



REMINDER:

The September meeting will take place at McCutcheon Park in Middletown on Thursday the 19th at 1 pm.

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER:

Sept. 19th: Club Business Meeting - Please bring a check if you haven't already paid your dues

Oct. 17th: Club Business Meeting

Oct. 31st: All wreath and cake orders due



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello.

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! As wonderful as the summer break always is, this summer has been quite the challenge. I know my gardens and I are so happy and relieved to say farewell to all the rain and intense heat and thrilled to welcome cool, crisp fall.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the gardens at Harbor Park for the dedication of the garden and bench in Maria's name. Thank you also to Patsy and all club members who attended the ceremony.

Meanwhile, our Program Committee has been busy putting together some diverse programs for you this year – plant exchange, bird sanctuary exploration, lectures on English landscape, soil, flower arranging, and orchid viewing. And don't forget our annual Holiday Wreath Workshop where we are able to decorate wreaths, sprays and centerpieces to donate to community businesses and to sell at the Holiday Bazaar at Wadsworth Mansion in December.

Let's make this a fun and productive year. We need everyone in the club to get involved – to join committees, enlist new members, and enjoy the garden club experience. See you all at our first meeting on September 19th at McCutcheon Park in Middletown!

~ Kim

MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2024, BUSINESS MEETING:

Acting President Kim Wuestefeld called the business meeting to order at 11:00 am in the East Ballroom of the Wadsworth Mansion

The April meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved by unanimous votes on motions and seconds by Kathie Green and Melissa Roberts.

President's Report: Kim thanked the members of the set-up committee for the event, including Rhea Higgins, Rob Rickenback, Kate Coley, and Melissa Roberts, and especially Patsy Mylchreest for all her work in organizing the luncheon and awards. She also asked for volunteers to work the next Saturday at Sbona Towers to plant annuals for the Senior Center.

Kim then asked Treasurer Mary Xenelis, to introduce the 2024-2025 budget which had been distributed previously by email. Mary offered to answer questions about the budget; there being none, she requested a motion to accept the budget as presented. On a motion by Judy and a second by Kathie, the budget was unanimously approved.

Announcements: Jane reminded members that volunteers are needed to work on the endangered whale mural at deKoven House on May 28, and Kathy reported that the Pollinator Pathway group hopes to set up a weeding party at Harbor Park over the summer; she has applied for a grant for descriptive plant signage for the garden. Patsy agreed that

weeding and dead heading were both needed.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Kathie reported that the archival material from 1915 through 1949 has been scanned by ARC Document Solutions of Farmington. She will continue working on the 1950s and 1960s with them over the summer. She has many photos that need identification.

Civic Improvement: Jane mentioned that the Founders Fund winner for 2024 is the Little Garden Club of Rye's project for the Jay Estate, which might make a good visiting gardens site.

Horticulture: The 2024 Shirley Meneice Conference will be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden in September. Kathy Meyering received an Honorable Mention in the Gavel Competition at the Annual Meeting in Hartford for her 'Lemon Chiffon' viola, which she grew from seed.

There being no further items, the business meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

~Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 16, 2024

Following a buffet luncheon provided by Robert Holzberg, Acting President Wuestefeld called the 2024 Annual Meeting to order at 12:45 pm and turned the floor over to Patsy Mylchreest, Acting Awards Chair. Patsy introduced Middletown Parks Director Brian Young and Public Works Supervisor Bob Russo, presenting them each with Club Civic Improvement Commendations She praised them for their willingness to support our club in civic projects, especially the creation of the new pollinator garden at Harbor Park.

The next award was the Club Horticulture Award, which she presented to Ed Dzialo “In recognition of his outstanding achievements in cultivating the joy and knowledge of gardening and sharing his inspirational horticultural successes.”

Patsy then presented a 25-year certificate to Jane Harris, reading “With appreciation and admiration for her leadership, sharing of knowledge, dedicated service, and conscientious effort in creating a healthy environment.”

The final award, a 25-year certificate, was presented to Robert Holzberg, accepting on behalf of his late wife, club president Maria Madsen Holzberg, “With appreciation for her dedicated service, leadership, generosity, and exceptional floral design, and promoting

the importance of creating a healthy environment.”

Kim then introduced Laney Bank and Judy Schoonmaker, co-chairs of the Nominating Committee, who introduced the slate of officers for 2024-2026, as follows:

President: Kim Wuestefeld
Vice-President: Kathy Meyering
Treasurer: Mary Xenelis
Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Shapiro
Recording Secretary: Jane Harris

After asking for alternate nominations from the floor, she called for a vote, and the slate of nominees was elected unanimously. After thanking the Nominating co-chairs for their work, and again thanking Robert Holzberg for hosting the luncheon, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Wuestefeld at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Harris,
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE: A. Albert, S. Allison, L. Bank, J. Bell, E. Carella, K. Coley, E. Dzialo, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, R. Kelley, A. McCloskey, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Mylchreest, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis.

SPECIAL GUESTS: The Honorable Robert Holzberg, Bob Russo, Brian Young

EXCUSED: S. Cornish, N. D'Oench, M. Giamei
ABSENT: T. Ferguson, P. Murawski



NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

In 1957, certain club members who lived near the "Ravine" in Middletown decided it needed to be cleaned up and the Middletown Garden Club should take this on as a project. People used the place as a dumping ground for grass clippings, dirt, and various other items.

By 1963 the City and the Chair of the Ravine Committee had agreed to begin installing fencing around the area, plant some small trees to discourage dumping over the fences, clear brush which was to be left in piles as cover for birds, and place trash cans around the area.

The site was renamed the Ravine Nature Sanctuary, owned by the City but maintained by MGC. It was to be used for its educational value. The next year the Park Department included a sum in its budget for mowing and spraying. Five NO HUNTING signs were erected.

In March 1965, neighbors complained that a homeowner was cutting trees and

building a horseshoe court which was encroaching on the Ravine. Also, motorcyclists were riding through on the trails. The Chair was given permission to put up more fences. For some time, those issues continued, lessened but not gone. The 19 acres are now called Ravine Park, which is no longer on the club's list of projects.

~ Kathie Green, Archives Chair

ROOFTOP GARDEN:

It's been a bountiful and beautiful harvest as we enter Fall. The weather has been good to our garden, and we have been diligent in weeding, maintaining, and planting. Our herb bed this summer has been especially notable in its variety and abundance. While I don't have the total weights of produce delivered to Amazing Grace Food Pantry, know that we should be proud of our contributions. We will continue harvesting and planting through the early fall.

~ Stephan, Rooftop Garden Chair



WREATH WORKSHOP AND HOLIDAY SALE

The Middletown Garden Club Holiday Sale is fast approaching and needs the involvement of many members to be successful. This is our only fundraiser. It is also a chance to exercise our creativity in decorating one-of-a-kind wreaths and centerpieces. Please consider asking friends and neighbors to purchase a wreath or one of Lynn Johnson's popular almond cakes.

The timeline for wreath and almond cake orders is as follows:

October 31 - all wreath orders due. Order forms with prices (decorated wreaths \$42, undecorated \$20) attached. Bow colors are red, red plaid, deep red with glitz, white and burlap. Contact Ona with orders.

October 31 - all almond cake orders due. Price \$14 each. Contact Lynn with orders.

Thanksgiving orders delivered Thanksgiving week. Christmas orders delivered the week before Christmas. Contact Lynn.

December 2, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Connecticut Forest & Park, Holiday sale workshop. Wreaths & centerpieces will be decorated in this order: community wreaths; 12 sale wreaths; sale centerpieces; personal wreaths.

December 8 - Wadsworth Mansion Holiday Bazaar 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, set-up at 8:00 am.

Please gather the following for the workshop:

greens from various conifers, laurel, andromeda, holly, etc.
pinecones, acorns, dried seed heads, etc.;
bling - artificial fruits, birds, small ornaments - we recycle.

Ona McLaughlin
Kelley
Patsy Mylchreest

Marcia Kalayjian
Lynn Johnson
Kim Wuestefeld

Member Order Form - Middletown Garden Club 2024 Holiday Sale

This form is for your use only. **Email** a summary of your order to Ona McLaughlin no later than 10/31

Wreaths - Decorated - \$42; Undecorated - \$20

Note - Centerpieces - Available 12/8 at Mansion Sale only

Wreath Bow Color*

Name			
Address			
Phone # & email address			
Customer requested delivery Date			
Name			
Address			
Phone # & email address			
Customer requested delivery Date			
Name			
Address			

Phone # & email address			
Customer requested delivery Date			

* Wreath bow colors – Red (R), Red Plaid (RP), White (W), Natural Burlap (NB), Deep Red (DR)

Customer Delivery Date – Deliveries begin on December 2.