



January 2025

REMINDER:

The January meeting will take place at 1 pm on Thursday, the 19th at the Durham Library

CALENDAR:

Thursday, January 16: MGC business meeting and presentation on the gardens of Stourhead, Wiltshire, England, by Rhea Higgins. **THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.**

Saturday, February 1: Environmental Film Series showing of "Farming While Black" at Russell Library, 2 pm. Free and open to the public.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Garden Club members --

As we say goodbye to 2024 we should recall the eventful year we had...

Although we grieved for the sudden passing of several members and we said goodbye to a few who moved away, we kept busy together.

We sent letters of support for the Community Health Center's greenhouse project and for a municipal street tree inventory and management plan. We handed out GCA and club awards to deserving members of the club and the community. We sent a representative to the GCA NAL meeting in Washington and the GCA Annual Meeting in Hartford; more than half the club

volunteered to help Zone II make the Hartford A.M. the best Annual Meeting ever!

We visited the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center and enjoyed micropropagation and native flowering plant presentations and talks regarding artist installations in the Harbor Park tunnel and flower arranging.

We planted the flower urns at Middletown Housing Authority's Sbona Towers, readied the gardens at Harbor Park for the dedication of the gardens and bench in Maria's name and we kept busy educating, planting, tending and harvesting vegetables at the Community Health Center's rooftop garden.

We helped sew discarded packaging plastic onto canvas to help create a sperm whale quilt installation and we decorated many wreaths and arrangements to distribute to various community businesses and sell at the annual Wadsworth Mansion Holiday Bazaar.

We kept busy together. Together let's make 2025 a great year for our club!

~ Kim

There are no minutes, as there was no business meeting in December 2024.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR:

Thank you to all who contributed to another successful sale! Once again, we were in the outside tent - which seems to be a good place for us in terms of space. Tolerable with the heaters, in spite of the wind. The committee tries hard to keep our expenses to a minimum: this year they totaled \$1617 (minus the six Community Wreaths), and personal donations of time, materials and ingredients from Ona, Renee, Kim and Lynn. Our motto seems to be reuse and recycle among other things! In spite of the problems we had with the Square we were able to take in \$5597 for a profit of \$3979. We will soon meet to look at this year's sale and plan for next year. The quality of our wreaths this year was exceptional, and we were able to sell 68 cakes.

~ Lynn Johnson



CONSERVATION NEWS:

When you are ordering seeds, look for seeds that are not treated with neonicotinoid.

~ Sally

CHC GREENHOUSE:

The Community Health Center plans to break ground for the new greenhouse at the corner of Grand and Main Streets sometime this spring, with completion expected at the end of June.

While plans are still evolving, we are assured that seedlings for the CHC rooftop will be a priority.

~ Jane

A Winter Bluejay

Crisply the bright snow whispered,
Crunching beneath our feet;
Behind us as we walked along the parkway,
Our shadows danced,
Fantastic shapes in vivid blue.
Across the lake the skaters
Flew to and fro,
With sharp turns weaving
A frail invisible net.
In ecstasy the earth
Drank the silver sunlight;
In ecstasy the skaters
Drank the wine of speed;
In ecstasy we laughed
Drinking the wine of love.
Had not the music of our joy
Sounded its highest note?
But no,
For suddenly, with lifted eyes you said,
“Oh look!”
There, on the black bough of a snow flecked maple,
Fearless and gay as our love,
A bluejay cocked his crest!
Oh who can tell the range of joy
Or set the bounds of beauty?

~ Sara Teasdale

