

Lyme/Old Lyme Auxiliary

Post Office Box 324, Old Lyme CT 06371

AUTUMN 2011

Dear fellow members,

Wow!! Was Summer actually shorter this year? Or does it just seem that way? It feels like we just caught our collective breath after the 11th Lyme/Old Lyme Garden Tour, and here we are about to embark on a new year of activities! But before we get into that, let's reflect on the past few months:

Since our last newsletter in February, we have been so busy! We held a marvelous Intake for the Annual Sale at the Old Lyme Congregational Church. Our volunteers did a bang-up job of organizing, and we were able to send a gigantic truckload of quality donations to Groton for the Sale. And speaking of the Sale — this year we had both a new location (Groton Shopping Plaza) and a new date (early May), which meant new and different challenges as well. But with helping hands from across the Agency, as well as many helpers from outside — most notably, the wonderful sailors from the Subase in Groton — the 57th Annual Sale was another success, raising much-needed unrestricted funds for the Agency!

I hope you all were able to get to the Garden Tour this year! We had some really spectacular properties on the tour (which took place June 17 & 18); each one was fabulous in its own way, each one featured



something special. Despite the less-than-perfect weather on Friday, we still had a steady stream of hard-core garden lovers who braved the elements. And Saturday, which was gorgeous, brought even more visitors! Between ticket sales, the Garden Boutique, and our incredibly supportive corporate sponsors, we

were able to net over \$39,000 for the Agency! We are so proud of this accomplishment, and we have all of you to thank. This could not have happened without the support of our members and our many friends from the community! Our next Garden Tour takes

place in 2013 — please be on the lookout for beautiful gardens that you think should be on the Lyme/Old Lyme Garden Tour.

As for 2012, it has been our custom to hold a Garden Gala in between Garden Tour years, but we think that perhaps it's time for something new. If you have any ideas for an innovative way to raise funds for the Agency, please contact our new Development Chair, Laurie Walker — or better yet, come to the next Auxiliary meeting and bring your ideas!

When is that next Auxiliary meeting, you ask? Just around the corner: Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00 pm. Mary Dangremond has graciously offered her lovely home for this meeting, which will include light refreshments and will feature remarks from Jen Messina, the site manager of B. P. Learned Mission in New London. Come and enjoy a glass of wine, hear about the wonderful things that are going on at the Mission, and learn how you can help us continue to support Child & Family's programs. You should be receiving email and postal reminders about the meeting; please be sure to RSVP so we get an idea of how many are coming.

At this meeting we'll be discussing, as mentioned above, whether we want to continue the tradition of the **Garden Gala** or move on to a new venture. We'll also be looking for help with various upcoming events. First on the list will be the **Polar Express** program,

SAVE THE DATES

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| October 18 | CFA 40th Annual Meeting 9am B. P. Learned Mission 40 Shaw Street, New London |
| October 19 | Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Mary Dangremond's Home 26 Mile Creek Road, Old Lyme |
| Nov/Dec | Polar Express |
| December 3 | Cookie Walk |
| January | January Blues cocktail party |

our annual holiday program that directly benefits Agency client families who otherwise might not be able to provide holiday gifts and food for themselves. Martha Quaratella has volunteered to chair the program again this year, but will be looking for helpers to shop, wrap, or simply support the program with a monetary donation.



Please watch for a notice about Polar Express in your mail. Donations may be mailed in, and will also be gratefully accepted at

our meeting in October. Coming soon after Polar Express will be our **Cookie Walk**, and for this we'll be looking for your cookies — your most beautiful, most delicious, most special holiday cookies — to sell. We'll also need a few volunteers on hand that day (the first Saturday in December). Sharon Tracy and Christy Laurence will be co-chairing the Cookie Walk. Only with your help, however will it be successful! And finally on our list of upcoming events is the **January Blues** cocktail party. This event comes at a time when the winter doldrums are starting to settle in — the holiday decorations have been put away, and Spring seems a long way off. A tentative date is January 28, location to be announced.

Please be sure to check the Child & Family Agency website (www.cfapress.org) now and then to see what is going on across the Agency. New on their home page is the Agency's bicentennial video created by Lyme's own Wil Bradford. If you didn't get a chance to see it during the bicentennial celebration in 2009, be sure to catch it here. You'll also find information on other great events that our sister auxiliaries are presenting, like the Essex Holiday House Tour on December 10. Coming up sooner, however, is the Agency's annual meeting, which takes place on Tuesday, October 18 at 9am at the B. P. Learned Mission in New London. All members of Child & Family auxiliaries are welcome and encouraged to attend the annual meeting! The guest speaker this year will be Deb Heinrich, nonprofit liaison to Governor Dannel Malloy.

Finally, if you haven't already paid your auxiliary dues for the 2011–12 year, please do so right away. The auxiliary uses dues to pay for administrative costs like mailing this newsletter, as well as to seed the startup of our various fundraisers. And at the end of the fiscal year, extra funds go straight to the Agency. In case you have misplaced the dues request that was mailed to you this summer, we have included another notice with this mailing. Dues information can also be found on the Agency website under "membership."

We hope to see you all at the Autumn meeting at Mary Dangremond's home!

Autumn Meeting Lyme/Old Lyme Auxiliary

Wednesday, October 19 7:00 pm

at the home of Mary and David Dangremond
26 Mile Creek Road, Old Lyme

RSVP: Sallie Mundy, 860-434-5674

