



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Dahlia Show, East Hampton Library garden, August 30, 1921

This week, I realized I forgot to plant flower bulbs last fall and I found myself studying dahlias in order to determine what could still be planted. Coincidentally, when I started looking for the next *Item of the Week*, photographs from one of the East Hampton Garden Club's dahlia shows caught my attention.

This photo from the 1921 Dahlia Show captures two women in hats standing behind a table covered in flower arrangements. The cherub fountain seen in the foreground may look familiar to some, as it used to be in the East Hampton Library's "Green Garden," near the back entrance to the current children's room. The foundation of the fountain remained in place until construction began for the new expansion.

The Dahlia Show was a joint event with the Garden Club of Southampton, held on Tuesday, August 30th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the East Hampton

Library. Flowers were judged based on their "length of stem and luxuriance of foliage," with additional points for "form," "size," and "substance." Advertisements in *The East Hampton Star* invited "all permanent and summer resident[s] of East Hampton and vicinity" to compete. However, the program made it clear that non-members were only permitted to participate in one competition known as the "Open Class," where entries were limited to one bloom, and stem and foliage were the criteria for judgment. The members-only competitions included a section for specific types and colors of dahlias. Other prizes were awarded for best seedling bloom, best collection of up to twelve varieties of dahlia, and for artistic arrangements.

Local florist Louis Vetault and Stanley Brown judged the competitions that were based on specific varieties of dahlias, colors, and the overall best specimen. Adele McGinnis Herter, Mary Palen Snow, and Amy James Newton judged the competitions for best floral arrangements.

EXPLORE MORE

The Digital Long Island Collection is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

The East Hampton Star Archive is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

The Karl Grossman Research Archive is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

The Local Artist Research Archive is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."

We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to Digital Long Island on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Researched and written by Andrea Meyer, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection.

Andrea Meyer began working in the Long Island Collection in January 2015. Her responsibilities include updating Digital Long Island, scanning, processing new collections, and assisting patrons with research. She earned her M.L.I.S. through Long Island University, and completed her M.A. in Archives and Public History at New York University through the dual-degree program. Andrea started working in archives in 2005. Prior to working for the East Hampton Library, Andrea worked at the New Jersey State Archives, at NYU Libraries, and as a private research consultant. Her clients included the New-York Historical Society. She is also involved with the Sag Harbor Historical Society.

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