



# Old Westbury Gardens

## CALENDAR

Events with an \* require advance tickets/ registration

### November 30

*Cream Tea\* 11am, 1:30pm*  
*Members Shopping Night 6pm*

### December 1

*Preservation Dinner\**

### December 2

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

### December 3

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

### December 5

*Cream Teas\* 11am, 1:30pm*

## 2017 President's Letter

Dear Friends of Old Westbury Gardens,

Country houses represent an essential aspect of American history and Old Westbury Gardens is truly remarkable as one of the few that remain intact, retaining not only Westbury House and the gardens, but also its furnishings and works of art. Our commitment to protecting Long Island's most significant historic landmark is unwavering and a long range strategic plan has set in motion key initiatives that will ensure Old Westbury Gardens will be preserved for generations to come.

This year the Gardens completed Phase II of the restoration of the South Allée. This character defining feature was originally designed as a three-tiered planting - a Hemlock Hedge, Flowering Dogwoods, and towering European Lindens as the overstory. While the Lindens remain in pristine condition, the Dogwoods were in

**December 8**

*Christmas at Westbury House  
10am-5pm*

**December 9**

*Christmas at Westbury House,  
10am-5pm  
Drop in Craft 10am-1pm  
A Christmas Carol\* 7pm*

**December 10**

*Christmas at Westbury House,  
10am-5pm  
Craft a Card 10am-1pm*

**December 12**

*Cream Tea\* 11am*

**December 14**

*Cream Tea\* 11am, 1:30pm  
Member Appreciation Evening\**

**December 15**

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

**December 16**

*Christmas at Westbury House,  
10am-5pm  
Drop in Craft 10am-1pm*

**December 17**

*Christmas at Westbury House,  
10am-5pm  
Craft-a-Card 10am-1pm*

**December 19**

*Cream Tea\* 11am, 1:30pm*

**December 20**

*Cream Tea\* 11am*

**December 21**

*Cream Tea\* 11am, 1:30pm*

**December 22**

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

**December 23**

*Christmas at Westbury House,  
10am-5pm  
Drop in Craft 10am-1pm*

decline and the Hedge was out of scale and severely damaged in Superstorm Sandy. A three-year effort was launched to replace the Hedge and plant hundreds of new Dogwoods. The project will be completed in spring 2018, and visitors will be enchanted to see the South Allée restored to its original splendor with the new Hedge and a profusion of pink and white Flowering Dogwoods alongside the majestic Lindens. As a result of this preservation effort, Old Westbury Gardens was awarded the prestigious Garden Club of America New York State Historic Preservation Commendation.

Also being completed this year is the restoration of the Service Wing Portico and Courtyard at Westbury House. An addition to Westbury House in 1911, the Service Wing was the main entrance for domestic operations. The original portico was removed in the 1970's due to structural instability, and thanks to generous donors we are now restoring this important façade of Westbury House. The Service Wing entrance will serve as a hub for expanded house tours and community programming in 2018.

The Gardens has been in the planning phase to replace the 111 year old roof of Westbury House. Our roof, sheathed in Collyweston slate, is the only one of its kind in the United States. While procuring the original slate material last year, we learned that the mine, that had provided slate for illustrious buildings in the U.K. for 600 years, had been closed for 60 years and there were no other sources available. After I visited the Collyweston region last spring, we were excited to learn that in January 2017, the mine reopened and the Gardens can now proceed with the restoration of this unique and distinctive roof.

As we continue to enhance our preservation efforts, the Gardens expanded youth education outreach and developed creative new public programs designed to deepen appreciation and raise awareness of our historically significant site. In 2017, Old Westbury Gardens welcomed over 7,500 children, many of whom participated in our Environmental Education program designed to enrich the science concepts taught in the classroom. Our beautifully preserved site becomes an

outdoor classroom where children can explore and learn about the natural world.

To continue reading this letter, please click [here](#)

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## The Gift of Membership

What better gift than giving the gift of the Gardens?

A Gift Membership can be purchased by clicking [here](#) or visiting The Gardens Gift Shop. Memberships will be gift wrapped and sent to your recipient. In order to ensure Christmas delivery please purchase your gift by December 15th. We're always excited to see our family grow, especially during the holidays, and we truly appreciate your support.



## Preservation News

What happens when a great American country house is missing a character defining element such as a staircase or porch? It usually goes unnoticed after a long absence and eventually "disappears" from everyday consciousness.



The Service Wing portico restoration at the east elevation of Westbury House is a revelation of scale and design intent. Architect Horace Trumbauer's exacting blueprints provide the concept of how the servant's entrance should appear but it's often difficult to envision the actual outcome. As the sleek wood columns were erected on the existing brick and bluestone terrace, visitors and staff expressed surprise at how imposing the structure was going to be. It is a very formal feature of the Service Wing courtyard. There is a pleasing symmetry in comparing the main entrance of Westbury House to the restored servant's entrance. The proportions of the limestone columns that flank either side of the main entrance create a stately formality designated for family and guests while the grouping of the servant's entrance wood columns possess a similar heft. It was typical of country house construction that less costly materials and simpler designs be used for service wings - thus plain Doric capitals for the service wing columns and more elaborate ionic ones at the front entrance. Even the servant's wing cornice which appears to be stone is wood painted to resemble limestone. The message is clear, this is the service wing of Westbury

House and the modest materials tell us this is where the help carried out the back of house tasks.

The courtyard paving is also being restored. The original buff pavers which are marked "Toledo" are no longer in production. The pavers, still in good condition, have been carefully salvaged to be used in other areas of the Gardens. Available pavers of the same proportions and coloration are not being produced and a compromise was made to procure pavers with as many of the same characteristics as possible.

Upon completion, the east elevation of Westbury House will be intact and the 1911 composition of Servant's Wing Portico, Courtyard and Laundry Building will once again reflect the vision of the original estate.

## Horticulture News

Many of our visitors think that this is a slow time in the Horticulture Department. However, this November has already been very busy out in the gardens. Tens of thousands of bulbs have been planted for this coming spring. Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, fritillaria, and other species will be gracing the borders while thousands of minor bulbs such as bluebells and squill will add to the naturalized bulb displays in our woodlands.



In addition to all of our bulb planting we have also begun work on the third and final phase of our South Allée Restoration. We took delivery of one hundred and fifty hemlocks this November that we will keep heeled in until they are ready to plant this spring. When we complete this planting we will have restored over one thousand linear feet of hemlock hedge. This is the largest restoration project that we have ever undertaken in the gardens.

While much of December is taken up with holiday decorating and putting the gardens to bed, January and February is the time when the horticulture staff will do most of the pruning on our many flowering shrubs. By the time March approaches, we will already be ready to prune the roses and get the gardens ready for opening again. The work in a garden is never done!

## Upcoming Events

## Christmas at Westbury House

We hope you stop by Westbury House as part of your holiday tradition. With decorated period rooms, cookies, cider, and much more, our holiday celebration is a must for the entire family. Santa Claus will be at Westbury House to greet children and families, making sure everyone's holiday wishes are granted-as long as they're on the nice list! While you are at Westbury House, be sure to stop by our gift shop and purchase your stocking stuffers. *Proceeds from the gift shop support Old Westbury Gardens.*



Christmas at Westbury House dates are as follows:

December 2 - 3: 10am - 5pm

December 8 - 10: 10am - 5pm

December 15 - 17: 10am - 5pm

December 22 - 23: 10am - 5pm

Please note that if special events take place during these hours, Westbury House will not be open to the public. Click [here](#) for a listing of our special events.

*\$12.00 general admission; \$10.00 age 62+ and full-time students with valid ID; \$7.00 children (7-17). This event is free for members.*

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## Drop in Craft: Children's Activities for the Holidays

*Weekends this December: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

You're invited to create a holiday themed take home craft! Deck the halls and upgrade your home décor for the holidays with a craft activity for all ages.

*These activities are free with admission.*

## First Night & Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2. 6:30pm

Be among the first to view Westbury House in its Holiday splendor, enchantingly illuminated for this special evening! The House will be filled with live holiday music and will feature a performance by members of the Bethel Concert Choir. a visit by Santa Claus, a tree lighting ceremony on the South Terrace at 8:15pm, and light refreshments. \$15/ \$13 members/ \$8 for children. Free for children under 6. To register for this event click [here](#).

## A Christmas Carol

Saturday, December 9. 7pm

Back by popular demand! Stu Whalen presents a dramatic one man performance of this holiday classic. This event will take place in the Red Ballroom. \$15.00 / \$12.00 member, \$10.00 child (ages 7-17) / \$8.00 member child. Ages 6 and under are free. To register for this event click [here](#).

## Holiday Market

Saturday, December 2 & Sunday, December 3

Our holiday market, located in The Barn at Orchard Hill, will feature local food and artisanal vendors selling exquisite gifts. Before or after attending The Market don't forget to stop in to decorated Westbury House. *Entrance is free with Gardens Admission.*



## Floral Design Workshops & Presentations

### **Christmas Wreathmaking: Workshop**

*Saturday, December 9. 1pm*

\$50/ \$45 member. Fee includes all materials.

To reserve your spot, please click [here](#)

### **Holiday Tablescapeing: 1-hour presentation**

*Saturday, December 16. 10:30am*

\$15/ \$8 member

To reserve your spot, please click [here](#)

## Holiday Concerts

### **Long Island Flute Club**

*Sunday, December 3. 1pm*

### **Suzuki on the Island**

*Sunday, December 10. 2pm*

### **Holy Name of Mary School Choir, Valley Stream**

*Saturday, December 16. 11am*

### **Girl Scouts of Nassau County**

*Saturday, December 16. 1pm*

Concerts are free with admission

## Teas & Tours

### *Cream Tea*

Enjoy a cream tea, featuring scones, clotted cream, jam, and tea, then a guided tour of decorated Westbury House. 11am and 1:30pm seatings

Tuesdays, December 5, 12 (11am only), 19

Wednesdays, November 29 (1:30pm only), December 6 (1:30pm only), 13 (1:30pm only), 20

Thursdays, November 30, December 7 (11am only), 14, 21

[Advance registration required Click here to purchase tickets](#)

## Giving Tuesday

# #GIVINGTUESDAY

Please join the global movement #GivingTuesday. Charities around the world will be asking individuals to support their organizations on this Tuesday, November 28th. In the spirit of the season, we hope you will select Old Westbury Gardens as your charity of choice and [make a gift](#) on Tuesday. Every dollar you donate on [#GivingTuesday](#) goes directly to supporting the House and Gardens. Thank you in

advance for thinking of us and supporting the work we do to keep Old Westbury Gardens a place of solace and beauty during this holiday season.

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## Champions for Charity

Old Westbury Gardens' is pleased to announce that we will be participating in this years Americana Manhasset Champions for Charity shopping event.



Twenty-five percent of your full-priced pre-tax purchases at participating Americana Manhasset and select Wheatley Plaza stores will be donated to Old Westbury Gardens. Support The Gardens by simply doing your holiday shopping! Champions for Charity takes place from November 30 - December 3.

To register for this event, please click [here](#)

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## Champions for Charity Kick-Off Party

*Wednesday, November 29. 5pm-8pm*

Brooks Brothers cordially invites you and a guest for a special Champions for Charity event to benefit Old Westbury Gardens. This event will feature cocktails, Hors D'oeuvres and shopping! 25% of your purchase will be donated to The Gardens.

Please RSVP to Carlin Griffin at (516) 333-0048 ext. 304

## Members Only Events

## Members Shopping Night

*Thursday, November 30, 6:00 pm - 9:00pm*

Members, you're invited to a members-only shopping night at Westbury House. Join us for a special holiday shopping night featuring discounts on select items, unique gifts, and the always popular Holiday Gift Memberships. Seasonal refreshments will be served. All proceeds benefit the Gardens' programs. To register for this event click [here](#).

## Members Holiday Celebration

*Thursday, December 14. 6pm - 8pm*

Members Only can visit Westbury House and attend a reception in the Red Ballroom. To register for this event please click [here](#).

For more information on becoming a member of Old Westbury Gardens click [here](#).

## Past Events

### Veterans Day Commemoration

Old Westbury Gardens thanked our veterans last month with a Veterans Day Commendation.

It was a day of remembrance and historical appreciation as guests traveled back in time to the years of the First World War. Children discovered the various roles they could have played in helping our nation's troops, and afterwards they had an opportunity to create a craft to take home. Musician and storyteller Johnny Cuomo was on-hand to serenade the audience to a fun-filled list of American classics, as well for an afternoon concert.

Along with a complimentary admission for all veterans and members of the military, it was our way of saying thank you to all veterans for their service and sacrifice.

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## The Uninvited Guest

Sixty citizen detectives joined our recent *Uninvited Guest* investigation to discover who the devil "stole" the entryway tiger. The immersive event looped visitors through a series of Westbury House challenges, meeting detained suspects like neighbor and social climber Mrs. Burrows, Nora the House Chef and Alastair the Butler. One by one investigators dissolved suspicions and cleared the accused by gathering evidence to connect the dots. Who ultimately committed the crime? You will have to discover the truth yourself! With the event's great success and demand, the Gardens plans to once again host the *Uninvited Guest* next year and create new storylines for 2018.



Please click [here](#) to see our full calendar of events for November and December.

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### Old Westbury Gardens

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