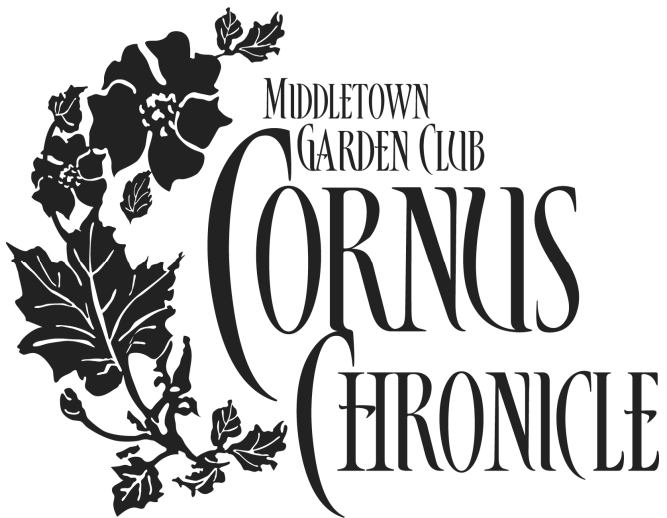




November 2025

REMINDER:

The November meeting will take place at 1 p.m. on the 20th at the Community Room of the South District Firehouse.

CALENDAR:

Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m.,
Wadsworth Mansion vernal pool clean-up.

Saturday, November 8, Moody School,
10 a.m., Micro forest tree planting.

Thursday, November 13, Virtual
Conference on Garden History & Design.
Must register not later than November
12. No charge.

Thursday, November 20, South District
Firehouse, 1 p.m., MGC business meeting
and program.

Monday, December 1, 8 a.m., deKoven
House, Wreath Workshop.

Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.,
Wadsworth Mansion, Holiday Bazaar



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello. October may have been busy but here comes November!

It is the season to appreciate the bounty of our hard work and the beauty of our landscape – and to plan for the future.

It's a time to reflect on the success of the gardens we've been tending, to create for and plan holiday events and to share the goals and vision of our club.

It's also a time to relish the extra hour, get out and vote, honor our veterans, and gather with friends and family to give thanks.

Kim xo

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2025
BUSINESS MEETING:**

A change of venue brought out a large percentage of the club's membership on a brisk October day, as we met at the Levi Coe Library in Middlefield.

In the absence of President Wuestefeld, VP Kathy Meyering called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. After thanking her co-hostess, Kathie Green, for supplying refreshments, she introduced Kristen

Colombo, the new Executive Director of the Jonah Center, explaining that Kristen had a presentation on the soon-to-open Midden Overlook Trail in Middletown's North End.

She explained that half of the plateau at the top of the former landfill, now capped with clay, will be available for passive recreation, including bird-watching and learning about the other flora and fauna of the area. The goal of several grants they have applied for is to raise the funds to build one or more pavilions with a panoramic view of the rivers that converge at this location before flowing into the Connecticut River.

Because the area is now totally invaded by mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), the Jonah Center is hoping for MGC participation to find solutions for removal and replanting.

Both before and after Kristen's departure, club members offered suggestions, including the possibility of our club's obtaining a Partners 4 Plants grant from GCA to employ a landscape professional as a consultant. Jane Harris promised to connect Kristen with landscape designer Kathy Connolly.

Following Kristen's departure, VP Meyering requested approval of the minutes of the September meeting and the Treasurer's report from September. Both votes were unanimously in favor. Kathy then thanked Jane, Michelle, Stephan, Kathie Green, and Ed Dzialo for their work preparing the Moody School site for the new Micro forest.

There being few announcements, Kathy asked for committee reports, which were delivered as follows:

Several committees are scheduled to meet with their Zone Reps in New Haven at the GCA Zone Leadership meeting on 10/25. As a result, committee reports were slender.

Admissions: Kathy then continued our discussion from the previous month about ways to attract new members and distributed a new questionnaire about what members like or would like to see as club activities.

Civic improvement: Laney said that she is aware that students at Snow School are actively using the vernal pool area at the Mansion, and that there is potential to create a nature learning center in that vicinity as a tribute to Juanie Flagg. Kathy further explained that the staff at the Mansion has offered the club the use of a meeting room at the Mansion in return for a certain number of volunteer hours on the grounds. The vernal pool area is quite neglected at this time, and she will organize a work day there shortly.



Membership: Debby Shapiro introduced her friend Joan Filosa, who is interested

in membership. Joan has attended the May Meeting and worked all summer on the rooftop garden.

Photography: Lynn reported that there are no photography shows in the near future but reminded members to follow the GCA's Facebook page, where Photography Friday is a regular feature, and photos can be submitted for publication there.

Website: Kathy provided details of the revision of the MGC website, which is still at www.middletowngardenclub.com. The password is Cornus25.

Wreath Workshop: Ona passed around a sign-up sheet for wreath and almond cake orders.

Rooftop: Steven reported that the rooftop was almost closed for the season, with just a final clean-up and garlic planting to be done.

Jane then read thank-you notes from the Rockfall Foundation for the flowers she provided on the club's behalf for their 90th anniversary gala, as well as a note from Kat Owens, thanking the club for her Hull Award, and expressing interest in becoming a member. Jane will follow up. The last note was a thank-you from the Federated Garden Clubs for our club's donation to their scholarship fund.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made at 2:20 pm, and those members who planned to explore the arboretum at Steven Cronkite and Paul

Brindamour's property departed in a caravan.

Attendance: S. Allison, E. Bank, M. Berlinghoff, E. Carella, K. Coley, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, O. McLaughlin, L. Johnson, K. Meyering, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch.

Guest: Joan Filosa

Excused: S. Cornish, N. D'Oench, M. Giamei, E. Dzialo, P. Mylchreest, M. Kalayjian, K. Wuestefeld

~ Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



CHC ROOFTOP:

Well, we've just about wrapped things up for this season on the Community Health Center rooftop garden plots. The only items still needing attention are the planting of garlic for next Spring's harvest and our Wrap-Up lunch taking place Nov. 5, hosted by non-member (but earnest volunteer!) Chantal Foster. We will have a report on that meeting in next month's Cornus.

My personal observation is that it was a successful season, disappointment on a few veggies (in particular the tomatoes), but otherwise a bountiful harvest for the

food pantry. We learned where some veggies thrived and where they did not. Good information for next Spring's plantings. We had more member participation this season, a nice surprise, and it was another great collaboration with MARC and the CHC.

Our final number for our weight produced and delivered this season is 289 lbs., I believe an increase over last year.

Happy Autumn to all.

~ Stephan Allison, Rooftop Chair

few wreaths to friends, neighbors, and family. Sign up to work at the Holiday Bazaar at the Wadsworth Mansion on December 7. Come to the workshop on December 1 to decorate wreaths.

The workshop starts at 8:00, and this year we will be at deKoven House. It's very helpful if you can bring a glue gun and an extension cord (don't forget to put your name on these!). Experienced wreath decorators will be there to help you!

~ Renee Kelley

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS:

November meeting – How to make holiday decorations

Bow making is not painful! It's therapeutic! In just a few minutes you'll learn to make a big holiday-worthy bow with your own ribbon or the club's ribbon. We have instructions, and many members are experienced and can help you. If possible, please bring your own scissors (some will be supplied).

There will also be a demonstration of making a boxwood tree by Catriona MacAuslan, a florist and master gardener who has joined our club for several trips in recent years.

Monday December 1 - Wreath-Making Workshop

Selling wreaths and other holiday arrangements, along with decorating some city buildings, is the club's only fundraiser. Our goal is to have 100% participation by the membership. Sell a



“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.” ~ Henry David Thoreau

