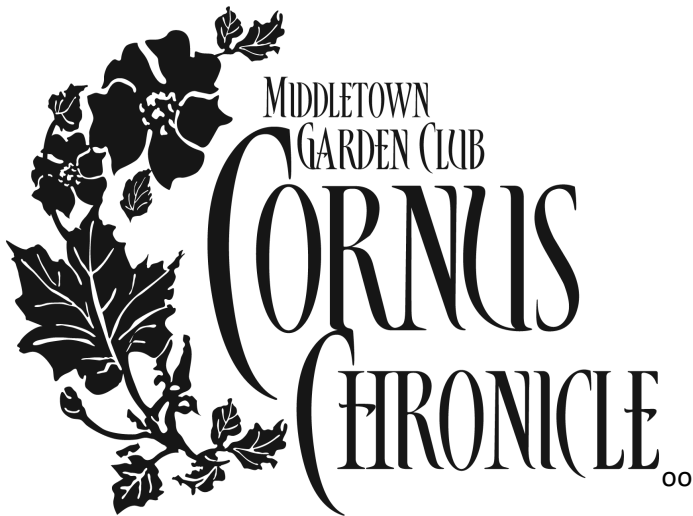


November, 2023



**REMINDER:**

The November meeting will take place at CT Forest & Park on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

**EDITOR'S MESSAGE:**

We apologize for the late arrival of Cornus. Tisha and I are hard at work, getting Cornus moved over to the Constant Contact platform, but technical difficulties prevented our doing so with this issue.

~ Jane and Tisha



**Minutes of the Middletown Garden Club Business Meeting, October 19, 2023**

President Holzberg, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm in the Hubbard Room of Russell Library. She thanked hostesses Marcia and Christina for providing a beautiful array of seasonal fare. She also thanked the members who attended the Common Council meeting in October to object to the replacement of Spear Park with a high-rise apartment building.

**Committee Reports:**

**Admissions:** Maria asked members to check with friends who may want to join the club, as we have openings.

**Civic Improvement:** Edwina explained some of the new options for grants in this area, and suggested possible activities the club might pursue, including the re-activation of the greenhouse at the former Woodrow Wilson Middle School, as well as installing a pollinator garden at Smith Park. Discussion followed.

**Communications:** Debby requested that Jane send her a packet of information, since no one was able to attend the club chairmen's meeting in November.

**Conservation:** Sally reminded club members to think about attending NAL in person, as it is a hugely educational experience.

**Flower Show:** Maria asked if any members want to participate in the CT Flower Show in Hartford in February of 2024. There is a horticulture class that involves a 36" round table top.

**Holiday Bazaar:** Lynn said that she will be looking for a limited number of workers for the event, which will be on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the

Wadsworth Mansion. We will have an inside booth, and space is limited.

**Horticulture:** Kathy has tallied the responses to her query about Hort programs. The most frequent request was for a workshop or program on soil health.

**Hospitality:** Maria reported that the club's holiday party will be held at the Wadsworth Mansion this year on Thursday, December 14. The charge per person will be \$50.

**Rooftop:** Stephan said that there will be just two more sessions for cleaning up the garden for the season.

**Treasurer:** On a motion by Mary, seconded by Jane, the club voted unanimously to apply a gift of \$100 in memory of Dan Ryan toward planting more 'Julia Child' roses in the Russell Library garden.

**Visiting Gardens:** Stephan thanked those who participated in the Cromwell garden tours, and helped with the planning.

**Wreath Workshop:** Ona passed around a sign-up sheet for wreaths and Lynn passed one for almond cakes. The workshop will be at CT Forest and Parks on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 am till the work is done. She reminded members to bring natural decorations, such as pinecones.

#### **New/Old Business:**

Jane and Maria discussed a letter of support from the club to DEEP for the City's urban forestry grant application.

The vote to approve the letter was unanimous.

Rhea Higgins then presented an overview of flowers in European art, with fascinating explanations of their historical and Biblical references. Maria adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.

Attendees: S. Allison, L. Bank, E. Carella, K. Coley, S. Cornish, N. D'Oench, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, R. Higgins, L. Johnson, M. Kalayjian, K. Meyering, P. Murawski, E. Ranganathan, M. Roberts, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, C. Wasch, K. Wuestefeld, M. Xenelis

Excused: J. Bell, E. Dzialo, J. Flagg, T. Ferguson, M. Giamei, P. Mylchreest, R. Rickenback, S. Worm

Absent: A. Albert, B. Glista, R. Kelley



#### **HORTICULTURE:**

Hoping as many club members as possible will enter this year's Gavel Challenge, to be judged at the April 26 GCA Annual Meeting. The challenge is to grow the most beautiful and healthy *Viola cornuta*, 'Sorbet Lemon Chiffon.' (We may more commonly call them Johnny Jump-ups!) This is an easy one and seeds will be distributed at our November meeting. A separate email will be sent out with details and an invitation to request seeds as we get closer to our meeting date.

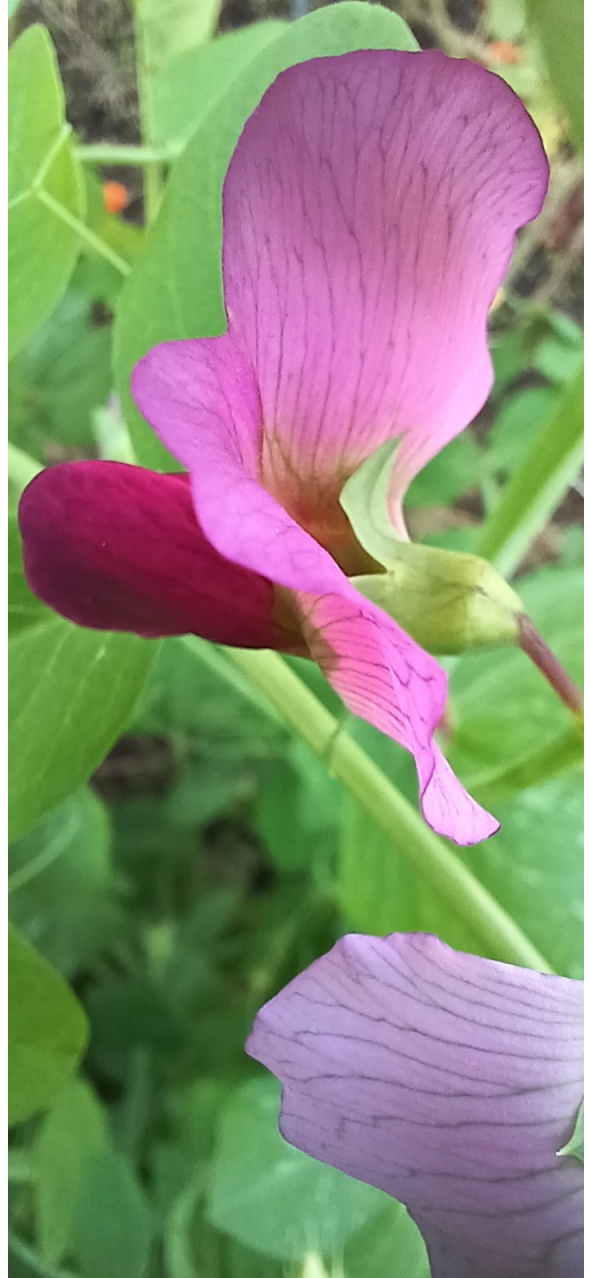
~Kathy M.



### CHC ROOFTOP GARDEN:

The season is winding down, it's been a great success this year with a steady bounty for the Amazing Grace Food Pantry. We will be looking for a return of volunteers for next Spring so keep in mind we go up on the roof on Thursdays from 2:45pm to 4:30pm. It's not only an exclusive and grand view of the river but a rewarding effort in support of the food pantry and the MARC crew. (Photo below courtesy of Stephan.)

~ Stephan



### ARCHIVES:

A big Thank you to Christina Wasch for providing information, help and time with the scanning project. While my computer ultimately could not be updated to do scanning, Christina gave me a list of businesses that can do the

job and I have reached out to several. One is "educatin'" me in what the job entails. It is labor intensive. Thanks so much, Christina, for helping. It is much appreciated!  
~ Kathie G



### ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS:

The turnout for the October showing of “Vandana Shiva” was excellent, as was the film itself. The Q & A session following, conducted by Professor Brian Stewart of Wesleyan, was stimulating. The next film, “The Biggest Little Farm,” will be shown on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Russell Library. Russell Library is a new partner in this city-wide effort to bring environmental films, free of charge, to the community. Thanks for everyone’s support!

~ Jane



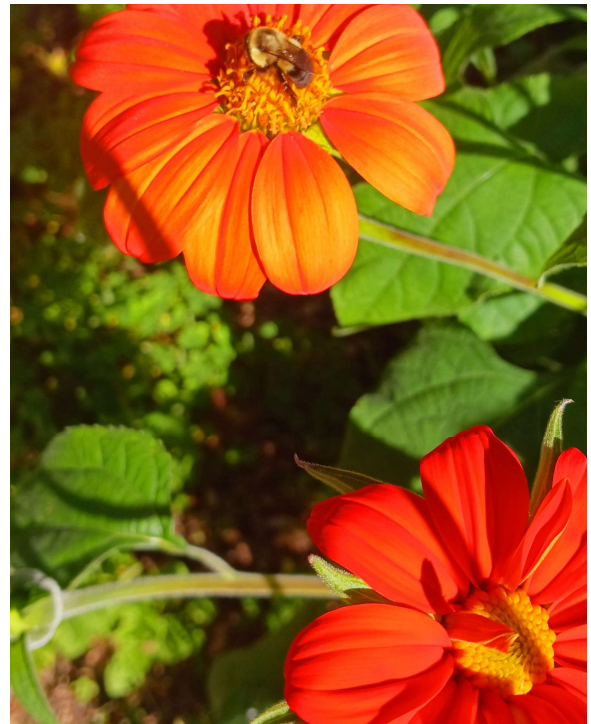
### VISITING GARDENS:

For those who couldn’t make it to the monthly meeting, the visit by 13 members to Dreamland Flower Farm and Cromwell Growers was a fascinating exploration into commercial gardening practices (at least for a novice, such as myself). We were then treated to fine pizza and salad by Ed Bartolotta of Cromwell Gardens. He has invited us back for the Spring to see a wide variety of color that was not evident this visit

since they are exclusively growing poinsettias now.

If anyone has suggestions for upcoming visits, I’m all ears - simply call or email me details and the committee will investigate the opportunities. (Photos below – courtesy of Stephan and Jane.)

~ Stephan







*"There is pleasure in the pathless woods. There is rapture on the lonely shore. There is society where none intrudes, by the deep sea and music in its roar. I love not man the less, but Nature more."*

**– Lord Byron**

