

Old Westbury Gardens



CALENDAR

November 3

-*Early Bird Walk*
-*Storybook Stroll: Bear Snores*
On 10:30am

November 4

-*The Harlem Rattlers and the Great War lecture* 2pm

November 10

Holiday Traditions Begin Right Here at Old Westbury Gardens

By Nancy Costopulos, President & CEO

Old Westbury Gardens is a wonderful, festive place for your family and loved ones to discover new holiday traditions this year. Come celebrate the magic of the holiday season with us, and make memories that you'll cherish for a lifetime.

*-Eat Up! Pumpkins
10:30am*

November 11

*-Dear Mr and Mrs Phipps:
Letters from the Great War
lecture 2pm*

November 12

*-Veteran's Day
Commemoration 11am - 4pm*

November 17

*-Thanksgiving Centerpiece
workshop 10:30am
-Make Up! Leaf Monoprints
and collage 10:30am*

November 23

*-Christmas at Westbury
House 10am - 5pm*

November 24

*-Holiday Market 10am -
4pm
-Craft-a-card 10am - 1pm
-Christmas at Westbury
House 10am - 5pm*

November 25

*-Holiday Market 10am -
4pm
-Craft-a-card 10am - 1pm
-Christmas at Westbury
House 10am - 5pm*

November 28

*-Cream Tea 11am
-Afternoon Tea 1:30pm*

December 1

*-Christmas at Westbury
House 10am - 5pm
-Drop in Craft 10am - 1pm
-First Night 6:30pm*

December 2

*-Christmas at Westbury
House 10am - 5pm
-Craft-a-Card 10am - 1pm
-Long Island Flute Club 1pm*

While the spring and summer months are known for the beautiful blooming flowers, my favorite thing to do at Old Westbury Gardens is take a stroll through the Gardens in the crisp air and then sit down for a delicious cup of tea or hot cider. I encourage you and your family and friends to join me to tour the magnificence of Westbury House and see for yourself. You can also enjoy a full afternoon tea, which provides the opportunity for our guests to spend an afternoon with friends relaxing on the porch as Mrs. Phipps and her guests did 100 years ago.

Perhaps one of the most spirited parts of the holidays at Old Westbury Gardens is Christmas at Westbury House. Each November, our horticulture staff works tirelessly to decorate each historic room of the house with elegant Christmas trees, wreaths, mantelpiece arrangements, topiaries and plants. With cookies, cider and even our own Santa, our holiday celebrations are a must for the entire family. The celebrations commence with First Night, a tree lighting ceremony that will be accompanied by the Bethel Concert Choir.

Come make Old Westbury Gardens your home away from home and cultivate new traditions for the holiday season this year. Read about all the exciting happenings at Old Westbury Gardens in this month's newsletter, and please visit our website for more information about our activities and events. We are excited to see all of our guests and to celebrate the holidays together at Old Westbury Gardens, whether it's your first time at the Gardens or you have been coming for generations.



-Nanny Night 4:30pm

Registration for our Holiday Events opens to the public on November 1st. Please click [here](#) to register today.

Decorating Westbury House

By Maura M. Brush, Director of Horticulture

Although the actual installation of holiday decorations in Westbury House only takes about two and a half days, many of the mantles and wreaths are the result of months of preparation. Ideally, we prefer most of the decorations to be created using materials that have been gathered from our own grounds. This means that our team of designers is always on the look out for items such as cones, seed heads, or pods that they can dry or preserve for use during the holidays.



Westbury House is open for almost four weeks during the holiday season so all materials used either need to hold up well for that length of time or, in some cases, be rotated when they begin to dry out or wilt. We have found that Juniper, Noble Fir, and Incense Cedar will last for the full run of our holiday programs, while boxwood and holly need to be rotated out after two weeks.

Members of the team select the room or rooms that they wish to decorate and then begin planning while staying within the guidelines for historic preservation. So, if you look carefully you'll notice the subtle differences in the styles of each room!

The Gift of Membership

The holiday season is a time of joy, celebration, and giving. Old Westbury Gardens has you covered to give the gift your family and friends will never forget and the gift that keeps on giving—a membership to Old Westbury Gardens. A membership to Old Westbury Gardens offers numerous benefits, including unlimited free admission to Westbury House and the gardens, as well as access to exclusive events and discounts.

Our members are offered unique opportunities throughout the entire year, and the gift of membership places your loved ones at the very forefront of it all. Memberships start at \$35 for Students, with various levels available, including a family or dual membership for \$80, which extends to two adults and children under 18 years of age, a great gift for the whole family!

Click [here](#) to learn more about the benefits of membership.

Holiday Market

Saturday, November 24th & Sunday, November 25th
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Old Westbury Gardens is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our Holiday Market the weekend following Thanksgiving. We invite you to bring your family and friends, and take home something you can only find at Old Westbury Gardens.



With approximately sixty vendors featuring artisanal boutiques and exquisite gifts, there is no better or more unique way to get your holiday shopping done.

The Holiday Market will be expanded this year and take place in The Barn at Orchard Hill, as well as Orchard Hill House, providing the perfect backdrop to spur the holiday spirit. The festivities will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. While you are at the Gardens stop by beautiful Westbury House for cookies and cider, a visit with Santa, and children's crafts.

We hope you will join us for this day of holiday fun and shopping!

Yule Be Swinging Prohibition Party

Saturday, December 8th
8:30 p.m.

December is a distinctive time at Westbury House as guests of all ages participate in annual special events like First Night, Nanny Night and an evening of Chocolate and Wine Tasting as well as new activities.



This year join us on Saturday, December 8th at 8:30 p.m. as we toast the 85th anniversary of the repeal of the 18th Amendment and the end of Prohibition. This will be an intimate Westbury House VIP experience complete with a cabaret performance by Brooklyn's own quartet, The Ladybugs whose repertoire includes favorites from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, infused with country, blues, latin, and classical music.

Registered ticket holders will receive a special password in order to enter Westbury House and tour the festively decorated house. Vintage clothing is encouraged for the period photo opportunities as well as social media posts. This evening is certain to sell out so purchase your tickets early.

Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets today.

Holiday evenings are always magical at Westbury House with the rooms decorated and the warm glow of perfect lighting. This year we will feature a new nighttime program, *A Merry, Very Victorian Christmas!* on Saturday, December 15th at 7 p.m. Through storytelling and song, professional educator and interpreter, Janet Demarest, will lead participants through an evening of discovery of our treasured holiday traditions.

Volunteer Profile

In addition to her volunteer work as a docent providing tours of Westbury House and the gardens, Lauren Osnato and her husband, Ray, are pleased to share their musical talents with guests to Old Westbury Gardens.

On December 2nd in the Red Ballroom, Lauren will direct the Long Island Flute Club in a concert featuring holiday favorites. The Club's annual concert has become a popular feature of Christmas at Westbury House for 12 years now.

Lauren is one of the founders of the LI Flute Club, which originated with 10 members in 1984 and now boasts up to 150 members performing at venues across Long Island. Lauren began her flute studies at the age of eight, earning her degrees at C.W Post. She taught elementary band for the Long Beach School District for 34 years, retiring in 2012. As a flutist, she is a member of the LIFC Professional Flute Choir and is Principal Flute for the Northwinds Symphonic Band.

Another Old Westbury Gardens volunteer who also performs with the Flute Club is Sandy Vigliotti, who teaches music at Connolly Elementary School, in the Glen Cove School District.

Guests visiting our WWI exhibit, *The Great War: Portraits of Privilege, Duty, and Sacrifice*, also hear music in the Red Ballroom performed by another member of the Osnato family, Lauren's husband Ray.

In order to add another dimension to the visitor's experience, Ray Osnato, who is a professional recording engineer and jazz pianist, created a soundtrack for the exhibit using original 78 rpm recordings preserved by the Library of Congress, which he digitally enhanced, as well as solo piano recordings of himself performing familiar tunes from the era such as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

For more than 50 years, Ray has used the power of song to help remember our military heroes and inspire people through their service.

"As a young musician, playing in Veteran's Day Concerts during the late 1960s and '70s, I remember the World War I vets coming up onstage," said Ray. "I recall speaking with one of the men who said to me, 'We called it the war to end all wars because we figured it was so big and awful that the world would just have to come to its senses and make sure we never fought another one again.'"

Those strong words remained with Ray for decades and as the WWI centennial approached, and he even composed the Armistice Day Centennial March in commemoration.

Ray Osnato's Armistice Day Centennial March has performed at Veteran's Day concerts here on Long Island and throughout the country.

Don't forget, the exhibit commemorating the WWI Centennial has been extended through November, so make sure to plan a visit to Old Westbury Gardens and experience it for yourself. We also have a lecture series to add historical context to the photographs and are open on Monday, November 12th-what better way to celebrate Veterans' Day and honor the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Old Westbury Gardens

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