

Carol and Mary

From the Chairman

Carol Large's first volunteer job was with the San Mateo County, California School for Retarded Children. The school's Volunteer Coordinator, Shirley Temple Black, became a friend and mentor, and convinced Carol that a career of volunteering would be worthwhile and rewarding. For the next thirty-five years, with the constant support of her husband Jim, who had an active career reorganizing and merging banks all over the country, Carol sought out the most worthy and interesting projects for philanthropic organizations in every community she's lived in. Fortunately for Old Westbury Gardens, the Larges fell in love with this wonderful area of ours, and chose the North Shore of Long Island as their stopping place.

Carol's talents were initially brought to my attention in 1991 through the North Country Garden Club. Thankfully, Carol soon joined the Board of Old Westbury Gardens. As Chairman of the Board, I was impressed by the results of Carol's broad experience and thoughtful participation. It was obvious that she had a vision for the leadership of our organization, and was

continued on page 2

Entrance Gates Re-open

Some time in the early 1700's, Robert Bakewell, a notable English ironsmith, made the wrought iron gates that welcome visitors through our main entrance on Old Westbury Road. Discovered in 1918 by Westbury House architect George Crawley, they were refurbished by J. Starkie Gardener of London, Metalworker to the King, who would later build the South Allée gates in

1930. The gates were then shipped to New York, and installed in 1920 as the entrance gates to what was then the J. S. Phipps country estate.

Following 85 years of weathering, wear and tear, rust, and especially several unfortunate run-ins with cars and trucks, the gates were badly in need of repair. Early last year, they were sent to Les Metalliers Champenois in Newark, New Jersey, one of the companies that worked on the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. Under months of constant supervision by Preservation Committee Chairman, Richard Gachot, the gates were painstakingly refurbished to their original, magnificent condition.

Since signs clearly indicating that larger vehicles must use the Post Road entrance may be too subtle for some drivers, a barricade now limits access through the main gateway to cars.



The gates being installed by a crew from LMC

The refurbished gates after a February snowfall





President's Letter

This year, at the end of April, I will retire as President and CEO of Old Westbury Gardens, a position that I have held with enthusiasm and great delight since January, 1997. Even as I step down from the day-to-day administration of the Gardens, my passion remains. I will continue to be an advocate and supporter of our mission, as Gardens-wide we envision exciting times ahead.

I am delighted to report that as I pass on the office of President, Old Westbury Gardens has the fundamental financial strength and a sound program to lead it into the future. We plan in 2006 and the years ahead to re-inspire our mission, to clarify our vision, and to ask ourselves – where will the best of public gardens and house museums be in ten years, in twenty years?

In December, our founder, Peggie Phipps Boegner, at age 99 signed an option agreement allowing Old Westbury Gardens to acquire her property west of the Walled Garden. Our biggest challenge in 2006 will be seeking funding and a business plan to make it possible for that land, along with some original Quaker farm buildings, to eventually become part of the Gardens. The planning for the preservation and use of this land will be a major focus for our board and staff for several years to come.

The success of a great garden is in the souls of those it touches with its magic. With so many things competing for our energies, it is gratifying that visitors find relevance in visiting and supporting Old Westbury Gardens. We are a member and donor supported institution that remains as special as it is because of the commitment of this community, the board, staff, and many friends.

The true joy as I retire is that, as time passes and its uses expand, Old Westbury Gardens still evokes a magical quality of beauty and serenity to its visitors. I hope that you will visit the Gardens whenever you can, and join me in the future as an advocate and supporter. You mean a lot to us, and you can count on each person at the Gardens making sure that every visit is a wonderful experience. That's a promise!

Carol Large

From the Chairman

continued from page 1

willing and eager to put the effort behind implementing that vision. I came to realize that Carol was the right person to undertake the role of President and CEO. She had the right *skills*; the *commitment*, through a genuine love of all that the Gardens was and could be; and the incredible *energy* that the job would require.

This was a wonderful opportunity for Old Westbury Gardens to be led by a non-Phipps family member, who had the respect of our founder, Peggie Boegner, and the Trustees, and would quickly gain the confidence of our staff. As Chairman, I had a President who communicated well, and was truly leading our organization to growth, with stability.

Carol is a treasure to the Gardens. Now that she is relieved of administrative responsibilities, her skills and personality may be devoted to outreach and development. Carol has thoughtfully been working with me for some time toward this transition.

Much has been accomplished since 1997 when Carol became President. The horticulture and preservation have been refreshed; our gardens, fields, and woods have been brought to a new level of excellence; our finances have been greatly stabilized; our programs expanded; our reputation as a responsible member of the



Carol and Jim Large

community has grown; and the work of our many volunteers has flourished under her leadership. Most of all, Carol is leaving Old Westbury Gardens a team to be proud of, an extraordinary talented, dedicated staff, and a Board that has added thirteen new Trustees and eight professional and interested Advisors during her tenure.

May Carol and Jim continue to revel in the magic of Old Westbury Gardens and record its beauty through the eyes of their cameras. May Carol's laughter still be heard here. And may we respect where Carol has brought us, and look forward to where some focused areas of her leadership may yet take us.

*Mary S. Phipps
Chairman of the Board of Trustees*



The Friends at a December luncheon in the West Porch

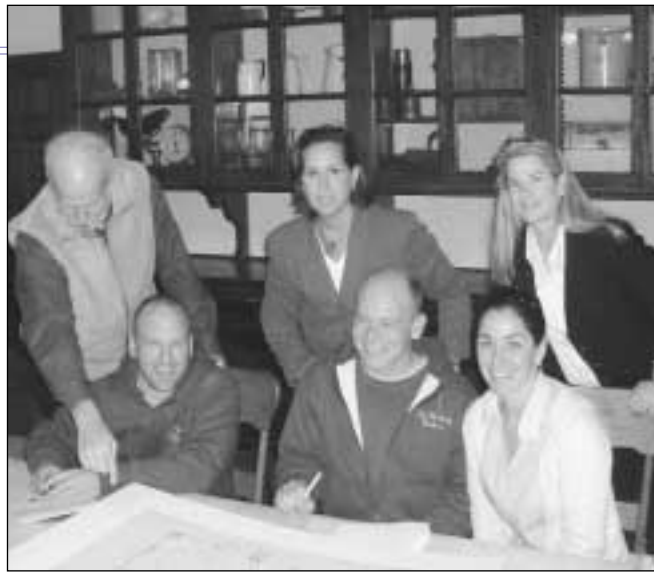
Friends' News

On Tuesday, June 6, the Friends will host a luncheon and lecture in the Red Ballroom of Westbury House. Featured at the event will be the internationally renowned designer and fashion icon, Mary McFadden, delighting her audience with an illustrated presentation entitled "Symbols, Goddesses, and Ancient Textiles." For tickets (\$150.00 per person), and more about this or other Friends of Old Westbury Gardens events, please contact Vanessa Mahnken at 516-333-0048 ext. 308.



Gardeners' Fair

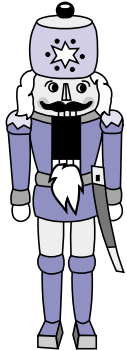
The most important fund raising event for Old Westbury Gardens, the annual Gardeners' Fair, will be held on Saturday evening, May 20. This wonderful evening, a "Halcyon Days Garden Party," will include an elegant dinner, dancing to the familiar sounds of last year's musical group, The Eternity Band, and the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of fabulous gifts during live and silent auctions. Scott Lucas and other members of our talented and creative horticulture staff will again provide the enchanting decorations for the affair. This year's committee chairman is Anne Byers, with co-chairs Helen Bonebrake and Lea Butler. For tickets, underwriting opportunities, or more information, please call Vanessa Mahnken at 516-333-0048 ext. 308.



Gardeners' Fair Committee, clockwise from left, standing: Peter Grant, Director of Horticulture, Helen Bonebrake and Lea Butler, Co-chairs, Ann Byers, Chairman, Andrew Loessel, Greenhouse Assistant, and Scott Lucas, Greenhouse and Cut Garden Supervisor



Peggie Phipps Boegner at last year's Gardeners' Fair



Karl Wellner and Deborah Norville Weller with fellow Dinner Party Chairmen Simone and Christopher Mailman

Annual December Dinner Party

A Dinner Party to benefit Old Westbury Gardens and Preservation Projects was held in Westbury House on December 2. The Red Ballroom was festively decorated in shimmering gold with charming table settings featuring hand-painted nutcracker centerpieces. Guests enjoyed seasonal cuisine catered by Abigail Kirsch and were entertained by a cabaret performance by Eric Comstock. Long-time Old Westbury Gardens supporters Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Davison were honored at the affair, which helped raise funds for the restoration of the front gates.

Taste of Spring

On March 3, Westbury House hosted a "Taste of Spring" food and wine tasting and silent auction for new and renewing Gardens members. Guests enjoyed sampling appetizers, entrees, desserts, and wines provided by some of Long Island's finest restaurants, caterers, and wineries.

Thank you to all our sponsors and contributors. Organizations that were both tasting sponsors and silent auction contributors are: 105 Harbor, 57 Main Street

Imports, Basil Leaf Café, Bernard's Market and Café, Birch Hill Catering, Bistro Citron, Bryant and Cooper Steakhouse, Jackson Landing, Lenz Winery, Mim's, and Mio. Other tasting sponsors are Claude Cassagnol Caterers, Elegant Affairs Catering and Event Design, Matt Brothers, Nagashima Japanese Restaurant, and On. 3. Other silent auction contributors include Berry Hill Dentistry, Helen and Michael Bonebrake, Cardboard Memories, Coffee Distribution Corp., Brooke and Stefan

Cushman, Karen and Phillip Dissinger, Anne and Richard Falivena, Anne and Dr. Finley, Emily and Doug Johnson, Len Marks Photography, Carol and Jim Large, Mae Brown's Restaurant, Linda and Peter Lynn, Linda and Andrew Kennedy, Terry and Howard Phipps, Phipps Jewelry, Pomponner, Roberto Coin, Scribbling Ink, Mar and Brooks Slocum, Pamela and Farid Tamaddon, Sally and Christopher White, and White Pepper and Willow.



Poetica Musica Concerts

Beginning their twelfth year as Artists-in-Residence at Old Westbury Gardens, Poetica Musica will present two Saturday evening chamber music concerts this spring. Each of the 8:00pm Red Ballroom performances will be preceded by guided tour of Westbury House or the gardens at 6:45, a pre-concert talk at 7:30pm, and will be followed by a Meet-the-Artists reception.

On April 8, in cooperation with the Czech Center of New York, guest artist Petr Macecek, the renowned Czech violinist, appears in a concert entitled "Prague Memoirs." A member of the internationally famous Tallich Quartet, Petr has toured North and South America, Europe and Asia, including performances at Carnegie Hall, and live broadcasts for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. A former concertmaster and current soloist with the Prague Chamber Orchestra, Petr has recorded on a number of different labels, and conducted master classes in a variety of prestigious festivals, including the Darlington Festival in England.



Four members of Poetica Musica: Barry Crawford, flute, Maria Antonia Garcia, piano, Eleanor Valkenburg, soprano, and Oren Fader, guitar

Petr will join Poetica soprano Eleanor Valkenburg, cellist Eugene Moye, and other guest artists in performing works by Martinu, Dvorak, Beethoven, and Brahms.

An intriguing array of nineteenth and twentieth century Spanish and French compositions will be played on May 6, during a concert called "Romances from Montmartre to the Alhambra." Participating artists include guitarist Oren Fader, soprano Eleanor Valkenburg, pianist Maria Antonia Garcia, cellist Eugene Moye, and flutist Barry Crawford, performing works

by Faure, Franck, Pierné, and others.

Looking ahead to the fall Poetica performances, save the dates September 25 for "The World Traveler in Celebration of the 250th Birthday of Mozart," and for the October 21 concert featuring works by Norway's greatest composer, "At Home with Edvard Grieg."



In Memoriam

On November 4, 2005, Doris Pirodsky passed away. Doris, a volunteer for 18 years from 1987 to 2004, did invaluable work for the archives and the office. All at Old Westbury Gardens greatly appreciate the time, dedication, and care that Doris put into her volunteer work, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family.



Thank You, Volunteers

Old Westbury Gardens would like to thank some very special people: our volunteers.

In 2005, 190 volunteers donated close to 17,000 hours of their time. Among them were 34 first-timers.

A very special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Castagna, whose generosity makes our annual Volunteer Recognition Holiday Party possible.

Congratulations to Rosemarie Siglag for again working the most hours for the year- 600.

Thomas Lee and Raymond Vinciguerra win the "volunteer tenure" award. Both volunteers have been at Old Westbury Gardens for 26 years.

Our sincere gratitude to Anne Andrews and Ruth Miller, for once again planning our Volunteer Welcome Back Luncheon. The luncheon will be held in March at the de Seversky Center.

All of our volunteers deserve a round of applause. Whether they garden, give tours, sell merchandise, greet visitors, help at events, create dried flower arrangements, or assist in the office, their dedication and efforts continue to have an immeasurable impact on every aspect of Old Westbury Gardens.

Interested in becoming a part of our industrious corps of volunteers? Among other opportunities, we are especially looking for gardeners (Mondays – Fridays) and docents (Fridays or Saturdays). Please contact Lisa Romeo at the Volunteer Office at 333-0048 ext. 312 or email Lromeo@oldwestburygardens.org.



Before the Thaw: Winter Scenes at the Gardens



A view through the branches of the temporarily leafless West Porch Beech



Greenhouse Assistants Mary Ellen Albers and Andrew Loessel potting plants

In this bucolic environment, one absent flowers and deciduous leaves, in a landscape often shrouded in fog, the grounds exude a stark, almost haunting, beauty. Newly discovered vantage points offer unobstructed views through the branches of hundreds of stately trees now covered only in ice, revealing the house, the thatched cottage, lakes, and walkways that are otherwise hidden. At times, everything seems to have been taken back by nature, as gardens, landscaped grounds, and wild forests alike are all blanketed in snow. The feeling here remains magical. Despite the grey skies and frigid temperatures, the inherent warmth and peacefulness of this place continues to shine through in February as palpably as it does in May.



A misty morning on the South Porch Walkway



Greenhouse and Cut Garden Supervisor, Scott Lucas, giving a garden club topiary lecture



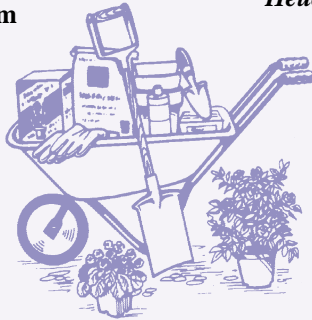
The Sphinxes getting some sack time



Spring Plant Sale

This year's Spring Plant Sale is May 4-7. In addition to the usual ten percent discount, Old Westbury Gardens Members will have first pick of each day's selections from 9-10am, prior to the sale being open to the general public from 10am-5pm.

Along with new, cutting edge items, the sale will feature extensive varieties of our well-known signature plants. As they do every season, our regular visitors may look forward to seeing our Delphiniums, Iris, Peonies, Foxglove, Lupines, Hollyhocks, Primula, and many more traditional favorites. A number of plant varieties used throughout our gardens are available as well, including a colorful spectrum of



Pansies, Violas, and English Daises.

The following, described by Assistant Director of Horticulture, Kim Johnson, are many of the plants that will be available. In the event of severe weather or crop failure, some substitutions may be made.

SHADE PERENNIALS

Heucherella 'Strike it Rich.' Green and burgundy spring foliage turns gold and burgundy in summer and fall. Produces soft pink flower spikes in the spring. 6-18"

Heuchera 'Amber Waves.' Wavy amber gold foliage with rose-pink flowers in spring and summer. Low growing mounding plants.

Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost' (Siberian Bugloss). Striking netted overlay of silver on heart-shaped green leaves, like crackled porcelain. Forms mounds to 10" tall. Sprays of intense small



blue flowers held above the foliage in May and June.

Athyrium angustum 'Lady in Red' (Lady in Red Fern). Vibrant burgundy colored leaf stems in spring. 2-3' tall. Enjoys moist, rich soils.

SUN PERENNIALS

Geranium 'Rozanne.' The past two years in the Walled Garden have enjoyed the presence and performance of this wonderful perennial. Very free-flowering, spreading mound. Violet blue flowers over dark green lobed foliage. Turns red in the fall. Blooms from mid June-October. Can be trimmed back late summer to keep tidy. Will rebloom.

Agastache 'Blue Fortune' (Anise, Hyssop). Tried for the first time in the Walled Garden last summer. This plant has flowers borne on many spikes. Deep blue flowers that are fragrant. Long flowering period all summer. Prefers average,

The Rose Revival

Given the relative mildness of this winter, it may be difficult to remember that the winter of 2004 was considered one of the most severe in many years. An early, heavy snow accumulation combined with widely fluctuating temperatures caused a total failure of the unprotected Hybrid Tea Roses at Old Westbury Gardens. An initial examination by Cottage/Rose Garden Manager Julieanne Frascinella and other member of our horticulture staff indicated significant damage. We believe this damage was caused by a single 65-degree temperature swing that had occurred on January 15th. The day began with sunny skies and temperatures in the low sixties. But as a cold front moved through that evening, the temperature plummeted to minus five.

We prepared our order of replacement roses in February, and crossed our fingers. After the snow melted, we were able to see that they had no live buds at all. We quickly secured the remainder of the plants necessary to replace all the Tea Roses. We began to remove the dead material and prepare the soil to plant the



Julieanne Frascinella replanting roses in 2004

replacements. An examination of the structure of the soil indicated high clay content, a condition that hindered the drainage in an area of the gardens that was already low. Based on this, we decided to remove all the soil from the parterres and replace it with an 18 inch layer of a special blend of screened topsoil and compost that would drain significantly better. All beds were double dug, and the Teas were planted by the end of April. Some of the bare root plants were in tough shape from being held too long. We instituted a program of insect and disease management as well as a nutritional program to encourage growth. The plants were heavily mulched

with composted cow manure to reduce weeds and cool the soil temperatures.

In early December of 2004, we purchased additional composted cow manure and placed a 12-inch cone over each plant to protect the graft union and some of the buds. Additionally, the plants were sprayed with Wilt-pruf to reduce the winter desiccation. We made it through a rather difficult winter with the loss of only two plants. We started the spring of 2005 with an aggressive pruning, fertilization, and pest management plan. All plants were limed, fed Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) and Rose-tone. We controlled Rose Midge and Japanese Beetles to minimize damage to the blooms. An additional fungicide was introduced (one with a lower environmental impact), to control black spot. Fertilization continued throughout the summer with Mills Magic and Mills Easy Feed fertilizers. This effort produced strong canes and numerous blooms right up to frost in November.

The plants were again protected last December as was done the previous year. As our fingers are starting to uncross, we look forward to a season of strong growth and profuse blooms.



well-drained soils. Attracts butterflies. Produces a large bush, 36".

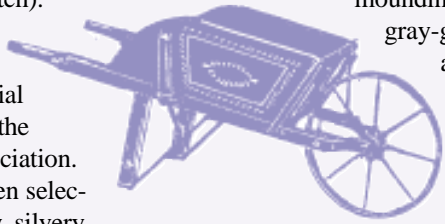
Dianthus gratianopolitanus
'Feuerhexe' (Firewitch).

Common name, Cheddar Pink. Named 2006 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. Produces an evergreen selection with bluish-gray, silvery foliage and purplish-pink fragrant flowers in mid-spring. Rebloom can occur in the summer and into the fall.

Cheddar Pinks have foliage 3-4" tall and 6-12" wide. Flowers will reach 6-8" high. Performs best in full sun and well-drained soils. The enticing clove-like scent of this ornamental makes it the perfect choice for use in a border or near a walkway.

ANNUALS/TENDER PERENNIALS

Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost.' The Walled Gardeners have yet to witness a tender plant flowering with such stellar



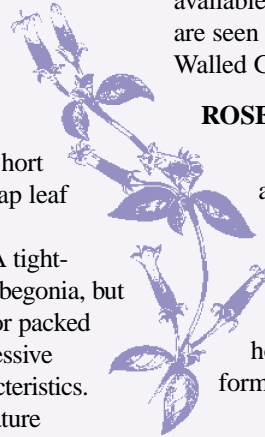
performance. Continually throughout the season and into the frost, it was a pleasant sight. Low growing, ever increasing mounding plant produces delicate gray-green foliage and non-stop airy puffs of small white flowers. Resembles a low growing Baby's Breath. As long as water was adequately provided and the necessary sun

exposure given, it seemed to be undaunted. Looks wonderful planted in combination in front of and around other annuals.

Caladium 'Sweetheart.' Short compact plants. Produces a strap leaf with pink and red veins.

Begonia 'Doublet Pink.' A tightly mounded, easy care, fibrous begonia, but with an unusual amount of color packed in double blossoms. Very impressive performer with charming characteristics.

Impatiens 'Firefly' (Miniature



Impatiens). Miniature hybrid produced vegetatively for flower production. Spreading to 18" and reaching 10" in height but in a very compact form with tiny 1" flowers and leaves. This is a sweet plant for the garden or the container. Comes in salmon, blush pink, and white colors.

VINES

A wide assortment of large and small flowered varieties of *Clematis* will be available. Many *Clematis* varieties for sale are seen throughout the season in the Walled Garden, spring, summer and fall.

ROSES

Once again we will have an assortment of the exciting new **'Knock out'** Roses. Absolutely carefree rose. Thrives in humid conditions. Easy to care for.

Continually flowering. Comes in hot pink, blush pink, and double forms. 3-4' shrubs.

Bartlett Support

Bartlett Tree Experts, under the direction of Robert Bartlett and President Greg Daniels, have been significant, longtime partners with Old Westbury Gardens. They have supported our horticultural internship program for the past eight years. In fact, two of our talented, full-time horticulturalists came to the Gardens as Bartlett Interns. Dr. Neil Hendrickson, arboreal scientist from Bartlett Labs, as Chairman of the Old Westbury Gardens Tree Preservation Committee, is guiding our tree preservation program. Additionally, Gardens' horticulturalists appreciate the assistance and the sharp, educated eyes of the Bartlett representatives on Long Island.

Old Westbury Gardens cherishes and greatly values the "green architecture" exemplified by our mature landscape and distinctive allées. Perhaps the most significant of these is the quadruple row of 90-year-old European



Tall tree trimming by Bartlett

Lindens that form the allée that stretches from the entrance gates to the ticket booth. In 2004, cuttings were taken from these magnificent trees. As a contribution from Bartlett, these cut-



Old Westbury Gardens Director of Horticulture, Peter Grant, with Bartlett Chairman, Robert Bartlett

tings have been rooted and will be used as parent stock for 1000 trees to be grown-on here at the Gardens.





**The Dianne Wittlinger
Memorial Tree Fund
and The Volunteer Tree Fund**

Donations to both funds have been received from December 2005-February 2006 in memory of the individuals as follows;

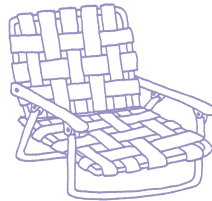
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- Patrick Waller

Picnic Pops

After having experimented with dates and locations for our outdoor summer concerts last year, and in response to audience preference, Old Westbury Gardens will be returning to our original, beloved, Picnic Pops concert format. Five Wednesday evening concerts will be performed on the front lawn, on July 12 through August 9. For the first time, all concerts will have rain dates as well.

The series will feature the Gardens return of both recent and long-time favorite groups. To the great delight of our members, the biggest news is that Peter Duchin and his Orchestra will be back this season. Also appearing after an absence of a few years will be Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. Following an enthusiastic response to their performances last year, the Central Park Stompers will also return to play their unique style of forties dance music, and The Day-trippers will reprise their much appreciated rendition of the best of The Beatles.

Information regarding Picnic Pops Car and Sponsor Passes is included on the last page of the calendar section. More details on the series, including performance dates, will be available on our web site, and will be highlighted in the summer newsletter.



Old Westbury Gardens News

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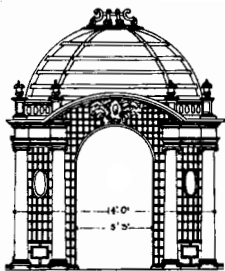
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Spring 2006

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