



April 2015 Newsletter



President's Message:

Dear Beautification League Members and Friends:

New Canaan Beautification League needs your time, talent and energy! That's right. We need you!!! Each and every League member can contribute to the success of Tablescapes 2015 "Très Chic!" We need bakers and sandwich makers, set-up and take-down helpers, flower arrangers and room supervisors. Have you bought your tickets yet? Did you forward the evite to friends? Have you talked up Tablescapes at your book group, tennis group, church group, bridge group, exercise class? League activities are successful, because everyone works so well cooperatively. Special thanks to our amazing organizational committee. Please lend a hand in any way you can to contribute to making Tablescapes a spectacular two-day community event! (See link to Julie Stauffer's photos of Tablescapes past)

We had a nice turnout for our March meeting, despite the weather. Nature Center's Executive Director, **Laura Heckman**, even helped to shovel walkways before Beautification League members arrived. Danna DiElsi, owner of **The Silk Touch**, made elegant arrangements won by members Meryl Vallar, Ceci Murray and Sandy Silverman. Bianca Romano went home with Susan Bergen's gorgeous hospitality flowers. Thanks to **Penny Mardoian** and **Kathy DeMarco** for providing such a lovely spread.

You will absolutely not want to miss our exciting April 1st program, "**Innovations in Spring Flower & Plant Design**" presented by **Gregg Fisk and Doug Pippitt of New Canaan Florist, Garden & Gifts**. Trust me, I've had a sneak peek preview of the striking arrangements they will be creating. Lucky raffle winners will have amazing treasures to take home - just in time for Easter and Passover! Spring blooming plants will be available for sale as well. Why not bring a friend or two? (See following)

Annual Appeal is off to a stunning start, and we all thank **Karen Hanson** for heading up this important fundraiser. Karen has introduced target initiatives that are having great results. Have you made your contribution? To date we have received contributions of \$30,280 from 268 generous donors!

New Canaan welcomed spring on Friday, March 20th – and over 6 inches of snow – with temperatures ranging from 33 to 27 degrees. Felt more like winter to me! Time to trade in the snow shovels for garden trowels, winter boots for garden clogs, puffy down jackets for light weight sweaters.

Imagine forsythia and daffodils! Plan to celebrate Tablescapes 2015! Think Spring!

Warmly, *Carol Seldin* cwseldin@optonline.net

April Calendar

- 1 NCBL Program, New Canaan Nature Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Tablescapes Meeting, Waveny House, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Tablescapes Meeting, Waveny House, 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Tablescapes Set-up, Waveny House, 9:00 a.m.
- 29 Tablescapes 2015 Très Chic, Waveny House, 10:30 a.m.
- 30 Tablescapes 2015 Tea & Petite Boutique, Waveny House, 10:00 a.m.

"Très Chic"





Innovations in Flower and Plant Design

with Doug Pippitt
and Gregg Fisk

Meet **Doug Pippitt**, member and owner of New Canaan Florist Garden and Gifts, and his head floral designer Gregg Fisk! Gregg Fisk will do **three arrangements** of different floral techniques with seasonal materials, to be raffled off. His work has appeared on television and in several national and international magazines and has done work for clients as diverse as Barbara Streisand and Ralph Lauren.

There will be a **plant sale** as well following the program.

Come be inspired!



Gregg Fisk left, and Doug Pippitt, right, of New Canaan Florist Garden and Gifts is located at 197 New Norwalk Road (Rte. 123) in the newly renovated space formerly known as Vineyard Gardens.

sponsored by



Wednesday, April 1st
9:30 a.m. Coffee/10 a.m. Talk
New Canaan Nature Center
Join us!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NO CHARGE

volunteers making New Canaan beautiful!

TABLESCAPES 2015 “Très Chic”

Tablescapes Centerpieces Needed

STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW (MORE) “GOOD” WOMEN to make centerpieces for our Tablescapes Luncheon on April 29. *We have 2 bare & lonely tables left - they await your loving handiwork!*

Here’s an opportunity to be creative and helpful! Pretty vases filled with blossoms, baskets of blooming spring perennials, ceramic pots planted with herbs are a few ideas to inspire you. All arrangements will be “sold” through silent auction on the day of the event.

Many thanks to 13 volunteers who have signed on so far: Rose Bauersfeld, Susan Bergen (3), Carolin Buttrick, Peggy Dannemann, Jane Gamber, Margery Gardner, Yvonne Hunkeler (2), Judy Johnson, Faith Kerchoff (2), Liz Orteig, Bianca Romano, Carol Seldin (2), and Effie Trahanas.

If you would like to help, please email [Susan Bergen](mailto:snbergen@msn.com) - snbergen@msn.com



Tablescapes Silent Auction Items Needed

I am still accepting donations for the Silent Auction that will be held at the Tablescapes event. Any floral or garden item, tickets to a show, clothing and jewelry, a service that you could provide, or persuade your favorite merchant to contribute a gift certificate would be welcomed!

I would like to get all items in the next couple of weeks so that I have time to catalog everything. If you have something to donate, please contact me.

[Liz Orteig](mailto:Liz.Orteig@gmail.com) 203-966-2359 or Lorteig@gmail.com

Calling All Bakers

WANTED: 2 to 3 dozen home-baked cookies for Tablescapes

WHEN: Wednesday morning, April 29, 2015

WHERE: Waveny Castle

WARNING: Bake cookies and Nobody gets hurt!

REWARD: A few cookie crumbs and the satisfaction of helping!

[Libby Butterworth](mailto:eabutter@gmail.com) eabutter@gmail or 203 801-0862 [Sara Hunt](mailto:skhminky@optonline.com) skhminky@optonline or 203 966-3313



“Très Chic”

EVENT SPONSOR

B&H (Brotherhood and Higley Real Estate) is our event sponsor for Tablescapes 2015 for the third time. From the left Benjie Halsell, and former president Jane Campbell accepting the check on behalf of NCBL from Hugh Halsell.



TABLESCAPES 2015 “Très Chic” TEA

Liz King, owner of The Linen Shop in New Canaan, has graciously offered to cater “Tablescapes and Tea” for New Canaan Beautification League on Thursday, April 30th 10AM – 1:30PM at Waveny House. In addition to her local business, Liz is proprietor of the uniquely charming restaurant and tea house, King’s Carriage House on 82nd Street in New York City. The Linen Shop will also be represented with a distinctive table vignette to view at Tablescapes. Without doubt, Liz is an expert at serving tea and setting a beautiful table.



Pictured left to right: Liz King, owner of The Linen Shop, and Agneta Aspinwall and Anka Jones Beautification League members.

Tablescapes Tea Help Needed

Looking for volunteers for the Tablescapes Tea to make finger/tea sandwiches, baked goods or to help with set up and clean up. Our last Tablescapes Tea had over 100 attendees! We hope to serve as many if not more, this year. Kindly respond to Agneta Aspinwall or Anka Jones, if you are able to help. We look forward to making this a successful event with your help. Thank you.

aaspinwall@optonline.net

ankajones@optonline.net

203-594-9123

203-966-2243

Finger/Tea Sandwiches

The sandwiches were very popular in the past and we want to make sure we have enough to serve our guests so we ask that you consider signing up to help make these. We need plenty of these.

Baked Goods

Keep in mind, in the past, we were able to use left over goodies from the luncheon. Perhaps, we may not need quite as much as we had in the past but we do need the sweets.

Set Up and/or Clean Up

Bringing trays in from kitchen to the table and/or from the tables out to the kitchen. Cups and saucers may need to be replaced, depending on the crowd. Cleared dishes need to go into the dishwasher and may need to be emptied several times during the course of the tea.



“Très Chic”

LUNCHEON

Bertrand L’Herbette of Fabulous Feasts luxury gourmet catering with Gale Stafford, meet to plan gala luncheon for Tablescapes 2015.

“Très Chic”



Come view 30+ tabletops
and fashion vignettes

Reviews are in:

“A spring tablescapes and
fashion preview tour de force
of inspiration for the new season
...all in the beautiful setting of
Waveny Mansion in New Canaan.”

“A must see...!” ★★★★★

**LUNCHEON, SHOW & SILENT AUCTION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 • 10:30 AM-2PM**

TICKETS \$65.



**Reserve your tickets, space is
limited!**

Send check payable to:

New Canaan Beautification League

Mail along with your email address for
confirmation and updates

Mail to:

NCBL Tablescapes, P. O. Box 4, New Canaan, CT
06840

For further info:

www.NewCanaanBeautification.org

or call: 203.966.7575



**TEA AND SHOW & Petite Boutique
THURSDAY, APRIL 30 • 10AM-1:30PM**

TICKETS \$25

To benefit the New Canaan Beautification League



Click on the link below to see photographer **Julie Stauffer's** beautiful

Tablescapes Collection from 2009, 2011, and 2013.

<https://animoto.com/play/fM1gMcSbnoMrgcgmmTPPTA>

(To the left, stunning early spring photograph by Julie)

Annual Appeal - 2015



THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the following who made our Annual Appeal possible this year. You wrote and stuffed envelopes, 6,454 in all. In addition, a number of you also graciously volunteered to write personal notes on our first-class letters, a total of 684. As John Heywood said, "many hands make light work!" Everything was mailed out on March 2. It's good to know we have so many dedicated NCBL members! Let's hope we raise enough funds to keep New Canaan beautiful - - that's our goal.

Becky Barlow

Rose Bauersfeld

Barbara Bentley

Susan Bergen

Betsy Bilus

Libby Butterworth

Carolyn Buttrick

Jane Campbell

Michelle Clark

Claude Colabella

Peggy Dannemann

Katherine DeMarco

Joan Dionne

Karen Ferguson

Lisa Ferrante

Georgene Frantz

Margery Gardner

Luisa Goldschmidt

Tonya Gwynn

Joan Hayenga

Gisela Hobman

Yvonne Hunkeler

Sara Hunt

Peggy Jay

Judy Johnson

Faith Kerchoff

Laura King

Kathy Lapolla

Karen Mactas

Penny Mardoian

Ann McCulloch

Ellen McMahon

Jayne Meythaler

Valerie Monaghan

Ceci Murray

Liz Orteig

Tracey Ozendo

Tracy Phillips

Debera Prosek Simpson

Debbie Raymond

Bianca Romano

Marian Rose

Carol Seldin

Sandra Siegel

Gloria Simon

Michele Sloan

Gerda Smith

Nell Smith

Galle Stafford

Shirley Stancik

Megan Steele

Judy Sullivan

Barbara Wentzel

Eva Wingate

Marianne Zarnik

Thanks again! *Karen Hanson*



LEE GARDEN

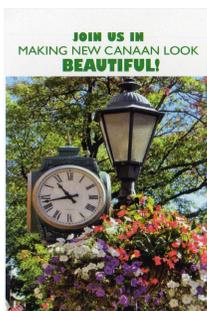
Team Lee has faced some challenges in the garden this winter. The deer have damaged the fence and have been browsing on Azaleas and Rhododendrons. Spraying Bobex seems to have reduced the severity of the problem temporarily.



It will be sad to see Lee House taken down but we are now able to look forward to a small, more useful structure in its place. We hope to provide a water source for the garden, bathroom facility for volunteers, new improved fencing and an opportunity to make Lee Garden even more inviting to visitors.



Our annual **Azalea Festival** will be held again this year on **Mother's Day, May 10 from 1 to 4 PM**. We are grateful to all our volunteers and always in need of more. Please consider volunteering. Above clockwise, Pheasant eye narcissus, Snowdrops, and pink Lily of the Valley. *Faith, Yvonne and Kathy* 203 505 3602



Hangin' Baskets Workshop

9 AM, Tuesday, May 12

at Libby's house, 453 Carter Street.

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

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

A Call to Arms

By Joan Sargent MARCH 1996

I haven't been outside for a month, but my internal horticultural clock is ticking. I know if that temperamental vine, *Cobea scandens*, is to bloom before frost, the seeds must go sideways into their peat pots now.

Two sweet peas from Thompson & Morgan could bet started, a mysterious mauve with "enthraling fragrance" discovered in 1770 by monks - how could I resist? And a pale yellow - how could that be?

The *Hamamelis* (Witch Hazel) and *Viburnum Bodnantense* have been in bloom inside for two weeks. Now it's also time to force *Forsythia*, *Chaenomeles* (Flowering Quince) and *Malus floribunda* (Flowering Crabapple). Perhaps *Mahonia bealei* will have its lemon-yellow fragrant cluster of flowers this year to bring inside. *Hellebore foetidus* are ready to pick and a few warm days will bring forth *Snowdrops*, *Aconites*, and spices *Crocus*.

The Cardinals are pairing up, bird song is back and I'm ready for spring!

Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote about 24 gardening columns for NCBL through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.



Cobea scandens, Cup and Saucer vine/Cathedral Bells . . . is a fast growing vine.



The Sweet Peas, might be like the ones she described; above middle is pink Sweet Pea 'Fragrant Ripples', and below is a creamy yellow of 'Juliet' both from Thompson Morgan.

Left top are *Witch Hazel* and *Viburnum Bodnantense*. Under that is *Chaenomeles*, Flowering Quince.



MARCH 4th NCBL MEETING - Fact & Fantasy!

What a treat to have Danna DiElsi, owner of the Silk Touch in Norwalk come and speak to us on "Fabulous Faux Florals: Fact & Fantasy!" We learned how exquisite silk flowers are made and hand-painted in China and viewed a hands-on floral demonstration with floral flair by this charming and admired Tablescapes designer. Look for her at Tablescapes 2015!



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