



# June 2015 Newsletter



## President's Message:

New Canaan is blooming thanks to your excellent efforts! Our May speaker Jane Garmey was amazed by our many projects and called Beautification League a “*great group of industrious and enthusiastic gardeners*”. **Susan Smith** has produced a delightfully picturesque newsletter to highlight our many spring activities.

Pop-Up Park planters and 160 hanging flower baskets were all ready to brighten the scene for Memorial Day festivities and beyond. Thanks go out to **Libby Butterworth, Sara Hunt, Liz Orteig** and so many hands-on volunteers. Garden elves, **Faith Kerchoff** and **Kathy Lapolla**, even planted classic red salvia at God's Acre memorial in time for the parade. Center Bell has a lovely new look thanks to creative landscape redesign carried out by **Yvonne Hunkeler, Susan Weatherley** and **Betsey Bilus**. **Keith Simpson** generously spearheads our important Town Hall landscape project.

On the fundraising side, this year's Annual Appeal, expertly directed by **Karen Hanson**, has already exceeded expectations and Tablescape succeeded both as a fundraiser and style-setting chic event. Special thanks to **Shirley Stancik, Gale Stafford**, the many **committee members** and **everyone** who planned, helped and participated. (see photo galleries)

For three years I have been privileged to serve as your League President. I am sincerely grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors and the entire membership for making the experience so positively meaningful, fulfilling and heart-warming. Time to pass the gavel to our reassuringly capable and genuinely enthusiastic new leaders.

If possible, please cast your **email ballot for the Board of Directors 2015-2016** (sent separately) prior to our membership's **Annual Meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Nature Center, 9:30 AM social, 10AM meeting. Following the meeting, all members are invited to carpool from the Nature Center (at least 4 people per vehicle) to my home at **1000 Ponus Ridge**. Kindly park as directed on west side of street or in parking spaces at foot of driveway. Enjoy a stroll through my hillside walking garden, followed by refreshments on the terrace and a toast to the New Canaan Beautification League – past, present and future.

Warmly,

*Carol Seldin*    [cwseldin@optonline.net](mailto:cwseldin@optonline.net)

Kindly RSVP by Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> if you plan to visit my home following Annual Meeting:

[cwseldin@optonline.net](mailto:cwseldin@optonline.net) or call 203.966.6963.

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Annual Meeting at Nature Center and optional garden tour

Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> - Old Board/New Board meeting

### Save the Date:

Fall Luncheon: Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Woodway Country Club

If you missed any of NCBL's publicity in the media recently, you can click on these links:

[Tablescapes News](#)

[Hanging Baskets](#)

[Mother's Day at Lee Garden](#)



### Membership

We welcome the following new member:

Sondra Banford, 58 Old Studio Road, New Canaan HOMES@SONDRABANFORD.COM 203.249.8885

Please look for your membership renewal form to be in your mailbox early in June. We ask that you complete the form and return it with your dues, so that we can begin to work on our membership directory.

Thank you.

*Tracy Phillips and Jane Campbell*



### Hanging Baskets

Over twenty members came out on a very hot May day to assemble the hanging baskets. We finished in record time - 1½ hours! Gals who arrived after 10:30 AM found to their surprise that all the baskets had been finished and were ready for the men at Public Works to pick up. The members who came to help on the Workshop were: Becky Barlow, Susan Bergen, Eileen Boehme, Libby Butterworth, Peggy Dannemann, Linda DeMayo, Georgene Frantz, Margery Gardner, Karen Hanson, Judy Johnson, Faith Kerchoff, Jayne Meythaler, Valerie Monaghan, Ceci Murray, Liz Orteig, Bianca Romano, Gloria Simon, Susan Smith, Gale Stafford, Shirley Stancik, Megan Steele, Susan Weatherley, Eva Wingate, and those who forgot to sign in. See photos on following page.

*Libby Butterworth and Sara Hunt*



### Thank You Floral Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with floral design this year. All-in-all you created 126 lovely arrangements for the dining tables at Waveny Care Center (September, October and June), 10 beautiful bouquets for the Fall Luncheon and 15 unique centerpieces for Tablescapes in April.

Hats off to:

Agneta Aspinwall  
Jane Gamber  
Faith Kerchoff  
Carol Seldin

Rose Bauersfeld  
Yvonne Hunkeler  
Kathy Lapolla  
Gale Stafford

Carolyn Buttrick  
Judy Johnson  
Liz Orteig  
Shirley Stancik

Peggy Dannemann  
Anka Jones  
Bianca Romano  
Effie Trahanas

Sincerely,

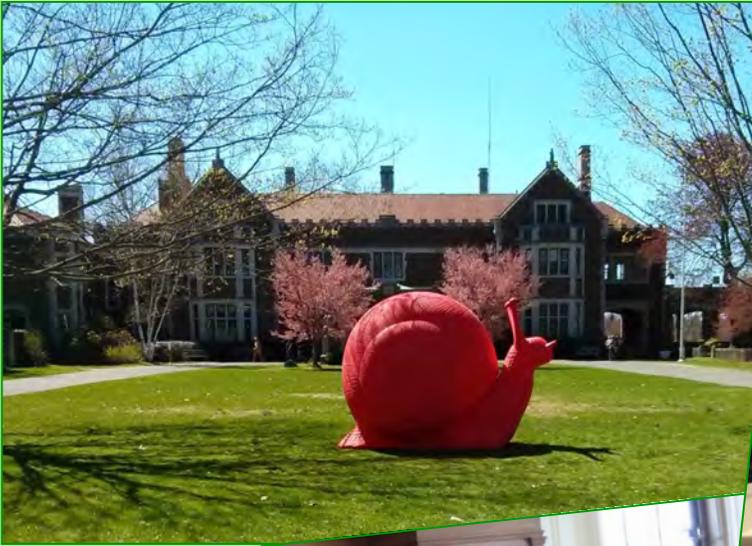
*Susan Bergen, Floral Chair*



# Tablescapes 2015 "Très Chic"



# ...more from Tablescapes 2015



...and a few more photos!



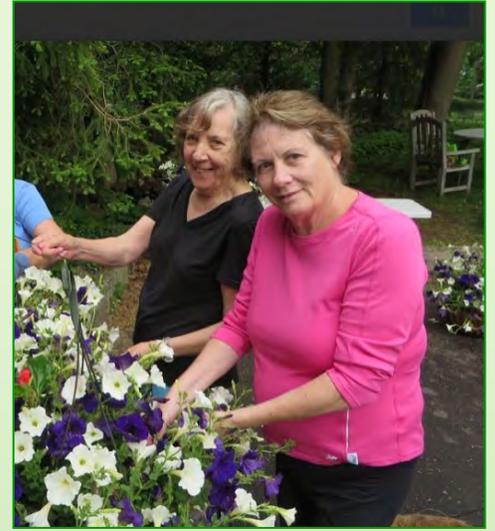
# Elegant Heirloom Table Settings

We'd like to thank the following members and guest participants for sharing their family treasures and personal stories during this year's Tablescapes display. Each setting was unique and a reflection of their owner's personality. The extraordinary combination of wit, history and beauty was a joy to behold.

Our sincere thanks to Peggy Dannemann, Linda DeMayo, Mimi Dickerson, Karen Hanson, Linda Hurst, Kristen Johnson and Parry Grogan of the New Canaan Historical Society, Laura King, Kathy Lapolla, Penny Mardoian, Amy Reid, Gerda Smith, Gale Stafford, Lis Steinberg, and Robin Wolyner. *Karen Mactas and Penny Mardoian*



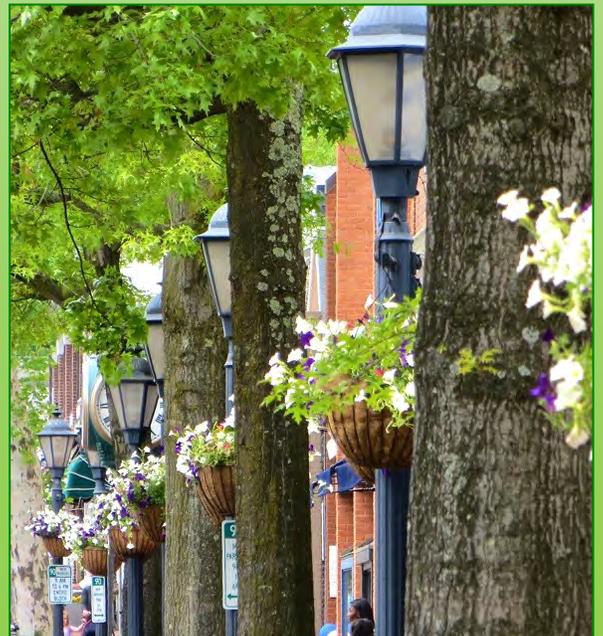
# Behind the Scenes at the Hanging Baskets Workshop



# Pick up by Public Works Dept.



# Now let's watch them GROW!



## About Town...

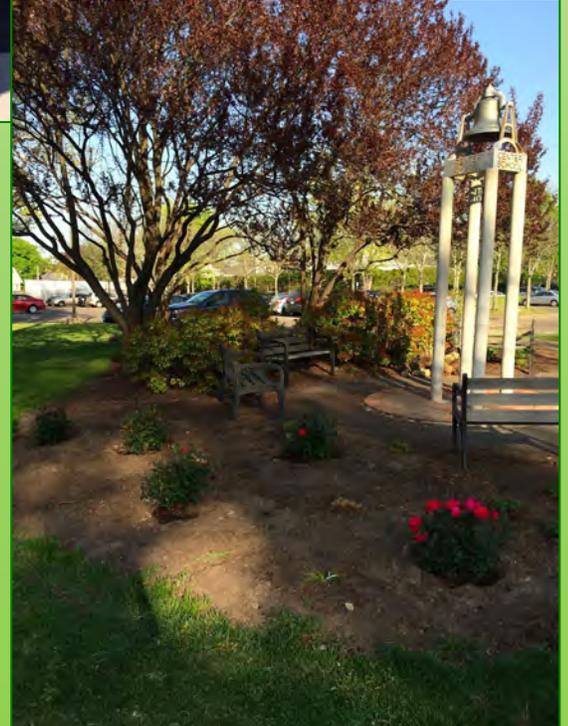
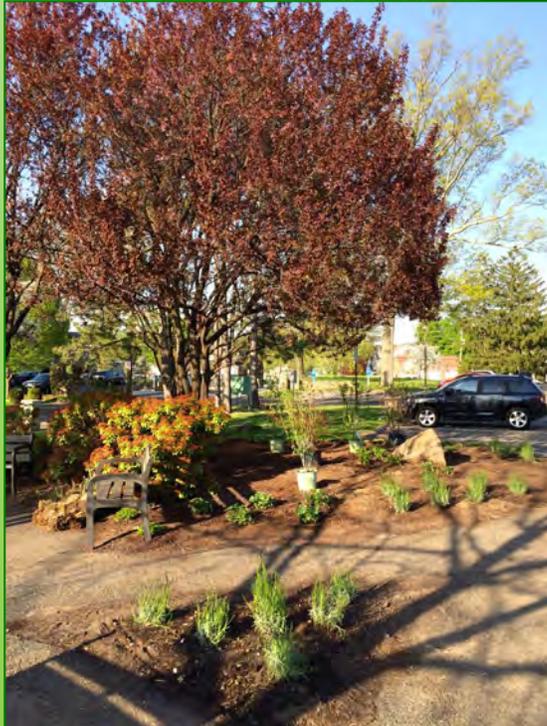
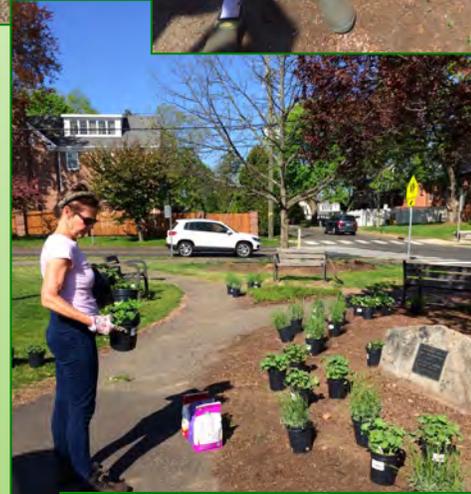
The civic area at the corner of South Avenue and Maple Street is sporting a new look thanks to the ideas and gardening power of Yvonne Hunkeler, Susan Weatherley and Betsey Bilus.

As a meeting place in the center of town, and host to countless Farmers' Markets - the area needed some attention. A dedication stone and two benches were moved by the Town Crew. Plants selected for their color and scent for this very hot, sunny area include: Double Knock Out Roses, Lavender, Heuchera, Ladies Mantle, Red Twig Dogwood, and Sedum.

The red and lavender colors will complement the existing plum trees planted by NCBL in the early 2000's when the Center Bell was erected. The bricks under the actual bell had been saved by Bev Greenberg when Center School was torn down.



# Center School Triangle Gets a Makeover



# We Get a Little Help From Our Friends

On a rainy Tuesday morning, the ladies from the New Canaan Beautification League were planting flowers in planters on Pine Street and in the planters that will be placed on Elm Street and South Avenue as part of the Pop Up Park. Tiger Mann and Walt Jaykus from the Public Works Department dropped by to give a hand. Walt (in photo below) is out in his water truck on many early mornings watering all the hanging baskets. He has endeared himself to the NCBL by the careful attention and expertise he has given the flowers. Later in the afternoon, Jim Kenyon was spotted checking the flowers his firm, Valley View, had provided for the planters.

The members who devoted their morning to the planters were Libby Butterworth, Kathy DeMarco, Linda DeMayo, Lisa Ferrante, Linda Foscatto, Tonya Gwynn, Sara Hunt, Liz Orteig, Bianca Romano, Carol Seldin, and Eva Wingate.





## Lee Garden: Up close

**WHAT?** You say you've never been there? Well, run don't walk to see it in FULL BLOOM this week . . . this Spring! Then come back often for quiet walks and to hear the birds.

**DIRECTIONS:** Elm Street, right to Weed Street left to Wahackme Road, about a mile down after 2 'S' curves, there's Chichester Road on the right. Go to #89 Chichester. There is a fence, a gate and small parking lot. Open and go in. The gate is to keep the deer out. The garden is open dawn to dusk every day of the year. Be sure to close the gate when you leave.

From top left: Large Erythronium with multi flower stems; Gable White Azalea 'Rose Greeley'; Pink Trout Lily; Ilam Azalea, a deciduous plant opening up from dark red to red bloom; and Pink Aquilegia 'Winky Rose', also known as Columbine, many color varieties are in the garden.



# Joan's Garden: Heucheras

by Joan Sargent - APRIL 1996

You may be happy with your old Heucheras (Coral Bells), Heucherellas and Tiarellas, but the hybridizers are not. Starting with Heuchera 'Palace Purple', they have worked to give these old fashioned work horses of the garden more eye-catching foliage and longer-lasting, brighter-colored flowers. Loved by birds, butterflies and gardeners, not so loved by slugs, deer and rabbits, easy to divide and long-lived, their almost evergreen foliage looks fine even now after this hard winter. The new hybrids sport burgundy leaves with patches of silver marbling (Heuchera 'Montrose Ruby'), or bright red patterning in the center of a green leaf (Tiarella 'Eco Red Heart'), or apple green foliage with silvery veins and bi-color pink and white flowers (Heucherella 'Pink Frost'). Some are clump forming, others will run about, some with tiny leaves and others quite large. The ornamental foliage of these fine new native plants will dress up a slightly shady spot, make an interesting edging plant or with the larger-leaved varieties be an alternative to Hosta (a deer favorite).

*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.*



Above: Heuchera Americana 'Montrose Ruby'  
Below: Heuchera 'Palace Purple'



Above: Tiarella 'Eco Running Tapestry'  
Below: The larger leaves of Tiarella 'Eco Magnifolia'. Tiarella is also known as Foam Flower



Above: Heucherella Day Glo Pink  
Below: The leaves of Pink Frost with silvery look. Heucherella is a cross between Heuchera and Tiarella.



Summer is just  
around the corner!  
Enjoy gardening in  
the months ahead.

