



ANNA GLEN VIOTOR

Presented by Lisa Totman

I knew Anna Glen Viotor as the mother of friends and a friend of my mother's. Parent of seven, four girls and three boys, Anna Glen was a powerhouse! A visionary and organizer, she made time to initiate many projects and to enlist help in seeing them to fruition. Besides the many projects for the GCNH, Anna Glen started the Foote School Nearly New Sale, and the Register Supplement for the New Haven Symphony both enormous tasks and significant fundraisers. After the untimely death of their daughter Barbara, Anna Glen and her husband Alec, created the Barbara Foster Viotor Memorial Planting Fund to beautify areas around the hospital and Yale.

In 1974, The New Haven Register selected Anna to receive their salute in recognition "for community service and personal dedication... which enriches or improves the life of all of us." Specifically, "For the leadership that exemplifies the Garden Club objectives of conservation, education, and a more beautiful New Haven, and for her dedication to the betterment of this community."





PHELPS NOW

Anna Glen held a host of jobs in the GCNH---President, Treasurer, Civic Chairman. She was a hostess and organizer for meetings and flower shows, including a tour of the Masters' Houses at Yale, and the 50th Celebration at the New Haven Lawn Club.





50th ANNIVERSARY

New Haven
Lawn Club

She was a relentless source of ideas for projects, inspiring others to participate She also was a gifted fundraiser, and whole heartedly backed the Civic planting Fund among other things.



Changing of the Guard



Mrs. John O. Wilson, president of the Garden Club of New Haven, and Mrs. Christopher Tunnard, club member, go over plans for a new mini-park which will be created at an Orchard Street lot.

Orchard St Mini Park

CIVIC PLANTING FUND

I will be 50 YEAR PATRON(S) and will contribute a Birth-
We 1 day Gift of \$ _____ to help beautify NEW HAVEN

Name _____
Address _____

If donation is \$50.00 or more your name will be inscribed in
THE SPECIAL 50 YEAR PATRON BOOK

Please print below exactly as you wish it to appear:

Name _____
(List one) Individual — Corporate or Anonymous

(If you Wish)
In memory of _____
or _____
In honor of _____

Checks should be made payable to
THE CIVIC PLANTING FUND

and sent to
Mrs. Christopher Tunnard
251 East Rock Road
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

All donations are tax-deductible within the limits allowed by law

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

1924-1974
THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN, INC.
CIVIC PLANTING FUND

Mrs. James O. Wilson
President

Dear _____

1974 is the 50th Birthday of the Garden Club of New Haven. Over the years its members have been active in conservation, education and, in particular, the beautification of New Haven made possible by its tax deductible CIVIC PLANTING FUND. Some examples are the design, landscaping and continuous care of the Phelps Triangle Mini-Park at Trumbull Street, the yearly plantings of seasonal flowers in front of City Hall, elm trees at the corner of the New Haven Green and now, on the drawing boards, plans for additional mini-parks. With today's energy crisis, the need for these is greater than ever before.

This one time only, to celebrate our 50th Birthday, we are seeking presents from the public spirited members of our community. I am therefore willing to ask you to become one of our 50 YEAR PATRONS. We will be most grateful for donations in any amount and those who contribute \$50.00 or more will have their names inscribed in THE SPECIAL 50 YEAR PATRON BOOK which will be presented to the New Haven Colony Historical Society for their permanent archives. Your gift may, if you wish, be in memory of or in honor of some one.

Our goal is \$50,000.00.

Please help us make New Haven more beautiful.

Sincerely yours,
Hortense Wilson

What an amazing, thoughtful, perceptive, and prescient lady she was! The following comes from her 1968 Annual Report to the Garden Club of New Haven

Instead of running through activities, which she felt had been covered by the chairs, Anna Glen decided to do “philosophizing on garden clubs, and our part in them.”

“Garden Clubs mean different things to different people. For some it is the vital interest of Conservation—and this means everything from planting a window box to saving a threatened redwood grove—or it may be the even more destructive effects of pollution threatening our natural heritage.”

“To others it may be the creation of beauty—the artist striving for perfection in the composition of the perfect flower arrangement, with the challenge endlessly repeated—or the growing of an outstanding flower or plant bringing each season a renewed feeling of achievement.”

“To others just the beauty of nature in its natural or landscaped space can bring inspiration and hope, and in times of trouble help and solace



“To many, it brings a combination of all the above, and in addition the warmth of friendship and the companionship of shared interests.”

Presented by Joanne Bailey

I knew Anna Glen Vietor as a great neighbor and mother of my friend, Polly. Anna Glen was the first to welcome us to the Lincoln and Bradley streets neighborhood. As our moving van pulled away, she arrived with a gorgeous pot of flowers. I was in my twenties with my first baby--ready to learn. She had too many children and grandchildren to count and was a major tour de force in New Haven, New York, and Martha's Vineyard. Did she guess that I couldn't identify every blossom?

As I thought back to those years when I knew Anna Glen and read about her life's accomplishments, I was struck by so many things: her broad interests and passions, her hard work, her noted philanthropy, her dedication to her family and friends. And Lisa's quotes from her Garden Club final report really stand out --Anna Glen was also such an amazing forward thinker.



I'd like to offer a few more down to earth tidbits from some personal experiences:

ANNA GLEN WAS PRACTICAL

When walking around her New Haven Garden she was quick to point out her vision. Surrounded by beautiful tall brick walls her beds were (as she so proudly described) composed of "year-round greenery" with different heights, textures, shades. Her flowering gardens were saved for Edgartown where she spent more than 65 summers.

ANNA GLEN LOVED TO ENTERTAIN

The more the merrier. In New Haven she had countless dinner parties. We were lucky to be included at times. The conversations were interesting with strong opinions. And if anyone had an infant, she encouraged you to bring the baby along. There was always a lovely Silver Cross Carriage, freshly made up and waiting. After dinner the men were invited into the library for brandy and cigars. We women went to the living room to chat.

ANNA GLEN WAS WITTY

And she loved to be just a little irreverent. She lived for over 20 years after Alec died. Sometimes she had a gentleman date for an event who she would refer to as "my pair of pants for tonight."
(Not to their faces!).

Anna Glen lived in New Haven for 37 years. She grew up in New York and always maintained a residence there. The Martha's Vineyard VINEYARD GAZETTE did a lengthy obituary when she died in 2005 at the age of 88.
Here are just a very few extractions:

- Anna Glen was known for her "zest for life and love of travel".
- She was passionate about history, education, culture and beautification.
- She received the Frederick Law Olmstead Award from the Central Park Conservancy
- She created a tulip walk for the New York Botanical Garden, funded the planting of tulips in the Central Park Conservancy Garden and the malls along Park Avenue.
- A former New York Parks Commissioner bestowed upon her the park moniker "Grand Tulip".



We'd like to close with an actual remembrance of Anna Glen. What might she have worn when presented at court to King George and Queen Mary? or when honored by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands? Purchased at the Foote Nearly New Sale by her mother, Jane, Jenny Byers is the beneficiary of one of Anna Glen's haute couture bejeweled evening gowns and will now walk across the Garden Club runway to give us all a glimpse!

Thank you, Jenny!!

