



January 2024

RE M I N D E R

The January meeting will take place on Thursday the 18th at CT Forest and Parks

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, one and all!
Thank you, Melissa and Elaine, for planning a wonderful holiday party for us at the Wadsworth Mansion.

It was very nice to see everyone and to celebrate Sarah McDonald's GCA award. She and her partner Tyler moved here from Michigan, where they were very involved in the Ann Arbor community garden program.

So, aside from giving us 10,000+ plants, perhaps Sarah can give us some pointers on other potential projects!

In addition, we will hear all about our tremendously successful sale at the Mansion.

I look forward to seeing you all at CF&P!



**There are no minutes,
as there was no
December meeting**

-Maria

Membership News

Happy to update you that I will be inviting two prospective members to our February meeting.

One of the prospects is Philip Grover, Executive Administrative Assistant at the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Some of you may have met him at the Holiday Party at the Mansion, as he came as my guest.

Philip has an interest in Horticulture, loves to plan outings, has excellent organizational skills, and has exquisite taste in party planning/table setting.

The second prospect is Jan Phillipe, who moved to Middletown last August to be with her daughter, Carrissa Philippe Williams, widow of the late State Representative Quentin Williams.

Jan is the sweetest person you'll ever meet and would welcome community and companionship with our group. Interested in flower arranging, wreath making, and excursions to beautiful gardens and events, I think she

Visiting Gardens Committee

We are hoping to convene a meeting in late January or early February to dig deep into possibilities for 2024 trips. If anyone has ideas and or suggestions, the committee is "all ears." Just drop us a line via email with details and we can investigate further. Also, if anyone would like to sign on to the committee send me an email and you'll be invited to the upcoming meeting. (Actually, anyone who is interested is welcome to come to the meeting - I'll send an email out when we've set a date.)

- Stephan



would make an excellent member of our community.

If others have prospects they would like to bring or would like to chat, please reach me at 860 759 6295.



-Amy Albert, Membership Chair

Holiday Sale

A huge thank you to all members who helped make our Holiday Sale a success. Whether you sold wreaths, bought wreaths, decorated wreaths and centerpieces, helped in set-up and breakdown of both the workshop and the sale, your help was invaluable. Also invaluable was the enormous work of Lynn Johnson in turning out 89 almond cakes. The almond cakes are pure profit for us as Lynn donates the ingredients.

More than half the membership participated in the sale, our only fundraising endeavor.

Pre-Orders

We sold 38 decorated wreaths, 22 undecorated wreaths, and 33 almond cakes by pre-order. Our pre-order wreath sales brought in \$2,027—pre-ordered cakes brought in \$396.

Mansion Sale

The Mansion staff did not rent a tent this year, so all vendors were inside the Mansion. The staff made sure that we were adjacent to a patio door, which was most helpful in bringing our items up from the basement. Although our space was smaller than in recent years, we filled it beautifully, and sales were brisk. At the end of the day, only a few items were left, and all can be re-purposed next year. The mansion staff noted that fewer people walked through the doors this year seemingly because of weather. Nonetheless, we netted a total of \$2,556 in mansion and post-mansion sales.

Our total for pre-sales and mansion sales is \$4864.

Our profit is \$3,588.37 - a \$94.62 increase from 2022.

In addition, we donated decorated wreaths and sprays to six non-profit groups. (*Did you happen to see the lovely sprays on the Wadsworth Mansion doorway? They were done by Renee Kelley and Marcia Kalayjian.*)

We estimate the total donation to the six non-profits to be approximately \$72.

Ona McLaughlin	Renee Kelley
Lynn Johnson	Pat Murawski
Kim Wuestefeld	Marcia Kalayjian
Patsy Mylchreest	



Nature has many scenes to exhibit, and constantly draws a curtain over this part or that. She is constantly repainting the landscape and all surfaces, dressing up some scene for our entertainment. Lately we had a leafy wilderness; now bare twigs begin to prevail, and soon she will surprise us with a mantle of snow. Some green she thinks so good for our eyes that, like blue, she never banishes it entirely from our eyes, but has created evergreens. ~ Henry David Thoreau



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