



Needham Garden Club Newsletter

January/February 2018

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



Happy New Year Garden Club members! We ended the 2017 on a busy note, with a fabulous presentation for holiday decorating at our November meeting, a very successful Wreath Sale on December 2, a Garden Therapy session with a new facility for us, Avita, and our second entry into Mass Hort's Festival of Trees. Whew!

We still have a lot of Wow! to look forward to in the current program year, so bundle up, tend those houseplants and enjoy the torrent of garden catalogs that will start appearing any day tempting us with visions of summer.

The Co-presidents wish you a Healthy and Happy 2018, and we thank you for the privilege of leading this beloved club.

Warmly, Nancy Agler and Diana Conroy, Co-Presidents

Upcoming Calendar

January 2, 9:30 a.m. – Board Meeting at the home of Char Sidell, 40 Grant Street. Mary Toran is co-host.

January 16, 9:30 a.m. – Harvest to Cup program with Lisa Tavakoli, Community Room, Needham Library

February 27, 9:30 a.m. – Pressed Flower Workshop with Cheryl Monroe, Community Room, Needham Library

March 20, 9:30 a.m. – Horticulture Tea Party

March 22, 2:00 p.m. – Community Outreach at Avery Crossing

April 26, 10:30 a.m. – Community Outreach at Wingate



PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

You won't want to miss the club meeting on January 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Needham Library Community Room. The program will be a presentation called "Harvest to Cup." Come in from the cold to hear Lisa Tavakoli teach us about tea and the crucial steps of tea production. Lisa originally ran a teahouse out of her home in Quincy serving high tea. She is currently an herbalist who tends the herb garden at Brookwood Community Farm in Milton and also teaches a series on cooking with herbs.



Our next club meeting, on February 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Needham Library Community Room, will feature a program called "Pressed Flower Workshop." In this fun and engaging workshop, explore your artistic side while you work along with Cheryl Monroe to create lovely pressed-flower arrangements on cardstock. She will scan and reproduce the cards and send them back to club members as greeting cards. All materials will be provided.

Lori Markell and Fawn Hurwitz, Program Committee Co-Chairs

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE NEWS



Our January club meeting will feature a display on winter seed sowing in a milk bottle. It may never have occurred to you that even in our climate you can sow seeds outside in winter in their own mini greenhouses that you build yourself from recyclable plastic milk jugs. You'll be rewarded with plants ready for spring planting. Monica Foley will bring a sample milk jug with seeds to the January meeting to display on the back table including instructions and a list of seeds that you can use for this method of germination. You can read in advance about the technique for winter sowing at this website:

<http://www.bachmans.com/files/GardenGuide/WinterSowingGuide.pdf>

At our February meeting, members are invited to bring in garden and flower arranging books and catalogs to share with other members. Any books not claimed by the meeting's end will be donated to the library's ongoing book sale.

At either meeting members are welcome to bring in plants or cuttings to pass on to other members.



Save the date and sign up at the February meeting for the “Horticulture Tea Party”, a workshop featuring herbs, which will be held on March 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Needham Library Community Room. There will be a presentation on growing, storing and using various herbs. This is an open forum. Participants will be encouraged to contribute their own tips to the discussion. We will have four different varieties of basil to start indoors which we will plant at this workshop. This will be our “*plant challenge*” for the year. There is no charge. If you are successful, however, we ask you to contribute a plant(s) to our plant sale in June. The workshop will conclude with herbal teas and a sampling of foods using herbs. Members of the Horticulture Committee will provide the goodies but anyone with a special herb recipe is invited to contribute to the party. There will also be samples of an herbal oil and scrub for the skin with directions on how to make them. There is no charge, but please sign up in advance so we can plan for seating and food.

Cathy Cummings and Eileen Mecagni, Horticulture Committee Co-Chairs

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Nominating Committee is scheduled for hospitality duties at the January 16 General Meeting, and Community Outreach for the February 27 General Meeting.

Mary Toran and Cathy Flaherty, Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS



The year 2017 ends on a high note following a Garden Therapy experience at AVITA Assisted Living Facility on Greendale Avenue. We worked with eight most enthusiastic residents who appreciated the time and effort we expended on their behalf.

In the spring of 2018 we will be at Avery Crossing at 2:00 p.m. on March 22nd and at Wingate at 10:30 a.m. on April 26th. These events are most rewarding as the residents are so pleased with their creations, which they take back to their rooms to enjoy.

Lynne Jones and Debbie Wentworth, Community Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS



Now is the time for all active members to let the Nominating Committee know about your Committee Preferences for the 2018-2019 Garden Club year. There will be forms available to fill out at the January and February meetings or you may send an email directly to the Co-Chairs: lynnebraley@gmail.com or taggartkaren@comcast.net . Please give your current assignment and two choices for changing (if you want to change) to a different committee.

Lynne Braley and Karen Taggart, Nominating Committee Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS



At the November meeting 36 members and 11 guests were in attendance. Please let us know if you have any friends interested in joining the NGC.

We would like to welcome our newest member, Ellen Waltzman (EllenDWaltzman@gmail.com). Ellen will serve on the Hospitality Committee.

She has already helped to prepare for our Wreath Sale by attending the bow making workshop and creating centerpieces for Jewish shoppers at the sale.

Sally Toran and Bonnie Waters, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Please keep sending us your photos and ideas for stories. If you are planning a Garden Club event for March or April, please send us your article so it can be included in the next newsletter. The deadline is February 10, 2018.

Carol Alper, Amy Cicala, and Jane Brand, Newsletter Co-Editors

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL



Keeping our Needham Public Library festive!



Floral Design with Anna Holmes