

The Trowel



Bloomington Garden Club

Volume 1, Issue 4

President's Prose

Dear Members and Friends,

What an incredibly eventful year we have had this year! Not one, but two plant sales and a wonderful 50th Anniversary celebration as well! As this year draws to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you for your marvelous participation in these events and your loyal attendance at the monthly meetings. And at the same time, I again want to welcome all of our new members and say how delighted we are to have you.

A few weeks ago we experienced unusually warm weather and then tornadoes and storms ripped through part of our State and left many homeless as winter approaches. Our prayers go out to them.

I have to admit that because of the mild temperatures (now a mere memory) I am very late at digging up the amaryllis bulbs and dahlia rhizomes still in my garden and I do hope that they have not frozen as the last few nights have been very cold indeed. Today is sunny and quite cold and as we all know wintertime in Chicago is no fun. We have several months ahead of us before we begin planning for our gardens again.

Because of the success of our plant sales and the raffle and auction at our celebration, we had a wonderful opportunity last month to be very generous in our philanthropy – thank you all for the thought you put into our giving, and for continuing with our broad and generous donations.

We had an exciting meeting on December 3 when Christine Plier helped us to make a beautiful Christmas tree arrangement. And, of course, our Christmas party, again at Jameson's on December 10th where we joined together once more and enjoyed the camaraderie for which our Club is justly famous.

Merry Christmas and I wish each and every one of you good health, and a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely

Joyce Basel



Recent Program Highlights

September—Joanne Rocchi—Success With Bulbs.

As the Perennial Manager of The Growing Place in Aurora, Joanne really had a lot of good knowledge to share about bulbs. We learned the difference between Perennialize (multiply under ground) and Naturalize (spread by seed). Her best tip was to plant tulip bulbs 10" deep, no matter what the label says. They will come back more reliably when planted at that depth. Joanne shared some fun examples of unique bulbs. We were especially taken with a very large Allium that many of us have planted.



October—Mark Spreyer—Who's Who of Owls

Mark is the Director of the Stillman Nature Center in South Barrington. He shared his expertise on owls and other birds of prey with the added bonus of bringing along 3 live examples! His knowledge and enthusiasm for his field was very evident and we all had a wonderful time.

November—Centerpieces for the West Suburban Care Center

We gathered in assembly line fashion and decorated 36, 8inch square packages for their dining room tables. With festive paper, beautiful ribbons, pinecones and assorted shiny baubles, the packages turned out just beautiful and should really brighten up their spirits during the holidays.

We also discussed and voted on our annual disbursement of donations. See separate article for details.



Henia Sullivan & Helen Price

December—Christine Plier (Flowers by Christine) - Evergreen Tree Craft



Christine led 17 of us in making a beautiful fresh evergreen arrangement. It was so much fun to see each person's project come together. Shari Aldous certainly was having fun.

Sneak Preview....We have lined up Bill Scheffler of Pure Prairie Organics, as our speaker in February. Do not miss this fun and informative evening!



Annual Christmas Party at Jameson's Steak House

Approximately 35 of us gathered on a chilly December 10 for a lovely social evening. The food was fabulous and the room was so cozy with the large fireplace and Christmas decorations. One person from each table won the Christmas Package centerpiece that had a large bag of Lindt assorted chocolate truffles. Sure wish my birthday was a wee bit closer to Christmas!

The gift exchange was great fun with some really unique gifts given. Carol Ann Spencer got a garden themed Scrabble game that really looks interesting.

The evening was capped off with a birthday cake for our very surprised President, Joyce Basel, who turned 75 on December 11. We sang and she was presented with a lovely cake, some huge helium balloons and an arrangement with not only plants, but cash!

Please enjoy the rest of the photos on the next 2 pages.



Chicago Flower and Garden Show....



Chicago Flower & Garden Show, blooming Mar. 15-23, 2014. The show's theme: Do Green, Do Good, will display practical ideas for novice through expert gardeners, highlighting the latest plants and ideas from nationally-known designers. They'll also have cut florals and demonstrations, and The Peterson Garden Project focusing on community gardens. Garden Gourmet with famous chefs presents delectable garden-to-table dishes; the Marketplace is a shopper's paradise; the Kids Activity Garden is expanded, and there's much more.

It all happens at Chicago's Navy Pier, with first-rate shops, restaurants, and entertainment for everyone.

To attend the flower show: group weekday tickets are \$13/person (for a group of 20 or more (\$4 off the box office price); or \$15/person for weekend tickets (for a group of 20 or more (\$4 off the box office price). And, non-group tickets might make a nice holiday gift!

For more information about Chicago Flower & Garden Show events, sign up for the e-newsletter at www.chicagoflower.com.



David & Carol Ann Spencer

Christmas Dinner Photos



L-r, Cathy Kreis, Esther Ahlrich, Jane Czyzewski,
Bobbi Pulido



Chris & Gail Brewer



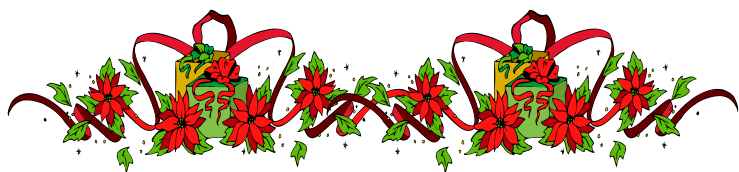
Bert & Georgette West



L-r, Geri Beyer, Marilyn Johnson, Henia Sullivan

Joe & Joyce Boryla →





Dan & Kelly Vittacco



Kathryn Kacalo & George Holtz



Laura Geraci & Bonni Rothbaum



Loriann Gulik-Hoyle & Jane Czyzewski



Maureen Gibson & Carole Lockerbie



← Pat Seriano & Bobbi Pulido

50th Anniversary Celebration!

What an absolutely wonderful party we had!! The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our Club is one that we will long remember and I know that I, for one, was on Cloud 9 for several days afterwards just recalling the events of the evening!

It took planning, it took time, it took effort and it certainly took my little committee a lot of give-and-take with regard to what we should include and what we just had to omit because we would simply have run out of time! I really have to thank Marilyn Johnson, Geri Beyer, Mary Fortino and Esther Ahlrich for staying the course with me and making it all happen. I'd also like to mention our good friend Ivan Micek who joined us in the beginning and added a fresh approach and offered fun observations and ideas.



Jane, Vivian, Jo, Dolores, Mary and Esther.

The idea, as you know, was to not only celebrate the anniversary but also honor those of our senior members who have dedicated so many years of their lives to the club. We are truly blessed with having so many of these women with us today and still active in the Club. What a pity that right before the party Marian Jonas and Wanda Malek were hospitalized and could not be there. Nevertheless, we had the unique opportunity to recognize and honor Vivian Krotz, Jane Czyzewski, Jo Dabrowski, Dolores Franson, Mary Fortino, and Esther Ahlrich. Beautiful bouquets of roses were presented to each of them and Jameson's Restaurant made a most magnanimous gesture in giving each of them a complimentary lunch or dinner on or near their birthday every year for the rest of their lives!!

Mayor Franco Coladipietro spoke highly of the Clubs' fifty years of participation in the Village. We are one of only two entities to have survived uninterrupted for half a century and he congratulated us and presented us with a plaque in celebration of the occasion.

During the past two years we have enjoyed a new and close relationship with the Park Board and Executive Director, Carrie Fullerton. She charmed us with her kind words in this regard and confirmed that the Parks Board and the Garden Club have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to a Garden of Remembrance which has been established in Founders Park.



l-r Carrie Fullerton, Michael Hovde Jr., Joyce Basel, Jane Michelotti, Franco Coladipietro

As you all know, we voted a year ago to extend our scholarship grant to Jim Wallach and follow him to his graduation provided he remained within the field of horticulture. Jim's mother delighted us with reading a letter from him which he wrote to the Club since he could not attend the function.

We were honored to welcome representatives from several other Garden Clubs and also the President and members of the Board of GCI – Garden Clubs of Illinois as well as our friends from the DuPage Convalescent Center. Linda Kunesh did us proud as she gave the audience a description of the club's philanthropy and participation in the therapeutic gardening at the Convalescent Center. (Continued on next page)

50th Anniversary Celebration Continued

And last, but by no means least, we were able to thank our members who are Veterans and Bill Wolff from our local VFW Post, recognized each individually. We are proud to have Joe Boryla, George Holtz, Dave Spencer and Bert West in our Club and we do truly appreciate their service and sacrifice for our country.

At the end of the day, though, this celebration would not have been as much fun, as enjoyable or memorable if each of you had not participated! It was just amazing how every call for volunteers to do something brought a host of offers! The table centerpieces were absolutely magnificent – every one different, interesting and fun! I know that the individuals who won them will treasure them – thanks for the hard work and imaginative designs. And to Kathryn Kacalo – a million thanks for undertaking to coordinate with everyone regarding their centerpiece contributions and the delivery thereof to the venue!



Made by Loriann Gulik-Hoyle

The pretzel souvenir with anniversary ribbon was painstakingly baked and tied by Esther and her group of elves! What a wonderful idea – thanks so much Esther.

George – our official photographer and all round “go to” guy – you really are just simply terrific! Thanks for your help with everything.

And even though the Club voted to spend some money to make this event special – we made some money instead!! A huge “thank you” goes to Maureen Gibson for her painstaking efforts to put together the raffle baskets (each worth at least \$100), and display the marvelous auction items! I would be remiss here if I did not mention that our own club members were responsible for some of these really special items. Thanks to Marilyn Datillo for the cruise and travel certificates given by her Agency, Travel Techniques. Thank you also to Bobbie Pulido's husband, Ernie, who donated that beautiful winter scene with the steam train! What would we do without our good friend, Ivan Micek, who donated two beautiful images of lilies and also a two hour consulting by him on Ornamental and Floral Plant Design.



The African Photo Safari brought energetic bidding by Helen Price and Pat Frank and they are going to South Africa next October on what will no doubt be an unforgettable safari! More on this

I know that I won't be here when the club celebrates the next fifty years, but I do know that Helen's fabulous power point taking us back through the years of meetings, plant sales, flower shows and past and present members was enjoyed by everyone and will leave a wonderful record for those who follow. To all who made this event so spectacular, please know that this is a precedent that will be hard to beat!!

Again – thanks everyone! It was terrific!

Joyce



FALL PLANT SALE A SUCCESS & CHALLENGE By Linda Kunesh

Thanks so much to everyone who helped with our Fall Plant Sale in late September and/or contributed treats on Saturday at the Sale. You were AWESOME!

Special thanks go to George and Kathryn who helped out tremendously with everything -- digging plants, "babysitting" plants, moving plants, working the sale, cleaning up, etc., etc., etc. We cannot thank you enough!!!

We also thank Mary Fortino for her delicious Italian Beef. We all loved it and left some for the Park District Maintenance Crew.

Approximately 20 club members helped out each of these times -- Friday evening, Sat. morning, and Sat. afternoon!!! Help at the potting parties was really appreciated, too. Special thanks go to Carole L., Kathryn, & George for keeping and tending so many plants at their homes! And thanks to Lori-Ann for getting us the natives and succulents!

We took in \$2,542 at the sale. We had a profit of just under \$1,000 (minus expenditures), but "profit" is difficult to determine at this time due to the fact that we still have soil, gloves, and seedlings to sell next spring. See below:

Perennials netted \$1,198. We donated \$476 in perennials to Habitat for Humanity.

Raffle tickets netted a profit of \$85.50. Bulbs netted a profit of \$232.95. We only returned 14 packages of bulbs (out of 160 packages received) to Pioneer Garden & Feed Store.

We have left-over soil, gloves, and seedlings (which members took home to plant in their yards). The seedlings will be dug up and sold at our May 2 & 3, 2014 Plant Sale. The left-over soil and gloves also will be sold at the Spring Sale. We already have requests for 20 bags of soil for next spring! And Joe Potts and his staff at the Park District are graciously storing the soil at the Park District Maintenance Building.

Joyce sent thank you notes to:

- * John Gall and Dennis Bielecki as they are not club members but helped move equipment and perennials on Friday night.
- * The Girl Scouts, c/o club member Kelly Vitacco, for all their help at the Sale.
- * Barb DeCanio for designing and making the raffle pots.
- * Joe Potts & his staff, Bloomingdale Park District, for all their help getting the building ready for our Sale.
- * Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director, Bloomingdale Park District.

Raffle Pots: One was won by Beth Welch, former administrator of DuPage Convalescent Center (DPCC). Per her request, it was delivered to DPCC. The other pot was won by our very own Kathryn Kacalo. NO, there were no "rigged" winners. The Master Gardeners drew the names. :)

Habitat for Humanity: As some of you are aware, we had arranged for Habitat for Humanity to pick up all the left-over perennials at the end of Sat. afternoon. All was going well loading the truck. Then suddenly, one of the two gentlemen that came to get the left-over perennials accidentally fell off the back of the truck as he was positioning a palette that would hold the plants. He suffered a head injury and was transported to the hospital by paramedics and remained there Sat. - Sun. I talked with his wife on Sunday morning. His first CT scan was good with another scheduled for later on Sun. Apparently he was OK as he was released from the hospital later that day. Esther sent him flowers on behalf of our Garden Club. I checked back with Habitat for Humanity right before Thanksgiving. The gentleman returned to work in early November. He is doing fine. I told his supervisor we all sent him good wishes.

Will We Continue to Hold a Fall Sale?

While the Fall Sale was a lot of work, it also was a lot of fun. We continued to get the Bloomingdale Garden Club "noted" in the community and surrounding area through Helen's amazing publicity and wonderful partners & members, like you. The Plant Sale Committee "de-briefed" the Fall Sale in November and recommended we not hold a perennial sale in the fall of 2014. We're exploring the possibility of holding a bulb and mum sale instead. More details to follow.

Again, THANKS EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!!!

Plant Sale Miscellaneous Information

2013 PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

Our 2013 Plant Sale Committee did an outstanding job this year with planning and pulling off TWO successful Plant Sales! We thank the following for their hours of dedicated work: Esther Ahlrich, Joyce Basel, Geri Beyer, Mary Fortino, Cathy Gall, Maureen Gibson, Marilyn Johnson, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesh, Helen Price, Roberta Pulido, and Henia Sullivan!!!

2014 PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

Esther, Joyce, Geri, Mary, Maureen, Helen, and Roberta have decided to “turn over the reins” of planning the 2014 Plant Sale. We are excited to have the following Garden Club members share their time and talents for the 2014 Plant Sale Committee: Shari Aldous, Cathy Gall, Loriann Gulik-Hoyle, Marilyn Johnson, Kathryn Kacalo, Cathy Kreis, Linda Kunesh, Bonni Rothbaum, and Henia Sullivan.

They've already contacted Bartels Plants and are anxiously awaiting the list of 2014 flowers and plants that will be available.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – 2014 PLANT SALE – MAY 2 & 3

Pre-Sale Order Forms will be available in January and will be due late February. The Sale will once again take place at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building on Springfield Drive. Stay tuned for more details.



Good Cheer—Member Concerns

*Marian Jonas is recovering from a broken hip. As of December 12, she is home!

7N070 Briargate Terrace

Medinah IL 60157

630-351-1180

*We got word that Wanda Malek passed away on Friday, December 13. A memorial service will be held sometime in January and we will let everyone know. Cards can be sent to her daughter, Chris Kaseeka.

344 S Lombard Rd

Lombard IL 60148

630-495-4292



*Bert West continues to adjust to life with Pulmonary Fibrosis.

*Geri Beyer and Mary Fortino—keep them both in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to endure treatments with grace.



Loriann Gulik-Hoyle, Joyce Basel, Carole Lockerbie, Marilyn Dattilo, and Bobbi Pulido had lots of fun decorating the Garden Club's tree at the Bloomingdale Library's Snowman Crossing display. Be sure to take some time and check out our tree as well as the others. They are all just charming!

Snowman Crossing

Give Lavishly! Live Abundantly!

The more you give, the more you get— The more you laugh, the less you fret—

The more you do unselfishly, the more you live abundantly...

The more of everything you share, the more you'll always have to spare—

The more you love, the more you'll find that life is good and friends are kind...

For only what we give away enriches us from day to day.

—Helen Steiner Rice

Thank You From One of Our Year-End Recipients

I received this lovely "Thank you" letter this morning from Sergeant Willie McLaughlin, who is the founder and President of the FOSCIK (Friends of Shelter Children in Kenya) organization. I add my thanks to his as I know this is a worthy cause and these kids are truly as poor and needy as it is possible to be. I will be seeing him next Tuesday for coffee and to give him donations from personal friends and my own continuing commitment.

Thank you all!!

Joyce

Greetings Garden Club Of Bloomingdale;

I Willie McLaughlin; would like to take this special time out to thank you all for your consideration of the poor through your very kind donation. FOSCIK is a small grass root, not for profit organization that is usually hands on for most of the work that we do. We survive basically from donors as yourselves or from out of pocket expense. We believe in serving our fellow man as God has commanded us to do.

Because of your act of philanthropy we have been able to bring joy, happiness, a warm meal, medicine, toys and clothing to these FOSCIK Shelter Children in Kenya. It makes me so proud when others care enough to help those that are in dire need. This has been my life's work now for many years and I couldn't have continued to do this without people as yourselves. So once again I say thank you from the bottom of my heart to the Bloomingdale Garden Club of Illinois.

Psalms 41:1-2 "Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth; and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."

Sincerely

Willie McLaughlin (President)

Friends Of Sheltered Children In Kenya (FOSCIK)

PO Box 2206

Bridgeview, IL. 60455 – USA

Bloomingdale Garden Club 2013 Donations

For those of you unable to attend the November meeting, here is a rundown of how those present decided to spend the money that we took in for 2013. As you can see, it is really an impressive list and all of the recipients will be benefitted greatly.

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB DONATIONS - 2013	
District II Luncheon Donation	33.00
Loriann Gulike-Hoyle-High School Project Donation	11.00
Loriann Gulik-Hoyle -High School Project Donation	40.00
Helping Hand	1,000.00
Memorial Day Flowers	97.00
Southern Illinois University-Scholarship for James Wallich	500.00
Bloomingdale VFW Post	500.00
Dupage Convalescent Center	200.00
DuPage PADS	500.00
Heifer International	400.00
Northern Illinois Food Bank	400.00
Peoples Resource Center	500.00
Poised For Success	500.00
FOSCIK	300.00
Stepping Stones	150.00
University of Illinois Extension	200.00
Bloomingdale Township Food Pantry	600.00
Stillman Nature Center	200.00
Total	6,131.00

Bloomington Garden Club

Meeting Location:
Bloomington Police Station
201 S Bloomington Rd
Bloomington IL 60108

Email: cathyjk@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 630-351-9336

We're on the Web!

www.bloomingtongardenclub.org



2013 Club Officers

Position

President.....Joyce Basel
1st Vice President.....Marilyn Johnson
(Membership)
2nd Vice President.....Roberta Pulido
(Programs) Maureen Gibson
 Cathy Kreis
Publicity.....Helen Price
Newsletter.....Cathy Kreis
Website.....Cathy Gall
Treasurer.....Henia Sullivan
Good Cheer.....Esther Ahlrich
Hospitality.....Mary Fortino
Secretary
Ways & Means.....Linda Kunesh

The Bloomington Garden club was formed to encourage the advancement of gardening, development of home grounds and civic beautification. To stimulate interest, knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs. To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds. To further the extermination of noxious weeds and to cooperate with other organizations in the beautification of the community.

Membership is open to all persons at his or her request of application regardless of residence. Annual dues for a single new member are \$20 and \$25 for a couple, when paid January 1-June 30. Half year dues for a single new member are \$10, and \$12.50 per couple when paid July 1 thru December 31.



Helen Price can't wait to get at those Lindt chocolates!!!!!!

Worm Composter Available

Helen Price has a worm composter available. It's free to anyone who wants it. Please contact her at 630-980-6585. All instructions available.

