



The Garden Club of New Haven

Archival Moments

The Garden Club of New Haven is celebrating our Centennial during the 2024-2025 Club year.

Our activities over 10 decades of working here in New Haven have beautified many parts of our City, worked with almost 100 community partners, encouraged conservation & horticulture, shared our Members' expertise in floral design at public Flower Shows, participated in programs with other garden clubs, and been active with the Garden Club of America the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.

We begin with Florence Bradley, the first president of the Garden Club of New Haven. She was born on May 17, 1869 and died on November 27, 1944. She is buried at the Grove Street cemetery, in plot 61 on Maple St.

Research reveals that she was a creative, observant, and sensitive woman – devoted to her church and to the environment. she wrote scores for the piano and organ to accompany communion meditations and several of her hymns are preserved in "The New Christian Hymnal". Additionally, from the partial transcript of a letter of admiration and good wishes that she wrote to Helen Keller from her home at 47 Livingston Street, Florence expressed her pleasure at having met Miss Keller, her devotion towards her church, her fondness for pets, and her enthusiasm for drawing and design as she describes the conscious beauty of an oak leaf.

The history of our Garden Club is on our website for all to read. These presentations highlight instead some other interesting aspects of our century of work in and for New Haven.