

Patchogue Green

News of the Patchogue Garden Club

August 2026

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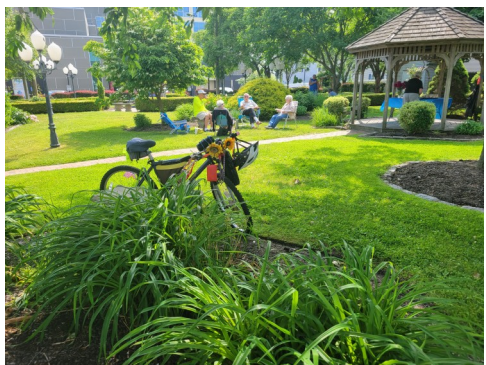
Joan Tifford

Instagram Coordinator—Khem Fatimi

Newsletter—Margaret Atkinson

Art—Pat Sweeney

June 6—Breakfast in the Garden



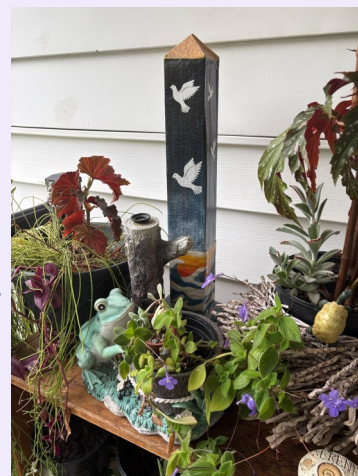
This and That, August 2026

Jo Miller has been looking into various ideas for possible excursions for our group. She found Madoo Conservancy and garden in Sagaponack—a horticulturally diverse garden with historic structures, free and open to the public. There's also an interesting place, Bridge Garden—a botanical garden located in Bridgehampton ("informal gardens with a splash of sculpture.") Let her know if you are interested in either such adventure.

Pat Sweeney is preparing a display of paintings, photographs, sketches relating to our Garden Club Garden in Patchogue. This display will be in a tent at Arts on Terry (AOT) on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Any work from the 30 year garden history will be considered. Call for art will be out soon. If you have any of this artwork or know of anyone who has drawn in the garden, let Pat know. 631-484-4346 sweeneypl2@gmail.com

We'll meet at Shorefront Park for the August meeting on the 25th to learn about and observe the improvements made to the shoreline and the park.

Aren't we lucky to have **Stephen Paul** as a regular contributor to this newsletter. He provides such interesting insights and photographs of the Patchogue area (pages two and three). You can read about the Patchogue peace poles on page three. Here is my front porch peace pole, made in a Patchogue Library class. mma



Birthdays

July 15—Andrea Stolz
August 4—Margaret Atkinson
August 8—Jane McGuire-Seitz
August 10—Gladys Heimburger
Aug 10—Ginny Roeloffs
August 13—Eileen Brenner
August 21—Carol Tvelia
August 29—Tim Taber



Calendar of Future Events

August 25—Meeting at Shorefront Park
September 22—Back to the Recreation Center, 2 p.m.
October 27—Fall Tea, 2 p.m.

The Bicycle Baedeker By StephenPaul



*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art lovelier and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, and summer's lease hath all too short a date...
... But thy eternal summer shall not fade, nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st...*
(WS Sonnet 18)

Or as Oscar & Hammerstein lyrically wrote “**June is bustin’ out all over!**” (*Carousel*)” Summer has finally begun and plants, flowers, trees & shrubs are looking mighty glorious throughout Patchogue. Even though we had a harsh Winter and a barely-there Spring, bike-riding through the Village has been a garden of earthly delights. Some homes are beautifully landscaped, with the Downtown scene coming back to life after a long winter’s hibernation. This month I’m featuring Main Street and surrounding environs, an off-beat garden set up on the first floor of a low-rise village apartment, Peace Poles, and a word about Art.

In addition to my riding around constantly, I take afternoon perambulations along Main Street as part of my daily exercise ritual. Considering I’ve lived in the New Village apartments for near on a decade and have walked along Main Street thousands of times, I’ve frequented many of the bars and restaurants and coffee shops that I pass. What’s particularly nice at this time of year is seeing the many storefronts that sport outside box-planters which really enhances one’s street experience.

My favorite restaurant is **Gallo**, right off the Four Corners, where you can get some really good Latin cuisine. Having a very upbeat vibe, always busy Owner David Bustamante (whose Father started the restaurant 30 years ago) prides himself on his Columbian heritage with food to match. I caught him in early June planting his outdoor seating garden where he explained the joys of doing it himself as it brings him peace of mind and tranquility while running such a successful, busy business. !Vaya Amigo! Across the street are two other Latino restaurants that have lovely floral plantings & decorations gracing outside seating areas. One, a Mexican restaurant **Ruta**, features cuisine from Oaxaca, a City in the south of Mexico that features 16 distinct indigenous communities, Zapotec and Mixtec being the most populous. You can get some really different Mexican cuisine inside this fine establishment. Not your typical tacos & nachos! Lastly, **Chicken Place** has some beautiful garden plants to sit amongst while dining outside this Peruvian dining establishment. Chicken ain’t all they got, and the adventuresome can have some crazy South American “Sopas,” one-bowl meals featuring meats, seafood, vegetables and broths. Try it, you’ll like it! Certainly easier (and cheaper) than a LATAM Airline flight to Lima, Peru.



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)



An **aging apartment** along Railroad Avenue sports a remarkable, tiny garden gracing apartment windows and lawn below. Really beautiful to see how the resident has unexpectedly merged window boxes with ground plantings along the lawn abutting the building. This person deserves an award for doing “more with less” and providing a beautiful streetscape to effect a near-urban neighborhood feel. In fact further along the Avenue are the condominium townhouses that make up Copper Beech Village. Each has lovely gardens out front and full-growth trees to die for. I feel I’m back in Brooklyn (almost)!

Popping up around town are stark, white 6-foot “**Peace Poles**”. Sometimes beautifully landscaped, each states the simple message “*May Peace Prevail on Earth*”. Each of the four sides have a different language on the monument stating the same message. Started in Japan in 1976 based on a prayer by Masahisa Goi in 1955 dedicated to the devastation of WW II, including the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Peace Poles have spread like wildfire around the

world. I know of six within Patchogue Village including one behind the Main Library, Oak Street near the office building housing our Congressman’s local office, the Carnegie Library, Temple Beth-El, the Patchogue-Medford Youth & Community Services house, and the Patchogue Community Garden on Bay Ave.



And lastly a word on the passing of my favorite living artist: **David Hockney**. English by birth, he enjoyed a full life and career as one of world’s most respected and prolific artists. Born in Yorkshire, he bridged many worlds through his art, including his famous paintings, printmaking and photography of Southern California and Los Angeles. His work spanned the pop culture world of the 60’s & 70s, continuing right through the beginning of the 21st century. He spurned all current art trends of modern abstraction, instead focusing on naturalism, intense coloration, and pictorial realism. His later large-scale landscapes were a riot of color and design. Among other notable accomplishments he designed opera stage sets on a level beyond Franco Zeffirelli. The San Francisco Opera Company boasts several sets for such major operas as *The Magic Flute* and *Tristan und Isolde*. His greatest set is that of Puccini’s *Turandot*, most recently featured in 2018 with David Hockney in attendance! Yes, he received a curtain call. In old age he settled in France where he took to *en plein air* drawings using a Mac computer and I-pad. His last blockbuster exhibit was a major retrospective of his work at the newly completed Foundation Louis Vuitton Center in Paris last summer when he was 87 years old. The show I would had given an arm and leg to have seen was a retrospective of his deeply vibrant landscapes hung throughout the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam in Spring 2019. The show mounted his wild landscaped art next to similar Van Gogh pieces, as both artists shared an electric expression of color and vibrancy throughout all their work.



'Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)' (1972) © David Hockney/Art Gallery of New South Wales



'Play within a Play within a Play and Me with a Cigarette' (2024-25)
© David Hockney



June Meeting on Cedar



Chris Copobianco welcomes the group to his back yard



Rick Weber, Pat Sweeney and Eileen Brenner



Great garlic harvest



Standout colors of the home and outbuildings



Look at this gorgeous back yard.
More beautiful than grass.



Members relax on a warm day.



Karl follows many of the Back to Eden suggestions, using wood chips and cardboard and a compost slurry he makes from purslane, comfrey, nettle, dandelions, clover, purple dead nettle, Virginia copper leaf, nutsedge, chickweed, purslane milk and worm casings. ("It takes a couple of weeks to start—also use rain water, banana peels and onion skins. As season progresses to the fruiting stage, back off on the items high in nitrogen like clover and nettle.")



Jo Miller and Ginny Roeloffs and Teresa Ryther check out the tunnel arbor.



Potatoes under the banana tree



Look at these beautiful cabbages.

July Meeting on Price Street

Karl Reamer told us that when he moved here in 1999 he started a small garden on the side of the house. He planted only enough to make salsa. Now he's expanded his gardens to the front and back and has enough to supply a small produce stand in front of his house.



Take what you need.
Leave \$ what you can.



Environmentally friendly



When I snapped the photo of Karl at his compost barrel, my mind immediately went to this drawing I remembered from Ella Beskow's 1930's *Pelle's New Suit*.

Don't you think Karl looks a bit like Pelle?

mma



Then he dyed his wool himself until it was all, all blue.

(Thanks to Paula for sharing photos.)

Get to Know a Gardener Teresa Ryther and Chris Pashoukos

Where were you born, and where have you lived?

I lived in Patchogue my whole life. Chris was born in Queens and moved out here when he was little. We took care of my parents before they passed away and then decided to stay in Patchogue.

What gave you your first interest in gardening?

I always liked being outside with my father doing yardwork, and also I had a neighbor gardener and she gave me seeds to grow peas when I was a little girl and help me make a little garden and I was so amazed how they came up out of the ground. It was like magic.

Outside of gardening, what are some of your interests?

I belong to Patchogue Sketch Club and Photography Club. I paint with oils and acrylics and watercolor. I love photography, and I love taking photos to recreate famous scenes in movies, especially Alfred Hitchcock. Chris is a musician, a percussionist and is in several orchestras on Long Island when he's not working.

An interesting place you've traveled to or visited

We visited Iceland several years ago, which was magnificent and beautiful. We loved it and we want to go back.

Your favorite dessert or food

Both of us love coffee and grind our own beans and drink it very strong, both hot and cold. We love all kinds of food. We love going out to eat.

Something you are proud of

I am proud that I've retired and been able to get back to doing other things that I love like painting, and have made it into several exhibits at different galleries. I'm also proud of my career in science and working for different government agencies federal and state. The thing about being proud is just having all this different experience with different kinds of people: artists, scientists, lab people, inspectors at the health department.

Favorite internet site

One of my favorite Internet sites is "Bat World Sanctuary." It's a rescue team that takes care of injured bats and also teaches the public about them and the good that they do as pollinators and etc., and not to be afraid of them.

We both love listening to podcasts. One of my favorites is "National Park in the Dark."

And one of Chris's favorites is called "What Went Wrong," and it is about things that went wrong in filming famous movies.

Education, job experience

Chris graduated from music school and I graduated from art school, but because my father was afraid I wouldn't be able to get a job out of art school, I went back and got a science degree. So then what I had was a bachelors of fine arts and an associates of applied science. This was kind of a unique situation and got me a job with the federal government on Plum Island where I worked with my photography knowledge from art school as well as doing lab tech work. It also enabled me to take different civil service tests, and I wound up working for the NY State DEC studying striped bass and then later with Suffolk County with public health.

Chris did almost the same thing! He went to Crane school of music but now works in New York State courts.

Anything else you'd like us to know about you

Chris and I met in Drum and Bugle Corp.. He was a percussionist and I played flugelhorn. :)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP, TERESA AND CHRIS!

