



Old Westbury Gardens News

Clippings from the Garden, Fall/Holiday Celebration 2007





President's Letter

What a great year Old Westbury Gardens has had! The fine weather we were blessed with beginning in the spring stayed with us through the end of October. Attendance at the Gardens flourished with that fine weather, helped along by the addition of a number of new events this year.

Our inaugural Mozart Festival on Labor Day weekend could not have been more delightful. Nearly 6000 people enjoyed wonderful music and fascinating programs and activities, all within the setting of our house and gardens. Encouragingly, young performers and young visitors accounted for twenty percent of those attending. We look forward to hosting this festival in 2008, and I wish to thank the Chambers Players International for working so hard to make this collaboration a success.

The exceptional weather held during another first for us, October's "Dogs in the Gardens" weekend. For two days happy visitors, of both the two-legged and four-legged variety, enjoyed a creative mix of pet health and art programs. Special thanks must go to Herma Edwards, the event's originator and coordinator, and to our partner in this "doggone great" weekend, The Humane Society of New York.

The holiday season is always eagerly anticipated at Old Westbury Gardens, and this year we hope to again meet those expectations. As always, the rooms of the house will be beautifully and uniquely decorated by our talented house and horticulture staff. Our Winter Dinner will have a Dutch theme, complete with table arrangements suited for the occasion with red and green tulips. I want to congratulate Honorary Chairman Huyler Held and warmly thank our Winter Dinner Chairs, Liz and Rod Berens, and their committee, for all their hard work. As I write this, the upcoming dinner is already a success, all due to their efforts.

There are exciting times ahead as we move into 2008. We continue to develop long-range plans for our two recently acquired properties. The Nassau County legislators this past September unanimously granted Old Westbury Gardens a 99-year lease to the 12+ acres of the farmland and buildings that were formerly owned by Peggie Phipps Boegner. The obtaining of this lease, as well as the



The Friends at Ormston

Friends News

Earlier this year, Friends' member, Paul Mateyunas, led a tour of Ormston in Lattingtown. This former estate of John E. Aldred, which is now St. Josaphat's Monastery, includes gardens and grounds planned by the landscape design firm Olmsted Brothers. The tour was followed by lunch at the Piping Rock Club.

On September 11, the Friends of Old Westbury Gardens hosted a luncheon at Westbury House which featured a lecture on English Gardens by Katherine Astor. Mrs. Astor, who was once the private secretary for the Duke of Edinburgh, has been presenting gardening lectures in the United States for the past six years. Her interest in horticulture began when she and her husband Richard inherited property and a home in England called Kirby House. She studied Garden Design at Reading University, formed a garden study group, and learned about practical

horticulture from Tom Moore, the head of Practical Horticulture at the English Gardening School. Mrs. Astor successfully transformed what had been seven neglected, run-down, acres into a gardening showplace.

On December 3, the Annual Friends Appreciation Luncheon will be held on the West Porch of Westbury House. Other upcoming Friends events include: a visit to Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate in Hudson Valley; a gourmet tour of Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, hosted by Addie Tomei (Marissa Tomei's mother); and trips to view homes and gardens in Connecticut and on the East End of Long Island. For more information about these and other Friends events, contact Raena Blumenthal at 516-333-0048, ext. 308, rblumenthal@oldwestburygardens.org.



34-acre "Orchard Hill" plot consisting of Peggie's former home and attendant grounds, will provide us with the opportunity to develop untold new programs and activities.

I close with a heartfelt thanks to Mary Phipps, Chairman, to our trustees and advisors, to our volunteers, and to the

entire Old Westbury Gardens staff for making 2007 a truly remarkable and successful year.

Old Westbury Gardens Welcomes Three New Trustees

Old Westbury Gardens is delighted to announce that three new Trustees were duly elected at our September meeting to fill open places on our twenty seven member governing board.

Jeffrey S. Phipps

Jeffrey Phipps is the great grandson of John and Margarita Phipps who built Westbury House and raised their four children here. Jeffrey and his family, the children and grandchildren of Ben Phipps, have had a deep and continued interest in the welfare of Old Westbury Gardens and



a concern for its future.

Jeffrey and his wife Mary live in Tallahassee, Florida. He attended Florida State University from 1983 to 1985 and graduated from Boston University in

1988. He was employed by W.R. Grace and Company for a number of years, and was Corporate Auditor from 1992 to 1994.

Self employed since 1996, among other business activities, Jeff has been involved with Morrison Manufacturing Company, in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and was the founder of Growth Innovations, LC and the Marshmallow Fun Company. Jeffrey has a strong interest in his community in West Florida and currently serves on a number of boards, notably the Board of Directors of the Friends of Lake Jackson, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, and Phipps Community Development Corporation. He also serves as Board Commissioner for the Tallahassee Housing Authority.



Elaine Schwartzreich

Elaine Schwartzreich has been a valued member of the Old Westbury community for many years and has served with distinc-

tion on a number of community boards. She co-founded the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, was a board member of North Shore Child Guidance, served on school boards for her three children's schools, and has been President of the Friends of Old Westbury Gardens for the last seven years.

Elaine's education focused on the study of biology and chemistry. She earned a Masters Degree in Graduate Studies of Medicine and a teaching certificate in math and science. She is interested in antiques, and interior and garden design. Elaine has been involved on committees for the Gardens since 1988 and she, along with her husband Steve, is particularly supportive of the development of public awareness and the preservation of Old Westbury Gardens.

Lloyd P. Zuckerberg

Lloyd Zuckerberg is the Managing Partner for Zuckerberg Investment Partners, a company that specializes in projects that have a preservation compo-

ment, either of buildings or land. Among his business activities, Lloyd was Deputy Project Manager for the renovation of Grand Central Terminal and Senior Executive with Grand Central Partnership and its sister companies, 34th Street Partnership and Bryant Park Restoration Corporation.

Lloyd graduated from Tufts University with a degree in Political Science in 1984 and from Harvard Business School in 1990. Lloyd's many civic activities include being Founder and Chairman of the Nassau Land Trust, which is dedicated to preserving open space in Nassau County, Board Vice President of Caedmon School, Treasurer of New York



Landmarks Conservancy, Board Member of Peconic Land Trust and Phipps Houses-Mapes Court. He has also published two books of architectural history. Lloyd and his wife Charlotte and their family live in Manhattan.



Old Westbury Gardens Receives a Preserve New York Grant

Old Westbury Gardens is the recipient of a Preserve New York Grant to initiate a Cultural Landscape Report for the property. The grant will be used to assess the existing conditions of this historically important site and to analyze changes since its original conception by George A. Crawley in 1904. Heritage Landscape consultants will work with the staff, trustees and advisors to address the degree to which the landscape embodies its historic character today. The team will examine historic aerial views, maps, invoices and correspondence from the Gardens' archives to understand the evolution of the landscape. Fourteen grants were made in 12 counties by Preserve New York Grant Program in 2007. The program is in partnership with the Preservation League of New York State and the New York State Council on the Arts which supports outstanding local preservation projects.



Late Summer into Fall at The Gardens



At the Scottish Games, bagpipers march, Development Associate Melissa Chemick sings the Star Spangled Banner, and a young athlete has a sack race in the bag



Public Programs Intern Jessica Gandolfo teaches craft making at the Magic of Trees program



At Picnic Pops, a large crowd turns out for The Glenn Miller Orchestra while a smaller audience braves the rain for Vince Giordano's Nighthawks





Veterinarians, Humane Society of NY representatives, and one of many pairs of happy dogs and owners at the Dogs in the Gardens Celebration



The playing of the glass harmonica and a proper minuet are demonstrated at the Mozart Festival



A group of monks enjoy tea in the picnic area



Elisa DiStefano shoots a Mozart promo for News 12 in the Walled Garden



Walled Garden Assistant Mary Ellen Albers stays on top of some trimming



Docent Vivien Gurfein charms a young audience at the Royal Tea

Docent in training Elizabeth Nolan (second from front) guides a children's tour of the Gardens along the Primrose Path





Tea Time

Tea time is steeped in tradition. Beginning a century ago, Jay and Margarita Phipps would regularly enjoy a quiet afternoon tea at Westbury House. Though the experience, like much else here, was very British and customary, its service on summer afternoons on the West Porch was very high tech by 1907 standards. As windows were lowered hydraulically to allow for cool breezes, a tray would appear from a small elevator that magically rose from the floor. Teas continue to be very popular here, especially in December when our Holiday Tea, Children's Tea, and weekday Teas and Tours typically sell out well in advance.

Tea drinking goes back a long way. According to one windy story, in 2737 B.C., tea leaves were blown into water that was being boiled to make it potable for Emperor Shen Nung. Shen enjoyed the serendipitous brew, and that was the beginning of all the tea in China. Tea drinking first became popular in England in 1662 when Catherine of Braganza arrived from Portugal to marry Charles II,



A weekday tea on the West Porch

bringing along both her beverage preference and a dowry that provided British control of the Indian port city of Bombay. The British tradition of an afternoon tea most likely started in the early 19th century through the efforts of Anna Maria Stanhope, the 7th Duchess of Bedford. Anna and her guests would have tea with a selection of light sandwiches, scones, and other savories in the late afternoon as a means of bridging the gap between lunch and dinner that would be served as late as 8 or 9 in the evening.

High tea, sometimes called meat tea,

usually referred to a full meal of cold meats, eggs, and fish that was served in the early evening as a combination of afternoon tea and evening meal. The "high" referred to the high or dinner table as opposed to the lower lounge table used for afternoon tea.

To keep up with demand, Old Westbury Gardens offers three seatings for our weekday teas, the first beginning at 11am. Thereby, you can enjoy tea in the morning at a high table, but still be having a traditional afternoon tea. And, unlike Lady Stanhope, we include a tour of the house.

Garden Notes

Live musical performances are very much a part of the festive atmosphere during the Holiday Celebration at Westbury House. Musicians and singers returning to delight visitors again this year include the Bethel Choir, Kende Trio, Long Island Harmonizers, Long Island Flute Club, and Suzuki on the Island.

An artist who has appeared at the Gardens on previous occasions but is playing his first Holiday Celebration is violinist Joseph Puglia. A native of New York City, Joseph began playing the violin at the tender age of four, and made his Lincoln Centre debut at Alice Tully Hall at 14. A graduate of The Julliard School's college division, Joseph is currently pursuing studies at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague.

Looking ahead, Poetica Musica, who just played Carnegie Hall on November 8, will return to the Red Ballroom for their 14th year next season. Picnic Pops will be back on Wednesday evenings with



From soloists to orchestras, classical music to swing, in settings as intimate as the Red Ballroom or as large as the main stage tent at the Mozart Festival (above), Old Westbury Gardens is the perfect music venue

an eclectic series of performances, including Gardens' favorites Peter Duchin and Vince Giordano. And following the enthusiastic audience response at last

September's well attended event, Chambers Players International and Old Westbury Gardens will again host the Long Island Mozart Festival.



Tree Verse

“I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.” So begins one of the most easily recognizable poems in American literature, *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer. The particular tree that is thought to have inspired Kilmer was a 250 year old, 70-foot high white oak located at the Rutgers Agricultural School in New Jersey.

The 200 acres of Old Westbury Gardens are covered by thousands of trees of over 100 types. We have myriad varieties of dogwood, birch, pine, silver maple, and weeping beech, not to mention the majestic linden and beech allées. Yet ironically, a tree that is a recent source of writing inspiration to at least two visitors is a relatively nondescript apple tree in the Green Garden.

A Tree Grows in Old Westbury was written by one of our volunteers, Susan Kahoud.

“A tree grows in Old Westbury. She is among many specimens that grace the lovely country estate at Old Westbury Gardens. This apple tree, an ancient remnant of days gone by, that once stood in the company of friends who populated the orchard there, now rests in solitude.

As one approaches the Green Garden, arching beyond the wall of Summersweet, her branches may be observed, abundant with foliage and flourishing in nature’s generous milieu. Rays of sunlight dance among her shadows and the multitude of leaves whisper secrets in the wind while reaching up to claim their sustaining treat.

As one turns the corner and enters the secluded garden, however, it becomes apparent that this is not an ordinary apple tree. Inequities of life, disease and careless



The inspirational Green Garden apple tree

bolts of lightning, have rendered this tree vulnerable to the ravages of time. Her trunk, riddled with deformity, is split wide open at the top and down the back, like an evening gown split down the seam. Peering inside, one discovers an empty womb, and it is a marvel that this hope filled tree thrives through the vitality of her forgiving bark, and by the grace of an invincible spirit that sustains her in life.

In a world that insists on the limitations of the obvious, this wise old apple tree helps us perceive the possible within the hidden, and assures us that despair does not have the last word. In the late afternoon sun, in the calm of day, it is good to rest under her bough and bask in the bounty of hope.”

This short piece about the same tree was submitted anonymously.

“We see an orange tag on you and know we will lose you. Your shade has allowed us to fully appreciate the garden through many summer afternoons of chess, Scrabble, and reading. Hopefully, a

cutting can be saved and planted somewhere close so generations to come will know your tranquility. Thank you for sharing with us all.”

As was the case with Kilmer’s tree (which needed to be taken down in 1963), when the appropriate time comes, our horticulture staff will plant cuttings from this apple tree to insure that it will live on for a future generation of Gardens’ visitors.



In the Gift Shop

The Holiday Celebration presents a great opportunity to select unique, hard to find gifts in our shop, while taking advantage of a ten percent discount for Old Westbury Gardens’ members. While browsing the interesting assortment of toys, books, stationery, china, jewelry, candlesticks, and other items, be sure to see the wide variety of nutcrackers and other traditional ornaments.

Winter Dinner Party

The annual Winter Dinner party to benefit Preservation Projects will take place on Friday, November 30, in the Red Ballroom of Westbury House. The evening will include dinner catered by Glorious Food, and a performance by mezzo soprano Sasha Cooke, who recently made her New York debut at Carnegie’s Zankel Hall.

The projects chosen for the coming year include restoration of elements in the Entry Hall, and the recreation or replacement of draperies, valences, slip-covers, and other fabrics in various rooms in Westbury House.



The Dianne Wittlinger
Memorial Tree Fund
and
The Volunteer Tree Fund

Donations to both funds have been received from August-October 2007 in memory of the individuals as follows:

- Edith Betts
- George Christian
- Martha F. Gerry
- Mona Murphy
- Cynthia Phipps
- Elizabeth Reilley
- Robert Swensen
- Robert Swimmer
- Raymond Timothy



In Loving Memory of Mona Murphy

Mona Murphy had long been a part of the very fabric of Old Westbury Gardens since the beginning years of its existence. Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Mona arrived here in the early 1960's with her husband Joseph, who would become a caretaker of the property. The Murphy's not only worked at the



Gardens, but lived here, setting up residence in Westbury House in an apartment on the second floor of the former servants' wing.

Mona's many responsibilities included flower arranging. In what quickly became a labor of love performed three times a week, continuing for over 35

years, Mona would carefully select flowers from the cutting garden, and artistically weave them into elegant arrangements to perfectly complement the colors and furnishings of the different rooms. In addition to delighting millions of visitors to Westbury House, Mona's creations would grace the pages of design magazines.

Mona passed away on October 10. At her family's request, and no doubt in accordance with Mona's wishes, the family asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to Mona's beloved Old Westbury Gardens. She will truly be missed by all.

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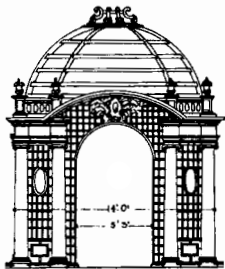
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