



SPRING 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the start of the year means a new year for the Windsor Garden Club. We now follow the calendar year with our club operation. This past February's meeting was the first monthly meeting of 2022. It was so great to see about half the club in attendance. It was a great showcase of our membership knowledge when Valerie spoke for our educational portion of the meeting. If we missed you at the club meeting, have no fear. Our monthly meetings continue all through the spring, summer and fall.

The start of a new year means that it's time to renew your membership. A membership form can be found on our website and mailed in along with a check for your membership renewal through March 15.

It is an exciting time for the club with many volunteer opportunities available for both one time and ongoing committee work. At our recent February meeting sign up lists were available for all standing committees. If you have interest in serving in a committee, please let me know. The health and vitality of the club is strengthened from membership involvement. Communications, scholarship, town beautification, the junior gardening program, historical society gardens are among those committees that benefit from your involvement.

I am also excited with the recent administration of a membership survey. At our February meeting members had the opportunity to complete the survey so that the executive board can collect more information about you the member: what education interests do you have, what knowledge could you share with the club? Thank you to the nearly 30 members in attendance in February who completed the survey. If you were unable to join us at February's meeting a survey will be collected from you in the near future. Stay tuned for how you can complete your membership survey.

Many thanks go out to the organizing committee for our special April meeting with guest speaker Tovah Martin. This is a large-scale event that requires a club member to volunteer in one of many ways. A special sign-up sheet was available at our February meeting. If we missed you at the February meeting, we'll have additional opportunities for you to sign up and volunteer at the big April event. As a garden club member in good standing (meaning you have renewed your dues for 2022) you receive one ticket for you to attend the event. We are capped with an audience of 150 people due to size of group restrictions. We are selling tickets via our website (available now!) for the general public, your family, your friends to attend the April meeting with Tovah Martin as guest speaker. We'll also have a fun raffle that night. This event has been a few years in the making and we look forward to this special night in April.

If you have a question about the garden club, please feel free to reach out to me. Thanks for your membership and involvement with the club.

I'll see you in the garden.

Dave Stender

2022 Windsor Garden Club President

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Renew Your Membership!

It's time to renew your membership; the Club's new fiscal year follows the calendar year, January 1-December 31. Please renew by March 15 – you MUST be a current member in good standing to qualify for your free Tovah Martin presentation ticket for the April 11 meeting.

You can print your member form from the website, request a form to be sent to you, or pay for your membership online (new option!). We look forward to a full year of in-person member meetings, summer socials, field trips, and civic endeavors. Please contact David Slender (davidfstender@gmail.com) or Debbie Baker (deborah846@comcast.net) to request a form.

PAST/RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

December Lunch Outing

On Sunday, December 5th, 12 pm, Windsor Garden Club's Holiday Lunch was held at La Notte on Blue Hills Avenue in Windsor, CT. Our final event was very well attended! The food was delicious.



February Meeting Recap

Although we could not carry on our tradition of the "Soup Talk," we may have begun a new tradition at our February meeting. That new tradition? We hope to feature more programs that highlight and celebrate the talents, interests and expertise of our very own members.

In honor of that sentiment, we welcomed WGC member Valerie Allgrove to present about growing plants from woody cuttings.

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Using Elderberry as her example, Valerie shared a step-by-step guide that incorporated the process from start to finish, from cutting to planting in the garden or landscape. Valerie brought, cut and provided Elderberry cuttings to interested members that she harvested from Windsor riverbanks with the hopes that along with her guide, our members could propagate and grow Elderberry in their gardens and landscapes.

Valerie is a long-time club member and Windsor resident. She has a passion for all things in nature, but specifically for encouraging the propagation and growing of native plants to support our local habitats.



We are so fortunate to have club members like Valerie as a resource for our club and community.

Learn more about her home and gardens at <http://pleasantgardensct.com>.

As part of the meeting and effort to better understand the talents of our members for future WGC programs and events, we asked that those in attendance fill out a simple survey to indicate what our members are specialized in and may want to learn more about.

If you missed the meeting, stay tuned for how to receive or access the survey.



UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Monday, March 14, 6:30 pm

Speaker Dr. Steve Cohen shares his love for and interest in bonsai, as he presents “Less is More.” He will share some of his collection, and demonstrate bonsai techniques while he provides background and steps to creation of his bonsai gardens. His bonsai journey began about 35 years ago and has grown to more than 45 plants, ranging from hand-size to 2’ tall.

Steve has a LOT to share, so mark your calendar and join us!

Monday, April 11, 5:30 pm

After a long COVID-19 delay, we welcome Tovah Martin as our guest speaker. Her talk “Gardening as if the World Depends on Us” encourages us to ally with nature to make the world a better place for all creatures in gardens big and small.

Check the website for a full schedule and to reserve your ticket – one free per current Windsor Garden Club member! This event is a fundraiser for the club. Tickets for non-members are available for a modest fee and there will be a raffle with tickets available for purchase on site (cash only). Volunteers are sought, so please sign up at the February or March meetings.

If you don’t know Tovah, she is a perennial, heirloom, vegetable, and cottage gardener of fanatical proportions. A NOFA-accredited Organic Land Professional, she gets her hands dirty both outside and indoors in her constant, undying pursuit of all things garden-related. A selection of Tovah’s many garden books will be available for sale, or bring your own for an autograph following her talk.

Thursday, April 14, 7-8 pm

Opportunity! Volunteer to assist (or speak) at the Windsor Public Library’s Plant Cuttings Workshop. Share your knowledge in a short presentation before a plant cuttings exchange OR be present to assist people with questions about rooting plant cuttings. You are welcome to bring your plants and/or cuttings to trade as well. You can also bring supplies to swap: pots, tools, etc. and take advantage of the potting station after you trade. If interested in speaking or assisting, contact Allison. To simply participate in the swap, register at Windsor Public Library: <https://www.windsorlibrary.com/adult/sign-up-for-a-program/>.



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Monday, May 2nd 6:30 pm

Members-only meeting with a plant swap and final plans and preparation for the Garden Mart

Saturday, May 7th

Windsor Garden Club Garden Mart on the Town Green



To participate, all club members are required by donating a plant or funds, and volunteering is highly encouraged for this annual fundraising event for the club.

Proceeds support our meeting speakers, civic endeavors, and regular budget (insurance, website, and more).

Garden Mart Figures

MONTH/YEAR	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET	
May 2018	\$898	-\$128	\$770	
May 2019	\$1,900	-\$294	\$1,506	
May 2020	COVID – event not held			
Oct 2020	\$807	-\$311	\$496	Sold at member homes
May 2021	\$1,952	-\$196	\$1,756	
Oct 2021	\$95	-\$166	\$787	Town Green



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Tovah Martin, April Meeting Update

We are so pleased to announce that the long-awaited Tovah Martin speaking event is scheduled to take place during the April 11 WGC extended meeting, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tovah will present her lecture, “Gardening as if the World Depends on Us,” – how gardeners can use their gardens and landscapes to make the world a better place for all creatures.

The event will also feature the raffle of an extensive list of items generously donated by local Windsor businesses, self-care items from Avon and Mary Kay, and garden-related items donated by WGC members.

Previously discussed food options are currently on hold due to pandemic restrictions, so we ask that you eat before you attend.

The event is free for all Windsor Garden Club members in good standing and will be \$10 for non-members. Although the event is free for our members, we ask that you pre-register to account for ticket availability. If you have not done so already, please register here: <https://windsorgardenclubct.org/tovah-martin-member> or contact Allison Joanis or Debbie Baker by email or phone.

We will issue physical tickets in the form of a commemorative Tovah Martin bookmark at the event to all those in attendance.

We also ask that you help publicize the event to encourage non-member ticket purchases. Please share the following ticket purchase link with your contacts: <https://windsorgardenclubct.org/tovah-martin-public>

And if applicable, share the following Facebook post with your followers: <https://www.facebook.com/windsorctgardenclub/photos/a.663084094147300/1390363671419335/>

If you know someone who would like to purchase a ticket by cash or check, please contact Allison Joanis or Debbie Baker by email or phone to make those arrangements.

We are also in need of volunteers to help run this event. There is a job available for everyone from registration to set up and clean up. Please contact Allison Joanis or Debbie Baker by email or phone if you would like to volunteer.

Special thanks to the Tovah Martin planning committee, who have been hard at work reviewing the details of this wonderful upcoming event. Thank you to Cindy Daniels, Alice Lang, Laurie Durant, Patty Crowley, Susan Joanis, Debbie Baker and Allison Joanis.



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AN EVENING WITH

HORTICULTURIST AUTHOR PHOTO STYLIST PRODUCER

TOVAH MARTIN

“GARDENING AS IF THE WORLD DEPENDS ON US”

Learn how small garden and landscape ideas can make a big impact, making the world a better place.



MONDAY
APRIL 11, 2022
5:30 - 8:30 PM

L.P. WILSON
COMMUNITY CENTER
599 MATIANUCK AVE.
WINDSOR, CT

Seating limited; reserve tickets:
windsorgardenclubct.org/upcomingevents/tovah-m/



\$10 Non Members
Free for WCG members

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- 5:30 - 6:15 pm - check-in, raffle preview
- 6:30 - 7:15 pm - Tovah Martin presentation
- 7:15 - 8:30 pm - Meet & greet, book signing, raffle drawing
- 8:00 p.m. - raffle drawing



PRESENTED BY THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB



@WindsorCTGardenClub



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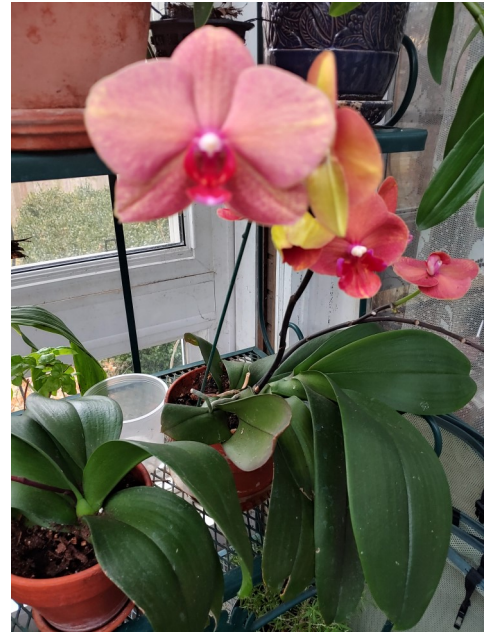
windsorgardenclubct.org/

Event will follow all current CDC, state and town COVID requirements.
See event website for updates.

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MEMBERS' CORNER



WGC Member Laurie Durant Orchid's are mostly Moth Orchids (Phalaenopsis). This orchid species are readily available in most Garden Centers. She likes these as they are easy to take care and will repeat bloom a couple of times a year. She will be happy to discuss the care of the Moth Orchids for those who are interested.

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July 2022 Upcycled Planter Challenge

The Upcycled Planter Challenge Event is returning for July 2022. Windsor Garden Club member Suzanne Urban is the chairperson. The event is run under the guidance of Jane Garibay First Town Downtown Executive Director. FTDT communications officer Paula Pierce and The Windsor Monarch Project co-leaders Betty Jo Davis and Kate Lange.



Last year 35 gardeners—including WGC members, David Stender, Helen Davenport, Valerie Allgrove, Barbara Stavens, Florence Barlow, Lorrie Gallo-Donahue, Erin Bourdon and Maureen Vagnini—plus area artists, artisans and crafters created one-of-a-kind planters made from a recycled object. Planters were displayed for two weeks around the town green then auctioned off to raise funds to upgrade the Monarch Habitat at Miller's Pond. The event is heavily publicized.



This year the event is expanding to include more activities including a children's pollinator parade, vendors who make or sell green goods. (table fee is \$15.00).

A paint party with local artist Irene Hilbert and more! The Windsor Public Library's special programs director Bonnie Waterhouse will be managing the vendor event and has added keynote speakers and educational activities for kids. An electric vehicle parade is planned for the morning. Also new is THE CHAIRY ORCHARD, participating upcycled planter designers have a choice of making a planter chair from a discarded chair, or a planter from an upcycled item. Auction funds go to upkeep the second Riverwalk Habitat.

Planters are due at the green July 2, 2022. Opening day and Upcycled Planter Green Faire is Saturday July 9th 9am-3pm.

Those wishing to participate either as an upcycled planter designer or volunteer can contact Suzanne Urban at: suzanneurbandesigns@gmail.com

Anyone wishing to sponsor a planter designer-fee pays to purchase flowers and organic potting soil for designer's creations, we're seeking individual and local business sponsors, please contact Jane Garibay: jane.Garibay@FTDT.org. Visit <https://www.firsttowntodowntown.org/programs/the-windsor-monarch-project/upcycled-pollinator-planter-challenge/> for more information.

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CIVIC ENDEAVORS

Windsor Historical Society Gardens



The WGC maintains and refreshes the two planters at the entry to the main building of the Windsor Historical Society during the year with seasonal fresh flower plantings for Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter seasons. Anyone interested in helping please contact Laurie Durant.

Two new perennial garden beds, using plants appropriate to the time period, were designed and installed on the north side of the Strong-Howard House in summer 2021 by a small team of WGC members.

More volunteers are sought for monthly maintenance beginning in March or April (depending on weather). If you are interested in helping keep this garden bed in good shape in 2022, please contact Debbie Baker.

Wreath-Making

WGC members gather at LP Wilson Center on the 29th of November to decorate balsam wreaths and swags that will be donated to municipal and federal offices, nonprofits, and nursing homes in Windsor to brighten the winter holiday season. In the past our wreaths have been thankfully received and greatly appreciated by the different organizations who receive them; you can read notes of appreciation on the next two pages. Please visit our Facebook page for many more photos.





Holiday Wreath Thanks – 2021

Dear Members of the Windsor Garden Club:

Thank you for the wonderful wreath you presented to WILA. Our office door looks so merry and bright! We are so lucky to have been chosen to receive this beautiful wreath.

May the joyous spirit of the holiday bring countless blessings to you.

On behalf of all at WILA, we wish you health, happiness, and happy holidays to all of you and your families!

Thank you.

Mari Midlin

Executive Director

Windsor Independent Living Association

Dear Windsor Garden Club,

We would like to say thank you for your donation of a Christmas wreath for the Luddy House/ Windsor Chamber of Commerce office. We have placed it on our front door facing the town green so many where people will see it. We are happy to be on the list to receive your beautiful wreaths every year.

Thank you again for sharing your creativity with all of us.

Sincerely,

Adam Gutcheon

President and Chief Executive Officer

Windsor Chamber of Commerce

Phyllis Stargardter

Office Manager



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Holiday Wreath Thanks – 2021

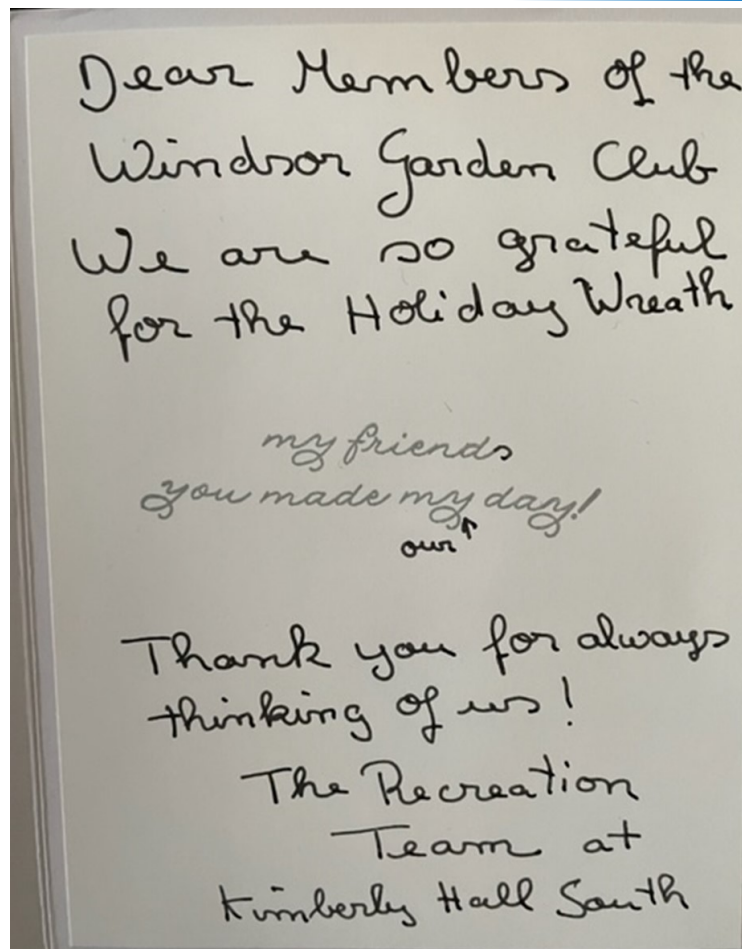
Dear friends, we are very grateful for the beautiful handmade wreath donated to Mary's Place. It really does bring a smile to the faces of our staff, families, and volunteers who see it on the door every day. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for thinking of us. We are ever thankful for the many people like you who support us in so many ways. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Brittany Sheehan, Executive Director

Dear friends, on behalf of the thousands of Connecticut residents who are blind or print handicapped and listen to CRIS, I want to thank you for supporting the Connecticut Radio Information System Inc. (CRIS) with your beautiful holiday wreath.

We want you to know that this gift will bring warmth and beauty to our studio. Thank you so very much for the lovely evergreen holiday wreath. It brightened our day!

Sincerely, Diane Weaver Dunne, Executive Director





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Dear Garden Club Members, 12/13/21

What can I say? You all have been such good friends of the Windsor Branch. From the new public garden to the donated holiday wreaths and our outdoor landscaping, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU for making our branch bloom with beauty! -Gabbie

12-7-21

Windsor Garden Club.

Thank you for the wreath that you made and donated to the Windsor Public Library. With its bright purple balls, it really adds some pizzazz to our historic Nathan Stone building.

It is so kind of you to always remember us with a wreath every year. Blessings to you all this holiday season.

Maye Rizzo, Director
Windsor Public Library

CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Club membership is open to anyone who has an interest in plants, landscaping, and other related topics. Please think of friends, neighbors, and colleagues who enjoy flowers, plants, and gardening and encourage them to think about joining.

The cycle of the Garden Club meeting schedule changes to calendar year beginning in January 2022, as communicated throughout 2021. While the change was originally a consequence of COVID-19, it is also a benefit as fundraising events such as the biannual Garden Tour will then fall into one fiscal year rather than crossing two fiscal years, making the treasurer's job and budgeting easier going forward. Membership dues for 2022 are due by March 15, 2022.

As always, new memberships are accepted at any time. The current membership application form is available on the Club's website, www.windsorgardenclubct.org and you can also choose to pay via credit card on the website only. If you need a printed form to be mailed to you, contact David Stender or Debbie Baker for a printed form. Forms will also be available at the February and March meetings

WGC BYLAWS

The Windsor Garden Club. Bylaws are available on our website <http://windsorgardenclubct.org/abouttheclub/clubconstitution/> and include the duties of officers and committee chairs. Bylaws will also be included in the 2022 Membership Booklet. Bylaws will undergo some modification to adjust to the new calendar year or operation. If interested in serving on the review committee, contact Dave Stender. The goal is to include revised Bylaws in the 2022 membership booklet that is planned for spring distribution after review and approval by vote at a WGC meeting.



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REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CLUB

The members of the Windsor Garden Club are able and willing to provide both the design and installation of landscape beautification projects within Windsor. If you would like additional information about obtaining the Club's assistance, please download the information document and application form from the Club's website. (PDF formats available at www.windsorgardenclubct.org).

WGC CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2022

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Dave Stender; davidfstender@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents: Allison Joanis; Allison.joanis@gmail.com & Susan Joanis; suzjo815@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary: OPEN POSITION – VOLUNTEER SOUGHT!

Treasurer: Margaret Taff; mmtaff@mindspring.com

Recording Secretary: Diane Bernier; dmsbernier@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: Maureen Vagnini; maureenvagnini@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

The Earthworm Editor: Jim Durant; jhutan6@gmail.com

Facebook – Allison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com & Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net

Website – Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net & Alison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com

Publicity – Allison Joanis; allison.joanis@gmail.com

Member e-mail messaging; Debbie Baker; deborah846@comcast.net

IMMEDIATE PAST CO-PRESIDENTS:

Diane Bernier; dmsbernier@gmail.com

Maureen Vagnini; maureenvagnini@gmail.com





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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings friends,

Spring is near and Laurie saw her first Robin. Always a good sign!

Be safe and stay well!

Kindest regards, Jim

The air is warm, and the sky is blue.

The leaves are green yellow because there're new.

Your feet go skipping, the whole world sings

The whole world is happy, because it is Spring

Song at recess Roger Wolcott School

Windsor, CT