

**REMINDER:**  
 The February meeting will take place at the Portland Public Library at 1 pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Zoo

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Let us pray that our furry and feathered friends are right, and that Spring is just around the corner!

I'll be away in February but leave you in the expert hands of Kim and Laney.  
~ Maria



**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2024 MEETING:**

President Holzberg called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and thanked hostesses Kathie and Kathy. She read a

thank-you from the Rockfall Foundation for the

holiday wreaths and wished K. Green a happy birthday for a significant one.

The Executive Board will meet and review potential candidates for awards. GCA has many community awards we may be able to utilize.

Ellen Hoverkamp, Jane McMillan and Joan Stone have died recently. Ellen did a wonderful program for our club not too long ago. Joan was a long-standing member and former president, and Jane a supporter.

Andy Bicking introduced himself as the new head of CF&P.

MGC sent two letters of support, one for CHC for their greenhouse project, the other for a municipal street tree inventory and management plan.

Amy sent word that at the February meeting two guests will be with us: Philip Grover and Jan Philippe. The meeting is at the Portland Library. The speaker is Ana Bermudez, coming from Connecticut College.

We were reminded of the GCA Annual Meeting in April in Hartford.

Mary Xenelis said we all should have received a letter stating what we gave to MGC for the year.

Both the Philadelphia and the Federated Flower shows need volunteers.

Edwina reminded members that the Bulletin listed the Founders Fund candidates that we will vote on in March.

Ona, Lynn, and Renee reported that all wreaths were sold, that we made more than last year without raising prices, and that Mansion staff was very helpful as always.

A short break was taken for snacks and then resumed at 2 p.m. Pres. Holzberg thanked Lynn G and Melissa for the lovely holiday party at the Mansion.

Patsy then told us of what plans are in effect for the Annual meeting In Hartford from April 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>.

We all will be expected to help in any way. Lynn J. will handle Staging, Kim volunteers, and Elaine Signage. We will receive a volunteer form and can request to work at meals. Patsy is heading this task for the event. She will need volunteers for each meal, for the buses taking guests to gardens in the area. Floral designers will be doing small, simple designs following a color theme. There will be Zone dinners at 3 locations within walking distance of the convention center.

Volunteers will have to purchase an apron (some can be shared.) A refreshment area will be set up for volunteers with pre-made sandwiches.

Thursday night-judges arrive, their meals Dutch treat!

Friday-12-1 p.m. lunch at Marriott. Judges will lunch from 11:30-12:00 on a Dutch treat basis.

Snacks will be provided on Friday.

The Flower Show Preview Party will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and at 6:30, attendees will walk to the Atheneum, Old State House and the CT Science Center for Zone dinners from 7 to 9 pm. (Patsy not responsible).

Saturday: 7-8:30 a.m. there will be a buffet breakfast and volunteers are needed. At 11:45a.m., two choices in box lunches will be available.

The Awards dinner is 6:45-9:15 p.m. with cocktails available first.

Sunday: breakfast first, then meeting, 11:30-12:30.

5:30-8:30 optional dinner with Paul Newman's daughter, speaking about her parents.

Ona moved and Judy seconded adjournment.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine W. Green, Secretary. pro tem

ATTENDANCE: S. Allison, S. Cornish, E. Dzialo, L. Garner, K. Green, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, R. Kelley. M. Holzberg, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, J.

Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis

~ Laney Bank, Scholarship Chair

Excused: E. Carella, J. Harris, M. Kalayjian, M. Roberts ATTENDANCE, January 18, 2024



S. Allison, S. Cornish, E. Dzialo, L. Garner, K. Green, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, R. Kelley. M. Holzberg, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis

Excused: E. Carella, J. Harris, M. Kalayjian, M. Roberts, J. Powzyk, C. Wasch

### VISITING GARDENS:

Absent: L. Bank, J. Bell, K. Coley, N. D'Oench, T. Ferguson, M. Giamei, B. Glista, H. Motoc, P. Murawski

A core group of Kim W, Judy S, Kathy M, Lynn J, and Stephan A met recently to develop plans for this and next year's trips. Progress has and continues to be made. A solid base list was created and committee members will dig deeper for greater details on listed sites. Of particular interest this year are the many CT farms specializing in traditional fruits and vegetables but also including flowers in their offerings. We will attempt to put together a string of these farms to visit and tour. More details in coming months (we don't want to divert attention from the GCA Annual Meeting). But keep your eye on your Inbox in March when we may be announcing a simple visit or two before the GCA Annual Meeting.



### JANUARY PROGRAM:

The February meeting will be held at 1 pm on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave, Portland, CT 06480. Our speaker will be GCA Scholar Ana Bermudez, a student at Connecticut College. She is the 2023 recipient of the Keller Scholarship in Conservation Horticulture for her work on protocols for in vitro micropropagation of Lady's Slipper orchids. Hostesses are Debby Shapiro and Lynne Garner. (Please RSVP if you WON'T be attending!)

~ Stephan



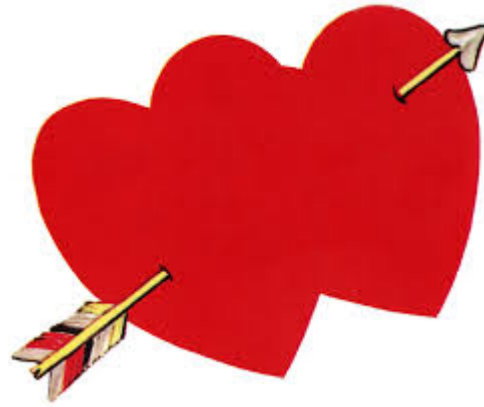
## HORTICULTURE:

June 14-15: Greenwich Garden Club is hosting a GCA flower show, "Unexpected Beauty." There are some really interesting classes here!

[The Flower Show Schedule](#) is still open, check it out and please use this [JotForm link](#) to enter a class. The deadline for entries is March 13. This is a week before the Newport Flower Show.

Also, plant nominations are open for the Freeman Medal. This year they will consider entries for woody plants. Check out the Horticulture Committee's landing page on the GCA website for submission information and deadlines.

~ Kathy Meyering



*"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens:  
the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house,  
and the garden of the mind's eye."*

~ Katharine S. White



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## FOUNDERS FUND FINALISTS 2024

*Please note that our club will vote on these projects at the March meeting. Much more information is available in the Winter 2024 GCA Bulletin, or at [www.GCAmerica.org](http://www.GCAmerica.org).*

1. Replacing indigenous and historic Northeastern species to create an Edible Plant Learning Center at the Jay Estate in Rye, NY. The horticultural department of the Jay Estate will focus on the pivotal role that native plants have played in healthy and sustainable human and wildlife communities.

Proposed by The Little Garden Club of Rye, Zone III

Seconded by Rye Garden Club, Zone III

2. The Restoration of an Orchid Learning Center in West Palm Beach, FL. The native orchid population has dwindled from over-harvesting and from urban development. The Orchid Learning Center will provide a space to reinforce the importance of native plants through education and learning activities.

Proposed by The Garden Club of Palm Beach, Zone VIII

Seconded by The Grass River Garden Club, Zone VIII

3. Church Health Community Garden: Green space becomes caring space. The Church Health Community Garden will be enriched by the construction of a multipurpose pavilion, a central place for a range of wellness activities and educational programs including workshops, lectures, and group activities. It will extend the Crosstown High School curriculum outdoors providing a dynamic learning environment.

Proposed by Memphis Garden Club, Zone IX

Seconded by Little Rock Garden Club, Zone IX

