

John Norbeck Joins the Gardens

Replacing a President and CEO after nine years of dedicated service is a challenge under any circumstances. But given the particular passion for the job always exhibited by Carol Large, our Search Committee had an especially tough act to follow. Thankfully, following a nationwide search, the hard work of the committee was rewarded when they found John Norbeck, who was recently confirmed by the Board of Trustees.

Talk to John for just a few minutes and his enthusiasm for any job he has ever done, and his commitment toward the Gardens in particular, will become immediately obvious. In the meantime, a brief outline of some of his many accomplishments and experiences will speak for themselves.

John's background as an executive includes: Regional Director, N.Y. State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for the Long Island Region; General Park Manager of Arboreta, Environmental Preserves and Historic Sites; Executive Director, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park; and Director of Operations, Jones Beach State Park.

John's many professional memberships include the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, and the Long Island Parks Historic Association. He is a board member of the Peconic Land Trust.



Carol Large and John Norbeck

A few of the awards that John has earned during his illustrious career include: the Governor's Office of Employee Relations Excellence in Leadership Award, the Huttleson Executive Award (the highest award given to N.Y. State Parks employees), and the Sidney Shapiro Award for Outstanding Service.

A life-long Long Island resident, John graduated from Hofstra University in 1973, and earned an MFA Degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn in 1976. John and his wife Connie make their home in Cold Spring Harbor.

Everyone at Old Westbury Gardens congratulates John on his appointment, and wishes him the best in his new position as President and CEO.

Pops Back at the Gardens



By popular demand, the Summer Sounds series has been silenced, and the Picnic Pops concerts have returned. Back is the traditional Wednesday evening format, and seating on the North Lawn in front of Westbury House.

Returning also are two Pops favorites. Peter Duchin and his Orchestra need no further introduction. Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, who are always appreciated for their performances here at the Gardens under any circumstances, are also still riding a surge in popularity among the general public following the release of the DVD and the CD soundtrack for the movie *The Aviator*. Encores from the more recent past will be performances from The Daytrippers and the Central Park Stompers.

New to the Gardens this year, in a concert that will bring some real snap and

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The Daytrippers performing at the Gardens last summer



President's Letter

I have had occasions recently to contemplate what I would like to do as my "dream" second career. Well, sometimes dreams come true; because for me, overseeing Old Westbury Gardens, one of the finest public gardens in the world, is that ideal new position.

I was transplanted into Long Island's new suburban landscape when my family moved to East Meadow in the early 1950's. The trees were young and small then, just as I was. Weekend outings included family drives just a few miles north to see the beautiful estates and lush greenery of the North Shore, eventually including, as you may have guessed, visits to Old Westbury Gardens.

I continued that practice on my own. And now today, I still enjoy taking those rides with my wife, Connie. Finally though, instead of just touring beautiful Old Westbury Gardens as a visitor, I get to literally plant myself amidst all the beauty, and work here as President and CEO.

Of the 38 great years I spent at New York State parks, my time at Planting Fields Arboretum was the most rewarding. During my tenure as Director, I developed an even greater appreciation for public gardens, historic structures, and for the principles of preservation. It was exciting to be part of the effort undertaken by the Coe family, the staff, the volunteers, and the surrounding community, as we all worked to improve the buildings and grounds of that great State park.

My meetings over the past several months with Peggie Boegner, Mary Phipps, Carol Large, the Board of Trustees, the talented, professional staff, and with enthusiastic volunteers and supporters, have shown me that Old Westbury Gardens has long-range plans for improving the house and grounds. More important from my perspective is the indescribably invigorating atmosphere I felt while each of the various groups discussed those plans. I consider myself fortunate to once again be able to work in such an environment.

During my first visit with Peggie Boegner, she asked me to name my favorite site at Old Westbury Gardens. I answered that, though the Walled Garden was a close second, my favorite site was that little house unmatched for pure charm and magic, her Thatched Cottage. I said

Friends News

On June 6, The Friends hosted a luncheon honoring longtime Gardens' supporter Florence D'Urso, which featured a lecture by fashion designer Mary McFadden. The Friends and Old Westbury Gardens wish to thank Ms. McFadden, as well as the underwriters of the luncheon: De Natale Jewelers, Gerda Andersen, Inge Costa, Kay Maris, Paul J. Mateyunas, Patricia Montgomerie, Marie Napoli, Elaine Schwartzreich, and Terry Thielen.

Later this year, The Friends are planning a Fall Boutique and Luncheon, presently scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th, at 11:30 a.m. Vendors, who will be selling eclectic collections of unique items, will donate part of their revenues to the Gardens. The event will also feature a silent auction and raffle.



Mary McFadden signing copies of her book, High Priestess of High Fashion

For more information, to become a vendor at the event, or to donate prizes, please contact Vanessa Mahnken at 516-333-0048 ext. 308, or e-mail vmahnken@oldwestburygardens.org.

Museums on Us

Once again this year, Bank of America welcomed Old Westbury Gardens as a member of their "Museums on Us" program. During the month of May, every Bank of America cardholder and a guest was provided with free admission to the Gardens. Now in its ninth year, this program has provided the opportunity for over a quarter of a million people to experience world-class arts, culture, and horticulture, right in their own neighborhoods for free. Other local members of

the program include the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Vanderbilt Museum, and the New York Botanical Garden.

As part of an extensive advertising campaign provided by Bank of America in April and May, Old Westbury Gardens and the other participants were referenced in ads in the New York Times, on radio spots on a number of area stations, on an electronic sign in Times Square, and in a host of brochures and other literature displayed in banking centers throughout the Northeast.

that all children, and many adults, who see it probably fantasize about having their own personal cottage to play in. Peggie told me she loved her little cottage too, but that she also enjoyed playing with her brothers in their forts, and wandering with them all over the grounds.

Old Westbury Gardens is a magnificent property, and we have ambitious plans for the future. Marcel Proust said, "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." I would alter that statement. We are looking with a new eye at both our hard-scape and landscape. We are seeking to

enhance the experience of the property, and preserve its unique beauty, while at the same time adding elements to complement existing features, so that visitors can discover, or rediscover, Old Westbury Gardens.

The overall aim is for them to enjoy, as we do, every architectural feature, every garden, and every footpath. I look forward to meeting all of you as we work to achieve this goal.



Volunteer Docents Learn from Museum Expert

At Volunteer Continuing Education Week, Dr. Margaret Conover presented a lecture to Old Westbury Gardens volunteer docents on the topic, "What Can Visitors Learn from Your Museum Tour?" This interactive instruction sparked a great deal of discussion among the docents on their role as facilitators of "free choice" learning, their influence on the visitors' experiences, and how they can better understand the expectations and learning styles of the public.

Dr. Margaret Conover, a Fulbright Fellow with a Ph.D., has over 20 years of experience as a museum director and educator. Having previously taught at



At left, John Deignan, Rosemarie Siglag, and Gene Lanzaro
Below, Lisa Romeo and Corinne Hannon



Melbourne University in Australia, she currently teaches at Stony Brook University and the New York Botanical Garden. She is a specialist in free-choice learning, and has conducted teacher-training courses at St. Joseph's College and the New York Center for Teacher Development. She has served as director of the Shoreham-Wading River Science Museum and the Three Village Historical Society, and as an officer of the Long Island Museum Association. Dr. Conover has presented lectures

and organized seminars on the topic of museum volunteerism and education at the national meeting of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. As a museum consultant, she provides grant writing, strategic planning, and program evaluation services to museums throughout Long Island.

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Flowering Painters and Photographers

Old Westbury Gardens has always been very supportive of local artists and photographers. In addition to providing an environment filled with 160 acres of artistic inspiration, the Gardens regularly schedules painting and photography classes and seminars, and provides a forum for the exhibit and sale of artists' work.

Recently, "Spotlight Old Westbury Gardens," a three-person art exhibit, was held in the Red Ballroom. The exhibit began with a well-attended member's reception on April 28, and continued until the end of May. Very well received by both art lovers and casual visitors alike, the exhibit was featured in an "Artist of the Week" segment of the Channel 21 program



The "Spotlight" Exhibit

Ticket. A portion of all proceeds from the sale of the paintings benefited the Gardens.

In viewing the works, it was fascinating to see the contrast in styles among the different painters. The familiar scenes, though easily recognizable as being painted at Old Westbury Gardens, were also

indicative of each artist's talent, perspective, and use of light, as can be summed up in the artists' own words:

The light moves so very quickly that I must remember it from the soul, after the light has changed, in order to complete the painting...until I've 'said my piece.'

—Ruth Baderian

My paintings are inspired by the playful sunlight dancing among the flowers and trees. —Rosanne Kaloustian

Light and shade are essential to a dramatic painting – the majestic shade trees in the garden make a cool background for the sunny brilliance of the flowerbeds. —Nancy Wernersbach



Photography Exhibit

Later this summer, Old Westbury Gardens will be sponsoring a photography exhibit. Submissions of still images taken outdoors at the Gardens, using hand held cameras (no tripods) will be accepted. Check our website www.oldwestburygardens.org in a few weeks for the details. In the meantime, hold on to those negatives (or these days, more likely, those digital files). Besides being a beautiful keepsake, that shot of the Walled Garden, Primrose Path, or the Thatched Cottage may just win you some notoriety.



Beech Music

Suzanne Mueller will be delighting audiences at the Gardens with the wonderful sounds from her cello for her fourth year this season. Her musical tastes include a wide range of styles and genres, and she enjoys exploring ways in which the cello can enhance them.

Suzanne is a Long Island native, originally from Roslyn, now living in Great Neck. "I wish I had spent more time in the Gardens when I was younger," she regrets. "This is one of my favorite performance venues, due to its peace and beauty, and the receptive audiences."

Suzanne began her musical studies at the tender age of five. She is a graduate of both the pre-College and College Divisions of The Juilliard School. She made her New York recital debut in 1996 as half of the Elysian Duo, a partnership with pianist Ned Kaufman, under the auspices of Artists International Presentations. She continues to concretize actively, both as a freelancer and, frequently, with pianist Iris Kaplan in the duo Elysian II, performing programs that combine well-loved audience favorites with lesser-known works from all periods, including premieres by local composers. Later this summer, Suzanne will be participating in a workshop on non-Classical cello playing offered by Eugene Friesen, the cellist of the Paul Winter Consort.

Now officially named Beech Tree Concerts Artist-in-Residence, Suzanne has programmed a series of four, unique per-



formances that promise to provide a relaxing and enjoyable mid-Sunday afternoon respite and be a perfect complement to other experiences at the Gardens.

Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson:

The husband and wife folk duo, returning for a second year, artfully weave a blend of traditional and modern American folk styles, with Suzanne contributing bass lines, descants, and down-home fiddling. Suzanne appeared on Rebecca's 2002 album, *Sunday Afternoon*.

Cello n' Reeds: In this interesting



*Beech Tree Concerts
Artist-in-Residence,
Suzanne Mueller*

pairing of instruments in a varied program, Suzanne is joined by the versatile clarinetist/saxophonist, Mike Cohen, a founding member of the Kleztraphobics.

McCarron and Mueller: Suzanne performs with Canadian guitarist Mark McCarron for the fourth time together at the Gardens with a signature mix of original works and innovative arrangements spanning classical, folk, jazz standards, show tunes, and several forms of fiddling.

Terry Winchell: Guitarist Terry Winchell is a world-renowned singer/songwriter from the East End. She teams with Suzanne for a third Gardens' appearance in a program filled with everything from rollicking bluegrass to haunting ballads. Suzanne and Mark McCarron will be featured on Terry's upcoming album, *Porchy*.



Thank You, Former Officers of the Board

We owe a wealth of gratitude to Lauren Knutsen. The financial health and security of the Gardens has benefited immeasurably from her tenure as Treasurer since 1997, and as Chairman of the Budget Review Committee since 1995. Irene Gachot has been Secretary since 1997. Irene has done an outstanding job in confirming the actions of the Board, and providing an accurate, historical record of their meetings. Thankfully, each former board officer will continue to contribute their time, expertise, and energy to the Gardens through other forms of service.

Chairman Mary Phipps, President John Norbeck, and all the Trustees at Old Westbury Gardens also wish to welcome our two newest board officers, Secretary Anne Byers, and Treasurer, John Deignan.

The many contributions of former board officer J. Oliver Crom will be highlighted in an article in our fall newsletter.

Pall Partnership

Over the years, Old Westbury Gardens has valued its corporate partnerships as an important link to the community, as well as a vital source of support for programs and projects that we would not be able to fund on our own. We have been thrilled with our association with Pall Corporation, a key company in the region, who continues to be a valuable catalyst for our efforts.

Eric Krasnoff is Chairman and CEO. Since joining the company in 1975, Eric has been a key figure in Pall Corporation's development into one of the largest industrial companies in the country. He is also an active community leader, as exemplified by his spirit of generosity to the Gardens. This year is no exception, as Pall Corporation is playing a key role as an underwriter of our Pops Concerts and as a valued member of the Gardens' Patron Program. Old Westbury Gardens sincerely appreciates the confidence that Eric Krasnoff has placed in our organization. Eric truly represents the best of American corporate philanthropy and community leadership.



Cuttings from the Garden

As always, a great deal has been going on behind the scenes on, and sometimes off, the Gardens' grounds. The collaborative efforts of our Operations and Horticulture personnel, who have been integrated into a single, unified department since last fall, have yielded some highly successful results. Not the least of these was our participation in the Hofstra Flower Show in April. The Old Westbury Gardens exhibit consisted of a beautiful, imaginatively designed rendition of the Walled Garden, complete with flowers, a working fountain, and a charming replica of the East Gate. The effort yielded second place in the competition, and a \$1,000 cash prize.

The Rhododendron and Boxwood collections suffered through a tough winter. Warm temperatures, frozen ground, and breezy days combined to desiccate several plants. Plans are in the works to provide winter protection structures for the 175-year-old Boxwood plants adjacent to the Colonnade. We will continue to feed, irrigate and prune these plants to restore them.

Replacement plants have been purchased for the Lilac Path. Using digital photography, we have documented the bloom colors and can now more easily identify the cultivars. The weaker lilacs will be replaced and we will phase out white cultivars. In the Rose Garden, new climbers have been planted, the arbors have been repaired, and the deteriorating



At left, Operations installing part of the drainage system in the Pinetum . . . At bottom left, the East Gate replica created by Gardens' carpenter, John DeMaille . . . Below, the beginning of a repaved road to the office area



bricks in the path will be replaced. The Grey Garden is under renovation. The center axis has been restored and steel edging installed to better define the beds. New plantings of Salvia and Lavender are being implemented. Mature plantings around the garden will be pruned to scale.

The bridge over the East Pond is being evaluated to see what repairs are necessary to open it to visitors. The path to the map stands has been widened to accommodate more people. Plantings to enhance this area are scheduled to be installed in late June.

In news that may seem less than very exciting to some visitors, but is of considerable relief to those of us who are here all the time, including in rainy weather, new subsurface drainage has been installed in the Pinetum. In conjunction with this action to significantly control the longstanding water problem, the turf in the area is under renovation as well.

The 15,000 spring flowering bulbs that were planted last fall resulted in a display that was second to none. The warm early spring temperatures caused an early profusion of colorful blooms.



Pops Back at the Gardens

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crackle to the Pops, is the Harbor Conservatory Latin Big Band. Under the direction of Louis Bauzo, the Conservatory is dedicated to preserving the big band sound and style of Latin music, especially as played in its golden era in New York City, from its early evolution in the 1920's through the mambo explosion in the 1950's. Drawing on the resources of their RAICES (roots) collection, the group plays original arrangements by such musi-

cal greats as Tito Puente, Ray Santos, Rene Hernandez, and countless others.



This delightful concert series is a key component in our summer events schedule. But Picnic Pops would not be possible without the philanthropy of these generous leaders in the community. We wish to thank lead sponsors Roslyn Savings Foundation and Pall Corporation and corporate underwriters Astoria Federal Savings, Audiovox, Lambrides, Lamos Moulthrop LLP, Mill-Max Manufacturing and Milton Cooper Foundation.



Volunteer Docents Learn from Museum Expert

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We greatly appreciate Dr. Conover's invaluable work and her sharing of this information with our volunteers and public programs department. Old Westbury Gardens' volunteer docents are always thirsty for more knowledge to improve *your* visitor experience.

For all those interested in volunteering at Old Westbury Gardens, please contact Lisa Romeo at 333-0048 ext 312, or e-mail Lromeo@oldwestburygardens.org.



Our crew installing drainage pipe in the Garden of Appreciation



Fran O'Rourke manning his mower on one of the many expertly maintained lawn areas

Scenes and Behind the Scenes of Spring at Old Westbury Gardens



Old Westbury Gardens' Chairman Mary Phipps greeting visitors at The Taste of Spring



Resident Greenhouse Assistant Cactus taking a break from rodent patrol



Wisteria in full bloom on the South Porch steps



A crew filming a television pilot for The Fox Network



During a fashion shoot, the beauty of the house and gardens overwhelms a model



Director of Horticulture, Peter Grant, leading a tour of the grounds



Volunteer Docent Vivien Gurfein captivating her young audience during a Manners Please event



Gift Shop volunteer Sandra Vigliotti's dog Bailey enjoying Dog Days



Photographers with model Elaine Irwin-Mellencamp on the East Lake during a Ralph Lauren fashion shoot



The Lily Pond getting a spring cleaning



Our Horticulture staff working on some of the many decorations for the Gardeners' Fair



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

Donations to both funds have been received from March-May 2006 in memory of the individuals as follows:

- Jack Barth
- Shirley Barth
- Sophie Bransfield
- Antonio Carullo
- Dana Caruso
- Marie Caruso
- Carol Chernow
- Julia Ciampaglione
- John Colon
- Tina Courto
- Carol Cuoco
- Carol O'Neil Elkins
- Tina Milbourne
- William Muraski
- John Pinna
- Romolo Ruscic
- Marion Schulz
- Richard Spearman
- Patrick Waller

In Loving Memory of Marie Keyes



Marie Keyes, a volunteer at Old Westbury Gardens for 19 years, passed away in May. Marie put her heart, soul, and love into her volunteer and volunteer coordinator positions. She was responsible for training many of our volunteer docents, creating the Volunteer Tree

Fund, and was a member of the Education Committee that worked with Westbury Schools to produce a fourth grade horticultural science program. Although she retired from her volunteer position in 2000, she remained in the volunteer program as a member of the History Committee, which presents educational lectures to the community. Her leadership in the presentation of Nanny Night made that event the huge success that it is today. Last December, Marie came back to orchestrate Nanny Night once again.

In 2000, Marie and her husband Bob were elected Honorary Life Members by the Gardens Trustees for their dedication and many contributions.

Marie will be truly missed by everyone who ever knew her, but especially by all of us here at Old Westbury Gardens. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Marie's family and her other friends.



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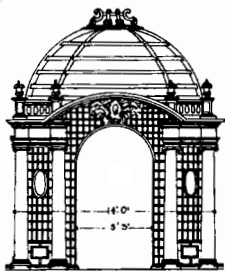
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