

REMINDER:

The March meeting will take place at CFPA headquarters on the 16th at 1 pm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hi, all –

As we look forward to the return of winter we can happily look ahead to our March meeting and working with beautiful flowers. Leslie Martino, a Federated Flower Show Judge and designer for Natureworks will be our instructor. Please bring your clippers, gloves, and inspiration to the meeting. All plant material and containers will be provided.

We are making great progress on filing up our bus to NYC and the High Line. The following people signed up and those with check marks next to their names have paid. The cost is \$50; please send your checks to Mary Xenelis.

Rob and Tina Rickenback x
Deborah Shapiro x
Tisha Ferguson x
Mayor Ben Florsheim x
Alain and Rosemary Munkittrick x
Kim Wuestefeld and friend x
J Schoonmaker x
R. Kelley x
Laney Bank x
Ona McLaughlin x
E Ranganathan and Nancy Lidell x

Maria Holzberg and Albert Hamrah x
Mardi Loman and guest x
Andrea Fassler x
Sally Cornish
Jane Harris
Elaine Carella
Kathy Meyering

Finally, I again want to thank Laney for organizing the educational portion of our trip. She has done a fantastic job and deserves a big cheer!

Speaking of big cheers, I again want to thank those members of the club -- Elaine Carella, Nancy D'Oench, Rhea Higgins, Kim Wuestefeld, Patsy Mylchreest and Ona McLaughlin -- for their contribution to the Club Tablescape Competition of the Federated Flower Show at the Convention Center.

In case you haven't heard, this talented group received the First Prize, Club Competition Award, and the People's Choice Award! I am honored to be a part of such a dedicated and talented group! This is the trifecta of the flower show world.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 16TH at Connecticut Forest and Park.

~ Maria



HORTICULTURE:

If you are one of the members who took an allium bulb in January and are watching it grow (or maybe not growing!), here is some information about the Newport Flower show, “The Grand Tour,” which will take place June 23-25. It looks to be a lovely event.

<https://www.newportmansions.org/horticulture-division-rules-and-guidelines/>

For details about entries, click the “horticulture” link on the above page. Hopefully some of us can make it there to enter our alliums, which will hopefully be in bloom! There are other opportunities to enter in the other classes as well.

You received an earlier email about the Litchfield show, which takes place the week before the Newport one. I’m hoping to stop in at White Flower Farm while I’m there! A busy June! In case you need a reminder, here again is the link to the Litchfield show.

<https://www.litchfieldgardenclub.org/lgc-flower-show-2023.html>

Also, to all winter seed-sowers: continue to ignore your plastic jugs and

greenhouses! It is still early for most perennial seeds to sprout. Just make sure they don’t get hit by direct sunlight. Also, I just planted some broccoli seeds in a new jug and plan to plant some zinnias in the next couple of weeks. It isn’t too late to plant more seeds.

Just for fun, if anyone is experimenting with forcing hardwood flowering shrubs, it would be fun to see some blooming crabapples, forsythia, cherries, etc.! Send along any photos or bring them in to our March or April meetings!

March is roaring in like a lion...hope it leaves us like a lamb!

~ Kathy M.

MIDDLETOWN GARDEN CLUB MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023:

In the absence of President Holzberg, Vice-President Kim Wuestefeld called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm at the CT Forest and Park headquarters. She introduced and welcomed our newest member, Lynne Garner, an active volunteer with the Pollinator Pathway group.

On a motion by Amy, seconded by Kathie, the minutes of the November 2022 meeting were approved. On a motion by Lynn, seconded by Amy, the January minutes were approved. On a motion by Amy, seconded by Kathie, all outstanding Treasurer’s reports were accepted.

Vice-President Wuestefeld reported on recent activities, including the club’s

entry in the CT Flower Show in Hartford. She reminded members of the April 26 trip to the High Line and asked for payments to be made promptly to Mary.

Admissions Chair Amy Albert read nominating and seconding letters by Jane Harris and Kathy Meyering, on behalf of Letitia (Tisha) Ferguson, who has volunteered with our club through the Pollinator Pathway program and the October planting at Harbor Park. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Kathie said that the Archives work is progressing, and it would be helpful to have someone work with her on scanning the old documents.

Jane reported that Sally D'Aquila has suggested a tree should be planted in honor of Juanie Flagg's 100th birthday and asked for suggestions. Laney recommended planting a native tree in the area around the vernal pool at Long Hill Estate, a site which Juanie worked on tirelessly during the late 1990s.

Edwina reminded members to vote for their Founders Fund choice in advance, if not able to attend the March meeting, when ballots will be available.

Jane announced that Earth Day will be celebrated in Middletown on April 22 at Harbor Park, and there will be environmental speakers, including Tom Christopher, who is being sponsored by Pollinator Pathway.

Arbor Day is April 28, and several trees will be dedicated. The club is also a sponsor of the Rockfall symposium on

climate change and trees, which will be held at MxCC on Friday, May 12.

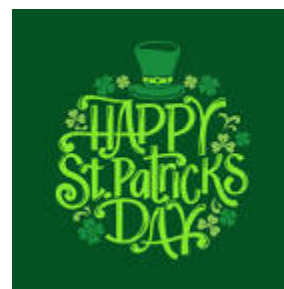
In support of the movie theme for the meeting, refreshments, provided by Kim and Kathy Meyering, included two kinds of Twizzlers, freshly made popcorn, Dots, Milk Duds, home-made brownies and a multitude of other delicious reminders of matinees past.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm, followed by a showing of the Doug Tallamy film, "Hometown Habitat."

Attendance: A. Albert, L. Bank, J. Bell, L. Garner, K. Green, J. Harris, L. Johnson, R. Kelley, A. McCloskey, O. McLaughlin, K. Meyering, P. Murawski, E. Ranganathan, R. Rickenback, J. Schoonmaker, D. Shapiro, K. Wuestefeld, S. Worm, M. Xenelis, T. Ferguson (New Member, attended program only)

Excused: C. Wasch, M. Roberts, D. Patrician, M. Holzberg, R. Higgins, M. Giamei, N. D'Oench, E. Carella

~ Jane Harris, Recording Secretary



FOUNDERS FUND:

The three nominees for the Founders Fund are:

The Cylburn Arboretum Friends Nature Center

Proposed by St. George's Garden Club,
Seconded by Garden Club of Twenty,

Cylburn Arboretum is an oasis: 200+ acres of specimen trees in a dense, urban, primarily low-income area of Baltimore. The Nature Education Center Garden of native plants and exhibits on the hidden world of trees will orient more than 40,000 annual visitors to miles of accessible trails, providing a needed location for a kids' day camp and school groups.

The Butterfly and Bee Pollinator Meadow at Chickasaw Park in Honor of Muhammad Ali

Proposed by Glenview Garden Club,
Seconded by James River Garden Club,

Native plantings and adjacent picnic areas will transform an unused turf area in this culturally and nationally significant park. In collaboration with Olmsted Parks Conservancy, this area will become a resource for an historically Black community victimized by environmental injustice to mitigate effects of pollution and climate change, improve educational and recreational opportunities, and invoke the spirit of its most famous user through the butterflies and bees who float and sting, just like The Greatest.

Sowing and Growing Evanston Grows: Urban Gardens and Community

Proposed by Garden Club of Evanston,
Seconded by Cedar Rapids Garden Club,

This project, a collaboration between Garden Club of Evanston and its partner Evanston Grows, aims to reduce food insecurity in Evanston. A new, large urban food garden will be developed and improvements made to an existing one to increase productivity. Fresh produce from both gardens will be shared at farm stands in the most underserved neighborhoods. In addition, educational programs are planned to make food gardening and healthy eating more accessible to all.

FROM THE TREASURER:

Time to begin to think about next year's budget, if you are a committee chairperson and need changes to your expenditures or are planning for a special project that incurs expenses, please let me know of your plans. We need to begin preparing the 2023/2024 budget as it needs to be approved at the May meeting.

Thank you.

~ Mary

SPEAKER INVITATION:

Augusta Gonzalez of MILE (Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education) has invited our club to register for a Zoom lecture by Jana Milbocker on "Gardens of the Gilded Age" on March 15. The fee is \$5, and you can register by emailing Augusta at acgonzalez@wesleyan.edu. Other classes are available for registration at www.mileonline.org.

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.
~ May Sarton

