

# *Old Westbury Gardens News*

## Clippings from the Gardens, Fall/Holiday 2010

### Home for the Holidays at Orchard Hill

Every fall, Old Westbury Gardens' members look forward to our Annual Holiday Celebration. In addition to concerts, children's crafts, teas, and a host of other events, a highlight of the season is touring Westbury House. Stunning at any time of the year, the house becomes especially beautiful and festive, thanks to the efforts of our horticulture and house staffs. This year brings an added treat. In what will no doubt prove to be a successful sequel to the interior design event held there in the spring of 2008, Orchard Hill has once again been transformed into a Designer Showhouse. Each of the beautiful rooms has been decorated by some of the most talented and creative design firms in the New York area, including Christopher Maya, Danielle Roberts Interiors, Greg Lanza Design, and many others. Their unique interpretations of the "Home for the Holidays" theme will include a Swedish Christmas, The Nutcracker, Winter Solstice, and Breakfast at Tiffany's.



The Showhouse begins with a Gala Preview Party on Friday night, October 29. Barbara Bancroft is serving as the Preview Party Chairman; Mary Phipps is the Honorary Preview Party Chairman. As was the case for our first Showhouse in the spring of 2008, the interior design is being coordinated through Tony Manning of Mitchell Manning Associates. The Honorary Showhouse Chairman is Mario Buatta.



Orchard Hill will be open every day through December 12, except Mondays and Thanksgiving Day, from 10:00 am until 4 pm. (Last admission at 3 pm). Children under 12, strollers, and pets are not permitted in the Showhouse. Tickets for the preview party, which features cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and valet parking are \$175 each. Admission to the Showhouse is \$15 for Old Westbury Gardens' members (\$25 for non-members at the door; \$20 in advance). Admission includes a color Showhouse brochure and access to Westbury House and grounds on weekends, except Thanksgiving. The proceeds will benefit Old Westbury Gardens.

## Chairman's Letter

This season of 2010 has been a very important one of both looking back into our past and forward with the awareness of possibilities and needs for our future. The activities and educational programs offered have been varied, providing wonderful opportunities for our members and the public to partake and enjoy, from the Arbor Day opening on until fall, with yet more to come.

This year, as we have been especially aware of all that has been involved in the development of Old Westbury Gardens, we have also reflected upon the loss of so many of our cherished friends who have led us forward.

Peggie's first cousin, Alastair Bradley-Martin, brought us museum expertise as Chairman of the Brooklyn Museum and from his knowledge as a collector. He also coordinated the writing of our room by room descriptions booklet. His wife, Edith, who had been one of our original Trustees, added her skills in restoring bits of our Chinese hand-painted wallpaper. Another close cousin, Michael Martin, served on our board, always arriving promptly for meetings. He became our first Chairman for Development. Michael was caring toward Old Westbury Gardens, and always a pleasure to talk with.

Ever since they moved out to Lattingtown, Josie and Julian Robertson were captivated by the Gardens. To gather an active committee, they graciously hosted a kick-off party, featuring a beautiful buffet under a large tent. Josie created a festive spark that carries on into today. We shall miss her communicating with us from wherever she was, including New Zealand.

Charles Ryskamp, who was Director of the Pierpont Morgan Library, followed by directing the Frick Collection, was forever discussing the progress of Old Westbury Gardens with me, and became an advisor to our Board. He was always there to offer me advice.

During one survey drive around the grounds looking for ancillary buildings to use, he said, "Stop! Back up! What's that building over there?" He had spotted the three bay Quaker barn on Peggie's property. He urged me to use it, stating that its color was perfect with the beech and other trees, and that it would fit right in. He also felt its thin lateral boards broke up the sunlight beautifully. He would love to see how we are progressing!

Most recently, we lost Danny Davison. When asked to join our Board, Danny responded, "I have done many things all over the place, but now, I would love to focus my efforts where my family has and continues to live." And as many of you know, he did just that. And we very much respect his legacy.

I cannot end without a mention of Jerry Eaton, who was our first real Director, a renaissance man who brought any skill needed to the Gardens but was also a close friend and strategizer with the Trustees. Jerry gave endless energy in bringing projects to completion. He will be missed by us all.

Fortunately, the guiding spirit of these individuals remains embodied in the overall atmosphere of the Gardens. I am gratified by the leadership qualities of the next generation who bring fresh skills and energy for the future of Old Westbury Gardens.

*Mary Phipps*



*Jerry Eaton with  
Mary Phipps, 1995*



*The Pergola, painted  
and pristine*

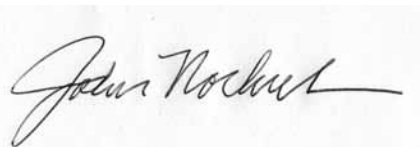
## President's Letter

We've all heard it said that 40 is the new 30, and 60 is the new 50. Well, this year at Old Westbury Gardens, fall has become the new spring. After a long, dry and brutally hot summer, a visit to the Gardens this fall will prove to be an exhilarating experience for all ages.

Adding to the pleasures of cooler temperatures, magnificent autumnal light, and a dazzling array of colors on the leaves of our deciduous trees are the wide range of programs we have planned ahead. Taking center stage is our "Home for the Holidays" Designer Showhouse at Orchard Hill. Fun family events will include everything from a Scarecrow Garden and Dog Days to craft making, concerts, and visits with Santa at our Annual Holiday Celebration

Old Westbury Gardens, like many local institutions, especially fellow non-profits, continues to deal with the challenges posed by a still uncertain economy. But we are meeting these problems head-on, focusing our resources as efficiently as possible, and looking forward toward new opportunities ahead. There has been significant progress in identifying new forms of funding. We have expanded our educational programs. As always, preservation remains a critical component of our mission. And all of this is thanks to the support of members like you.

We are especially pleased that attendance has grown again for the second consecutive year. Please help us keep it growing by visiting the Gardens again this fall.



## Remembering Jerry Eaton

Although Old Westbury Gardens recently lost Jerome Alvin Eaton, who died on July 12 at the age of 90, he left behind a full lifetime of accomplishments and wonderful memories for all who knew him, not the least of which was his heroic service during World War II, that included being a prisoner of war.

Jerry's knowledge and passion for gardening was unparalleled. He served on the Boards of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Horticultural Society of New York, was an advisor to the American Garden Book Club, and lent his garden design talents to the International Flower Show of New York for 23 years. In 1996, Jerry was presented with the Arthur Ross Award "for a lifelong dedication to the care of the landscape and the formal garden." As a writer, Jerry was a contributing editor to the Reader's Digest Book Division, an advisor to Alfred Knopf and to the American Garden Book Club, and the author of a number of highly regarded books. His classic *Gardening Under Glass; an Illustrated Guide to the Greenhouse*, has been in continuous use by gardeners for over 35 years.

At Old Westbury Gardens, Jerry was a long-time Trustee, our first Director, the first non-family President, and a Trustee Emeritus since 2005.

## Old Westbury Gardens Welcomes New Trustees

At a meeting of the Board of earlier this year, Arthur Levine and Sandra DeMille were elected as new Trustees. The Gardens is honored to introduce these talented and supportive individuals to our members.

### Arthur S. Levine

Arthur Levine began his long career in the fashion industry in 1958 when he worked in the shipping department in the Kelly Arden Division of the Stacy Ames Co, which was eventually purchased by Bobbie Brooks. Following a series of promotions into sales, district manager, and sales manager, Arthur became president in 1969, and then purchased the company in 1972. After several decades of running and owning several other apparel companies, since 2001 Arthur has been in partnership with designer Ellie Tahari in the Tahari company, and has been the owner and CEO of Tahari Arthur S. Levine.

Arthur, who is originally from Sea Gate, Brooklyn, has also lived in Manhattan Beach and Great Neck before settling in Old Brookville 22 years ago. Arthur and Arlene, his wife of 47 years, have two daughters and four grandchildren.



As co-chair of the Cardiology Development Committee at North Shore University Hospital, Arthur

helped raise over 50 million dollars for the purchase of state-of-the-art cardiology equipment. His other charity work includes extensive involvement with the Nassau County Museum of Art, where he served as President of the Board and is currently Vice President and Chairman of the Exhibitions and Acquisitions Committee.

### Sandra Dillingham DeMille

Sandy DeMille was born in Tacoma, Washington. She attended Bellarmine Regis College in Denver, majoring in Business. Sandy worked in retail, marketing and finance before becoming a partner in Guidance Systems Media, a PR firm.

In 2002, Sandy moved to Long Island, and in 2007 married Nelson DeMille. Sandy currently lives in Garden City with her husband and their three year old son, James. She is active in community affairs and charities including The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, Boys & Girls Club of Oyster Bay/East Norwich, and Winthrop University Hospital Pediatrics fundraising. She was co-chair of the Silent Auction at this year's Gardeners' Fair. Sandy also keeps busy assisting Nelson with editing his manuscripts and in scheduling his media events, which include talks and book signings at Old Westbury Gardens.



### December Dinner

On December 3, Old Westbury Gardens will host our Annual December Dinner, which raises crucial funds for preservation projects. Charlotte Triefus and her husband, Trustee Lloyd Zuckerberg, will chair this international holiday celebration. The Gardens is honoring Trustee Lauren Stanton Knutsen and her husband, Ragnar Meyer-Knutsen. Lauren has spearheaded the Environmental Education Program by securing major grants. She and Ragnar also support Cold Spring Harbor Labs and the North Shore Land Alliance.



*Dancers performing on the South Lawn during Midsummer Night*

## The Return of Arthur

In late July, scenes for the movie *Arthur* were filmed at Old Westbury Gardens. Scheduled to be released in 2011, this remake of the 1981 Dudley Moore original (which, interestingly, also had some scenes filmed here) is directed by Jason Winer, and stars Russell Brand, Jennifer Garner, and Nick Nolte, all of whom were present at the shoot. Scenes were filmed on the South Lawn and along the South Allée, areas familiar to moviegoers as, among other things, the location of the wedding scenes in 2005's *Hitch*.

Despite the heat and humidity, the shoot proceeded very well and efficiently, including the filming of a long and tricky scene in which Mr. Brand and Ms. Garner exchanged extensive dialogue about their wedding plans while riding together on a horse. The horse was actually played by two horses, Mr. T and Lizard, who were handled by animal trainer Rex Petersen, whose horses have worked in dozens of movies in the last 25 years, including *Black Beauty*, *The Black Stallion*, and *The Horse Whisperer*.



As is the case with all commercial filming and photography at Old Westbury Gardens, appropriate steps were taken to ensure the integrity and preservation of the house and grounds. By the afternoon of the day following the shoot, all traces of the sets, equipment, and myriad number of trucks and trailers were long gone.

## Boxwood Restoration

The basic design of the Boxwood Garden was created in 1928 when the Reflecting Pool and Corinthian Colonnade were installed. The boxwood plants, *Buxus sempervirens*, were already a mature size when they arrived here from Virginia in 1931. For many years afterwards, the gardeners covered the plants with temporary shelters to protect them from the cold winter winds. Eventually, the boxwoods outgrew their shelters. Budgetary restrictions, including a reduction in staffing, prevented new shelters from being built. The plants that still exist are in poor condition and have outgrown their space in the gardens. The Reflecting Pool and Colonnade were both restored in 2001, bringing the poor state of the existing boxwood plants into sharp contrast. With the support of the Board, the Garden Committee has decided to renovate the boxwoods and turf over the next year so the entire Boxwood Garden can once again be restored to its previous state.

During the 2011 season, extensive soil sampling and conditioning will take place. The horticulture staff will use this time to search for the very best boxwood plants and develop structures that can be used to cover the boxwoods during the winter months. When Old Westbury Gardens opens to the public in the spring of 2012, visitors standing beneath the West Porch Beech will be looking down upon a garden much like the one the Phipps family gazed upon 80 years earlier.



*At left, Tai Chi in the Demonstration Gardens; at right, Nelson DeMille gives a talk in the Red Ballroom at a book signing of his latest novel, "The Lion."*



## Preservation News

### Textile Restoration on the Second Floor

When looking at historic interiors, draperies, bedspreads, upholstery, which are referred to as “textiles” in museum parlance – an interesting quandary is presented. Vibrant colors begin to fade from infrared rays, and fabric deteriorates and shreds. Often old fabric has become discolored and fragile and has lost the original impact of color. This was the condition of the textiles in Mr. Phipps’s Dressing Room. In examining the draperies and bed treatments in the period room, we discovered that while the red damask textiles looked similar, there were different patterns, leading us to surmise that these items may have been donated by early members of the House Committee as preparations were being made to open the second floor of Westbury House to the public in 1961. Janice Bloom, the Collections Manager, located an acid free storage box containing beautiful but deteriorated red damask bed hangings that fit Mr. Phipps’s tester bed. This helped us to define what the bed hangings looked like at an earlier period and how the window treatments were different from what existed. With the generous support of the Friends of Old Westbury Gardens and working with Mike Renga, our talented upholsterer, the outline and trim of the earlier draperies and bed treatments were recreated. The items were done *en suite*, meaning that the textile patterns are the same throughout the room, which was conventional design practice. Now the rich red damask complements the exuberant tree of life patterned wallpaper and gives us a more accurate glimpse into the past.

### East Lake Swimming Pool Restored

Over the past several years, on-going restoration to repair the balcony and grotto areas of the East Lake Swimming Pool have reached their culmination in the restoration of the former swimming pool. Designed by Boston landscape designer, Paul R. Smith in 1916, the setting of the pool and the columned balcony create a pleasing vista to the Temple of Love on the opposite bank. The pool had undergone extensive repairs in 1980 and 1989, and it was due for interior repairs and new marble dusting. Using skilled masons, the old marble dust was removed exposing cracks in the pool’s surface. The cracks were repaired on the walls and floor of the pool and all made ready for a bonding coat. Once the bonding coat was applied, the creamy-appearing marble dust was troweled onto the interior surfaces. While no longer used as a swimming pool for safety and health reasons, it provides a welcome visual relief in the steamy summer months.



### Golf Outing

On June 28, golfers gathered at Deepdale Golf Course in support of the Gardens and to honor Old Westbury residents Jim and Janet D’Addario. The D’Addarios are extremely devoted to the history of their home towns (both here and in their ancestral home in Italy), architectural preservation, and to their family and its heritage. D’Addario & Company is the premier musical string manufacturer in the world, employing 800 people on Long Island. Friends, family, and Old Westbury Gardens’ supporters enjoyed the day at one of Long Island’s most exclusive clubs.



*From left, golf pro Jamie Kilmer with Janet, James, and Robert D’Addario*

## Rose Garden Tea

On June 18, Old Westbury Gardens hosted a First Annual Rose Garden Tea fundraising event, chaired by Joan Hope MacNaughton of Rockville Centre. Many of the guests were first time visitors; and they were almost overwhelmed by the beauty of the Rose Garden and Walled Garden.



A portion of the proceeds from the event funded a performance of the South

Shore Symphony Orchestra at Old Westbury Gardens on October 16. The remaining proceeds will be used to support our Environmental Education Program.



*From left, Mayor Mary W. Bossart, Arlene Levine, Corrine Paston, Joan Hope MacNaughton, Sherry Lynn Stromberg, Bella Tohn, Karen Bonheim, Jeanne Farnan, and Mary Dowd*

## George A. Crawley Society

On June 24th, our loyal, long time donors were invited to a special reception to learn more about the Gardens and the beginning of the George A. Crawley Society. This new initiative recognizes and thanks those friends who have made plans to leave their gifts to Old Westbury Gardens through their wills. The Society was inaugurated with a lecture by Eric Groft, a principal in the internationally recognized landscape architecture firm, Oehme van Sweden. Guests braved an early summer storm to enjoy champagne and desserts on the West Porch.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Steven Silverberg, a well-respected estate planning attorney, will give a talk at Old Westbury Gardens on the benefits of planning your estate.

## US National Grid

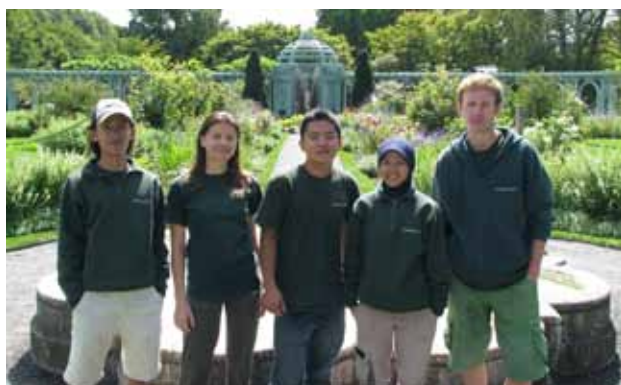
Our Environmental Education Program continues to grow. In 2010, we hosted classes in pre-K through third grade. Taught by Lisa Reichenberger, these enrichment courses are offered to the Westbury School District for free, and to other public and private schools for a modest fee. Fortunately, our corporate supporter, US National Grid, has renewed its support with a \$10,000 grant. Environmental Education has been shown to improve scores in math and science.

## Leo Guthart's Major Gift Towards Learning

Among horticulture students, internships in a learning

environment at a place like Old Westbury Gardens are particular sought after and appreciated. The many applicants are screened by Ohio State University, providing the Gardens the advantage of focusing on the very best of all the resumes submitted. Once again this year, our horticultural interns hailed from all parts of the world: Ireland, Indonesia, Romania, and Brazil. Arriving in March and working with us into the fall, the work of these students was integral to maintaining our high horticultural standards. Leo Guthart, a long time friend of Old Westbury Gardens, has created a multi-year gift, committing \$22,500 a year for five years, that will provide stability for this program as we continue to seek funding.

We are seeking similar multi-year commitments from foundations, corporations, and private individuals. If you know someone who might be interested in fostering international interns, or for more information about the Crawley Society or Environmental Education, please contact our Development Director, Doreen Banks.



*Our 2010 interns*

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### Friends' News

The Friends of Old Westbury Gardens is an active group of dedicated supporters who plan and enjoy a unique series of trips and events. This year, the group traveled to Manhattan for tours of the High Line and Donna Karan's Urban Zen Garden, visited numerous private gardens on Long Island's North Shore, and hosted book signings with noted authors such as Suzy Bales and Nelson DeMille. Upcoming events include a tour of the former George F. Baker House (headquarters for the

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust), and a cocktail party to support the Gardens' Environmental Internship Program. The Friends are also looking forward to a new project, creating *The Friends Cookbook*, a mix of historic and modern recipes for entertaining, with all proceeds benefiting the Gardens.

By becoming a Friends member, you will receive the special benefits of membership at this level, including invitations to exclusive trips and events. To learn more, please contact Jana Ryan.

### Gardeners' Fair – African Safari

In a departure from traditional Gardeners' Fair themes, Hannah Burns and Alex Sutherland, our intrepid co-chairs for this year's event, choose an African Safari. And guests loved it, dressing in animal prints and posing as everyone from an Algerian guard to a British explorer. Our honorees were John S.

Phipps Cochran, the great grandson of John S. Phipps, and his elegant wife, Diahann. Everyone enjoyed the tents within tents, the imaginative decorations, and in particular, the fire pit. The décor was the inspiration of Andrew Maier of Locust Valley. A big thank you is owed to all who help create this outstanding evening.



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