Chris Doty, Sue Sweet*

Knox Parks Foundation was started by Betty Knox in 1966 to improve the beauty of Greater Hartford and to educate City of Hartford residents in horticulture. Jack Hale has been the untiring Executive Director for the past 20 years. In 2012 the Knox Parks Foundation changed its name to Knox.

### *Garden Club Projects 1981-1984*

Mary Sargent was the President. Phyllis Francklyn, Civic Project chair, had a committee of seven! The dues were \$25. Chris Dodd and Lowell Weicker, Jr. were our Senators and William Cotter and Toby Moffet were two of our Representatives. Not one of this team of 90th birthday researchers was yet a member of GCH!

Our Club's involvement with Knox began in 1982, after we had raised \$800 for Knox Parks at a country fair in Alison Gill's barn. With that money and regular volunteer time two days a week in spring and fall, we helped in a project that was "everybody's bag" by transplanting seedlings (glasses needed!) and setting out vegetable and flower plants in Elizabeth Park, where Knox was then headquartered. In the spring of 1983, there was a new proposal: establishment of an annual garden on the east side of the Knox building. We spent \$1,000 on new signs for the annual garden and included instructions on how to grow the plants.





### ***Garden Club Projects 1990-1995***

From 1990 to 1995 the Garden Club of Hartford was again actively involved with Knox Parks, providing substantial funding and numerous hours of labor for various projects.

Our first project was raising funds for Knox Parks through a tree sale. Members will recall blizzard conditions in April 1990, that accompanied the sale. The sale was our part of the American Forest Service's Global ReLeaf project and our response to the first President Bush's request that America plant one billion trees per year for the next 10 years. The Shemin Nurseries's flatbed trailer arrived at St. Joseph College's back parking lot, with our precious load of 500 pre-sold Kousa dogwood trees, balled and burlapped and heavy as lead with water and snow! Midge Tilney & Co.'s tailgate gourmet fare sustained us. Massages for all were in order at the end of the long Saturday, after hours of backbreaking work getting these dead weights off the truck and into the customers' cars. The club netted \$4,500 for Knox. It used the funds to train Hartford teachers in indoor gardening and to buy supplies and equipment, including a classroom grow-lab.

In 1991, proceeds from the Nature's Palette flower show benefited planting in Hartford through Knox. Cindy Stanley Stempf, Barbara David, and their committee, built a conservation exhibit in the form of a freight train with an engine, three "cars" and a caboose on rails, with four clouds of smoke coming from the smoke-stack which read: "we-think-we-can...conserve our water, land and air." Each car displayed drawings by students in Hartford schools.

In 1993, GCH, Knox Parks and the City of Hartford partnered on the Greenhouse Project. The old Whiting Lane Greenhouses in West Hartford were the site for community gardening. Over the next few years, GCH members joined with gardeners from surrounding communities to fill the greenhouses with flats of flower and vegetable seedlings, which were planted in 14 community gardens in Bellevue Square and elsewhere.

*Below: 2014, thank you lunch from Knox for the Hoop House, Mt. Moriah Gardens at Earle Street. GCH President Brie Quinby reads a proclamation.*





*In 2010 GCH teamed up with Knox Parks to prepare the Affleck Street Community Garden.*

The GCH partnered again with Knox Parks and the City of Hartford to plant trees in city schoolyards. GCH members worked with Hartford students to foster protective relationships with these trees. Dressed in “tree” colors (green on top, brown on the bottom), members took tree branches and pictures into many classrooms to educate elementary-school students about trees. All of the students were given little baggies to collect some dirt from their own yards and add it to the tree holes at planting time. Many of the children came to the tree-planting ceremonies dressed in their best clothes. But they gladly shoveled and threw their own dirt into the holes, while greeting their new tree: “Hello, Red Oak,” “Good morning, Crabapple,” “Glad to meet you, Green Ash.” Many classrooms enthusiastically adopted individual trees, and the custodian was brought on board to shepherd these trees through the hot, dry summer months. Fifteen trees were planted at Fox Middle School and twelve at Mary Hooker School and Goldfarb Park. Most of these trees thrive today.

## POPE PARK

*Betty Stanley with Joyce Magee, Nancy Macy, Sandy Bender Fromson, Betsey Gengras, Lisa Aldridge*

The year 2000 found the Garden Club of Hartford hosting the annual Garden Club of America’s Zone II meeting. Having Pope Park as our main project fit well with the Zone Meeting’s theme – Urban Green. The revitalization of Pope Park, an Olmsted design, was one of the features of the meeting and enabled the Garden Club to bring in Tupper Thomas, President of the Prospect Park Alliance, an important Olmsted Park in Brooklyn, as the keynote speaker.

Colonel Albert Pope gave the park to the city in 1895 for the use of city residents and his employees who worked at the Pope Manufacturing Company, at that time the world’s largest manufacturer of bicycles and high quality automobiles. Pope’s workers lived in tenements, and he had hopes of improving their living conditions with the creation of the park. The Olmsted brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, designed the park in 1898. Originally 93 acres, the park included a large meadow, a sunken garden, tennis courts and a meandering walk along the Park River. Unfortunately time did not treat the park well. The meadow was replaced with sports fields; a new road was cut through the park; Interstate 84 was built along its edge, taking yet more land; and the Park River was buried. Park use dropped and vandalism increased, but the building of the Pope Park Community Center in 1995 reversed this trend.



*1898, Pope Park Tennis Court.*





The formation of the Friends of Pope Park to help promote community involvement in Park issues led to the Garden Club of Hartford's involvement when the club was invited to join the Friends' Board and its Beautification Committee. Two years of planning by the staff at the park center, the City of Hartford Parks Department, the Department of Public Works, HART, and committee members from the GCH went into this project. The Garden Club helped financially with the landscape improvements to the grounds surrounding the Community Center. In May 2000, day lilies, ornamental grasses, shrubs, and small maple trees were planted by the main entrance to the center. These were followed up the planting of 1,000 daffodils in October 2001. The planting was accomplished by fifty people, including thirty children from the Pope Park Recreation Center, and Knox Parks Foundation's after school program. Help and encouragement in the form of digging instruments, gloves, cider, lemonade, and cookies were supplied by many Garden Club members.

A master plan for the park, reflecting new uses of the park while preserving and honoring the original Olmsted design, was adopted in the fall of 2002. Phase I of the plan will be completed this spring and design plans for Phase II, the removal of the road which cuts through the park, are on the drawing board. The Garden Club of Hartford, along with

the Friends of Pope Park, hopes for a park that: fits the needs and desires of the community; is not further compromised; calls attention to the fact that Pope Park is historically important; indicates the importance of conserving and restoring city park space; and will encourage future financial support from the corporate and private community.



*Top: Entrance to Samuel V. Arroyo Center, Pope Park.  
Photo by Susan Prentice*

*Bottom: 2000, Nancy Macy works with a student at Pope Park.*

## 90 TREES FOR 90 YEARS SOUTH GREEN / BARNARD PARK

The Garden Club of Hartford planted ninety trees throughout Hartford in 2006. This marked the club's 90th anniversary year, and kicked off Hartford's Memorial Tree Fund. Among the species planted were disease-resistant elms, charter oaks, red maples, and a variety of witch hazel that is particularly immune to urban drought. New trees were planted at South Green/Barnard Park, at the Boundless Playgrounds at the Learning Corridor, Keney Park, and at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. Nine yews at the Ancient Burying Ground from Deb Eddy's farm mark the club's nine decades. Twenty-four crabapples have been planted at Westbourne Parkway, a satisfying opportunity as those plantings reinstate Olmsted's concept of tree-lined parkways connecting the parks in Hartford. A Persian Witch Hazel, *Parrotia*, was planted at Bushnell Park. A new specimen for the urban landscape, it has three season interest and is drought-tolerant. Other trees were planted in clusters on playgrounds and in parks around the city. Other trees planted include Camperdown elms, white oaks, white dogwoods, ginkgo biloba fastigiata and some Norway spruces.

The club chose to help restore South Green/Barnard Park for its importance to the neighborhood and for its historical value. The Green is the hub of five neighborhoods, and also has claim to being the oldest public green space in the country, serving as a public pasture in the 17th and 18th centuries. To showcase the gift of 90 trees, the committee organized a celebration in South Green/Barnard Park. To prepare for the celebration, we held a clean-up day that included putting down mulch and planting five hundred daffodils with local elementary school children from St. Cyril's School. We also planted several salt resistant *rosa rugosa*.

Then on April 26, 2006, a day proclaimed by the Governor as State Arbor Day, more than 100 people turned out to finish planting the trees. Included among the guests were Governor Jodi Rell, Mayor Eddie Perez, several City Councilmen and Commissioner of Dept. of Environmental Protection, Gina McCarthy. The event was deftly emceed by Councilman Dr. Robert Painter, husband of GCH member Nancy Macy. Hartford's Arbor Day celebration in April, on the theme of "pride in our parks and city," included an art show of children's art and the debut of a mural by students at Bulkeley High School. A mural we co-commissioned was unveiled called "Fixing the Hood." Hartford Hospital provided refreshments and flats of annuals the children from St. Cyril's planted in containers provided by Knox Parks.



*Persian Witch Hazel (Parrotia), Bushnell Park.*





*Above: 2006, Arbor Day, South Green/Barnard Park. Knox Parks Foundation Director Jack Hale, City Forester John Kehoe, Councilman Calixto Torres, NRZ Sean Arena, Governor Jodi Rell, GCH President Nannie Brown, Councilman Robert Painter, DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy, Hartford "Proud and Beautiful" Norm Hausmann, and Hartford Hospital President John Meehan.*

*Right: Ginkgo tree, planted by Jodi Rell and dignitaries, ten years later in 2016.*





## CENTENNIAL PROJECT 2015-2016

### *An Eye On The Future: Building Sustainability at Hartford's Historic Keney Park*

Garden Club of Hartford is a Runner-Up and the recipient of \$10,000 for Garden Club of America's 2016 Founders Fund Award for our multi-pronged project at Keney Park in the North End of Hartford. Together with the 2015 Auction proceeds, we will contribute more than \$30,000 to this project.

Keney Park, designed by the firm of Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects in 1898, comprises 700 acres of rolling hills, woods, pastures and playgrounds, and was planned for generations of use. The Olmsted brothers' philosophy: "to preserve and to encourage wildness of vegetation, planting only native trees and shrubs..." guided its design. Today, children in the nine surrounding schools use the playing fields and playgrounds; the Park is home to a pool, cricket pitches, and walking trails – even a beautiful, newly-renovated golf course. Keney Park now borders a 3.11 square mile neighborhood so needy it is a federally-designated Promise Zone. Only 38% of its nearly 24,000 residents have a high-school diploma, 49% live in poverty, and the average per capita income is \$12,000. The Park is vital to this community as a source of employment, health, well-being, and educational opportunity. Its sustainability is at the heart of our commitment to this beautiful treasure.

Our work at Keney Park and successful partnership with the City of Hartford Department of Public Works began in 2014 when, with acceptance and funding as a GCA Partners for Plants project, a small number of dedicated GCH members mapped areas of concern at each of the Park's five entrances identifying the existence of invasives. A joint initiative of the GCA Horticulture and Conservation Committees, Partners for Plants pairs local GCA Clubs with state and federal land managers and large city parks (over 150 acres), to monitor rare, endangered, medicinal, or invasive plants. Then, an ever-changing, larger group of GCH members, our "on-the-ground-crew," worked diligently to eradicate the invasives and monitor their regrowth. This work continues.



*Top: 2014, Keney Park Tour.*

*Back: Agnes Peelle, Lisa Bermel, Patty Kent, Alice Willard, Susan Rathgeber.*

*Front: Nancy Zwiener, Marian Kellner, Betty Standish, Mally Cox-Chapman.*

*Bottom: 2014, Keney Park Cleanup.*

*Jan Whalen, Anne Holcombe, Marcia Hall.*





In addition, we launched a design contest for university landscape architecture and design students. Our directive to the students was to “think Olmsted” while redesigning the Park’s five aging entrances, specifying pollinator-friendly native trees and shrubs and keeping low maintenance and invasive plant management in mind. The winners (\$1,500), a team from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design – Landscape Architecture, and second place (\$1,000), and honorable mention (\$600) recipients were announced at a festive public meeting at the Hartford Public Library in April 2014, at which time all of the submitted contest designs were displayed.\*

From the beginning and through 2015, with expert guidance from horticulturist Mark LaCasse, GCH members worked alongside interns from local high schools, community members, and City of Hartford Public Works/Park staff. We cleared invasives and monitored/documentated their regrowth, and prepped/planted the Barbour Street park entrance which the City of Hartford deemed most needy according to the winning design.

Our Founders Fund runner-up award of \$10,000, together with a portion of the proceeds from our December 2015 auction, will allow us to plant the remaining four Park entrances and provide signage at each to educate the public about the Park, its flora and fauna, and many landmarks. In addition, working under the guidance of Tom Baptist, Hartford’s Superintendent of Public Works, we plan to design and implement “From the Ground Up: Best Practices in Land Management Basics,” a course covering such fundamentals as pollinators and biodiversity, plant identification, and techniques for mulching, pruning, and planting, for teaching in the classroom and in the field to City park workers, students, and volunteers. We hope to feature the course online, through videos and text, allowing for future training and public access; and develop a link library of existing horticulture how-to sites for quick phone access on the job.

Just as the Olmsted firm planned this Park for the future, we too look forward to helping map the long-term sustainability of Keney Park. Stay tuned...

\* For complete contest information and to see the winning design, go to [gchartford.org](http://gchartford.org).



2010, Main Street. Alice Willard teaches a young neighborhood girl how to water a freshly planted tree.

## GCH PLANTS TREES

A significant focus of the club's Civic Projects is planting trees. In its first 100 years, the club planted and donated trees, with more than 500 planted in the Greater Hartford area. Most have survived drought, and the salt and snow plows of city stress. Going forward, we will document which trees thrive to share that information with other garden clubs and other communities.

1916

**American School  
for the Deaf**  
Evergreen.....

1919

**Jordan Lane Blind  
School (Wethersfield)**  
Oak.....2

1937–1938

**Trinity College**  
Pin Oak..... 25  
Douglas Fir..... 50  
Austrian Pine..... 17  
Dogwood..... 26  
White Oak..... 3  
Japanese Cherry..... 80  
Elm..... 3  
Charter Oak  
Offspring..... 3

1941

**Windsor Locks  
Air Base**  
Evergreen..... 50

1944

**Bellevue Housing  
Project**  
Large Shade Tree..... 1

1950

**Elizabeth Park**  
Cucumber Magnolia..... 3

**Independence Hall  
(Philadelphia, PA)**  
Magnolia.....

1951

**Elizabeth Park**  
Dogwood.....

**Women's League  
Day Care**  
Evergreen.....

1953

**Woodland Street**  
Sugar Maple..... 24

1954

**Old State House**  
Dogwood..... 10  
Elm..... 30

1984

**Bushnell Park**  
Flowering Trees..... 26

2000–2002

**Pope Park**  
Hedge Maple..... 8

2001

**Bushnell Park**  
Kwansan Cherry..... 6

2006–2007

**Ancient Burying  
Ground**  
Yew..... 5

**Learning Corridor**  
Sugar Maple  
Flax Mill Majesty..... 2

**South Green**  
White Owl Juniper..... 4  
Persian Witch Hazel..... 1  
Accolade Elm..... 3  
Ginkgo..... 1

**Artists Collective**  
Red Maple..... 16

**Goodwin Park  
Playground**  
Patmore  
Green Ash..... 2  
Summit  
Green Ash..... 1

**Bushnell Park**  
Persian Witch  
Hazel..... 1

**Westbourne  
Parkway**  
Robinson Crabapple... 23

**Sherman Street**  
Red Maple..... 7  
Winter King  
Hawthorn..... 5  
Homestead Elm..... 2  
Red Sunset Maple..... 4  
Red Jewel Crabapple... 3  
Pink Spires Crabapple.. 2  
Kwanzan Cherry..... 5  
Katsura..... 2  
Honey Locust..... 1  
London Plane..... 3

2012

**Main Street**  
Glory Red Maple..... 2  
Pyramidal Hornbeam . 12

**Charter Oak**  
Honeylocust..... 2

**Columbus Boulevard**  
October Glory  
Red Maple..... 2  
Karpick Red Maple.... 10

**Charter Oak Avenue**  
Bowhall Maple..... 9  
White Oak..... 3

**Betances School**  
Skyline Honey Locust... 2  
Sugar Maple..... 2

**Charter Oak/Wyllys**  
White Oak..... 3

**Park Street**  
Skyline Honey Locust... 2

2015–2016

**Keney Park,  
Barbour Street**  
Allegheny Serviceberry.. 9  
White Pine..... 3

**Keney Park,  
Windsor Avenue**  
Red Oak..... 4  
Sugar Maple..... 2



# Conservation Donations

*Several members of the Garden Club of Hartford have donated land to municipalities and states.*

1962

Genevieve and James L. Goodwin: 1,722 acres  
James L. Goodwin State Forest (originally the  
Pine Acres Farm in Hampton and Chaplin, CT)

*Mr. Goodwin kept his property in Hampton and  
Chaplin as a game preserve, allowing no hunting  
or trapping for more than 40 years.*

1968

Betty and Leigh Standish: several acres  
Conservation easement, Great Meadows Trust,  
Wethersfield, CT

1970

Harriet and John Enders: 1,500 acres  
Enders State Forest, Granby and Barkhamsted, CT

*The gift was dedicated to people wanting to find  
“that refreshment of the mind and body which only  
a natural environment can provide.”*

1972–2000

Mary Edwards: 220+ acres  
Mary Edwards Mountain Property

*Donated to the Granby Land Trust.*

1975

Elizabeth E.G. Creamer: 48 acres  
The Creamer Preserve, North Granby, CT

*Donated with the assistance of the Nature  
Conservancy to the Granby Land Trust.*

1980s

Shepherd Holcombe: 300 acres  
Conservation Easement, Connecticut River  
Watershed Council, Marlborough/Hebron, CT

*This forested land surrounds a brook draining to the  
Salmon River, and into the Connecticut river. These 300  
acres connect a large tract of state forest with another  
large area also under easement with CRWC.*

1987

Peggy and John Meyer: 4,000 acres  
Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve/  
Wildlife Management Area (managed by the  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources)  
Botany Bay Plantation, SC

*In 1968, hotel and real estate magnate John E. “Jason”  
Meyer bought Botany Bay. An enthusiastic outdoorsman,  
Meyer bequeathed the 4,630-acre plantation to the  
State of South Carolina as a wildlife preserve.*



*Enders State Forest, Granby.*

1990

Elinor R. Oakes: 13.48 acres  
Route 10 Easement, Avon, CT  
*Donated to the Avon Land Trust.*

1995

Ostrom Enders: 2.65 acres  
Bishop Lane/Cider Brook Road, Avon, CT  
*Donated to the Avon Land Trust.*

1997

Betty and Bruce Manternach: 27 acres  
Cider Brook Road Conservation Easement, Avon, CT  
*Donated to the Avon Land Trust.*

2007–2008

Nannie and Put Brown: 12.3 acres  
The Broad Hill Road Conservation Easement,  
West Granby, CT

2007

Barbara David: 1.24 acres, Hadlyme, CT  
*Purchased in January of 2008 and then donated to the Lyme Compact (a group set up by the Town of Lyme to build affordable housing). With the help of the Town of Lyme, the new homeowner and many volunteers, Habitat for Humanity built a pretty, little, affordable house on the lot.*

2008

Betty and Frank Stanley: 120 acres  
Barbour Woods, Canton, CT  
*Donated to the Canton Land Conservation Trust.*

2009

Barbara David: 31 acres  
Whalebone Creek Watershed,  
Brush Hill Road, Lyme, CT  
*Conservation easement to the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.*

2010

Elinor R. Oakes: 4.7 acres  
Thomas F. and Elinor R. Oakes Preserve,  
Haynes Road, Avon, CT  
*Gifted in 1970 to the Nature Conservancy (and its successor, the Avon Land Trust). Converted in 2011 by the Avon Land Trust to the 17-acre preserve on Chidsey Road.*



*Mary Edwards Mountain Property Trail, North Granby.*

2012

Francie Stout: 13.35 acres  
Stout Family Fields, Stonemeadow Farm,  
Bloomfield, CT

*Working with the State of Connecticut and the Wintonbury Land Trust, Sam Stout (husband of GCH member Donna), John Stout (husband of GCH member Lisa) and their sister Betty Stout, all children of long-time GCH member Francie Stout, created the preserve on Stone Hill Road. First, in a bargain sale transaction, the family conveyed a conservation easement to the State. Then, they sold the property outright to the Land Trust for a dollar.*

2016

Barbara David: 43.8 acres  
Lyme, CT

*Fee interest in land containing forestland and shoreline of Selden Creek. Donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to be added to their Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.*



# Garden History & Design

## GARDEN DOCUMENTATIONS, SUBMITTED BY GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD FOR THE SMITHSONIAN ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN GARDENS

Through June 2016, GCH members have documented twelve gardens in three states. Clubs in our Zone II have documented more than 100 gardens for the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens. The AAG catalog number (CT347 for example) is included.

2000

### **Holbrook, Wellsville NY**

NY 630: GCH member Betsy Bower documented the Elizabeth Bradley Holbrook Garden, which had belonged to her ancestors.

2008

### **Porter Gardens, East Windsor CT**

CT 347: Pat Porter's garden on the Connecticut River floodplain, with expansive views and an 1810 farmhouse.

2010

### **Fox Hall, Farmington CT**

CT 354: Holly and Stuart Holden's five-acre garden with grassy fields and formal landscaping. Surrounding a circa 1803 house, the formal twelve-month garden features boxwood, and accent colors of pink and white.

2012

### **Peg Atkinson Garden, Avon CT**

CT 550: Peg and Tracy Atkinson. A New England country garden, developed by one woman for 35 years. The sudden sale of the house led to this documentation. The Atkinsons were friends and neighbors of Nora Howard.

### **Hyland-Schutz Garden, West Hartford CT**

CT 118: The Tita and Douglas Hyland garden designed by Charles Adams Platt in 1908 to complement the 1907 house, the garden includes natural areas, formal boxwood, and a secret walled-in garden.

2013

### **Northington Farm, Avon CT**

CT 705: The Alice and Ostrom Enders [vanished garden] of the 1930s to 1980s, surrounding a modernist house and host to farming, horticulture, education, and conservation.

### **Elinor and Thomas Oakes Garden, Avon CT**

CT 704: Post World War II [vanished garden] surrounding a modernist house, taking advantage of the Connecticut countryside and views from inside and outside the house, at its peak from 1950 to 1970.

2014

### **Whitman Close Commons, Hartford CT**

CT 727: A multi-purpose and community-owned garden, including Nancy Macy and Bob Painter, thriving in the heart of downtown Hartford.

### **Oldgate, Farmington CT**

CT 100: Home of Brie Quinby and Evan Cowles. The property of one family over 200 years, which grew from barnyard, to pleasure garden, to arboretum with Connecticut Notable Trees.

### **Baker / Linder Garden, Bethlehem CT**

(collaborative documentation / CVGC)

CT 731: A four-acre formal and cutting garden with a 35-mile view, and cultivation by the owners, who work on their paradise full-time. Ray Baker and Stan Linder. CVGC, who knew the owners of the garden, asked Nora Howard to be the photographer.



***Wilkes-Valentine Garden, Pocatello ID***

ID 020: The garden attracts community attention for its terraces and riots of annual color. Property of Harold and Rayna Valentine. The Archives of American Gardens wanted a garden documented in Idaho. When Nora Howard's husband returned to his alma mater, Idaho State University, Nora asked him to find a garden. His colleague there kept a garden that had won community awards and she was willing to document the garden with Nora's help.

2016

***The Stout Garden, Hartford CT***

CT 747: Donna and Sam Stout's garden with a country feel in the capitol city, designed and cultivated by the homeowners, includes a secluded room with a bubbling fountain.

*The mission of the Archives of American Gardens:*

*To collect and make available for research, use unique, high quality images of and documentation relating to a wide variety of cultivated gardens throughout the United States that are not documented elsewhere since historic, designed and cultural landscapes are subject to change, loss and destruction. In this way, AAG strives to preserve and highlight a meaningful compendium of significant aspects of gardening in the United States for the benefit of researchers and the public today and in the future.*

*Over 24,000 photographs from the Archives have been digitized and are publicly available through the Smithsonian's online catalog, [www.siris.si.edu](http://www.siris.si.edu). Catalog records may also be searched in the Collections Search Center, [www.collections.si.edu](http://www.collections.si.edu).*

*May 2016, documented garden of Sam and Donna Stout.  
Photo by Sam Stout*





# Garden Club of America

*When the Garden Club of Hartford first began meeting, the Garden Club of America was also a fledgling group. Founded in 1913, this national organization began with 12 clubs on a mission. . .“to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.” The Garden Club of Hartford joined GCA in 1919, and in 2016, we are one of 201 member clubs in 43 states. Clubs are organized into 12 zones; 20 clubs in Connecticut and Rhode Island are in Zone II.*

This club network supports GCA with membership dues which are used for a variety of purposes. “To promote greater understanding of the interdependence of horticulture, environmental protection, and community improvement, the Garden Club of America annually awards over \$300,000 in scholarships, including the prestigious Rome Prize and the Garden Club of America/Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellowship. The GCA Founders Fund is an annual award to a club for an exceptional community project. . .The Garden History and Design committee of the GCA supports the work of the Archives of America Gardens.” \*

GCH members have access to the GCA website, [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org), and many have served on GCA committees at the Zone and national levels. GCH members may also visit the GCA headquarters, located at 14 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022. The Rare Books Collection can also be found at headquarters, where a tour may be arranged by request. Efforts to transfer the collection to the New York Botanical Garden, where it will be more accessible to scholars and researchers, are ongoing.

Each year, GCH sends two delegates to the annual GCA meeting and two delegates to the local Zone II meeting hosted by a member club. Clubs may also send members to the National Affairs and Legislation Conference, held annually in February in Washington, D.C., and to the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, held in a different location yearly. The clubs, in association, have access to more knowledge, influence and leadership than any one club alone, and GCH members have found the meetings very productive as a source of ideas.

## THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT

The Garden Club of Hartford became a member of “Federated” in 1934. The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., [www.ctgardenclubs.org](http://www.ctgardenclubs.org), is an educational, charitable non-profit organization made up of 128 clubs and 15 affiliate organizations. It is one of thirteen charter members of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (now known as the National Garden Clubs, Inc.) which was organized on May 1, 1929, (two days after Connecticut’s first meeting).\*\*

Membership in “Federated” means automatic membership in the National Garden Clubs, Inc., the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world, with nearly a quarter of a million members. “Federated’s” mission is “to coordinate, stimulate and encourage higher standards in all aspects of Garden Club work; to preserve and conserve our natural resources, preserve our heritage and promote civic beauty.”\*\* Our dues support the efforts of Federated in those areas. Federated also sponsors a yearly flower show as its main fundraiser, and GCH members often exhibit in both the flower design and horticulture categories.

\* [www.gcamerica.org](http://www.gcamerica.org)

\*\* [www.ctgardenclubs.org](http://www.ctgardenclubs.org)



## GARDEN CLUB OF HARTFORD MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS OFFICERS OR ON COMMITTEES OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

**Mrs. Robert W. Huntington (Constance)**

– Member of the Board of Editors, 1931-1939

**Mrs. Lucius F. Robinson, Sr. (Elinor)**

– Director, 1933-1935

**Mrs. John T. Roberts (Eliza)**

– Zone II Chairman, 1947-1950

**Mrs. James L. Goodwin (Genevieve)**

– Zone II Chairman, 1955-1958

– Chairman, Board of Associates, 1959

**Mrs. James Terry (Leotine)**

– Flower Show Committee, 1950s

**Mrs. John D. Britton (Peggy)**

– Director, 1967-1970

**Mrs. Roger Eddy (Deborah)**

– Conservation Committee, 1960-1966

– Nominating Committee, 1963-1965

**Mrs. Louis Walker (Grace)**

– Vice Chairman, Public Relations Committee, 1968-1970

– Hospitality Committee, 1973-1975

**Mrs. Bruce Manternach (Josie)**

– Finance Committee, 1973-1975

**Mrs. Myron K. Wright (Nancy)**

– Hospitality Committee, 1974

**Mrs. Charles L. Miller (Ginna)**

– Program Committee, 1974-1975

– Board of Directors, 1981-1983

– Finance Committee, Chairman, 1983-1985

– Vice-President,

Executive Committee, 1985-1987

– Coordinator, All National Chairmen, 1986-1987

**Mrs. Joseph D. Sargent (Mary)**

– Zone II Chairman, 1984-1986

– Chairman, National Public Relations Committee, 1986-1988

**Mrs. Jared I. Edwards (Clare)**

– Founders Fund Committee, 1986-1988

– Program Committee, 1990-1992

– First Vice-Chairman,

Program Committee, 1992-1994

– Admissions Committee, 2000-2002

– Bulletin Committee, 2002-2004

**Mrs. Edward L. Johnson (Anne)**

– Conservation Committee, 1990-1992

– National Affairs and Legislative Committee, 1992-1994

– Conservation Committee, 2000-2002

**Mrs. Barbara O. David**

– Vice Chairman Northeast Region, National Affairs and Legislation, 1997-1999

– First Vice Chairman, Conservation, 1999-2001

– Vice Chairman Education, Conservation, 2003-2005

**Mrs. Thomas R. Cox, III (Kathryn)**

– Founders Fund Committee, 2006-2008

**Mrs. Coleman H. Casey (Jo Champlin)**

– Public Relations Committee, 2008-2010

– GCA Bulletin Committee, 2010-2012

**Mrs. Joseph M. Hayes (Nina)**

– Bulletin Committee, 2008-2010

**Mrs. Samuel D. Stout (Donna)**

– Garden History and Design, 2008-2010

– Vice-Chair Garden History and Design Committee, 2010-2012

– Visiting Gardens Committee Rep, 2014-2016

**Mrs. Thomas J. Groark, Jr. (Eunice)**

– National Affairs and Legislation, 2012-2014

**Mrs. Roger Howard (Nora)**

– Garden History and Design Committee, 2012-2014

– Vice-Chair Garden History and Design Committee, 2014-2016



# Garden Club Awards

The Garden Club of Hartford, the Garden Club of America, and Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut may issue awards to GCH members at the Annual Meeting, usually held in May, upon the recommendation of the GCH Awards Committee.

## GCA ZONE AWARDS, CLUB AWARDS, CERTIFICATES AND COMMENDATIONS

### GCA Zone II Awards

- 1970: Amy Anthony, *Horticultural*
- 1982: Mary Edwards, *Historic Preservation*
- 1988: Ginna Miller, *Creative Leadership*  
Betty Stanley, *Horticulture*
- 1990: Barbara David, *Conservation*  
Anne Johnson, *Conservation*
- 1992: GCH / CVGC, *Historic Preservation*  
(for work done at Hill-Stead Museum Gardens)
- 2000: Clare Edwards, *Historic Preservation*
- 2003: Carol Kohn, *Civic Improvement*
- 2016: Garden Club of Hartford, *Civic Improvement*

### GCA Club Awards

- 1988: Betty Stanley, *Horticulture*
- 2007: Betty Stanley, *Conservation*
- 2012: Jan Hickcox, *Flower Arrangement*
- 2014: Donna Stout, *Appreciation*  
Nora Howard, *Photography*
- 2016: Anne Holcombe, *Horticulture*  
Linda Lydon, *Appreciation*  
Nancy Macy, *Appreciation*  
Katie Nixon, *Appreciation*  
Alice Willard, *Appreciation*

### GCA Medals of Merit

- 1982: Ginna Miller
- 1993: Donna Stout
- 2000: Deb Eddy
- 2016: Nora Howard

### GCA Zone II Commendations (for non-members)

- 1985: Mr. Ostrom Enders, *Conservation*
- 2000: Jared Edwards, *Historic Preservation*  
Joe Marfuggi, *Conservation*  
Jack Hale, *Horticulture*
- 2007: Evan Griswold, *Conservation*  
Ed Richardson, *Horticulture*
- 2010: William Hosley, *Historic Preservation*
- 2012: Knox, *Civic Improvement*

### GCA Club Commendations (for non-members)

- 2007: Put Brown, *Conservation*
- 2009: William Hosley, *Historic Preservation*
- 2010: Nicola Allen, *Civic Improvement*



## GCA FINANCIAL GRANT AWARDS

**Founders Fund**

1940: One-year scholarship to study *Scelerotium Delphinii* (Black Rot) at Columbia University/New York Botanical Garden.

1981: The Garden Club of Hartford and the Connecticut Valley Garden Club were runners-up for the Old State House landscape project. Each received \$1,500 to be given to the project.

2016: Voted runners-up for the Keney Park project. GCH was awarded \$10,000 in funding.

**Partners for Plants**

2014: GCH granted a Partners for Plants award of \$2,500 for Hartford's Keney Park.

2015: GCH granted a Partners for Plants award of \$1,000 for Hartford's Keney Park.

## GCA JANE RIGHTER ROSE MEDAL

*Awarded for outstanding achievement in rose culture through the propagation of new roses, civic achievement in community rose gardens of educational value, exhibitions by amateur gardeners, or unusual rose collections of special merit.*

1961: Elizabeth Park Rose Garden (GCH nominated).

2010: Harriet Beecher Stowe Rose Garden (GCH nominated).

## GCA FENWICK MEDAL

*Established in 1934 by Mrs. John H. Gibbons, while a Garden Club of Hartford member. Awarded for a creative work of outstanding beauty using predominantly fresh plant material in a highly competitive show. The medal is named for Lady Fenwick, who created the first ornamental garden in the original thirteen colonies at Saybrook, CT. We anticipate that a GCH member will someday earn this award.*

*Left, L to R: GCA Zone Civic Improvement Award, GCA Medal of Merit Award, GCA Zone II Gavel Award.*

*Right: NGC Kellogg Civic Achievement Award.*

## FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT AWARDS

1993: The Garden Club of Hartford, through our Civic Projects Committee, was awarded the coveted President's Cup to honor our continuing work with community gardens in conjunction with the Knox Parks Foundation.

1969: Mr. and Mrs. Ostrom Enders received an award at the Federated Annual Meeting.

*Over the years GCH has received Federated Certificates of Achievement and Merit for:*

- Billboard Legislation
- Work at the Old State House
- Litterbug Campaign
- Civic Development
- Newsletters
- Horticultural
- Conservation

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS AWARDS

1981: The Garden Club of Hartford and the Connecticut Valley Garden Club were awarded the "Harriet Field Award in Landscape Design" for work at the Old State House.

1992: GCH was awarded The Kellogg Medal for Civic Achievement and the Mary Duff Walter Trophy for Preservation of Beauty.





## GCH IN-HOUSE CLUB AWARDS

*These awards, although for sometimes serious endeavors and sometimes for fun, are not part of the Garden Club of America sanctioned awards. However, many are very heartfelt and important to the strength of this club.*

### **GCH Pewter Bowl**

*Purchased by the club in 1953. It was made by a Philadelphia maker, Love, 1780-1815, and was given for the most points in a flower show competition for horticulture, or flower arrangements.*

- 1954: Mrs. Harold O'D. Hunter
- 1955: Mrs. Charles P. Britton
- 1956: Mrs. Harold O'D. Hunter
- 1957: Mrs. Charles L. Miller  
Mrs. Harold O'D. Hunter
- 1958: Mrs. Ostrom Enders
- 1964: Mrs. Charles L. Miller
- 1966: Mrs. Charles H. Anthony
- 1967: Mrs. Charles H. Anthony
- 1968: Mrs. W. Osborn  
Goodrich, Jr.
- 1969: Mrs. Charles P. Britton  
Mrs. Charles L. Miller  
Mrs. Fritz W. Baldwin  
Mrs. James G. Butler  
Miss Mary Edwards  
Mrs. Winthrop A.  
Haviland, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Burwell Dodd
- 1970: Mrs. John D. Stout, Jr.
- 1971: Mrs. James deG. Graves
- 1974: Mrs. John H. Brooks
- 1976: Mrs. Winthrop A.  
Haviland, Jr.
- 1977: Mrs. Dexter Peck
- 1978: Mrs. Charles L. Miller  
Mrs. Frederick Nicholas
- 1979: Mrs. A. Gordon Clarke, Jr.  
Mrs. Christopher Percy  
Mrs. Frederick L.  
Worcester
- 1980: Mrs. Roger Eddy



*We often sing praise to the Award recipients during the Annual Meeting. In 2015 the Awards Committee sang their version of the Chiffon's "She's So Fine" with a doo-lang doo-lang doo-lang background vocal while presenting Brie Quinby with the Oak Leaf Award. Nannie Brown, Mally Cox-Chapman, Joyce Magee, Carrie Hammond at the home of Claire Burnett.*

### **Enders Silver Bowl**

*Given to the club in 1986 by Mr. and Mrs. Ostrom Enders in honor of his mother who was a GCH member. All the names which had been inscribed on the original Pewter Bowl (missing for several years) have been engraved on the Silver Bowl. Awarded for excellence in horticulture and flower arrangement.*

- Ginna Miller\*
- 1986: Betty Stanley
- 1989: Alice Enders  
Elinor Oakes
- 1990: Alice Willard
- 1994: Gwen Izard (Love)
- 1995: Betty Stanley

- 2002: Molly Morris
- 2006: Diane Birdsall Smith
- 2009: Kitty Hillson
- 2012: Brie Quinby

*\* Ginna won this award four or five times prior to 1986*





**Josephine H. Maxim  
Oak Leaf Award**

*Given to the club in 1937 by Josephine H. Maxim's daughter Percy Maxim Lee "to be awarded to a member of the club for distinguished service in any type of work."*

- 1937: Mrs. Lucius S. Robinson, Sr.
- 1938: Mrs. Robert Gray
- 1939: Miss Mary Chapman
- 1940: Mrs. Robert W. Huntington
- 1941: Mrs. Isaac Kingsbury
- 1942: Mrs. James Terry
- 1949: Mrs. William D. Barnes
- 1952: Mrs. Morgan G. Bulkeley
- 1954: Mrs. James Goodwin

- 1957: Mrs. W. Osborn Goodrich, Jr.
- 1958: Mrs. Roger Eddy  
Mrs. John D. Britton
- 1959: Miss Mary Edwards
- 1960: Miss Marcella Putnam
- 1966: Mrs. Charles P. Britton
- 1970: Mrs. A. Gordon Clarke, Jr.
- 1974: Mrs. Charles L. Miller
- 1975: Mrs. James Ford
- 1978: Mrs. Dexter B. Peck  
Mrs. Talcott Stanley
- 1980: Mrs. Frederick L. Worcester
- 1986: Mrs. Winthrop A. Haviland, Jr.  
Mrs. Joseph D. Sargent

**GCH Oak Leaf Award**

*Formerly the Josephine H. Maxim Oak Leaf Award. Awarded to a member of the club for distinguished service in any type of work.*

- 1987: Mrs. Samuel Ferguson, Jr.  
Mrs. Samuel D. Stout
- 1989: Mrs. Charles F. Gill  
Mrs. Frank Stanley
- 1990: Mrs. George David  
Mrs. Edward L. Johnson
- 1991: Mrs. Samuel P. Cooley
- 1992: Mrs. James G. Butler
- 1993: Mrs. Roger Eddy
- 2002: Mrs. Daniel P. Brown  
Ms. Nancy Macy  
Mrs. Charles J. Stielau
- 2003: Mrs. Gordon C. Willard
- 2004: Mrs. Thomas R. Cox, III  
Mrs. Lucius Whitaker, Jr.
- 2007: Mrs. William Magee  
Mrs. Roger Howard
- 2010: Mrs. Jared I. Edwards
- 2011: Mrs. Joseph M. Hayes
- 2014: Ms. Brie Quinby



**GCH "Silverized" Oak Leaf Award, 1937-1986**

*In 2013 a friend of a GCH member, Alice Willard, purchased a "silverized leaf" and found some initials and "Hartford Garden Club" engraved on the underside – a mystery! Alice checked the 90th anniversary history book, knew she had discovered the long-lost Josephine H. Maxim Memorial Award! This award was established in 1937 in memory of Mrs. Maxim to honor a member of the club for distinguished service in any type of work. It was last awarded in 1986, and was replaced in 1987 by the silver oak leaf pin that is likewise "given to a member of the club for distinguished service in any type of work." We will probably never know how this silver leaf arrived in the shop where it was purchased, but we will always be grateful for its return. It will now be entrusted to our Awards Chair so that her committee can come up with a proposal for its future role in the Garden Club of Hartford. [The newly found "silverized leaf" is very close to the GCH logo leaf. Some minor differences, the stem in the silver leaf points down while the stem in our logo goes up.]*







***The Jackie Lloyd  
Gusto Award***

The Gusto Award is named for Jackie Lloyd. Jackie was a past president of the Knox Parks Foundation, and she joined the GCH in 1997. With her passing in 2002, the award committee established the Jackie Lloyd Gusto Award. This award is presented to a novice member of the club, to honor those who, like the late Jackie Lloyd, stepped into the club and its endeavors with immediate enthusiasm, competence and gusto.

The award is a five inch stone with “GUSTO” chiseled on the top. Originally the award was to be passed on to a new recipient. Because members either lost their award (it is a rock) or became so fond of their rock, creating separation anxieties, a new Gusto stone is now awarded to each new winner.

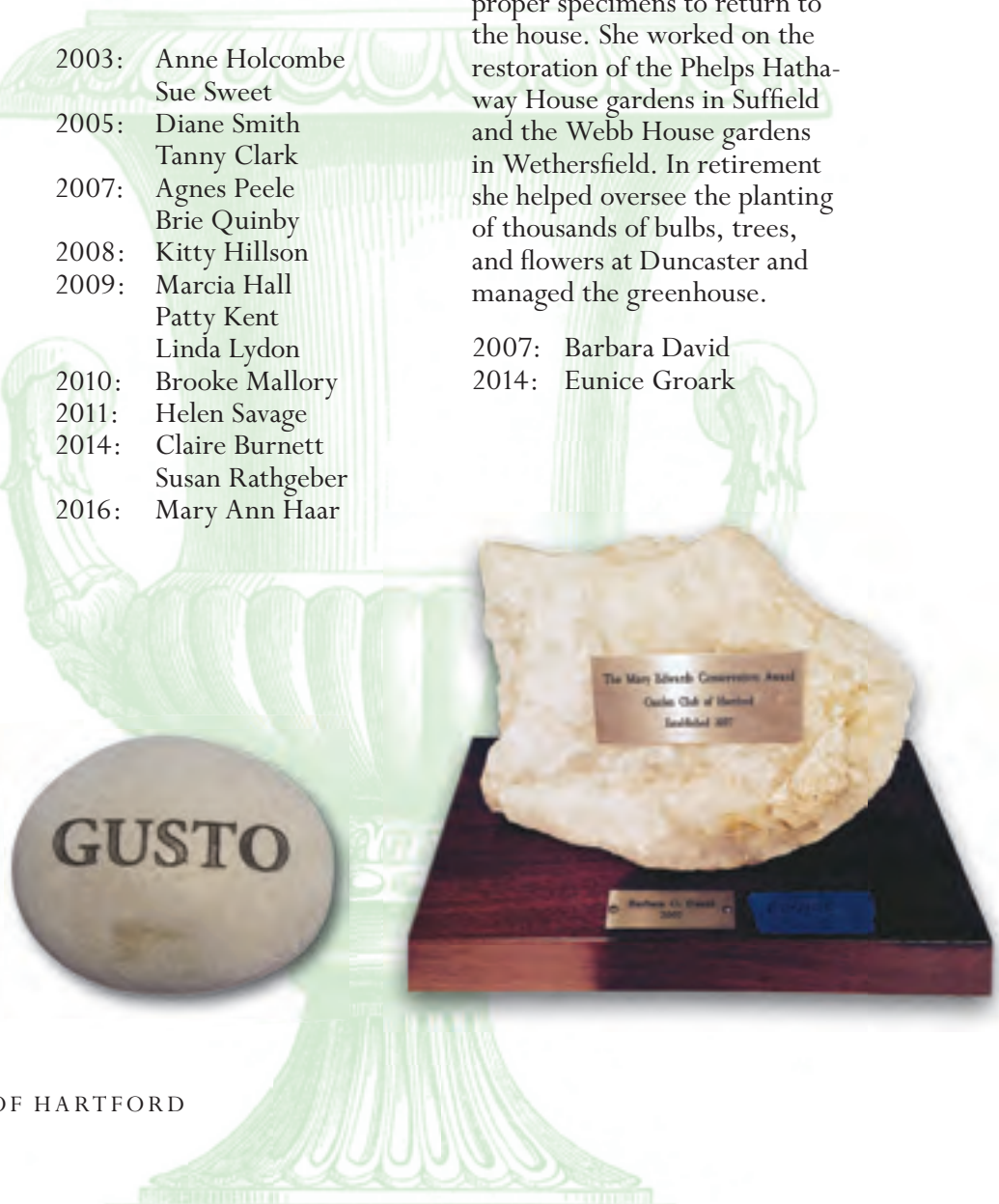
*Above: Photo by Brooke Mallory*

- 2003: Anne Holcombe  
Sue Sweet
- 2005: Diane Smith  
Tanny Clark
- 2007: Agnes Peele  
Brie Quinby
- 2008: Kitty Hillson
- 2009: Marcia Hall  
Patty Kent  
Linda Lydon
- 2010: Brooke Mallory
- 2011: Helen Savage
- 2014: Claire Burnett  
Susan Rathgeber
- 2016: Mary Ann Haar

***Mary Edwards  
Conservation Award***

Established in 2007, the award is occasionally given to a member whose passionate devotion to conservation is evident. Mary Edwards (1913-2004) was a professional landscape architect. She helped the Granby Land Trust from the ground up, and over the years deeded more than 250 acres to it. She was instrumental in the restoration of the Mark Twain House, researching and identifying period plants, trees and vines. She hunted down the proper specimens to return to the house. She worked on the restoration of the Phelps Hathaway House gardens in Suffield and the Webb House gardens in Wethersfield. In retirement she helped oversee the planting of thousands of bulbs, trees, and flowers at Duncaster and managed the greenhouse.

- 2007: Barbara David
- 2014: Eunice Groark



*Right: Deb Eddy Award.*

*Far right: Mary Cheney Award and keepsake container*



EXHIBITION AWARDS CREATED FOR THE 2008 IN-HOUSE FLOWER SHOW

***Mary Ernestine Goodrich Award for Exhibition in Flower Arranging***

Established 2008. A silver bowl donated by Carole MacKenzie, who in turn, was surprised to be first recipient of the award. Mary Ernestine Goodrich (1901-2004) was a club member for sixty-four years, from 1940 to 2004. She was devoted to her garden, and proud that her daughter, Mary “Tina” Hunter Logan, was also a club member (from 1940 to 1960). Mary Ernestine loved to arrange flowers in artistic and playful ways. Her energy was positive and creative, shown in the ways her garden grew and in the ways her flower arrangements excelled.

2008: Carole MacKenzie

***Deb Eddy Award for Exhibition in Horticulture***

Established 2008. A silver bowl donated by Francie Stout. This award honors the spirit of Deborah B. Eddy (1918-2004), a club member for fifty-six years, from 1948 to 2004. Deb Eddy lived in Newington on the Eddy Farm. Her husband, Roger W. Eddy, wrote that “She knew what brought her happiness in her life. Children, sump pumps, and the Garden Club.” Deb’s accomplishments beyond the club were many, but she loved being in her garden. Her joy was sharing and receiving plants, fertilizing, pruning and planting. She was honest, sincere, determined, and had a true zest for living.

2008: Marian Kellner

***Mary Cheney Award for Exhibition in Photography***

Established 2008. A silver oak leaf and acorn pin donated by Alice and Gordon Willard. Mary Pope Cheney (1921-1996) was a club member from 1940 to 1960. Her gardens bloomed in colorful waves. She arranged flowers with an artist’s sensibility, and loved her trees for their sculptural lines and forms. She was dedicated to helping others learn about art and beauty. Advocating for programs for the visually impaired and blind, she volunteered at the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Wadsworth Atheneum, and the Connecticut Historical Society.

2008: Susan Sweet  
2016: Brooke Mallory



# Member Memories, 1997

As a very new member Bruce and I joined GCH's tour to Charleston and the low country of South Carolina. It was a wonderful tour and enabled us to get to know a few members well. However, the highlight was Sally Butler.

She was a remarkable person. Often she was the first one up and one of the last to bed. Early morning bird walks and she was at the head of the line. Cookouts after a long day were no problem with a flashlight to light her way in the dark. Her energy, her intellectual curiosity and her endless delight in the beauty she found around her can only be summed up as Joy. Endless joy at what life has to offer.

It was a treat to know and travel with her.

**Betsy Bower**

## A RAMBLING REMEMBRANCE:

When I moved to Hartford in August, 1966, I arrived very pregnant with John, just in time to be court photographer for GCH's BIG 50th. I remember a dress-up celebration those thirty years ago, with Franny Britton and Mary Ernestine Goodrich looking sensational in period clothes and big floppy hats. Seems to me the pictures I took were shot in Farmington somewhere – Ma Britton ordered everyone to stand in their place, and I, little Mrs. JPB, took lots of photos. I also remember a LONG LENGTHY cocktail hour at 145 Bloomfield Avenue – at lunch time – Patsy Huntington proposed me for membership in 1967 and I joined in 1968. I kept passing hors d'oeuvres to many ladies and wondered why they kept looking at the peanuts and cheese balls so carefully. They were inspecting the MAID, not the delicacies, it was all VERY TOP SECRET my mother-in-law assured me in hushed tones.

The ladies were mysterious, but kindly, and I was quite at ease with Mrs. Eddy and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Eddy, and Mrs. Huntington, Ma's neighbor. Grace Walker was most gentle and Mrs. Goodrich was unpredictable and outrageous, which delighted and intrigued me.

My mother-in-law opined a LOT and Deb Eddy and she knew a great deal about flowers and conservation and billboard fights in the state legislature.

It was a lively, interesting group of women—the mix of generations has always been one of our club's strongest features! We are so rich in cross-fertilization!

**Kathryn S. L. Britton**

In response to Ginna's request for the Garden Club, my most joyous occasion was attending my first meeting where Deb Eddy said, "I am here to look out for you," a very sweet and comforting welcome. My second moment of pure joy was participating in the Tree Day program the club held at Noah Webster Elementary School – all those bright young faces soaking up information on trees.

My most embarrassing moment was rushing to a Garden Club meeting from downtown Hartford and arriving, breathless with a minute to spare at Ellyn Marshall's to be greeted by Doug, "Garden Club? The meeting was yesterday."

I have no horticultural triumphs or disasters yet. As a new member, I value the friendships and advice.

**Jo Champlin Casey**

P.S. A bit of both in 1994 at the sale when only one of the boys showed up to help unload. Thank goodness for the "pressed into service" volunteers – my dear husband Coleman, my daughter Nell and Alice Willard – together we unloaded the truck!

I can only report that once I brought POISON IVY to a class making dried arrangements!

Otherwise, I can only say I've loved the meetings and the many friends I've met and enjoyed.

**June Ford**





One cool December morning, frantic to find something for the auction, I went out to the vegetable garden and picked a bunch of Brussels Sprouts and put them in a little basket. The sprouts were probably worth \$2.00 max. at Waldbaum's. Well, I found out that the sprouts commanded an obscene amount of money at the auction. When I told Ted the price paid for the Sprouts, he thought I should set up a stand on Mountain Road.

There have been many high points in my association with the Garden Club of Hartford – particularly Board meetings. The spirit and camaraderie always leave me in a happy frame of mind. My thanks for that, and for many wonderful friends. Also, it has been a great privilege to serve on the Conservation and National Affairs Committee of the GCA. Unforgettable people and places – from a tour of Yellowstone with a wildlife biologist to the volcanoes on the big island of Hawaii and the halls of the U.S. Congress – have made it a wonderful experience.

**Anne Johnson**

I was raising ponies at the time. Ways and Means had divided us into groups, each group asked to earn money for the fund. I offered my manure, of which I had plenty, which we could put into plastic bags, tie with pink ribbon and sell for a good price. This is what we did.

Several months later, one of my sons, who knew about such things, saw a plant growing from the manure. He broke it off, brought it up to the house, and put it in a glass of water. I cannot remember why the police came to call, but they did, and passed up this sprig of cannabis without recognizing it. We all thought that was very funny. Anyway, I had to make an announcement to the assembled club that doubtless they all had marijuana growing from seeds I had provided. Whether it blew there or whether a neighbor knew a good thing when he saw it, I never knew, and never will.

I also never knew if one of my club friends ever found it in her garden. It is a felony to grow marijuana according to a resident husband.

**Betty Manternach**



#### FROM A NEW GARDEN CLUB MEMBER

For about 12 years, I have been serious about gardening – learning from all my mistakes! One of my favorite things about being in Garden Club is that in the short time that I have been a member, I have learned at least one tidbit of good information at every meeting I have attended.

I remember the meeting where the speaker came from Comstock Ferre. He provided a list of long-lasting perennials along with a slide show. Betsy Flynn and I had the best time going to Comstock Ferre and among other things, I bought pink Scabiosas which have done just what he said they would – bloom all summer.

At another meeting I learned that if one thins phlox when they are just about 4" tall in early summer, phlox will not be as prone to mold and will be heartier. That, too, was successful in my garden.

The next thing I'd like to learn from the collective wisdom of the club is doing wild and wonderful flower arrangements. I look forward to lots of learning in the future. I also look forward to forming good friendships with people of all ages.

**Katie Nixon**



I've been thinking about the Garden Club's project for the 80th anniversary, and boy, it is hard to single out the most special anything. What a fabulous group, and so many happy memories. I guess, because I'm so limited in that direction, that the arrangements of some of our members really stick in my mind. I remember a beautiful arrangement of tiny ferns and delicate woodland material that Mary Cheney did for Fine Arts and Flowers. The assignment was a marble statue of a little boy or a cherub. The combination of dense marble and the delicate curling fronds was smashing. Another fond memory was the Garden Party to benefit the Hill-Stead Sunken Garden. Ginna and Mary set up a beautiful tiny garden in the center of the tent using another statue of a little boy, surrounded by poles of greenery that were breath-taking. Seeing everyone dressed in their finery was a great departure from the working garden clothes used during the set-up. And the people – brave Deb Eddy and her billboards, Clare Edwards, when asked if the cherry trees in Bushnell Park were going to produce fruit, wonderful Mrs. Enders, dear Nina, Polly. I guess I'm happy just to be remembering all this again. Our life now is so different. Because of competition from deer, raccoons, fire ants and Dunbar (who's become a very active gardener with a taste for reds and oranges), I concentrate on my ornamental grasses and containers on the deck. Everywhere I look, I see long stretches of salt marsh and/or water, so my "garden" is limitless and work-free.

**Lee Helsley**

Back in 1954 I had no idea I was being considered for membership to the Garden Club of Hartford, but one day in the mail came a postcard saying "Your dues for the Garden Club of Hartford are such and such. Please mail to Miss Marcella Putnam."

I called my good friend June Chapman Ford, who I knew was already a member of the club, and asked her what this was all about. After an explanation, a last call was put in by her to Marcella and Mrs. Barnes, the president. Knowing June, I don't think she minced her words!

However, I was delighted to become a member, and am now an "old timer." It was very amusing to me that the prestigious G.C.H. had actually made a boo-boo!

**Peg Willis**

We had a family of chipmunks living in our wall next to the bed where I had planted an assortment of 50 bulbs. The next morning I looked out, and approximately 20 holes were dug in the dirt. The following morning there were 20 more holes. The next spring, about five flowers came up!

**Margot Johns**

Enclosed are some pictures of our garden in midsummer. On the back of the pictures is a list of the plant material. Sorry I didn't have one of me in the garden, but I put in a picture of yours truly with the grandchildren in Wyoming last summer. All the best to everyone in the Garden Club.

**Phyllis Francklyn**

Why I thought remembering a failure would be difficult, I'll never know. Immediately I recalled my attempts at propagation – even when the Duck's Bill Coleus had rooted in water. My attempts at growing the "impossible" and the "unusual" from seed and having a bumper crop of mildew are also fresher in my mind than I thought.

If I wanted to write about flower arranging, I'd have to make immediate appointments for long-term counseling. On one of my earliest attempts, even though I know "less is more," after three return trips for flowers, my arrangement could have easily covered a coffin housing a large horse. Enough about that.

Successes can often be accidental. Most of mine, fortunately, have occurred in the garden when I've crossed my fingers and hoped the coral peonies will be followed by salmon heuchera, followed by lilies that match and roses that fill in. One person's "salmon" can be a catalogue "hot pink," but most plants are moveable after one blooming season and substitutes are allowed. I remind myself to only buy important plants in bloom.

The true joy occurs when one of the most fragrant plants you've placed in your garden is close to where you pause to mop your brow, and the scent fills the air, and you think: "That's success!"

**Arline Whitaker**



*In recent years an added dimension to the garden for me has been the enjoyment of painting scenes of gardens and flowers outdoors in summertime, or perhaps still-life painting involving flowers indoors.*

**Meredith Robbins**

*In the early 60s I was a timorous president of our Garden Club. I did, however, have one inspiration.*

*At an Executive Meeting I suggested the possibility of proposing the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden for an award from the Garden Club of America – the award being the Jane Righter Rose Medal. (Incidentally, she was my aunt.)*

*After her death her many friends in the Greenwich Garden Club created this award as a memorial to her, her horticultural knowledge and her love of roses. The award is not given lightly, but only to outstanding rose growers or gardeners.*

*The Executive Committee was enthusiastic, and went to work filing the necessary papers and writing the proposal. Finally it was done and sent off.*

*After a long wait, we were advised that the Rose Garden was the winner and would receive the medal. The awards dinner was held in New York at the Colony Club. I attended with my husband, and I'm sure Peggy and Jack Britton were there too.*

*As they awarded the Rose Medal to the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, we felt very proud that our local rose garden had received such important recognition.*

**Elinor Righter Oakes**

*I'm a new member of the GCH and, unfortunately, I am already in trouble. At my first meeting, Betty Stanley asked me to serve on her Horticulture Committee. I could tell right off that she was a no-nonsense kind of person and that I had better bone up and grow right! My first assignment was to winter over a Buddleia davidii bush for the Zone II Gavel Competition. I was greatly relieved that I knew how to do this and would not fall into disgrace.*

*In our back yard, between a fence and the garage, we have a big pile of clay. It was dug up when a porch was made, and we didn't let them take it away because we were sure that if we mixed enough organic material into it we'd end up with a pile of beautiful soil. Anyway, I decided that in the edge of this pile, snug against one of the compost makers, would be just the right "cold frame" for the Buddleia. After the first hard freeze I would cover it with mulch as instructed, and all would be well.*

*Unfortunately, I forgot to mention this whole project to my husband. Long before the first hard freeze, he cleaned up the compost area. He must have thought my Gavel Competition was a gone-bad thrown away houseplant. He thinks he buried it in the center of that clay pile!*

*I haven't yet worked up the nerve to tell Betty Stanley. I keep telling myself that I'll go out there in the spring and scratch around and find it. I wish it could be true. So my first GCH story is a bad story, and now Betty Stanley knows the truth.*

**Nancy Macy**

*My greatest satisfaction was just being a member of the GCH. Knowing nothing of gardening, though my mother had tried to instill a knowledge and love of it in me, I learned much from GC meetings and individual conversations. Now, in 1996, I happily work under Mary Edwards' guidance in the greenhouse at Duncaster.*

**Kit VanWinkle**

*A few years ago, before I joined the Garden Club of Hartford, I had planted some daffodil and tulip bulbs upside down. Needless to say, blooms didn't show "up." I don't know what occurred "down."*

*A light bulb did come "up," however, and I realized I needed the guidance of a Garden Club. What a joy. I now know "up" from "down" and my association with the delightful members is all "up."*

**Mollie Morris**





I REMEMBER...

... Deb-my constant consultant and conspirator in all Garden Club matters.

... being an apprentice to Mary Ernestine and learning the basics of flower arranging.

... Mrs. Barnes' horticulture class at nine a.m. Monday mornings. Don't be late!

... flower arranging in the garage (to keep the flowers cool!) at night with Mary Carey while a member of the "other club" spied on us from across the street.

... six years in New York and around the USA attending Garden Club of America meetings. What a privilege!

... most of all, the fun we've had together and in mixed up small groups of all ages. We've accomplished great things and learned a lot.

**Ginna Miller**

In 1958, I was asked to be a member of the Garden Club of Hartford, a great honor. In quick time I was put to work on the program, awards, and others. Then I was asked to have a meeting. I lived in a small house, no extra side rooms. In the sixties, not like these days, there were groups, always together, rarely mixing. My house changed that; you had to sit crammed in together. The flow of conversation amongst all ages was tremendous. We had a speaker who spoke of the "crumb structure – not to be disturbed." She was hysterical.

Amy Anthony got us all involved in daffodils. We all planted bulbs from Amy. A show at Elizabeth Park brought many, with pails of daffodils, brushes to dust the petals, spray bottles to perk them up. I arrived with three blooms in a bottle and won a second prize.

A successful project was our cook book. 50 recipes for 50 years. Every recipe was cooked by the owner and tested by others. It is still very much in use in my kitchen.

In 1976 I lived in Farmington in a garage apartment. We decided to have a tail-gate sale with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club to raise money to landscape the Old State House. My garage was filled with treasures. Helen Winter would come and appraise them. Josie Mantenach and I with lots of help would assemble them. On May 22nd everyone filled their wagons and cars, taking them to the Grist Mill, where we displayed our goods on our tail-gates and tables. We toted what didn't sell back to my garage; sold and donated the leftovers. We made \$5,750. Much fun by all!

**Betty Holcombe**

So, favorite stories/adventures with and about Garden Club of Hartford. Here goes. First and foremost, getting to know other people interested in gardening of a mix of ages. Forging friendships otherwise missed. I remember gearing up for the Hill-Stead sunken garden project, and driving to beautiful Harkness State Park with Betty Stanley to research the Harkness perennial garden, designed by Beatrix Farrand, I believe, and installed at about the same time as the Hill-Stead garden, about 1910, perhaps? Passing remarks Betty made about the plant material and life in general is still food for thought. Ten years later. I remember being paired up with Ellie Oakes to create a floral arrangement before a regular meeting, and having the sense of learning at the hand of a master. I remember how many creative ideas Ellie had, how she gently suggested ways to cut stems, and how to place flowers to create height, dimension, and texture in clever ways I never would have thought of and with such tact and understated, subtle consideration for my novice state. I'll never forget going to one of the joint meetings at the Town & County Club and learning that you could drop a Polident tablet in a vase full of warm water to clean out the scum and gunk that is virtually impossible to clean out of a narrow-necked vase. I remember especially how much people care about the club, and listen to each other. Essentially, committee work is a form of team work; I learned about the teamwork and the organizational skills needed to run my children's school's parent association from my years on the Garden Club of Hartford executive committee, going to meetings and observing how people negotiated and got things done.

**Love, Susie Barney**

Environmental law and advocacy have taken the place of most of my outdoor gardening efforts in recent years – with one exception – I keep honey bees! I hope my nurturing of their activities can be considered my contribution to the goals of the Garden Club of Hartford.

Bee-keeping is as interesting, fulfilling, energetic, and fascinating an endeavor as I have ever undertaken. The high point of my beekeeping career (not counting the enjoyment of home grown honey) – both literally and figuratively – was the capture of a swarm of wild honeybees from an upper branch of a friend's magnolia tree. A swarm occurs when a queen decides that a hive is too crowded or when the workers decide that their queen is too old, and start creating a new one (a death sentence for the old lady). Approximately half the hive workers then gorge themselves with honey (which makes them quite mellow for their journey) and swarm out of their hive in a great buzzing swirl with the old queen in their midst. They usually lodge in large quivering mass in a nearby tree while scouts fly about looking for a likely new home. Having donned my beesuit – a most unbecoming outfit – located a spare empty hive, grabbed my smoker, veil, gloves, tools, and the tallest stepladder I could find and desperately trying to remember what my bee books had told me about swarms, I set forth to capture this one.

Sadly, no-one took a picture of me in all my paraphernalia atop the ladder trying to balance the empty hive directly beneath the swarm, while cutting the branch above so the swarm would drop gently into it. It was a bit precarious and scary, but wonder of wonders – all went pretty much according to plan and the queen found my empty hive satisfactory despite a not very gentle landing (the branch was heavier than I had thought). When the queen is happy, all her retinue is happy, so they went immediately to work, and that hive has been my strongest and hardiest producer ever since. I believe that is because the wild local stock is more accustomed to the hard New England winters than bees acquired from breeders who are mostly in the South. Honey bees are fast becoming an endangered species in this country because of mites, various viruses, and overuse of pesticides. I take great satisfaction in my six hives, not only because bees are fascinating creatures to observe and learn from, but because their activity helps propagate all of our fruit, vegetable and flowering crops.



Someday, I hope I will have a garden of my own again to benefit from my bees!

**Kate Robinson**

Ellie Oakes joined the Garden Club in 1948. She lived in the country in Bloomfield, after growing up in the city I think, and soon became interested in all the growing things around her.

At one of her first meetings, in October I think, we were all asked to bring a spray or an arrangement of attractive and colorful fall berries. Ellie proudly arrived with a huge bunch of poison ivy branches, covered with those shiny red berries!

Needless to say, she won the Booby Prize.

**Francie Stout**

I'll relate a woeful tale of a "gardening disaster." Several years ago, our present Garden Club of Hartford president, Arline Whitaker, most kindly presented me with a perfectly beautiful 5 or 6 foot Camellia Tree. She had inherited a few of these from Dr. Bunnell in Farmington and, knowing that we were near to moving into our newly built home in West Simsbury, most generously; gave this as a house warming gift. My husband, Skip, was very anxious to "fire up" our new fireplace, which is a rather sizable one with a six foot opening. Unfortunately, he neglected to note that my pride and joy was in the direct line of the fireplace and, to make a long story short, my beautiful tree was fried! A very sad ending, since Arline's are still flourishing and bringing pleasure to all.

**Anne Warner**

The first year I joined the club there was a fabulous Christmas auction at Tulie Goodwin's house. My husband Doug and Charlie Gill were the auctioneers! Being a new member I felt an obligation to support the auction, so I purchased numerous items. The following week I got a call from the treasurer telling me my check bounced! We still laugh about it today.

**Ellyn Marshall**



*Back in the old days, I had trouble growing an Ageratum as edging for my garden. For years I bought, planted, watered and felt happy with my work. Alas, each year the plants turned brown and died. One spring I found, miraculously, a self-sown clump of baby ageratum. I carefully separated, planted and watered them in a 60 foot row. This took me two days. Then I left for 10 days at Martha's Vineyard. When I returned, I rushed to view my Ageratum. Instead I found 60 feet of weeds. Not only did they cost me my time and energy, but also my ego!*

*My happiness comes from my garden in the summer and painting views of our farm in the winter. Most of all, I enjoy the multiple skills, the global outlooks and the friendly humor of our members in the Garden Club of Hartford. Our civic projects are successful and all other activities teach us.*

*I have even learned about Eupatorium, which looks like Ageratum, but grows taller and blooms in late summer and is even invasive.*

**Deb Eddy**

## DISASTERS AND A TRIUMPH

*by Alice Willard*

*I have several choices of disasters, two from my term as Program Chairman:*

- 1. Watching my guest speaker fall asleep in front of the whole club while waiting for an unexpected long committee report to be over before the program.*
- 2. The experience of having the bus driver get lost on the way to Wave Hill and, later, the Cloisters. (Apparently when the company asked for details of our destination it was only for billing purposes.)*
- 3. I also remember boldly offering a hint on deer deterrent – quite successful – only to find three in my garden when I drove in the driveway right after the meeting!*

*My greatest triumph is the friendships I have made with our marvelous members which have added immeasurably to my gardening knowledge and to the fabric of my life! One specific triumph I recall was collaborating with Shep Holcombe to make likely sounding Latin names for unidentified plant material in our in-house show at Betty's – we weren't questioned by the real judges!*

## AN ADDENDUM: TRIUMPHS IN THE MAKING

*I believe the Orchid Workshop was October 19th – it was a very cold, very wet and apparently quite dark Saturday morning...at my house. More accurately, it was in my driveway since I don't have appropriate indoor space for such activity and stuff. The stalwarts laughed a lot, divided and re-potted a lot, and on January 7th, Anne Johnson noted that one of the divisions had a new bud! We may have discovered advantageous conditions previously avoided by more meteorologically correct gardeners.*

*I will remember receiving my letter of acceptance in the Garden Club of Hartford and feeling...horrified. How could I, a child of the seventies, join this kind of WASPy, irrelevant institution that I'd spent years rebelling against? Could I compromise my values to become a suburban housewife doing volunteer work? Ten years later and fully compromised, I have to admit it has had its benefits; the most important being the friendships I've gained. It's been an honor and pleasure to get to know the garden club members and to develop close friendships with a few. I gratefully realized the value of the garden club "family" after my mother's death, when members who I hardly knew offered me comfort and support.*

*I cannot speak to the benefits of this garden club in relation to my gardening capabilities, through no fault of GCH. Since I've moved east, gardening has been a low priority. I suppose I could blame the demands placed on me by three young children, but I'd rather charge the unfriendliness of this rocky ridgetop property, where planting a perennial becomes a lesson in mining. Perhaps by the 90th anniversary of GCH, I will have learned to work with this landscape instead of against it.*

*So happy birthday and thanks to you, Garden Club of Hartford, and here's looking forward to SO many more.*

**Cindy Stempf**



“You did what?!!”

“Yes, Mother, I joined a garden club.”

“But what about your golf game?”

From this inauspicious beginning sprang a happy, productive learning experience that has stretched almost twenty years.

I met the membership committee for tea with an infant daughter strapped to my back. They overlooked my reduced decorum. I thank them and all the other members who’ve shared so much, who’ve taught so much over the years.

It’s been the people, the relationships in our club that have made it special for me. I’ve learned from the senior members whose thorough knowledge and mature plantings have set wonderful standards to aspire to. I’ve kidded with my contemporaries – one of whom regularly fools me by spouting real-sounding but totally bogus Latin names for plants I can’t quite identify. I’ve enjoyed the camaraderie of our meetings, auctions, tree sales and shows. I respect the hard work that many of us have put into community activities and I feel we’ve made a difference. I am pleased that we’ve been well represented within the GCA for our club has much to be proud of. But most of all, I’m glad to know my fellow members.

**Hannah B. Steel**

*My garden is Evergreen...with yews, pine, spruce and juniper. The azaleas, rhododendron, holly and lilacs all bloom in their time. Spring flowers – in their time. Spring flowers – daffodils, narcissus, tulips, peones and, fillies phloxes in the fall, come and go. But mostly in the winter I enjoy when the snow and ice form crystals on the evergreens with the background of a blue sky (this morning my garden is covered with ice and the evergreens are bent as if in sleep, content). In a few months it will awaken and “spring to life.”*

**Jane Springer**

*For nearly twenty years the Garden Club of Hartford has been a source of much pleasure and warm memories. I remember distinctly the morning of the coffee to meet various members that was then part of the admissions process. I was asked to bring some sort of arrangement and I had designed a tall centerpiece of apples, boxwood and juniper. As Jack drove and I held the arrangement in my lap, we managed to hit every pot hole and rut on the way to our destination. By the time we arrived, what had begun the trip as an example of my “towering” creativity that would hopefully lead to admission, had shifted and lost more than a few critical parts along the way. It was my good fortune that Polly Peck considered effort to be at least as important as perfection!*

*Other warm memories:*

- hours spent with Polly (again) proofreading the membership books to make sure that each and every word was spelled, abbreviated or hyphenated correctly;
- being caught with Lee Helsley in a terrible traffic jam on the Merritt Parkway on our way to exhibit at the Greenwich Flower Show. Arriving fifteen minutes before the judges, Lee and I did a mass arrangement in our space in probably under ten minutes. Hard to believe that we won a prize!
- a sleepless night before an in-house flower show waiting to see whether the bud on my gardenia would bloom or fall off. It held on and the next day opened gloriously as its tired owner wilted quickly.
- wonderful Sally Butler in the greenhouse. Despite the fact that everyday the seedlings were being nurtured by the magic touch of one of our finest gardeners, my anxiety was palpable. “Will we see germination in time for the community gardeners to plant?” I fretted. Sally would reply: “Everything in time; everything in time.” And she was right!

*Thank you Garden Club of Hartford for the people, time, commitment and camaraderie that has made the club such a meaningful, personal experience for me and, on a broader level, has contributed so much to the asthetic and physical environment of our city.*

**Lucy C. Cartland**



## ACROSS THE GENERATIONS IN GARDEN CLUB

*When I reflect on the times I have spent in Garden Club activities, it is always the sense of shared purpose across generations that comes to mind. I first joined the Garden Club in 1973 with the leisure of those simpler days, resigned in 1981 and rejoined in 1986 because, in part, I missed the contact with contemporaries and the senior members of the club. In both times, it was Alice Enders who was my cicerone – a woman who delighted in the joys of gardening year round and in the companionship of the club. And it was her contemporaries who truly defined the club for me... I had thought to list them but realize that it is a long list, indeed, of quite extraordinary ladies. We can, in part, still enjoy the pleasure of their company. Others are tending gardens where the sun always shines, there is always enough moisture and even the bugs are friends. We younger members used to joke among ourselves that it was easy to produce flourishing specimens with the help of the odd caretaker and elegantly set tea and coffee tables with no toddlers underfoot. I suspect the ladies in question had the same thoughts in their early days as members. But caretakers, maids, grown and flown children are not the true reason these women were so special. Each and everyone of them embraced gardening and the shared companionship of success and failure, they welcomed us into the fold with gracious hospitality and truly useful advice. They made us feel that we were kindred spirits in their commitment to the community and the environment. They truly showed us the way and we are in their debt.*

**Nancy D. Grover**

*My years in the Garden Club of Hartford have enabled me to become more knowledgeable about plants, gardening and conservation. It has been a joy to have worked with a wonderful and diverse group of women who have taught me a lot. Both Polly Peck and Sally Butler were examples of the best type of garden club member.*

*I enjoyed the years that I was involved with GCA on both the zone and national levels. The depth and breadth of GCA as an organization are truly amazing. I learned about national affairs, conservation, study programs, etc. It was gratifying to work with members from all over the country who share common goals.*

**Mary Sargent**

*My garden disasters have been numerous and varied, but the one I remember with the most horror and shame involved roses. One year the snow came very early and somehow I just never managed to bed them with salt hay, my usual approach. I had gone for many years without losing even one of the twenty bushes and somehow thought that they probably didn't really need it anyway. Needless to say, as April stretched into May, 16 of the 20 remained as bare as they were in February, so with great embarrassment I bought 16 new Jackson and Perkins bushes from Ronnie Wade. To atone for my negligence I decided to plant them carefully rather than in my usual haphazard fashion and conscientiously lugged a generous helping of manure for each bush and put deep in the hole. Two days later they were all dead. I went back to Ronnie ready to blame his supplier and told him how carefully I had planted them." You killed them all, Liz" he sighs (he still calls me Liz after 30 years. I gave up correcting him around year 10.) "But how?" I wailed. "All that manure – too much for 'em – burned 'em right up!" "Oh!"*

*Any gardening triumphs that fall my way are generally a result of some fortuitous contribution of weather and chance, and are seldom repeated! But I was extremely gratified and relieved the spring of my daughters wedding. I have never had as many tulips. The wedding was to be May 9th when we have very little showing in the flower beds and so I planted 500 tulips. Filling every inch available, I had no idea if my guesses on the time of bloom would be accurate or if exploding deer population would operate as advertised and as they often had, clipping them neatly at ground level as soon as they attained any growth. I had heard that Irish Spring soap would keep them away, and so I cut up dozens of bars in late March and scattered them everywhere. It looked as though the Easter Bunny had come early and gone berserk. The morning before the wedding it was hard to collect them all because of the multitudes of pink and white blooms surrounding the house. It was fabulous but never take such a gamble. One whole week before I was out coaching and cajoling all the white ones which were so stubbornly slow and only just opened the day before. It was all together too close a call, not to mention the dreariness of all the old foliage in June.*

**Lisa Stout**

*In the spirit of the celebration of the 80th birthday of the Garden Club of Hartford we have been asked to write about our best times in the club and our least favorite times. I must begin by saying that I don't have a least favorite time in the Garden Club. I have never had an unhappy nor disappointing moment since I joined the club in 1979. The most all-encompassing and overriding feeling that immediately comes to mind when one mentions the Garden Club of Hartford, is the privilege I have had meeting, getting to know and becoming friends with the most wonderful mix of people that I could imagine. I have treasured the opportunities to work with, plant with, grow with people who are bright, interesting, witty, and that I might never had otherwise the chance to know.*

*I do miss many of our members who have passed from our ranks to a more elevated status. I miss Tulie Goodwin, Polly Peck, Nina Stanley, Alison Gill, Sally Butler, and Mary Cheney, but am so pleased that I am a better person because I knew them.*

*I have many proud memories as a member of the Garden Club of Hartford. One of the most pronounced of those was the moment that I received the Garden Club of America, Medal of Merit Award, at our Annual Meeting on May 11th, 1993. I truly have never been more stunned, shocked, and overwhelmed at the same time. I didn't feel that I was deserving, but was so flattered that others thought so. I owe much of that to the continuous and undying encouragement and praise from the saintly Deb Eddy, who was always behind me and guiding me 100% of the way.*

*Another favorite time in my garden club career was the completion of the wonderful Hill-Stead Sunken Garden Project. I loved being the co-chair of such an innervating and exciting project, working together in small groups and discovering the talents of so many people. I feel that this garden will have historical significance and be enjoyed for years to come.*

*The thought of backing and encouraging the first flower show that the Garden Club of Hartford has sponsored in twenty-five years was a little daunting, not something that I thought this club couldn't do. I was right. I learned what putting on a flower show was all about, got excited, spread my enthusiasm, asked just the right people to be the inspiration, and this club jumped in and did nothing less than a spectacular job. The conservation exhibit won the Marion Fuller Brown Award and the show won the G.C.A. Small Flower Show Award, and the Beattie Medal. Not bad for novices! I was so proud of this club I couldn't stop smiling for weeks.*

*The Garden Club of Hartford is all about its members and what they offer. I know that I have taken much more than I have given, and feel very blessed by the friendships I have made with both young and old. The members of this club have played important roles in my life and I am richer for it.*

***With affection and gratitude, Donna Stout***

*My knowledge of the Garden Club of America began early, as my mother was a member of the Lake Forest Garden Club. In 1933 the Annual Meeting was held in the Chicago area, and my mother had a luncheon. This event took place shortly before my wedding. Of course Mother was anxious that our place should look its best. My recollection is that the ladies were mostly interested in viewing our wedding presents on the third floor.*

*I lived in Baltimore for thirty-six years. During that period I joined Amateur Gardeners Club, a founding club. Among many interesting activities I attended several fine Annual Meetings — one in Detroit, another in Philadelphia. I found them particularly interesting, as they included women from all over the United States.*

*Since I have lived in Farmington, I have been very fortunate to belong to the Garden Club of Hartford. The club has added greatly to my life.*

***Catharine C. Smith***

*What has the Garden Club of Hartford meant to me?*

- 1. It has activated my reading to further knowledge of specific trees, shrubs and flowers.*
- 2. It has challenged my awareness of our environment and how and why we need to be actively involved.*
- 3. It has been a source of enjoyment... socially and working on projects.*
- 4. Because of it's unique membership of an eclectic nature. the GCH provides me with a wonderful source of fun, intellect, and work...call it an infectious infusion of energy.*

***Dorothy Lund***



## HIGHS AND LOWS IN THE GARDEN

*The finest moment in gardening occurs around the end of May, beginning of June when...perennials are bright green, shapely, and hold incredible promise; bulbs are producing exactly as expected, potential is exciting and possibilities are endless. Energy infuses both gardener and crop.*

*Flip side to this seasonal rush is mid-August when heat is debilitating. Plants are leggy, bug-infested and disease-infected. Spring planting has not caught on and weeds are gaining ground. Future as a brilliant landscape artist recedes to a mad dream.*

*Fall approaches; drooping flowers and spirits lift before plants are mulched for winter respite. Spring returns and the heart of the ever-hopeful gardener is again alive with the prospect of making it all happen once more.*

**Susan Copeland**

*I have been a member of the Garden Club since 1973, and I know that I've learned a lot from the association: the opportunity to know and work with outstanding people such as Tulie Goodwin, Polly Peck, Alice Enders, Nina Stanley and Sally Butler; the opportunity to meet GCA members from around the country; the impetus to become a better gardener; the challenge to try new plants; the knowledgeable support in trying a flower arrangement; the enjoyment that comes with getting to know and work with a wonderful group of people and the hope that the GCA does and will continue to make a contribution to the community.*

**Betty Stanley**

## A DAY NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

*Looking back on Hartford Garden Club experiences, none flashback more vividly than this "NIGHTMARE" of a day. It all happened in the Fall of 1995 when the club planned a special day trip to G.C.A. Headquarters in New York and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.*

*It was a sunny autumn day. Twenty enthusiastic members boarded the bus for what was intended to be a fun, educational excursion. Upon arrival at G.C.A. Headquarters, we were given a tour and then ushered into a room set up for a slide presentation of the history of G.C.A. We waited politely for several minutes for our speaker to arrive but no one appeared. When I went to inquire where the speaker was, I was informed that there indeed was no one to present the slides – that Headquarters only sets up the projector, screen and provides the corresponding script to be presented by the visiting group leader. Well, guess who that was – ME! I froze on the spot and could hardly catch my breath. Here I was with my reading glasses left back in Hartford confronted with a script I had never seen, a projector I had never worked and pictures of places I had never heard of and could not pronounce. Somehow I gathered my composure and proceeded with the presentation. DISASTER! Rarely did the flashing pictures correspond to the description being read. Fellow Garden Club Members were polite and empathic throughout the ordeal and laughed with me later.*

*After enjoying a delicious lunch served by G.C.A. members, the group embarked for the second part of the day's excursion – the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Members were divided into small groups each with a guide and taken on a two hour tour of the gardens. Flowers and trees were in their full "Autumn Glory," and everyone found the afternoon enjoyable and educational. Alas, weary bodies returned to the bus for a relaxing trip back to Hartford, but this was NOT DESTINED to happen.*

*After making our third pass in front of the gates of the Botanical Garden, one hour into our proposed trip home I asked the driver if he was indeed lost, which he confessed he was.*

*In preparation for the day trip, I had secured maps and written instructions from AAA, all of which the driver had by his side, I had requested this particular driver because he was a native of Brooklyn and I had used him many times on day trips to New York. Today of all days he was INDEED LOST due to construction detours. Finally, we found the highway and arrived home very late and totally exhausted.*

*Sometimes the best made plans go astray and this certainly was one of those times. This experience was every program chairman's nightmare – A DAY NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN!*

**Ellie Cuda**

*I have been a more conscientious gardener for too few years to be able to say that I have enjoyed any real successes in my garden and I have had too many failures to be able to single out only one. I will write about what I hope to achieve one day in my garden. It has taken me a while to realize what that might be but age has a wonderful way of prioritizing the essential experiences in one's life and that has helped me to sort it out. (I often tell my children that my mind is like a sieve; now it only keeps the green beans while all the rest goes down the drain.)*

*I have always loved the natural world of animals and plants from the time I was a very young child but the organization of plants into a garden did not begin to interest me until I was nine or ten years old.*

*At that age I was free to ride my retired, dappled-gray hunter with two older friends who had horses as well. We would explore the countryside for miles together. Sometimes we made tree forts high in white pines. There, we would "park" our horses between the branches below and scamper up the limbs to our look-out perches. Other times we would be successful in diverting the attention of an inexperienced groom in a private stable nearby while one or the other of us would sneak to the grain shoots to smuggle out a couple of quarts of bran mash or sweet feed for our own horses, who had only oats. We were carefree tomboys and we loved our time out in the open countryside with our horses.*

*One of our very favorite places was a hill where a mansion once stood. From that elevated vantage point we could see all the water towers of the surrounding towns. It was a spectacular view by Long Island standards. At that time only a cellar hole remained to tell the story of that estate's past glories; a cellar hole and...its wild and neglected gardens. We would tie our horses to a gnarled cedar tree at the top of the hill and wander down the twisting garden paths lined with billowing boxwood our young imaginations fired by its musky scent and the secret knowledge that around the next bend in the path a new vista would appear to reveal a overgrown flower bed or hidden statuary. Adjacent to where the mansion once stood there was also a large apple orchard. In the spring, before the blossoms opened, the orchard field was blanketed with fragrant daffodils of all colors and sizes. Once, I can remember riding home, my mind giddy with delight and my arms so full of flowers that I had to guide my old mare with my feet in the reins.*

*Mystery, magic and sensual pleasure, that is what a garden should hold. So far I have not achieved this but, since I have joined GCH, I have begun to focus more on those features. That, at least, is a beginning.*

**Nannie W. T. Brown**

*My first experience after joining the garden club was very special...*

*I was invited to go to Baltimore on a special trip arranged by Kitty Smith. We were to visit interesting gardens, have dinners in the homes of well-known gardeners and see and visit historic sights and museums.*

*We went on a small tour bus once we arrived in the Baltimore area and at the end of the first day's visit to a famous garden and home, we were invited to dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Symington.*

*Right before we arrived we all changed out of our sneakers and wading shoes into our "dress-up" shoes, and then powdered our noses and tried to look presentable.*

*We entered the house and were directed to go out into the garden before we took our coats off. (I think it was the end of March.) Thus began about forty-five minutes of well-turned-out ladies, in our good shoes, walking along a very muddy and sometimes wet path to see a half-mile of shade gardens. No real damage done of course...just a memory of us all smiling as we sank into the mud.*

**Joan Brown**

*Fun, refreshing, inspiring, funny, humbling and calming are some of the words to describe my little successes and (huge) failures as a member of the GCH on the eternal quest to become a GARDENER. Whether preparing for the final exam at the Knox Foundation course for volunteers, hosting winter meetings at my home to avoid the risk of real gardeners seeing my scrawny attempts, learning to serve a Proper Tea, or sweating through the preparation of a floral arrangement for public review, I have always felt tremendous anxiety, and yet exhilaration, tempered by the gift of friendship.*

**Lil Nolan**



Several years ago a close friend, a member of the “other” club, moved away and was unable to take with her the enormous, prize-winning Christmas fern, so she left it to me. I was delighted but more intent than I might otherwise have been to keep the beautifully healthy plant alive because I knew my friend had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. I came to believe that as long as the plant flourished under my care, so would she. I gave it the same exposure she had, watered, fed, pruned and hovered, and my efforts paid off. It rarely showed so much as a droopy frond, but one day when I was carrying it into my kitchen to be pruned a little, I tripped and fell. So determined was I not to injure the plant that the only loss was a broken finger. The finger took a long time to heal, but the plant continued to flourish. Last June we left to spend the summer in Nantucket, and my cleaning lady, who has a green thumb, took over. In early July what we had all feared would happen happened, and my friend died. When I returned home in September, my cleaning lady told me the plant, in spite of all her efforts, had died, too. I don’t know what to conclude. I miss my friend and I miss the plant, which might have continued to be a happy reminder of her, but I am terribly grateful to it for keeping up the good fight for those few years. You can decide whether this is a “successful” plant story – or a “failure” plant story.

When I first heard your plans to do an anniversary booklet, I thought you were interested in receiving stories about past GCH events. If that is, in fact, true, you might find this one more cheerful: I had not been in the club very long when it celebrated an anniversary (I don’t remember which one) with a dinner and skits at the Farmington Country Club. In one of the skits several of us were outfitted in maids’ uniforms as part of a depiction of a garden club meeting of a more gracious era. Betty Holcombe and I, for different reasons, elected to skip the dinner and showed up for our role well before the dinner had ended. We waited for a while for the dinner to be over and then decided that the members might think it fun to see us help the staff clear the tables. Our uniforms were very different from the waitresses, – black silk with white lace collars and cuffs – but in spite of that, not one member ever looked up and noticed us.

**Trig Cooley**

I think the best aspect of the Garden Club of Hartford has been the friends I have made over the 23 years I have been a member. I joined the club when I was 27 and I instantly had a group of older friends: Francie Stout, Polly Peck, Deb Eddy, Betty Holcombe, Josie Manternach, Ellie Oakes, Marion Ferguson, Frances Calvoceossi, and Ginna Miller. As I was new to the community, they gave me a much deeper view of Hartford. And by the way, they knew everything about gardening, life, babies, and friendship – loads of wisdom.

The funniest episode happened recently, in October. I went to Alice Willard’s orchid workshop proudly bearing the blooming orchid my son had given me for Christmas three years before. I felt very clever because I had repotted it and the plant was a beautiful specimen advertising my good care. The first topic of conversation that day was the potting mixture to be used for orchids – bark mulch and chips of coal. Of course I had used loam from my perennial bed. I promptly exposed my gaffe, and we repotted it once again.

**Midge Tilney**

My grandmother was a member of the Garden Club of Hartford. My mother, who knew or cared little about gardening, was considered “inappropriate” by my grandmother for membership in the club. My mother was asked to join the “other club” and in an act of treason, accepted. Family chaos ensued and the battle between disapproval and independence was played out over a particularly memorable Easter dinner. Mother won that round. Many years later I was asked to join the Garden Club of Hartford. My mother’s response was to arrange an invitation for my sister to join the Connecticut Valley Garden Club the following year. Neither my sister nor I have daughters.

When I joined the club in 1971, it was still possible to glimpse a way of life now over and a privilege to come to know some extraordinary women, many now gone. One of my early club memories was a visit to Mrs. Barney. She talked about the evolution of her lovely formal garden, showed us the elaborate planting plans and described the annual ordering, setting out, and taking up of hundreds of tulip bulbs. It seems somehow fitting that our 80th Anniversary luncheon is to be held at her house (now owned by the University of Connecticut) and hosted by her daughter Hattie Lidgerwood.

Over the last 26 years in the club. I have: learned a little something about a lot of things, had my share of success and disaster, laughed a lot, eaten some marvelous desserts, met some first rate cats and dogs, helped make some things a little nicer, and made some wonderful friends without whom my life would be less bright.

My greatest success in the garden: My Husband. My greatest failure in the garden: Death. My wish for the Garden Club of Hartford: A Happy Birthday and a long life.

**Clare Edwards**

# Member Memories, 2006

After I moved to New York in 1968, I became involved with the Hospitality Committee of the Garden Club of America. We served lunches and dinners to untold numbers from 20 to 120. We cooked and brought in food and enjoyed each other's company as well as whatever committee or group we were serving. I was co-chairman of that committee for about six years.

I joined the New York Committee of the Garden Club of America. My job was a very interesting one. We directed an education program for four neighborhood schools (5th grade) to plant bulbs in the Conservatory Garden in Central Park. We went to the schools in the early fall to lecture, then met in the park to direct the planting at planting time. We went again in the spring so that they could see the resulting flowers. I was vice chairman of that committee during the 1980s. At the time of the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of America I was in charge of medicine and medical emergencies, of which there were none!

**Nancy Cobb, Class of 1955**

It is hard to believe that the Garden Club of Hartford is 90 years old. You will have a great celebration. The highlight of living in West Hartford was being President of the Garden Club of Hartford. It's very important being a member of the Garden Club of America. My trips to Palm Beach and Rochester were outstanding and fun. You ladies of GCH are special. Keep up your good work.

**Priscilla Wilcox, Class of 1965**

In the 26 years that I have been a member of the Garden Club of Hartford, there have been so many wonderful and memorable times, and so many terrific friends. We are all bound together by the same purpose of the club, but we all come from different planets. That is the best part.

The intergenerational makeup of the club is one of the very best benefits. Having good friends who are 50 years older is a unique experience and a rewarding one. As many different ages as there are in this club, there are different interests and abilities. This makes the opportunities for learning and growth never ending.

Having tea at Tulie Goodwin's, a conversation with Polly Peck, a passionate bird talk at Alice and Ostrom Enders', digging wild ginger at Ginna's, eating Sally Butler's delicious crab soup, getting a helpful hint phone call from Deb Eddy, feeling the warmth of Alison Gill's radiant smile, paying attention when Betty Stanley gave advice, forever laughing with Mollie Morris over our underwater arrangement, making new friends and meeting new members, learning about orchids from Alice Willard, meeting the geniuses at Garden Club of America annual meetings, walking through Arline Whitaker's beautiful gardens, making clay tiles with Lee Helsley, trying to follow Cilla Wilcox's agenda, watching Clare Edwards be such a good president, transplanting Marian Ferguson's lily-of-the-valley, going on Alice's field trips, getting lost going to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, doing an arrangement with Dorothy Lund, making turkey curry with Mary Carey, seeing the new snow on our 80th GCH birthday, having a raptor at Ellie Oakes', attending October meetings at Kitty Smith's, making cuttings and plantings, loving the new "Past Presidents' lunches," working on the zone meeting, watching the generations march in, entering flower shows, working with Knox Parks, learning about horticulture, conservation, flower arranging, and life – it has been the best!

**Donna Stout, Class of 1979**

Helen Waterman and I went to the Annual Meeting in Hawaii one year, and Japan after. We represented our Garden Club and our state.

**Mrs. Helen Dixon, Class of 1960**

We had some "in-house" assignments for our own club members to present at monthly meetings. Molly Morris, Margot MacDermid and I were to tell all about Terrariums. Of course our expert (Molly) after educating us at several meetings and work shops, was far away in Barbados (or somewhere) when we presented the program at Duncaster on Tuesday afternoon. But Margot and I managed well, got compliments and we answered some tough questions. It was a growing experience.

**Jane Springer, Class of 1989**



At one of our Garden Club meetings long ago, we were asked to bring our own creative arrangement or plant. Debbie Eddy submitted a mysterious, leafy plant in a cute little container. Not one of us could guess what it was. To our surprise and Debbie's great glee, it turned out to be marijuana.

**Jane Waters, Class of 1957**

The idea for the arrangement entered in the April 2005 Flower Show came from the theme of the show which was "Awakenings." As I had lived in Hartford for my entire married life — 20 years I have seen many changes and some things never change. I have been particularly inspired by the sight of several cranes in the air which usually indicates building and prosperity returning to our small city. This was the inspiration that led to my design.

Hartford is a traditional city with much of its most impressive architecture built at the turn of the century, therefore I chose a traditional urn but this time in a nontraditional color — orange. From there I used the great spring flowers that were plentiful in the flower market that week: tulips, hyacinths, carnations. The great flower-covered globe held up by orange square sticks was to emphasize the crane and ball I was seeing in the Hartford skyline. A new beginning for an old city marking the new renaissance of young and old moving back to live in Hartford.

**Diane Birdsall Smith, Class of 2002**

In my time the most exciting undertaking was the restoration of the Hill-Stead Sunken Garden. From the discovery of the original Beatrix Ferrand design, to the fund raiser in the outbuildings, pulling great plant and materials for sale from across the state, the rebuilding of the beds and gazebo and finally to the wonderful period costume gala. It was very rewarding. We learned a great deal about plant materials of that time and the favorite color schemes. It was especially meaningful in that women landscape designers had stature back then — one of the few fields open to our sex.

**Lee Helsley, Class of 1980**

The Garden Club of Hartford has provided me with knowledgeable, good friends. At busy times in my life, I've been allowed to step back — and become immediately absorbed when it again became possible. The diverse interests of its members have not only improved my horticultural skills, but have educated me in many other areas as well. The club brings out the best in all of us.

If I had to summarize my years as a member, I would have to say I love both the learning and the friendships. And the fun! Our garden has benefited from those things, too. (In the meantime, after all these years as a member, I'm still trying for sequential blooming of the same shades — a challenge, but some things are just worth the risk!)

**Arline Whitaker, Class of 1983**

We were meeting at Kitty Smith's house in Farmington. It is always one of my favorite meetings: the weather is glorious, everybody comes, and Kitty's beautiful home and hospitality make us all cheerful. So I could not understand why a wave of loneliness came over me. Kitty must have somehow noticed, because she came right up and said how much she missed my mother, a long time member and a dear friend of Kitty's. Wasn't this the first garden club meeting since she died?" asked Kitty. And of course it was. Mystery solved.

It is a small moment, and perhaps not worth sharing. Except that such acts of kindness, of women being present to the ongoing challenges and joys of each of our lives, is one of the things I treasure most. And as my mother used to say, it's the older generation that has always made garden club so special.

When we were polling the club about the purpose of our civic projects, Susie Barney said it best: "The whole point of Civic Projects is to help me avoid getting arrested for taking my trowel downtown!"

**Mally Cox-Chapman, Class of 1999**

*As I think about the memories that have most influenced me over the last ten years in the Garden Club of Hartford, I realize that each is anchored by a relationship that was established with a remarkable woman.*

*The first began at a Flower Arranging Workshop which Betty Stanley organized. At the conclusion of the workshop, Betty assigned me to work in the coming weeks with Mary Cheney on an in-house flower arrangement that would be critiqued by a GCA judge. Mary was an older member of the club who was well known for her exquisite and creative arrangements. Clearly she was not pleased with the pairing. She sputtered and hemmed and hawed at the announcement. I was fairly new to the club, totally green (not in the good sense of the word), asked a lot of questions and did not even know what “conditioning plant material” meant. But Betty’s mandates were not to be quibbled with and Mary decided that she had to make do with her unfortunate situation.*

*After one false start and an awkward beginning, we finally settled down to the business at hand and in the days ahead we ended up laughing and enjoying each other’s company enormously, often ending our afternoon’s efforts with a cup of hot tea and a plate of cookies in the study. We found many subjects that brought us together, particularly our love of animals and our free and whimsical childhoods. Some afternoons ended on a more serious note with long and heartfelt conversations about living a full life and about dying without regret. It turned out that Mary had cancer. She knew what lay ahead for her. Through this simple flower arranging exercise, we reached across the cavern of our differences and found the things that we both valued. I am grateful that I knew her friendship and her teaching in that last year of her life. Incidentally, I think we received very good comments from the judge as a bonus.*

*Another memory is not so serious, but nonetheless is meaningful to me. Alice Willard planned an orchid-dividing workshop on a Saturday morning at the end of her driveway. About five or six of us showed up on that rainy and chilly morning and had a wonderful and educational time. Again, green as could be, not in the horticultural sense of the word to be sure, I went to the workshop in the hopes of learning something about orchids. I did not own any of my own, but I thought I might want to try growing them in the future.*

*At that workshop I learned good deal about orchids from Alice’s kind and careful teaching. And there were benefits from others, as well. Midge Tilney taught me her trick of watering plants in the bathtub shower every week during the long, bleak, dry winter months. And from Anne Johnson’s generous hand, I received my first orchids from a division we made at the end of that driveway. Over the years, I have been the beneficiary of several GCH gardeners’ bounty. I have enjoyed their gifts and always think of them when their plants are in bloom. Some years I have even been moved to write a note of continued gratitude.*

*There have been many memorable times with good spirited and talented GCH women, but the last reminiscence that I would like to record is about working with Dorothy Lund this past spring on a miniature arrangement for the joint flower show with Connecticut Valley Garden Club, “Awakenings.” I called Dorothy late in January to ask if she would be my partner for a floral design class entitled “Aloft.” I had never entered a Flower Show aside from the in-house workshop critique with Mary Cheney. And, though we had received favorable recognition for that effort, it had been many years since I had tried my hand. I thought it prudent to seek support from one who clearly had artistic talent and experience. Dorothy accepted with nary a hint of hesitation and I was thrilled. I was going to have an opportunity to work again with a master and, more than that, I would have an opportunity to get to know Dorothy better. I learned many things from her when we started in earnest at the end of March. It is hard to believe that a two-inch arrangement could take so much time and thought. We had a lot to work out in terms of choosing a design, working out the mechanics and learning about the vagaries of plant chemistry with a limited water source. Her patience, her artistry and her innovative thinking remain hallmarks for me of a good designer. Her kindness, high ideals and perseverance when faced with a challenge are characteristics of a good friend – I will remember her lessons well.*

**Nannie Brown, Class of 1994**



As I've thought about what membership in the Garden Club of Hartford represents to me, several important ideas come to mind. Very important is my involvement in a club and a larger organization (GCA) that leverage my individual values and efforts in strong and effective endeavors at the local and national level. Also, GCH provides a steady source of information, creativity, and enthusiasm for my interests in horticulture, gardening, garden design, flower arranging, and conservation. But when all is said and done, it's all about the women — the smart, inspiring, dedicated, loyal, steady, humorous, sensitive women who so generously share their information, creativity and enthusiasm and their time to make it enjoyable and rewarding to work together on the efforts of GCH and GCA. Here's to many more celebrations of where we've been and what we've done — TOGETHER!

**Alice Willard, Class of 1984**

At a meeting, Mary Ernestine Goodrich and I volunteered to weed some beds at the Old State House in Hartford. When we arrived we discovered that our area of work was adjacent to the subterranean entrance to the public men's room. You can imagine our surprise, but as duly instructed we began to weed. It was a most interesting morning and one of which we have often laughed when remembered. Particularly as the gentlemen came up to depart, many came to watch our work and compliment us upon it. Both of us were most amused.

**Peggy Pepper, Class of 1955**

One of my favorite garden club memories is a day that six or seven of us went to Cold Spring, NY to see a fabulous private garden open to the public by appointment. We ate a picnic lunch, stopped at a wonderful garden center, and had a cozy ride home stuffed into our van with too many plants.

**Nancy Macy, Class of 1996**

I remember what fun the 75th anniversary luncheon was. I was a relatively new member then, and so impressed by the many distinguished, retired Garden Club members who returned to the event.

**Ellie Cuda, Class of 1990**

I was invited to join the GCH in the spring of 2002. It's been a wonderful and busy three years filled with many new friends, many new experiences and many challenges. One of my memories is of the dreaded SUV (Seriously Ugly Vase) flower arranging assignment. I am not a flower arranger and had no clue what I would do with those vases. I managed to postpone the assignment for a month but finally had to face completing the task. I retrieved the vases and on my way home had to stop suddenly sending one of the ugly vases flying to the floor of my car. What to do? Fortunately Martha Stewart came to the rescue. I had seen a picture of an arrangement done in a pumpkin so I placed the vase full of fall flowers in a cleaned out pumpkin and it looked terrific. It was the last SUV for that vase and for me too.

By far my most memorable experience since joining the GCH is our "Awakenings" Flower Show. Little did I know what faced me when Carol Kohn asked me to be co-chair of staging. She said not to worry — it would be easy. I didn't even know what staging meant. I would quickly learn that it was a big job. With help from Carol and Nina we climbed up into Edie Gengras's barn and collected all the pedestals and various other pieces of equipment and delivered them to Nina's basement. There they were cleaned up and painted in the fall well in advance of the spring show. Unfortunately Nina's boiler malfunctioned sending soot through her basement. Alas, the pedestals needed to be moved and repainted so they came to live in my living room for the winter where Carol, Donna and I laughed and painted in my new "studio." However, our biggest challenge was the "shadow" class. Many hours and people were involved in trying to solve this artistic and dramatically staged class. My thanks go to all who contributed suggestions and time trying different lighting fixtures, angles, heights, and backgrounds. It was a smashing success. For all my worries and anxious moments the club presented me with a very special award at the 2005 Annual Meeting — the Jackie Lloyd Gusto Award. It will always be a treasured moment in my life. My river rock and the beautiful star magnolia are wonderful reminders of the many special friends I have made and the extraordinary experiences I have had since joining the Garden Club of Hartford.

**Tanny Clark, Class of 2002**

May of 1966, my first mother-in-law, Peggy Britton, was President of the Garden Club of Hartford (for the second time!). So it was that I was summoned from New Haven to be the official photographer for our club's 50th anniversary celebration. I moved to Farmington later that fall. The party gave me a peek at the many women I'd heard about for six years who would shortly become my mentors and friends.

I remember a blur of faces, lots of laughter, extended story-telling, a convivial gathering of women who were clearly friends. They shared a love of gardening and a commitment to the improvement of greater Hartford outdoors. They all wore dresses or skirts — no slacks in sight!

My own Presidency gave me a better understanding of our unique bond of sheer enjoyment: of gardening, the environment, and especially of our three generations of members. We're a healthy, well-rooted 90 years! Here's to our traditions, our growth, and our grand fun together.

Female flower arranging frenzy, or what we learned at the Darien zone meeting:

1. take an emergency kit for the plants and arrangements in the car with you: paper towel, small nail scissors or big ones, topsoil, pens, knife, paint brush or facial brush, and even a magnifying glass to check for wee small flying additions to your precious cargo.
2. GROOM all entries. . .holes in leaves, bugs, tired leaves or budlets, detritus on the soil, dead bits in the center of the plant or arrangement have got to go or they'll mark you down or not pass plant!
3. plant is judged "as it is at that moment" as a Litchfield judge opined. . . if a plant has bloomed and the wee flower has dropped off, leaving the empty stem, TAKE IT OFF, even though the empty stem proves that it has recently bloomed.
4. all entries must have common name as well as the Latin name of all material.
5. be certain arrangement mechanics have room to hold enough water to last at least 24 hours. . .
6. take extra arrangement elements to show to replace dead or dying elements before judging time.
7. don't let other folks from more aggressive clubs push you out of line in car or at passing table.
8. fill in entry blank completely and be sure to follow schedule. . .a club was disqualified again this year because they had no clay saucer for their entry!
9. have fun with your partner in crime. . .the memories of this last for years!

**Kathryn Cox, Class of 1968**

Among the special plants on our place is a variety of epimediums, a ground covering juniper and a curly needled white pine. All these plants serve as enduring memories of plant sharing among garden club members, a reward for sending a plant to the soon to be discontinued plant exchange or of fun and educational trips to local gardens and nurseries.

The first epimediums came to me from Alice Enders and led me to an ongoing interest in the many epimediums that are now available.

The Juniper procumbens came in the form of a five-inch rooted cutting from the GCA plant exchange ten years ago. Today not only does it have offspring, but it also covers an area four feet by six feet.

The curly needled white pine I call "Alice" after my great friend and fellow gardening enthusiast Alice Willard.

Special also is the knowledge that over the years the Garden Club of Hartford with its many civic projects has given back something of value to the city of Hartford. Remember the satisfaction of planting seeds at the Whiting Lane greenhouse for the Community Gardens? Who hasn't enjoyed the cherry blossoms in Bushnell Park, the garden at Hill-Stead or the daffodils in Pope Park to mention a few.

May there be many more such projects.

**Betty Stanley, Class of 1973**



Since becoming a member of the GCH in '97, I have had wonderful memories and made many wonderful friends. I will never forget working with Elsie Childs on an in-house flower show miniature project. A tiny teacup took endless hours and we won a 1st prize! Every time I drive into Hartford, I will remember the Corning Fountain landscaping project. The joint flower show with the CVGC was probably the biggest undertaking but was worth all of the friendships that I made. What fun I had slicing filets with Donna Stout, Ellyn Marshall and Midge Tilney when we and our spouses catered cocktail parties to raise money for the garden club projects only to have some guests wanting to hire us out! The best party was when Buz and I bought the cocktail party. (I hope I don't forget someone) the crew was Ellyn Marshall, Midge Tilney, Susan Copeland, Diane Brown, Kay Cox, Clare Edwards, and Donna Stout and their husbands along with Susie Barney, the master on the piano. They were all terrific and I think we all had a great time.

**Carol Kohn, Class of 1997**

Zone II – those words still evoke a visceral response. Zone II was for me an epiphany, a road to Damascus experience that was my initiation/introduction to the Garden Club of Hartford. Shortly after I joined the club, then president Anne Johnson asked if I would serve with Cindy Stanley on the Conservation Committee. It was, I was soon to discover, this committee's responsibility to mount a conservation display but more importantly, to choose a speaker for the Zone II meeting in June, 2000. A speaker but on what topic? Little could I have imagined what addressing this would entail. Over the next two years the committee, Cindy, Barbara David, Nancy Macy, Sue Sweet and I, met regularly casting about trying to decide on a theme appropriate for both the Zone II meeting and the year 2000. 2000 trees (how naive and ambitious), the river-front (already claimed), neighborhood gardens (touring Jack Hale's inner city haunts with him was more than a little daunting), the Connecticut River watershed (yawn)? With Donna Stout tapping her foot, we at long last decided to focus on Hartford's own Frederick Law Olmsted. This decision morphed into the Urban Hartford theme which, in turn, morphed into a commitment to Pope Park. And finally, only now, was the committee in a position to engage a speaker. Tupper Thomas, the person responsible for the restoration of Prospect Park, was chosen and what an inspiration she was!

The Zone II meeting was, of course, an unmitigated success and the club had every reason to be proud. There were so many stars – Co-Chairs Donna and Alice; Tupper charming us with both her Brooklynesque pragmaticism translated into dynamism AND her offer to attend the whole conference in order to meet with those interested in restoring our own Olmsted park Pope Park, and the Capitol itself which was the stately and impressive setting for the meeting.

Zone II still resonates for me on two levels. On one I am unabashedly sentimental about the time spent working with the committee (Cindy, Barbara, Nancy and Sue), sort of like surviving boot camp together. My thought then and now was that if these ladies were representative of the club, what a club it was! And secondly, for Hartford the Zone II meeting was the impetus for the restoration of Olmsted's Pope Park, a worthy and ongoing testimony to the Garden Club of Hartford's commitment and energy.

**Nina Hayes, Class of 1997**

When I think about this club, I don't think of gardening. I think of laughing. What is funnier that middle-aged women putting together a conservation exhibit? Enough said! But how great to share the fun (and misery) of a conservation project with such wonderful people over the years. Barbara David, Nina Hayes, Sue Sweet, Nancy Macy – how lucky was I to be in their company during the making of the 2000 Zone II exhibit.

Gardening may be the interest which connects us, but it's the friendships that keep us coming back. I walk into a garden club meeting and feel enveloped by a warm wave of support and acceptance. And when things go bad, there are friendly faces out there to look out for you. We're like gangsta's; we take care of our own. Happy Birthday GCH, you look great for your age. Live long and prosper.

**Cindy Stanley, Class of 1988**

Attending my first meeting of the Garden Club of Hartford I was impressed by the intelligence and energy of its members. The ensuing years have been inspiring. "Awakenings: A Small Flower Show" (2005) was an amazing example of the talents of our team in action. Preparing and presenting "Exotic and Erotic: Flowers and Fruit in Chinese and Japanese Art" was enlightening. I have also treasured seeing members' gardens, learning about creative gardening in Connecticut and visiting gardens. We are fortunate that this region has much to offer. My favorites are The Mount, Naumkeag and Cedar Hill Cemetery. I look forward to future explorations.

**Tita Hyland, Class of 2001**

Nora Howard discovered the drawing from the 1929 Flower Show that became the cover of this issue. Neither the records at the Historical Society nor “Google” provided information about the elusive artist. Nora referenced the website for the Hartford Courant (1764 – 1922), we found the census for the city of Hartford, explored eBay for old book listings and then Inez Temple emerged. The Hartford Daily Courant of the early 1920s provided several clues about the original women of this club and the Civic Projects they undertook. Then this project mushroomed – determined to collect as many facts and photographs as possible. Such fun sleuthing history, speaking with our long time members, obtaining the early slides from the Smithsonian, and working with Nora on this project. I gained a deep appreciation of the energetic work, capable skills and camaraderie of the women from ninety years ago and continue to be overwhelmed by those talents in our members today.

**Joyce Magee, Class of 1999**

One of my fondest memories of the club is learning about flower arranging. Inspired by a skunk cabbage centerpiece at one meeting, I astounded my family (and myself) with my own version.

My association with the GCH began years ago. My mother, Elinor Oakes, joined the club in 1948. She was president (1959-61) when I was nursery-school age. Later, she told me stories of her early dress code of hats and white gloves. When I became a member, she was delighted. She advised me to become an active member of her beloved club. I clearly remember her strong words, “When you are older, these friends will be important to you.”

Mom’s club friends had been with her through many seasons of her life. She joined soon after she moved to Bloomfield. She had recently returned from Italy, where she served with the Red Cross during World War II. After she married at age 34, she and my father were eager to cultivate many dear friendships. In their new house in Avon, they had a living room big enough for Club meetings. Outdoors were gardens on every side, and Mom did much of the work herself. She had a greenhouse, which was a wonder of color and humidity to me. When I was small, she let me water the pebble floor. A kitchen closet, floor to ceiling, was for flower vases.

Tuesdays were garden club days. When it met at our house, I would peek in to see Mom’s flowers decorating the rooms. There were serious voices, laughter, and beautiful clothes. These women came to our house at other times – for Christmas parties, bridge, tea, and walks. Mom would take me to visit in their homes. I had fearsome respect for Peggy Britton. When my father died in 1966, Peggy invited us for Christmas in Vermont. I remember Kathryn there, with baby John.

Mom enjoyed her friendship with Jared and Clare Edwards. When Betsy Gengras and Gwen Love became neighbors, she was thrilled. She kept up with Francie Stout, Prudy Cutler, Grace Walker, and Jane Waters. Ginna Miller took me under her wing at South Church in Hartford.

I loved Marian Ferguson’s humor and laugh, and her joy in walking her dogs. Bobbie Nichols had her plants arranged under her open staircase – a very modern design. June Chapman Ford gave our wedding-eve dinner at her home. Lee Helsley, a neighbor and relative youngster, delighted Mom by becoming her friend. Peggy Pepper moved to South Carolina, where Mom loved to visit her.

Alice Enders was a legend of gentleness and wisdom. She and her husband Ostrom (an honorary member, 1985) had a fabulous bird sanctuary at their home, as well as sheep, lambs and a mule. Her greenhouse was a wonder, with mossy brick walls and glorious flowers and plants, and the smell of boxwood. (It remains on the property, although the house was torn down.)

Betty Manternach was a dear friend too. She and Mom co-owned a fanciful painting by Sage Goodwin (husband of Sue Goodwin) which volleyed between their houses.

Perhaps Mom’s dearest friend was Kitty Smith. When Kitty moved to Farmington, Mom and others scooped her up into the club. It was Kitty who sponsored me as a member, and Kitty who offered to sit with me at the hospital with Mom. And, then, it was Alice Willard who so kindly made the beautiful flower arrangements for Mom’s memorial service.

In researching the club history, I learned with absolute delight that my mother had also been its “custodian,” renamed today “historian.” Long ago she kept tabs on the memorabilia, as I do today.

**Nora Howard, Class of 1998**



# Member Memroies, 2016

Knowing I was interested in gardening, a friend suggested I join the Simsbury Garden Club. “So what is that about?” “Well, a committee of three or four members arrives with clipboards to walk around your garden to determine whether to invite you to join.”

And I thought, “No, thanks.”

Ten or fifteen years later, Julie Shushtari invited me to a Garden Club of Hartford greens workshop. There I met many lovely people and enjoyed making a topiary for my Christmas decorating. Subsequently, I was invited to hear effective speakers on such intriguing topics as the gardens of Mount Vernon, Connecticut’s notable trees, medieval spices and their uses. And I was included on trips to botanic gardens and private gardens such as Hollister House and September Strolls.

And I thought, “This is going to be GREAT.”

**Lisa Bermel, Class of 2013**

What I love about the Garden Club of Hartford

- Enlightening and educational programs
- Work and Fun
- Community Projects
- Commitment to Preservation and the Environment
- Our Biennial Auction to Benefit and support our Community Projects

And, above all, the friendship and camaraderie of intelligent and committed women!

**Judith Howe, Class of 2007**

## MEMORIES OF MEMBERS WHO JOINED GCH SINCE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2006

As a lifelong gardener, membership in a garden club always seemed like such a obvious thing to do, yet balancing it with a busy life as a music educator seemed out of reach. As retirement approached and with the nudging and ultimate sponsorship of Jan Hickcox, I finally decided the time was right and jumped in. Boy was that a good decision! Membership in Garden Club of Hartford has been one of the great joys of my retirement.

I remember the spring of 2012 attending my first meeting with the executive board at Donna Stout’s home and subsequently a lovely new member luncheon, and thinking what an amazing articulate and fun group of women. There are numerous club members that I have had the joy to work with and get to know through a variety of projects including committees – Flower Design and Horticulture – as well as trips, Partners for Plants and Earl Street Garden, to name a few. There is nothing like digging in the dirt, spreading mulch or pulling invasives to encourage meaningful conversation and friendship!

Other fond memories:

- creating an “atom” out of *Craspedia* (Billy Balls) and Midlino canes for the Middletown show with Gwen Love. We had a lot of laughs trying to make it “scientifically” accurate!
- tackling the Master Gardener Program with Pat Salner and Donna Stout, with many laughs, stress, study sessions, and trading of cuttings for our Tree, Shrub and Vine project.
- snagging one of Mrs. Eddy’s walking Irises, lovingly tended and passed on by Alice Willard at a plant swap at an annual meeting at Lil Nolan’s. I will treasure it always!
- attending the GCA Annual meeting with club president, Brie Quinby. What an honor, joy and inspirational event it was.
- hauling rocks and compost for the raised beds and hoop house at Earl Street Garden, sweaty but fun nonetheless!
- the trip to see the New York Flower Market and High Line. It was such a fun day culminating with “cocktails” and snacks on the ride home courtesy of Alice Willard and Marian Kellner.
- entering the Greenfingers Garden Club show with Pat Salner and sweating over whether or not our hydrangeas and Pat’s beautiful Quince would last the show. It only took four daily trips to Greenwich to keep it perky; we didn’t want to risk losing our blue ribbon!

One of the other things I treasure about this club is the art of note writing. From welcome notes, to thank you notes to good job notes; club members always take the time to write a personal note and I have saved every one of them! To you all, congratulations on 100 years of proud service to the Hartford community – here’s to the next 100!

**Claire Burnett, Class of 2012**

One of my first experiences with GCH was a train and overnight trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. GCH members welcomed me with such warmth that I knew I wanted to be an active part of the club. Since then, trips, workshops, lectures and civic projects have just increased my interest in and admiration for the club and its members.

I have found camaraderie in GCH far beyond gardening. Intense interest in all things gardening is at the club's heart but making new friends, working on projects together, sharing stories and laughs, advice and information are significant and treasured byproducts of membership.

My mother had an incredible green thumb. She'd spend hours in her gardens on her hands and knees tending the soil and pruning her flowers. I especially admired her salmon-colored roses but as a child I never learned many of her gardening skills, much to my regret. GCH has enabled me to develop some of the skills I missed and, in the process, it has brought my mother back to me, if in memories only, this time into my garden.

**Susan Rathgeber, Class of 2012**

When I attended my first board meeting last spring as one of the new members of the GCH, I was completely overwhelmed and awed by the brief presentations of the committee chairs. I knew very little about GCH. Hearing about the various projects, especially the conservation project of Keney Park, I was amazed and not a little intimidated at the scope of activities and expertise of the members.

My concern with being such a rookie has somewhat dissipated, because it's been so much fun being with such a congenial group of women. Thanks, Brie, for introducing me!

**Martha Greenwood,  
Class of 2015**

In 2011 our Bloomfield garden was on a modest garden tour to benefit the Wintonbury Land Trust, and Joe and Mary Sargent visited us. Mary asked why I wasn't in a garden club. The next thing I knew I was at Betty Stanley's house glopping cement in a bowl for a trough. I still have it! That December we were guests of the Sargents at the GCH Auction at the Town & County Club. The irony is that four years later I was not only a GCH member but also co-chair of the auction with Carrie Hammond. Yikes! Impressions of four years of membership: enormously talented women who find fascinating program speakers and create classes to educate us, undertake ambitious and well-planned projects to benefit the City of Hartford, work hard on stunning floral arrangements and great photography, support the Garden Club of America, and always pitch in to help when asked. It is a privilege and pleasure to work with such a fine group. Thanks, Mary!

**Sally Richter, Class of 2012**

I jumped in with both feet. Immediately upon joining GCH, I agreed to taking on the joys and challenges of first chairing GH&D, followed by co-chairing the Program Committee, then assuming the Treasurer responsibilities, and now chairing the newly-formed Photography Committee, so I can honestly say I know a little something about a lot of GCH. It's been eye-opening, educational, and rewarding!

Ever grateful to and because of Nancy Macy, GCH President at the time, I was able to attend the GCA 2013 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia as a delegate. Philadelphia, known as the greenest city of America and the birthplace of the Garden Club of America, was the perfect historic setting within which to celebrate GCA's Centennial. With 650 members attending and 200 clubs represented from every corner of the US, GCA is as strong, far-reaching, and powerful as ever. As someone said to me, the annual meetings plug you into this organization as no other event will. She was absolutely correct! This unbelievably wonderful experience allowed me to understand so much better the major contributions of leadership, effort, and funding throughout the country in support of its mission. And indeed, we are all the better for it.

Two pieces of advice for newcomers to GCH: I highly encourage logging into the GCA website, at least occasionally, to grasp the bigger picture. And at the local level, there is no better way to get to know and make new GCH friends than to actively join our committees and attend our workshops and Visiting Garden excursions.

**Brooke Mallory, Class of 2008**



*I was a wayward daughter. Whenever my mother asked me to play bridge, I'd head for the hills. And for as little as I knew of duplicate, my mother similarly new nothing of dirt. Lacking a gardening mentor, I enrolled in UConn's Master Gardener program, took classes from Fred and Mary Ann McGourty, and tried my hand with my own suburban landscape. Yet a major piece was missing; the kinship of fellow gardeners.*

*I was so delighted when Kathryn Cox and Tita Hyland took me under wing and introduced me to the wonderful members of the Garden Club of Hartford. As a new member, I continue to be amazed at the breadth of knowledge, commitment, and generosity found here.*

*Clearly, the GCH does not stop at the garden gate. Friendships made here are interwoven into all aspects of our lives. Which makes me think of the women who formed this club 100 years ago, mothers and grandmothers, women who made our communities better while building friendships for a lifetime.*

*Thank you for such a warm welcome.*

**Kathryn West, Class of 2014**



*On a very cold day in January 2010 my dear friend Patty Kent invited me to meet a few members of the Garden Club of Hartford. I went reluctantly thinking this must be like my mother's Garden Club – white gloves, tea, cake sales and definitely not for me! But, when Patty Kent suggests something – it must be good! Well, I learned very quickly this is not my mother's garden club. I met the most interesting group of women that very first day...*

*With her bright smile, amazing wardrobe, and funny laugh, Clare Edwards was the first to greet me that cold January day. She welcomed me as if she had known me forever. She explained the committees she had worked on and told me all the important work the GCH is doing. When I asked her why she is a member of the GCH she explained that it is so important for her to give back to her community. Since then I have been absolutely amazed and proud of how much the GCH contributes to the greater good.*

*When I met Eunice Groark I knew she had a formidable reputation as the 84th Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut. What I did not know was that Eunice is one of the funniest and most genuinely kind women I have met. She seemed truly interested in hearing about my family, work, garden, goats. Although I am sure that conversation gave her plenty of reasons, never once did she yawn! When discussing why she was a member of the GCH, she said that the club is a strong sisterhood. After seven years I understand exactly what she meant.*

*Little did I know that day, when Jan Hickcox urged me to join the Flower Design committee I would discover an innate passion. Jan is an extremely talent designer and a generous teacher. When I asked Jan, why she is a member of the GCH she looked at me and said "the flowers, dear." She also suggested that I always keep flowers by my bedside. I am very thankful for the Flower Design committee and all its talented members.*

*I met Nannie Brown on my first day. Nannie was wearing jeans, a fleece jacket and a gorgeous long ponytail. Nannie has such a relaxed intellect about her. We talked about life, raising children and her career as a nursery school teacher. When we talked about her experiences as a member of the GCH she explained that she had found women who can "point the way," showing her what is next in life. Through the GCH I too have found mentors, women who are just that much older than I, who have handled life's ups and downs with such grace. I now meet new members who are just that much younger than I, for whom I can proudly "point the way."*

*I walk away from each monthly meeting a little wiser than when I came in. I have met women who understand how blessed we are and the importance of giving back, who are so smart, who can make me laugh, who gave me the confidence to design flower arrangements and who continue to "point the way."*

*Happy 100th Birthday, Garden Club of Hartford.*

**Amy Schuster, Class of 2010**







# GCH Members, 1916-2016

*Members since 1916. Most with their given names, their town at the time of joining, and their years of membership. Those who are remarried are listed twice.*

Aldridge, Lisa (Geoffrey)	West Hartford	2004	present	Butler, Sally (James G.)	West Hartford	1964	1995
Allyn, Harriette (H. Trowbridge)	Farmington	1926	1930	Calhoun, Carol (Jose)	Bloomfield	1986	1989
Alvord, Rev. Anne (Joel B.)	Glastonbury	1985	2012	Calvocoressi, Frances (John L.)	Middle Haddam	1964	1993
Andrews, Julia L. (James P.)	West Hartford	1916	1969	Carey, Mary (Austin)	West Hartford	1947	2003
Anthony, Amy (Charles H.)	West Hartford	1946	1985	Carey, Molly (H. Bissell)	Farmington	1939	1955
Anthony, Barbara M. (Charles H., Jr.)	West Hartford	1991	2008	Carey, Cindy (Mathew)	Simsbury	1989	1992
Armstrong, Marjorie (Horatio H.)	Hartford	1932	1991	Cartland, Lucy C. (John E., III)	West Hartford	1981	present
Austin, Helen (Everett, Jr.)	Hartford	1932	1939	Casey, Jo Champlin (Coleman H.)	Hartford	1992	present
Babbidge, Marcia (Homer D.)	Hartford	1976	1995	Chapman, June [Ford] (Frank)	West Hartford	1949	2009
Bailey, Emily (William O.)	West Hartford	1977	1982	Chapman, Helen, Miss	Manchester	1930	1939
Baldwin, Ruth (Fritz W.)	West Hartford	1958	1968	Chapman, Mary O., Miss	Manchester	1930	1956
Ballard, Sara (Eugene S.)	Hartford	1916	1971	Cheney, Sarah G. (William C.)	Manchester	1926	1950
Barbour, Cordelia H. (Lucius B.)	Hartford	1928	1953	Cheney, Marjorie, Miss	Manchester	1926	1930
Barnes, Elizabeth (William D.)	Bloomfield	1942	1973	Cheney, Mary (Davenport)	Manchester	1926	1927
Barney, Katharine D. (Austin D.)	Farmington	1932	1977	Cheney, Elizabeth C. (Clifford D.)	Manchester	1926	1969
Barney, Laura (D. Newton)	Farmington	1927	1934	Cheney, Mary, Miss	Manchester	1927	1927
Barney, Susan R. (Austin D. II)	W. Simsbury	1983	present	Cheney, Helen C. (Philip)	Manchester	1931	1962
Barton, Mary C., Miss	Hartford	1917	1921	Cheney, Mary (George W., Jr.)	Farmington	1965	1977
Beach, Frances, Miss	West Hartford	1916	1933	Childs, Elsie (Samuel W.)	Bloomfield	1978	present
Bennett, Henny (Gordon)	West Hartford	1970	2013	Civitillo, Kathy (William)	West Hartford	1999	2001
Berg, Alice (Kristofer)	West Hartford	1957	1961	Clark, Tanny	Farmington	2002	present
Bermel, Lisa (John)	Simsbury	2013	present	Clark, Luella M. (Charles H.)	Hartford		1928
Bielaski, Gentry (Robert C.)	West Hartford	1961	1968	Clarke, Karen (A. Gordon, Jr.)	Simsbury	1962	1994
Birdsall, Diane [Smith]	Hartford	2002	2011	Cobb, Nancy [Wright] (Howard)	West Hartford	1955	2008
Bissell, Marie (Richard M.)	Farmington	1926	1951	Cole, Marion (William K.)	Southbury	1967	1989
Bockstoce, Elizabeth R. (Clifton M.)	Hartford	1946	1995	Cole, Alice (Richard H.)	West Hartford	1932	1940
Bower, Betsey (Dr. Bruce)	West Hartford	1993	2014	Conard, Kyle (R. Malley)	W. Simsbury	1991	2005
Britton, Frances W. (Charles P.)	West Hartford	1947	1972	Cook, Charlotte (Albert S.)	Hartford	1916	1938
Britton, Kathryn S.L. [Cox] (John P.)	Hartford	1968	present	Cooley, Trig (Samuel P.)	West Hartford	1965	present
Britton, Peggy F. (John D.)	Bloomfield	1939	1977	Cooley, Alice (Francis B.)	West Hartford	1950	1972
Brooks, Susan [Humphreys] (John H.)	West Hartford	1946	2005	Copeland, Susan (Frederick, Jr.)	Avon	1996	2011
Brown, Joan (Stillman B.)	Farmington	1987	2011	Corbett, Portia (Timothy M.)	Farmington	2008	2009
Brown, Diane (David)	West Hartford	1994	present	Cox, Betty [Manternach]			
Brown, Nannie W.T. (Daniel P., Jr.)	West Granby	1994	present	(Thomas R. Cox Jr.)	Farmington	1966	2002
Browne, Virginia, Miss	Hartford	1916	1964	Cox, Marie (Christopher)	Hartford	1985	1994
Buck, Jean (Richard C.)	West Hartford	1936	1945	Cox, Kathryn S.L. [Britton]			
Buck, Edith A. (John H.)	Hartford	1916	1943	(Thomas R. III)	Farmington	1968	present
Bulkeley, Helen (Edward)	West Hartford	1981	1988	Cox-Chapman, Mally (Dr. James)	Hartford	1999	present
Bulkeley, Ruth (Wm. E.C.)	West Hartford	1949	1964	Crary, Clara (Roy P.)	Hartford	1930	1961
Bulkeley, Ruth (Morgan G., Jr.)	Hartford	1934	1963	Creamer, Elizabeth "EG" (Warren M.)	Farmington	1939	1991
Burnett, Clair (Dr. Bruce)	West Hartford	2012	present	Crisman, Eleanor (Forrest)	Farmington	2002	2011
Bush, Patty (William H.T.)	West Hartford	1969	1979	Cuda, Ellie (Richard S.)	West Hartford	1990	2009

Cunningham, Ellie (Charles)	Hartford	1964	1965	Goodwin, Ruth (Charles A.)	Hartford	1916	1937
Cutler, Ruth (Ralph D.)	West Hartford	1947	1952	Goodwin, Sue (H. Sage)	Avon	1973	1982
Cutler, Callie	Farmington	1992	2009	Goodwin, Genevieve [Tulie] (James L.)	Hartford	1947	1989
Cutler, Ruth B. (Ralph D.)	Hartford	1935	1945	Goodwin, Olga (Walter L.)	Hartford	1932	1960
Cutler, Prudence P. (R. Dennis, Jr.)	New Britain	1947	2008	Goodwin, Fannie (James J.)	Hartford	1927	1949
David, Barbara O. (George)	West Hartford	1984	present	Goodwin, Louise (George L.)	Hartford	1924	1931
Dennis, Bertha P., Miss	Hartford	1916	1946	Goodwin, Janet (Francis, II)	Hartford	1932	1941
Dixon, Helen H. (Ralph)	West Hartford	1960	2010	Gordon, Cynthia (David)	West Hartford	1997	2002
Dobelle, Kit (Evan)	Hartford	1999	2001	Graves, Polly (James deG.)	Farmington	1956	1987
Dodd, Mary F. (Dr. Burwell)	West Hartford	1962	1984	Gray, Mae [Mary] (Robert W.)	Hartford	1916	1969
Dodge, Josephine J. (Arthur M.)	Simsbury	1924	1928	Gray, Bessie (Albert)	Farmington	1938	1947
Doty, Christine M.	West Hartford	2002	present	Graydon, Linda (Dr. James)	Farmington	2009	present
Doucette, Debbie (Frederick)	Bloomfield	2006	2009	Greenwood, Dr. Martha (David Levin)	Farmington	2015	present
Dunham, Ellen D.L. (Austin)	Hartford	1932	1934	Griffith, Muffie (Henry)	West Hartford	1948	1954
Dunham, Alice Elizabeth, Miss	Hartford	1943	1965	Griggs, Julie (Glynn)	Hartford	2013	2014
Duryea, LeeLee (Oakley)	West Hartford	2016	present	Groark, Eunice S. (Thomas J., Jr.)	Hartford	1976	1978
Earling, Elizabeth (Albert J.)	Avon	1950	1973	Groark, reinstated (Thomas J., Jr.)	Bloomfield	2003	present
Eddy, Deborah B. (Roger)	Newington	1948	2004	Grover, Nancy [Percy] (Robinson A.)	Simsbury	1973	1982
Eddy, Clara W. (E. Welles)	Newington	1932	1963	Haar, Mary Ann	West Hartford	2015	present
Eddy, Betty (Welles, Jr.)	New Britain	1947	1955	Hall, Marcia (Dr. Robert)	West Hartford	2008	present
Edwards, Clare C. (Jared I.)	West Hartford	1970	present	Hamilton, Amy (T. Stewart)	Avon	1958	1990
Edwards, Mary W., Miss	Hartford	1953	2004	Hammond, Carrie (Dr. Jonathon, Jr.)	West Hartford	2011	present
Ely, Mary (Robert G.)	Farmington	1956	1968	Hatch, Helen A. (Rev. Robert M.)	Hartford	1955	1958
Enders, Harriet (John O.)	Hartford	1916	1963	Haviland, Helen (Winthrop A.)	Hartford	1932	1978
Enders, Alice T. (Ostrom)	Avon	1954	1992	Haviland, Muffie (Winthrop A., Jr.)	Farmington	1964	2009
Enders, Alice D. (Ostrom)	Hartford	1932	1940	Hayes, Nina M. (Joseph M.)	Farmington	1997	present
Enders, Honorary (Mr. Ostrom)	Avon	1985	1994	Hazen, Marjorie (Maynard T.)	Hartford	1942	1969
Fay, Paula (Thomas)	Avon	1994	1997	Hedberg, Margaret (Gregory)	Hartford	1983	present
Fenn, Emily H. (J. Lincoln)	Hartford	1916	1935	Helsley, Lee (Dunbar M.)	Bloomfield	1980	present
Ferguson, Emma G. (Rev. Henry)	Hartford	1916	1930	Herr, Debra (Timothy)	Farmington	2011	present
Ferguson, Margaret (Samuel)	West Hartford	1916	1943	Hewes, Mary (Philip)	Avon	1954	1989
Ferguson, Eleanor, Miss	West Hartford	1931	1938	Hewes, Mary B. (Philip)	Hartford	1932	1937
Ferguson, Marian (Samuel, Jr.)	Bloomfield	1952	2002	Hickcox, Jan M. (Curtiss B., Jr.)	West Hartford	1997	present
Flagg (Robert)		1916	1919	Hickcox, Katherine [Hillson]			
Flagg, Ellen E., Miss	Hartford	1916	1938	(Daniel Wuori)	Norfolk	2007	present
Flynn, Betsy (David H.)	West Hartford	1995	1999	Hillson, Katherine [Hickcox] (Michael)	Norfolk	2007	present
Ford, June [Chapman] (T. Mitchell)	West Hartford	1949	2009	Holbrook, Charlotte L. (Dwight G.)	West Hartford	1931	1933
Ford, Susan (James)	West Hartford	1956	2005	Holcombe, Betty [Mcllwaine]			
Foster, Alice, Miss	Hartford	1916	1938	(Shepard M.)	West Hartford	1958	1997
Francklyn, Phyllis (Reginald E.)	Avon	1964	1998	Holcombe, Anne	Amston	2000	present
Fromson, Sandra Bender (Howard A.)	Hartford	2000	present	Holden, Holly (R. Stuart, Jr.)	Farmington	2003	present
Gardiner, Alice (Curtiss C.)	Hartford	1942	1958	Howard, Nora O. (Roger)	Avon	1998	present
Gates, Carol (Franklin M.)	West Hartford	1953	1979	Howe, Judith (Barclay, Jr.)	Simsbury	2007	present
Gay, Florence T., Miss	Farmington	1926	1953	Humphreys, Susan [Brooks]			
Gengras, Betsy (Robert)	Avon	1990	2006	(William Y.)	East Hartford	1946	2005
Gibbons, Maude Ely (John H.)	Avon	1928	1953	Hunter, Mary E. [Goodrich]			
Gill, Alison (Charles F.T.)	New Hartford	1978	1995	(Harold O'D.)	Avon	1940	1960
Gillie, Susan [Sweet] (Brian)	Burlington	1999	present	Huntington, Patsy (John W.)	Hartford	1951	1995
Glassco, Elizabeth (James R., Jr.)	West Hartford	1969	1975	Huntington, Constance (Robert W., Jr.)	Hartford	1916	1965
Glazier, Cordel (Charles M.)	Hartford	1916	1947	Hyland, Tita (Douglas K.S.)	Farmington	2001	present
Goodrich, Mary Ernestine [Hunter]				Ingersoll, Eleanor (John A.)	West Hartford	1938	1965
(W. Osborn, Sr.)	Farmington	1940	2004	Izard, Gwendolyn [Love] (Mark)	Avon	1990	present



FOR THE RECORD: *Member List 1916-2016*

Johnson, Anne R. (Edward L.)	West Hartford	1985	present	Morris, Kathy (Robert A., Jr.)	West Hartford	1997	2005
Johnson, Margaret (Edward, Jr.)	West Hartford	1993	1998	Nicholas, Mieke (Frederick S., Jr.)	West Hartford	1973	1996
Kellner, Dr. Marian				Nichols, Bobby (Edward)	West Hartford	1953	1986
(Dr. Timothy McLaughlin)	Farmington	2003	present	Nixon, Katie (William A.)	West Hartford	1995	present
Kent, Patty (Harlan)	West Hartford	2006	present	Nolan, Lillian [Prestley] (John)	West Hartford	1980	present
Kingsbury, Edith (Isaac W.)	West Hartford	1916	1963	Noyes, Laura (Joseph)	Hartford	2008	2012
Knapp, Emily P. (Howard)	Hartford	1916	1934	O'Brien, Joan (Jonathan)	Simsbury	1975	1977
Kohn, Carol (Bernard L., Jr.)	Bloomfield	1997	2010	Oakes, Elinor R. (Thomas F.)	Bloomfield	1948	2001
Kraus, Eileen S. (Harold C.)	West Hartford	2003	present	Oltmann-Jimenez, Carina			
Labinski, Jennifer Watts (Maciej)	West Hartford	2016	present	(Dr. Ramon Jimenez)	West Hartford	2010	2012
Laggren, Eleanor (Robert I.)	Hartford	1951	1956	Page, Katherine (Lyman)	Waterbury	1991	1995
Larus, Elizabeth (John R.)	Hartford	1927	1974	Pallotti, Betty (Nicholas)	West Hartford	1953	1956
Lawrence, Margaret (Stephen B.)	Farmington	1926	1949	Parker, Carrie (L.D.)	West Hartford	1927	1927
Lee, Percy (John G.)	Farmington	1936	1957	Parker, Betsy (Geoffrey)	Farmington	1992	1993
Lewis, Annie (Wilmarth)	Farmington	1932	1948	Parks, Tracy	Bloomfield	2016	present
Lidgerwood, Harriet (Hattie) (William)	Farmington	1966	2002	Parsons, Katharine B. (John C.)	Hartford	1942	1981
Lips, Margah (Thomas D.)	Glastonbury	2005	present	Pearse, Sally (John D.)	Avon	1982	2000
Little, Elizabeth (Mitchell S.)	Hartford	1932	1971	Pease, Polly (Herbert H.)	New Britain	1936	1982
Little, Margaret H.W. (Edward H.)	Hartford	1939	1939	Pease, Barbara N. (Maurice H.)	New Britain	1945	1973
Lloyd, Jacqueline (Alex)	Farmington	1997	2002	Peck, Polly (Dexter)	Bloomfield	1964	1987
Logan, Tina (John)	Farmington	1967	1982	Peck, Mary L. (Dexter B.)	Bloomfield	1949	1956
Loomis, Ginny (James L., Jr.)	Collinsville	1955	1968	Peele, Agnes (William, Jr.)	West Hartford	2004	present
Lord, Peggy (Charles E.)	Simsbury	1957	1977	Pepper, Peggy [Whitman, Meyer]			
Lorenz, Annie, Miss	Hartford	1923	1927	(George, III)	Avon	1955	2007
Love, Gwendolyn [Izard]	Avon	1990	present	Percy, Nancy [Grover] (Christopher)	Simsbury	1973	1982
Lund, Dorothy I. (David A.)	Farmington	1988	present	Perkins, Lucy A., Miss	Hartford	1916	c. 1919
Lydon, Linda (Austin)	Bloomfield	2007	present	Perkins, Helen, Miss	Hartford	1932	1934
Lytle, Sarah	Farmington	1993	1997	Polk, Rennie (David)	West Hartford	2006	2011
MacDermid, Margot (Dr. Robert)	West Hartford	1993	1996	Porter, Pat (George H., III)	E. Windsor Hill	1995	2012
MacKenzie, Carol (Alan)	Hartford	2002	present	Prentice, Anne C.P. (Hon. Samuel O.)	Hartford	1916	1924
Macy, Nancy (Dr. Robert L. Painter)	Hartford	1996	present	Prentice, Susan	Simsbury	2014	present
Magee, Joyce (William J., Jr.)	Simsbury	1999	present	Prestley, Lillian [Nolan] (Peter)	West Hartford	1980	present
Mallory, Brooke (John Wickcliffe)	Avon	2008	present	Price, Ann Louise (Robert J.)	Farmington	2004	present
Manternach, Betty [Cox] (Bruce W.)	Avon	1966	2002	Prudhomme, Anne C. (Hector)	Farmington	1936	1962
Manternach, Josie (Bruce W.)	Avon	1962	1978	Putnam, Julia Tyler (Lyonel H.)	Hartford	1947	1991
Marlow, Fiona (Peter)	West Hartford	1976	1978	Putnam, Marcella R., Miss	Hartford	1939	1991
Marshall, Elyn (Douglas B.)	West Hartford	1979	present	Putnam, Ann (Douglas T.)	West Hartford	1971	1977
Mather, Lucy O., Miss	Hartford	1916	1920	Quarrier, Eliza (Sidney)	West Hartford	1938	1947
Maxim, Josephine (Hiram P.)	Hartford	1919	1936	Quinby, Brie (Evan Cowles)	Farmington	2004	present
McCain, Dorothy May (W. Ross)	West Hartford	1940	1975	Race, Marie (F. Scott, III)	West Hartford	1961	1989
McCarroll, Peggy (John D.)	Farmington	1989	1998	Ramsay, Dorothy C. (John)	Hartford	1941	1948
McGill, Daphne (Robert E.)	Simsbury	1983	2006	Rarey, Helen H. (C. Donald)	Hartford	1943	1955
McIlwaine, Betty [Holcombe]				Rathgeber, Susan (John)	Kensington	2012	present
(David R.)	West Hartford	1958	1997	Reynolds, Simone (John)	New Britain	2014	present
McLean, Juliette				Richter, Sally (Dale)	Bloomfield	2012	present
(Gov. George P. McLean)	Simsbury	1926	1951	Riggs, Maida (Robert B.)	Hartford	1916	1936
Mead, Mimi P. (Peyton)	Farmington	1999	present	Robbins, Meredith (William T.)	Avon	1981	2000
Michigami, Sharon (Michael)	Farmington	2008	present	Roberts, Betty (Henry R.)	Hartford	1966	1998
Miller, Ginna (Charles L., Jr.)	West Hartford	1947	2012	Roberts, Lorrie (Philip R.)	Hartford	1984	present
Milliken, Sandy (Charles B.)	Farmington	1993	2010	Roberts, Margaret (Henry R.)	Hartford	1977	2002
Milliken, Birch H. (Peter)	Bloomfield	1971	1975	Roberts, Eliza C. (John T.)	Hartford	1932	1958
Morris, Mollie (John O.)	West Hartford	1990	2008	Robinson, Gertrude P. (John T.)	Hartford	1923	1968

Robinson, Marion A. (Henry S.)	Hartford	1930	1937	Sweet, Sue [Gillie]	Burlington	1999	present
Robinson, Babs (Lucius F.)	Hartford	1961	1992	Swett, Anna (Paul P.)	Bloomfield	1932	1962
Robinson, Monique (James E.)	Farmington	1994	1997	Taggart, Anne B.	West Hartford	1971	1992
Robinson, Sandy (Peter M.)	Farmington	1981	1983	Taylor, Ada L., Miss	Hartford	1917	1936
Robinson, Kate (Barclay, Jr.)	West Hartford	1977	2006	Taylor, Edith (Emerson G.)	West Hartford	1928	1963
Robinson, Elinor (Lucius F., Sr.)	Hartford	1916	1956	Taylor, Louise, Miss	West Hartford	1939	1946
Robinson, Augusta (Lucius F., Jr.)	Hartford	1932	1950	Terry, Louise (Edward C.)	Hartford	1916	1947
Rogers, Logan Milliken (Peter)	Southington	2016	present	Terry, Leotine McA. (James)	Hartford	1920	1960
Root, Era C. (Edward K.)	Hartford	1916	1946	Thayer, Mary A.S. (Charles S.)	Hartford	1916	1931
Russell, Lucille H. (John B. Jr.)	Farmington	1940	1944	Thompson, Gertrude (John H.)	Farmington	1926	1954
Ryan, Maria (Donald)	Farmington	1997	2005	Tilney, Margaret H. (James W.)	Bloomfield	1973	present
Sage, Mary B. (George H.)	West Hartford	1926	1943	Trainer, Vickie (Robert W.)	Bloomfield	1994	present
Salner, Pat (Dr. Andrew)	West Hartford	2005	present	Tremaine, Sally (Burton G.)	West Hartford	1958	1971
Salsbury, Edith C. (Charles B.)	Hartford	1955	1960	Twombly, Deborah (Angus H.)	West Hartford	1985	1998
Sargent, Mary T. (Joseph D.)	West Hartford	1975	present	VanWinkle, Kit (E. Kingsland)	West Hartford	1958	1996
Sargent, Katy N. (Robert T.)	West Hartford	1988	present	Wagner, Gay	Hampton	1997	2005
Sartorius, Lisa (Scott)	Simsbury	1987	1990	Walker, Grace W. (Louis)	West Hartford	1950	2006
Savage, Helen (Henry L., Jr.)	West Hartford	2010	present	Walker, Ede (J. Phillip)	West Hartford	1955	1976
Schuster, Amy (Rollin)	Simsbury	2010	present	Warner, Sarah (Seth C.)	New Hartford	1978	2008
Schwartz, Helen S. (Philip W.)	Suffield	1932	1936	Warner, Anne (Jonathan P.)	West Simsbury	1981	present
Seaverns, Mary B. H. (Charles F.T.)	Hartford	1927	1947	Waterman, Helen G., Miss	Hartford	1955	1985
Seaverns, Janice (Appleton H.)	Bloomfield	1952	1989	Waters, Jane (Edward)	Farmington	1957	2012
Sfara, Mara (David)	Farmington	2013	present	Watters, Helen H. (Franklin B.)	West Hartford	1955	1964
Shipman, Melvina (Arthur L.)	Hartford	1921	1953	Watters, reinstated (Franklin B.)		1970	1978
Shushtari, Dr. Julie (Dr. Kevin)	Farmington	2009	2015	Watts, Weezie (George M.)		1939	1981
Smith, Catherine (Olcott D.)	Farmington	1985	2009	Way, Lucy, Miss	Hartford	1916	1922
Smith, Elizabeth K. (Ernest W., Jr.)	Farmington	1926	1965	Wegner, Patricia (Arthur)	Simsbury	1991	1994
Smith, Gertrude D. (Herbert K.)	Farmington	1926	c. 1938	Weisman, Sally	Hartford	2015	present
Smith, Betty J. (Robinson)	West Hartford	1953	1954	Welcher, Emma A., Miss	Hartford	1916	1938
Smith, Ethel (E. Terry)	West Hartford	1936	1965	West, Kathryn (W. Casey)	New Britain	2014	present
Smith, Helen Damon (Harry T.)	West Hartford	1923	1933	Whelan, Jan (Hugh)	West Hartford	2010	present
Smith, Diane Birdsall (Tyler)	Hartford	2002	2011	Whitaker, Arline B. (Lucius M.)	Farmington	1983	present
Springer, Jane (John K.)	West Hartford	1989	present	Whitman, Peggy [Pepper, Meyer] (Horace W.)		1955	1964
St. John, Foffie (Harry, Jr.)	Avon	1969	1978	Whitmore, Mary (William F.)	West Hartford		1926
Standish, Betty (Leigh)	Wethersfield	2011	present	Wilcox, Barbara (Stephen R.)	West Hartford	1969	1997
Stanley, Betty (Frank)	Collinsville	1973	present	Wilcox, Priscilla (William W.)	West Hartford	1965	2010
Stanley, Nina H. (Talcott)	West Hartford	1951	1990	Wilcox, reinstated (William W.)	West Hartford	2013	2014
Stanley, Helen T. (Philip B.)	New Britain	1933	1971	Wilkinson, Bertha S. (Henry L.)	Hartford	1917	1928
Stanley, Lucinda [Stempf] (Peter Van Beckum)	Farmington	1988	present	Willard, Alice (Gordon C.)	Farmington	1984	present
Staunton, June	Glastonbury	2015	present	Williams, Jessie (George C.F.)	Hartford	1917	1953
Steel, Hannah (Alfred, Jr.)	West Hartford	1978	present	Williams, Cordelia (Staunton)	Farmington	1957	1968
Stemp, Lucinda [Stanley]	Farmington	1988	present	Willis, Peg (George I.)	West Hartford	1954	2009
Stielau, Mary Alice (Charles J.)	North Granby	1997	present	Wilson, Grace H. (John C.)	Hartford	1921	1928
Stitzer, Marendra (Howard)	Kensington	2012	present	Wilson, Genevieve S. (Eugene E.)	West Hartford	by1940	1948
Stover, Susan (Keith)	Simsbury	2012	present	Winter, Helen (John K.)	West Hartford	1947	1994
Stout, Elizabeth C. (John S.)	Bloomfield	1970	present	Wolcott, Eliot (Frank)	New Hartford	1976	1978
Stout, Donna (Samuel D.)	Simsbury	1979	present	Worcester, Robin (Frederick L.)	Simsbury	1966	1987
Stout, Frances S. (John D., Jr.)	Bloomfield	1946	2009	Wright, Nancy [Cobb] (Myron)	West Hartford	1955	2008
Sumner, Mary C. (Frank C.)	Hartford	1917	1927	Zacher, Petie (Edmund)	Hartford	1944	1950
Swan, Betty (Richard W.)	West Hartford	1954	1988	Zwiener, Nancy B. (David)	Hartford	2002	present
Swan, Nathalie (Joseph R.)	Farmington	1951	1965				





## *GCH Presidents*

Mrs. Samuel O. Prentice .....	1916-1919	Mrs. Louis Walker .....	1967-1969
Mrs. Robert W. Gray .....	1919-1922	Mrs. Charles P. Britton .....	1969-1971
Mrs. James Terry .....	1922-1923	Mrs. Charles L. Miller .....	1971-1974
Mrs. Edward K. Root.....	1923-1926	Mrs. Bruce W. Manternach .....	1974-1976
Mrs. Hiram Percy Maxim .....	1926-1927	Mrs. Frederick L. Worcester.....	1976-1978
Mrs. James P. Andrews.....	1927-1929	Mrs. Frank L. Stanley .....	1978-1980
Mrs. Arthur L. Shipman .....	1929-1931	Mrs. Joseph D. Sargent .....	1980-1982
Mrs. William C. Cheney .....	1931-1933	Mrs. Jared I. Edwards .....	1982-1984
Mrs. Lucius F. Robinson, Sr. ....	1933-1935	Mrs. Frederick S. Nicholas, Jr. ....	1984-1986
Mrs. Richard M. Bissell .....	1935-1936	Mrs. Dunbar M. Helsley .....	1986-1988
Mrs. Lucius F. Robinson, Sr. ....	1936-1937	Mrs. William W. Wilcox .....	1988-1990
Mrs. Morgan G. Bulkeley, Jr. ....	1937-1939	Mrs. Samuel D. Stout.....	1990-1992
Mrs. Robert W. Huntington .....	1939-1941	Mrs. George A.L. David .....	1992-1994
Mrs. Philip Cheney .....	1941-1943	Mrs. Gordon Willard.....	1994-1996
Mrs. Robert W. Gray .....	1943-1946	Mrs. Lucius M. Whitaker, Jr. ....	1996-1998
Mrs. W. Ross McCain .....	1946-1947	Mrs. Edward L. Johnson, Jr. ....	1998-2000
Mrs. John T. Roberts .....	1947-1949	Mrs. Joan E. Brown.....	2000-2002
Mrs. C. Donald Rarey .....	1949-1951	Mrs. Thomas R. Cox, III.....	2002-2004
Mrs. James L. Goodwin.....	1951-1953	Mrs. Daniel P. Brown, Jr.....	2004-2006
Mrs. William D. Barnes.....	1953-1955	Mrs. Joseph M. Hayes .....	2006-2008
Mrs. John D. Britton .....	1955-1957	Mrs. William J. Magee, Jr. ....	2008-2010
Mrs. W. Osborn Goodrich, Jr. ....	1957-1959	Mrs. Roger Howard.....	2010-2012
Mrs. Thomas F. Oakes .....	1959-1961	Ms. Nancy Macy .....	2012-2014
Mrs. John D. Britton .....	1961-1963	Ms. Brie Quinby.....	2014-2016
Mrs. Roger Eddy .....	1963-1965	Mrs. Robert Hall .....	2016
Mrs. Clifton Bockstoce.....	1965-1967		

## *About The Book*

Compiling this 100th Anniversary Book is the combined effort of the members of the Centennial Committee and several of the 2015-2016 Club Committee Chairs who were asked to review the recent records of their committees. Much of the data was unearthed during the creation of the 90th Anniversary Book. A basic source of information came from the Garden Club of Hartford archives at the Connecticut Historical Society and from the New Members Handbook compiled in the late 1980s.

In 2006, the 90th Anniversary Booklet replaced the New Members Handbook. Future historians will be able to gather information from the GCH website, [www.gchartford.org](http://www.gchartford.org) with password "CharterOak," launched in 2012.

When the 2006 90th Celebration Book was published there were very few photos of recent years. Digital photography was only widely available beginning in 2000. In 2007 the iPhone was introduced. Soon everyone carried a high resolution camera. For a few years Photography fell within the Flower Design Committee. Then, at the Millennium, Photography became its own entity. So now, each GCA club has a Photography Committee as well as a Flower Design Committee. The 2016 Photography Committee led by Brooke Mallory, along with Susan Prentice, Susie Barney, Nora Howard and Debra Herr is largely responsible for the many wonderful images in this Centennial Book.

Cover photo by Debra Herr. Back cover photo by Susan Prentice. The pollinators, flowers and trees throughout the book were provided by Brooke Mallory. Thank you to all the club members who contributed event photographs.

This Centennial Book was compiled by Joyce Magee with the guidance of the Centennial Chairs, Donna Stout and Nannie Brown. Nora Howard researched and chronicled the records at the Connecticut Historical Society. We are thankful for and the input of the amazing proof readers and fact checkers Susie Barney, Kathryn Cox and Barbara David.

## HELPFUL RESEARCH RESOURCES

### *Connecticut Historical Society*

In the late 1980s the paper history of GCH was becoming "too cumbersome for the closet of the Garden Club of Hartford President," Alice Willard. GCH deposited its available records at CHS in 1983 and all new information is submitted by the GCH Historian periodically throughout the year. The arrangement is such that CGH members may visit and temporarily remove any artifacts it might need. The Table of Contents of the records there can be read at [http://chs.org/finding\\_aides/finding\\_aids/gardenclub.html](http://chs.org/finding_aides/finding_aids/gardenclub.html)

### *The Connecticut State Library*

[www.ctstatelibrary.org](http://www.ctstatelibrary.org)

### *Find a Grave*

[www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org)

### *Hartford Courant Historical*

Access it through your online link to your local library or at your local library. You will need your library card number if you are working at home.

Click on "Information Databases," then "History, Biography and Genealogy," and then "Hartford Courant."

### *Ancestry.com*

Paid subscription or at the local library.

### *Newspapers.com*

Paid subscription or at the local library.

*Sandy Fromson modeling the scarf she designed for the Centennial.*







SUNSET ON THE CENTENNIAL YEAR,  
OVERLOOKING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER IN LYME.

*Photograph by Susan Prentice*