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# Newsday

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## kidsday

for kids,  
by kids,  
mostly

### Our magical garden

BY ARIEL SMITHEIMER  
Kidsday Reporter

When you get to the top of the hill at Salem School, you will see a white picket fence with a row of daisies lined up. When you walk into our garden, it's so peaceful and relaxing you feel like you are in another world. There is an array of colors like a rainbow. We grow tiger lilies, marigolds, daffodils and many other colorful flowers.

I am in the garden club with my friends. We water the flowers and clean up the trash, weeds and dead flowers. In the spring, we start to plant flowers. We sometimes use what we can find, like environmentally organic coconut pots that disintegrate when you plant them. We are trying to make the garden a better place.

My favorite thing to do in the garden is to take out my garden notebook, draw pictures of what I see and write down what needs to be worked on. I like to sit under the maple tree and observe the beauty of the outdoors.

### Meeting Carol Liu

BY ELLIOT AVIDANE,  
ELIZABETH BETZ,  
ABEGAIL FARAHAN  
AND HANNAH HIRSCH  
Kidsday Reporters

Carol Liu, the author of the book "Arlene on the Scene" (Emerald Book Co.), visited our school. We had an up-close and personal opportunity to interview her after she gave a presentation to the whole fourth grade.

We wanted to know what inspired her to write this book. Carol said, "My friend Marybeth [Sidoti Caldarone] has a disease called CMT and so does her daughter, Grace. I wanted to do something to help them."

CMT is a nerve disease that makes it difficult to walk. She said, "CMT stands for Charcot-Marie-Tooth. It was named CMT because it was the name of the three doctors

who discovered the gene malformation."

She told us writing this book "was fun for me because I used my imagination. It was also very challenging because it was my first book, and it took me two months to write it and six months to edit it. Marybeth helped me to tell the story, based on her experience."

She told us she is writing a follow-up book, "Arlene Goes Green."

We asked her about her feelings about CMT. Carol told us, "I feel sad about CMT, so I go out and help instead of sitting home and doing nothing."

Carol told us when she isn't writing, she is a lawyer and social worker.

If you are interested in purchasing this book, visit the website arleneon



Author Carol Liu with Kidsday reporters, from left, Hannah Hirsch, Abegail Farahan, Elizabeth Betz and Elliot Avidane

thescene.com.

A large percentage of proceeds from the sale of this book will go to people living with CMT if it is purchased through the Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation. The book sells for \$7.95. We hope you read it!

### CLASS OF THE WEEK

JoAnna Strianese's fourth-graders,  
SOUTH SALEM  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
Port Washington

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