



February 2015 Newsletter



President's Message:

Dear League Members and friends:

Our January program meeting was a sensation in many ways! A lively gathering of Beautification League members and guests enjoyed the coffee social so beautifully presented by **Kathy Lapolla** and **Joan Hayenga**, **Susan Bergen's** eye-catching floral arrangements, **Angela Colabella's family-recipe "Chili Pepper Chili"**, and **Keith Simpson's brilliantly insightful program** covering the "evolution of the overall New Canaan landscape from forest to today." Keith raised our awareness of the physical land and cultural landscape that is our heritage and worthy of our stewardship individually and as members of Beautification League. (See following and taped presentation available online in Channel 79 archives.)

Now, as we prepare for a major snow storm, switch gears for a moment, and imagine the earthy delights of organically grown herbs and vegetables raised in your own yard or container. Our February 4th program will feature **Christine Segalas, owner of New Canaan-based Homegrown Harvest**. She will explore healthy and rewarding benefits of growing your own crops. (See below and following.) Register for more HGH programs at NC Library on Small Space Gardening: 7pm on 2/17 and 1pm on 2/28.

Lee House, the rental property adjoining Lee Garden, has been a topic of rigorous evaluation over the last several months. Grateful thanks to **Lee House Focus Group**: Peggy Jay (Chair), Barbara Beall, Jane Campbell, Peggy Dannemann, Faith Kerchoff, Kathy Lapolla, Shirley Stancik. This week the Board voted unanimously "to discontinue lease/landlord agreement as of June 30, 2015, with intent to raze structure known as Lee House and continue to serve as conscientious stewards of Lee Garden."

Shirley Stancik and **Jayne Meythaler** find that local merchants are eager to participate in **Tablescapes**; **Faith Kerchoff** has designed dynamic promotional materials; **Liz Orteig** is looking for silent auction donations and planning is well underway. Recruiting: volunteers needed for event publicity.

Annual Appeal for 2014, organized by **Jane Campbell** and **Tracey Ozendo**, raised an impressive \$40,838 from 438 donors to support NCBL projects. **Karen Hanson** has generously assumed the helm for 2015. In addition to returning completed envelopes to her, Karen needs helpers to write personal notes to past givers. (See following) As the storm runs its course, you can snuggle up by the fire while you address Annual Appeal envelopes and enjoy Angela's delectable chili – that's what I plan to do.

Warmly – *Carol Seldin* cwseldin@optonline.net

UPCOMING DATES:

February 4 - Program at Nature Center with Christine Segalas, 9:30 a.m., bring a guest!
February 10 - Tablescapes Meeting, Waveny Board Room, 9:30 a.m., **Open to all, please come!**
February 16 - Annual Appeal envelopes due to Karen Hanson.
February 24 - Tablescapes Meeting, Waveny Board Room, 9:30 a.m., **Open to all, please come!**
February 25 - Board Meeting at Waveny House, Yellow Room, 9:30 a.m.
April 29/30 - Tablescapes 'Très Chic'



Garden to Table

A Few Steps to Healthy Eating

Christine Segalas

of

Grow Your Own

Homegrown Harvest



Simple solutions to eating fresher foods.



sponsored by

Wednesday, February 4th
9:30a.m. coffee/10a.m. talk
New Canaan Nature Center
Sturgess Room

Join us!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NO CHARGE



**volunteers making
New Canaan beautiful!**

JANUARY 7th NCBL MEETING



On a blustery cold day, NCBL member and professional landscape architect Keith Simpson spoke to a full house at the New Canaan Nature Center on January 7th. Keith's presentation "Old Landscapes into New Landscapes" enlightened us on the history of New Canaan, its parks and rivers and how important decisions on roadways have shaped our beautiful town. Keith was introduced by Debera Simpson. Many thanks Keith for your excellent program!



To the right, the elegant table setting by Kathy Lapolla and colorful flowers by Susan Bergen brightened up the morning with delicious nibbles by Joan Hayenga.



Following the meeting Angela Colabella (on the left), with guest Hope Hetherington, introducing her hot chili on this chilliest day of the year! Angela kindly provided NCBL members and guests with sample packets of her Little's Specialty Foods "Chili Pepper Chili" also available at Walter Stewart's. Yum, yum!



After the delicious chili tasting, Carol facilitated an important information session regarding options for Lee House. Lee House focus group members (from the left, Barbara Beall, Peggy Dannemann, and Peggy Jay) concentrate on the presentation.

COFFEE AND GOODIES

A big thank you to our volunteers who have graciously offered their time to do "Coffee and Goodies" for the monthly programs at the New Canaan Nature Center and Waveny House.

I am still in need of volunteers for our April and May programs. It's a great way to meet people and enjoy the morning. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday, April 1st "Innovations in Spring Flower & Plant Design" with Doug Pippitt

Wednesday, May 6th "Private Gardens of the Hudson Valley" with Jane Garmey. Each program begins at 9:30. If possible, we will need two volunteers for each program and I will be helping.

Please contact Joan Hayenga at 203-801-9607 or email me joanhayenga@gmail.com. Thank you, Joan

Annual Appeal - 2015

"Many hands make light work!"



Thanks to those who have returned their bags with addressed and stuffed envelopes! To make the deadline of March 1 mailing, I need the bags returned to me by **February 16**, the latest. You may drop them at my house anytime if it is not snowing or raining. Call or email first if you wish. Here are the directions:

81 Marvin Ridge Road—Take Old Norwalk Road past Kiwanis Park. Take the first right after Kiwanis (triangle!) onto Marvin Ridge Road. We are the 4th house on the right with a circular gravel driveway. Leave bag on porch between garage and door to house under a small basket hanging on house.

We have an additional mailing! To **all** the folks who gave in the past and to whom we will send first class with written personal notes. We expect them to give again! Please let me know if you would like to do additional work for the Annual Appeal. I've reconsidered... you may choose to whom you would like to write personal notes. Please, please let me know if you will do this, and give me names of people you would like to personalize. Just email and let me know.

Thank you! *Karen Hanson* Karenh81@optonline.net 203-966-5140

TABLESCAPES - Très Chic!

Tablescapes-Silent Auction Items Needed

We need donations for our Silent Auction at Tablescapes. Anything that you think might be of interest, including tickets to a show, a service you could perform, or a gift certificate from your favorite merchant would be welcome. If you have anything, please contact me. *Liz Orteig* 203.966.2359 or Lorteig@gmail.com



Shirley Stancik gets us in the mood for Tablescapes!

OUR MREMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW.....

Please welcome the following new members:

Betsy Bilus, 370 South Avenue, NC. 966-7804, 203-722-5535, enbilus@gmail.com.

Doug Pippett, New Canaan Garden Center, 197 New Norwalk Rd. NC. 966-4163, 203-912-3798.
NCGCLLP@gmail.com.

Polly Lowman, 213 Park Street, NC. 966-4052, 203-858-7759, lowpolly@aol.com.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR HANGING BASKETS:

The Hanging Baskets Workshop will be held at 9 AM on **Tuesday, May 12, 2015** at Libby's house, at 453 Carter Street.

Please put it on your calendar so you come help us.

Libby Butterworth (203) 801-0862 eabutter@gmail.com

Sara Hunt (203) 966-3313 skhminky@optonline.net