



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

(abbreviated version / full version available online)

A Letter From Our Presidents

Dear Members, one and all,

Busy, busy -- it's a hectic, fun and frivolous, intense and beautiful time of year for us all, including our New Canaan Beautification League volunteers.

Ty Tan and her helpers worked with the Garden Club on Nov 29 at our annual Greens Workshop to create holiday decorations for the town buildings. When you read this her elves will have finished their chores and we will be enjoying them.

Faith Kerchoff already has bulbs in position for spring blossoms.

Our Annual Appeal Committee is hard at work and you will be hearing from them soon.

We are exploring new avenues to let our residents know about the things we do -- if you can help with a table at the Farmers Market and/or sidewalk sale please contact any of our membership team: Sara Hunt, Libby Butterworth, Joan Hayenga, or Margit Mills. They are looking for new ways to attract new members. The publicity team of Robin Bates-Mason and Nancy Geller, along with our webmaster Lisa Ferrante, are working diligently on this as well to increase our exposure.

Kudos to our new treasurer, Rob Carpenter, who has already saved us money by moving funds around and implementing new procedures.

The Lee Garden has been put to bed for the winter but plans are proceeding for spring. Don't hesitate to take a peaceful winter stroll there with your out- of-town visitors -- or just yourself for some well deserved serenity.

In the future we're trying to plan some tours for our members. If you have any interest in exploring Central Park contact Carolin Buttrick at carolinr@optonline.net. This is a follow up from our marvelous speaker Sara Cedar Miller who inspired us this fall. We are also looking for someone to coordinate other trips -- local, nearby, even overseas. Just let either Barbara or Karen know if this intrigues you and if you have any ideas to explore. Our emails are ksneirson@wpsir.com or bbeall34@yahoo.com.

Finally, if you need a gift idea this month: **THINK NCBL** with a membership gift for a friend, neighbor, relative or colleague. Just call, email, or go online. Easy, fast, and unique!

Happy Holidays to one and all, Karen
and Barbara



Welcome New Member!

Jackie Alexander

UPCOMING EVENTS



**January Program Our Amazing Stone Walls:
What They are and Where They are Going with Sylvia Reiss** Wednesday
January 10, 2018
9:30 - 11:30 am
NC Nature Center



Victorian Tea
Wednesday
February 7, 2018
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Waveny House

Save The Date
Annual Victorian Tea
February 7, 2018



March Program
All the Presidents' Gardens with Marta McDowell Wednesday
March 7, 2018
9:30 - 11:30 am
NC Nature Center



THE NEW CANAAN BEAUTIFICATION LEAGUE PRESENTS

SYLVIA REISS
OUR AMAZING STONE WALLS
WHAT THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY ARE GOING

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 10, 2018
9:30 AM COFFEE
10:00 AM PROGRAM
NEW CANAAN NATURE CENTER



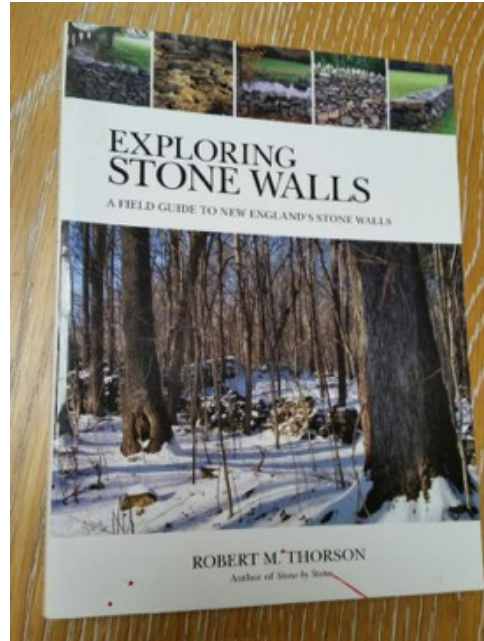
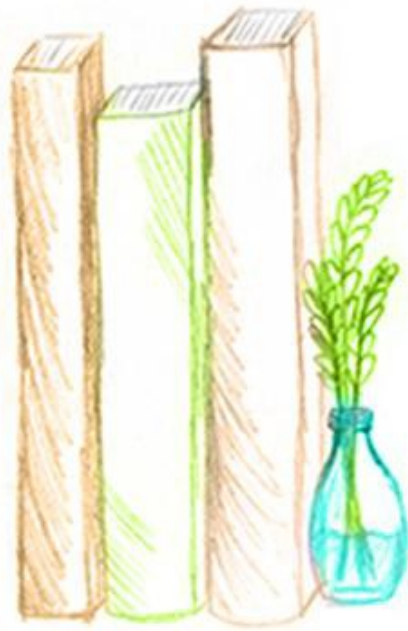
Sylvia Reiss lives in Connecticut and is a former teacher, retired antiques dealer and past president of the Antiques Council. She is also active in the Darien Historical Society.

Stone walls define New England and certainly Connecticut, with its hundreds and hundreds of miles of dry stone walls: very old and very new; well-built or shoddy; some treasured, some threatened; the good, the bad and the ugly.



This program is sponsored by the NCBL and is free and open to the public.

Fairfield and Westchester counties are the epicenter of America's historic stone walls, and we are their custodians. Come listen to Sylvia Reiss discuss their history and future.



In preparation for our January program, the NCBL library has the book *Exploring Stone Walls, A Field Guide to New England's Stone Walls* by Robert M. Thorson available for borrowing. Contact Faith Kerchoff to borrow this copy.

Waveny Care Center Arranging:

The following is our upcoming flower arranging schedule for December:

December 4: Judy Gilroy

December 11: Faith Kerchoff

December 26: help needed

Thank you to all who have volunteered for this worthwhile cause!
Sarina Vetterli created arrangements in November with a gorgeous color palette and flowers from Earth Garden.



Flower Arrangements Wanted for Program Dates!

We are looking for volunteers to make arrangements for our refreshment table for our program meetings this year. Contact Bianca Romano if interested. You will be able to use budgeted money for this activity.

Future Program Dates arrangements are needed:

January 10, 2018 : Joan Hayenga

March 7, 2018 : arrangement needed

April 4, 2018 : arrangement needed

May 2, 2018 : arrangement needed

June 6, 2018 : arrangement needed

Help make our program meetings beautiful and fun, as our arrangements are raffled off in our "Members' Raffle" following each program.



Arrangement made by Bianca Romano for our November program.

Annual Appeal 2018



Many thanks to everyone who helped us make the 2017 Annual Appeal so successful!

On January 10 we will start working on the 2018 appeal, for mailing on March 1.

We are encouraging everyone to address envelopes again this January. You will be able to pick them up at the Wednesday, January 10 NCBL Program at the Nature Center. The "appeal bags" contain a list of addresses, cover letters, bookmarks, remittance envelopes, and envelopes to address. Handwriting the envelope makes a difference in personalizing the mailing. Again, we are NOT allowed to write a personal note of any kind on the letter this year (per post office bulk mail requirements).

Thanks for your support of this important fund raising campaign.
"Many hands make light work".

Looking forward to seeing you in January!

Enjoy the season!

Rose Bauersfeld
Tonya Gwynn
Dody Whitehurst



Meet our Presidents!

Last month we heard a bit from new co-president Barbara Beall. This month, let's hear from co-president Karen Sneirson.

- 1. Where are you from and where have you lived before New Canaan?** In 1980 I moved to New Canaan from Orinda, California. Quite ironically, Barbara Beall had also lived there before I did. Prior to California I had lived in Vancouver, British Columbia, Manhattan, Lake Forest, Illinois, Arizona, and New Jersey.
- 2. Have you been involved with any other volunteer organizations?** Currently I am on the board of the New Canaan League of Women Voters. I was a founding member of Encore and formerly on the board of AAUW.
- 3. Were you previously employed or do you currently work?** Although my background is journalism and public relations, I have been a realtor in town for 25 years and am still at it!
- 4. Do you garden?** Believe it or not I love to weed! I find it relaxing with an instant reward. No longer can I physically put in those long hours but my late husband used to call me in from the garden for meals and would joke that he was going to buy me a night lamp.
- 5. What do you enjoy most about being a member of the NCBL?** I love our members' appreciation for all types of gardening and eagerness to explore and learn. And the paramount spirit of volunteering, pitching in and helping wherever needed that permeates our group is very special.

Thank you Karen! It's been a pleasure getting to know a little more about you!



Naturescaping with Karen Bussolini

Our November Program was packed with information! Karen Bussolini is passionate about gardening for our environment and passed on tons of knowledge. Did you miss the program? **NCTV Channel 79** taped it and you can view it online.



Deck the Halls ... and the streets ... and the buildings!

The first step in decking out our town in holiday finery was to create the bows that would adorn our wreaths and greenery. Ty Tan organized the get together at Waveny House. Seven mega-sized bows were made along with 51 regular bows, and all was accomplished in about one hour. Yes, many hands do make light work!



More Bulbs and Clean Ups throughout Town

Many hands planted bulbs this fall. About 400 bulbs were planted at the Town Hall and as mentioned above, another few hundred at Lee Garden.

Our new Thrift Shop Triangle, headed by Judy Gilroy was planted with grape hyacinth and daffodils. We thank Judy, Tom Gilroy, Kathy Lapolla, and Faith Kerchoff for their efforts in this area. After cleanup, a garlic chive was found happily blooming in the corner!

The Town Hall Tulips

The Town Hall tulips planted this fall are an homage to New Canaan "Moderns" as they are called "Red Yellow Cubed" from Colorblends Wholesale Flower Bulbs. The Cubed Series are blends of three different tulip varieties that bloom in succession of several weeks in the spring. They will provide three overlapping shows in the same space in your garden or container. It's a three-act circus in one ring! Introduced in 2008.

We are grateful for Colorblends' Chris Schipper for his donation of the Town Hall planter bulbs to beautify New Canaan.

Here's a sneak of what you have to look forward to this coming spring!



Red Yellow Cubed from Colorblends will be blooming at Town Hall this spring.