

BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our President



save-the-date for Bloomingdale Garden Club's 60th Anniversary Gratitude Gala October 29th, 2023 11:30 to 2:30 at Bloomingdale Golf Club



Greetings Garden Club Friends!

Spring has finally sprung! After enduring the usual temperature swings typical in Chicagoland, Spring has finally taken hold. Flowers and shrubs blooming, trees leafing out, and unfortunately for those with allergies, lots of pollen and cottonwood floating around. Now, if we could only GET SOME RAIN!!!

Our Annual Flower and Plant Sale was a huge success. After accounting for all income and expenses, we netted just shy of \$6,600! That is tremendous! A big THANK YOU to all of you who came and helped out and also thanks to all who shopped. This is truly a Club effort and we would not be successful without the participation of so many of you. Although it is hard work, we really do have A LOT of fun!

Not only do we have fun, we also eat very well. Many thanks to Hector & Ofie for managing the food and also to all those who contributed to feeding us. Beyond snack items and several delicious side salads, we lunched on hot dogs, roll-up sandwiches, sloppy joes and now-famous Jeff's jerk pulled chicken. And, we are grateful to Pastor Jeremy and his

crew who cooked breakfast for us on Saturday morning.

Linda's report, as well as the financial report, will provide many more details of the sale. I have been on the committee for a few years now, and this was the first year I was on the sub-committee that selects the flowers that we offer. I always knew that Linda Kunesh, Henia Sullivan and Cathy Gall do an enormous amount of work to plan for the sale. But, wow, were my eyes opened! These three ladies are phenomenal and the Club owes them a huge debt of gratitude for all they do. Our sale has a terrific reputation in the surrounding area and we should be proud.

I am looking forward to our upcoming June gathering. Instead of the traditional Tuesday evening meeting, we will meet at Fu Mei's home on June 17 for a Saturday afternoon garden party. Fu Mei's garden is simply fantastic and she will also serve lunch. Check your email for details of this event. This will be a wonderful opportunity to visit with each other and enjoy time outdoors in a beautiful setting.

Happy Gardening! Cheryl

Our 60th Anniversary Gala is October 29th!



Everyone is invited, family and friends! Watch for this card to come in the mail soon—and put it on your refrigerator to remind you about our wonderful Gala Celebration! This is more than a social gathering. It's a fun-filled family event!

Besides a fabulous plated luncheon, we will have a silent auction of fine art, fun baskets, and an awesome vacation surprise. Anticipate the excitement of winning the 50/50 raffle! We will honor our veterans—protectors of our freedom, and our seniors—for years of charity, wisdom, and guidance. You will learn more about our amazing club from the archive of historical facts and photographs which will be presented throughout the event. Our dignitaries include Franco Coladipietro, Mayor of Bloomingdale, with the blessing given by Jeremy Heitkam, Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Faith Community Church.

A formal invitation will follow the SAVE-THE-DATE which will require a return RSVP with your menu selection and payment. We hope all members bring their significant others and really make it a priority to attend. This is a Bloomingdale Garden Club once in a decade event that will be promoted throughout the garden clubs of Illinois, nurseries, and charities that have benefited from our members' joy of gardening.



The Bloomingdale 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.

Plot-to-Plate Garden June 2023





Gail Sanders

The Plot-to-Plate garden has been planted and we look forward to a great growing season. We started last fall by planting garlic to start growing and overwinter. It is doing great. In early April onions were planted but because of the cool weather we waited until later in the month to get the rest of our cool season crops in—kale, lettuce, peas, and radishes. They have done well and we are ready to start harvesting them.

As things warmed up we have added transplants of basil, parsley, green and hot peppers, tomatillos, and tomatoes. Seeds for green beans, carrots, cucumbers, acorn and butternut winter squash, and zucchini have been sown. Flower seeds have been added to a section in the middle of the garden. At the time of writing, only the cucumber seeds have germinated. During this dry spell the committee has been watering several times each week. Rain gauges in the garden tell us that the hit and miss showers have mostly missed the garden.



New tomato cages in the garden.

There are two additions to the garden this year. The pop and juice bottles you donated have found homes next to the tomato plants where they will be part of a deep watering system. When it is your week to tend the

garden, Gail will meet with you to go over the new system. After several weeks of emails, Gail was able to pick up 10 tomato cages that were donated by Better Built Products in Addison. They are heavy duty and large. Our challenge will be to grow tomatoes to make full use of their size!

	<i>!</i> (<i>//</i>		
Gail Sanders	272		
Susan Glick-Shore	Eileen Spaman		
Marietta Serenda	Rick Serenda		
Jamie Schneck			
Jennifer Moore	Jennifer Moore		
Linda Steck			
Dawn LaVern			
Joyce Basel	Joe Boccuzzi		
Kimberly Kennedy			
Jeff Dengler			
Jennifer Moore	Jennifer Moore		
Barb Weisenburger	Barb Weisenburger		
Henia Sullivan	Linda Kunesh		
Joyce Basel	Joe Boccuzzi		
Jamie Schneck			
Gail Sanders			
	Susan Glick-Shore Marietta Serenda Jamie Schneck Jennifer Moore Linda Steck Dawn LaVern Joyce Basel Kimberly Kennedy Jeff Dengler Jennifer Moore Barb Weisenburger Henia Sullivan Joyce Basel Jamie Schneck		

We rely on club members to help tend the garden by watering and weeding. No previous vegetable gardening experience needed. Directions will be given before you start. We have many weeks where no one has yet volunteered. See the schedule above to see what dates are open. We would like to have you work with a partner and come three times during the week. With two people it may take about an hour each visit. Since our June meeting will not be at our regular location, it is important that you contact Gail (sandersgvjp@comcast.net) to let her know when you can help. Remember that all our produce is donated to food pantries. Thank you in advance for being part of this project.

Plot-to-Plate Committee:

Gail Sanders • Susan Glick-Shore Eileen Spaman • Barbara Weisenburger

2023 Flower & Plant Sale was AWESOME! AMAZING! SUCCESSFUL!

Linda Kunesh



Well, my gardening friends, we had another very successful Flower & Plant Sale thanks in large part to all of you spreading the word, our great publicity provided by Jamie, Akhila, & Cathy G., Jennifer delivering the Proven Winners books to libraries in the area and to other entities in the village, and of course our extensive email list that Henia maintains! PLUS, we had 35 club members and friends of our Club contributed their time. Thank you to EVERYONE!



Once again, the Bloomingdale Park District provided us with an exceptional venue to host our Sale and the Park District continued to support our sale with a tremendous pre-sale order of more than \$1,800 in annuals and perennials to beautify their parks! Joe Potts, Mesha Hadzik, Sally Johnson, & Mary Ricciardi: Thank YOU!

Here are some highlights of more than five months of planning and the amazing week: The Committee debriefed last summer and then began meeting in January, 2023 to review past sales, identify tasks to be completed by when, look at pricing history and eventually then determine pricing for 2023. A smaller committee (Henia, Cheryl, Cathy, and I) met to ID plants to consider based upon previous sales, when they

sold, what was
"new," and
"how many" we
should order.
Please do not
think this was
simply "rubberstamping." Our
conversations
were quite
animated with
MANY strong
feelings for and
against increases
and decreases!



<u>Trip to Sunrise</u>: On Monday, May 8, 14 of us traveled to Sunrise Greenhouse to pull/pick our order of 199 flats of annuals, 16 cases of geraniums, 33 cases of 4" and 4 ½" specialty annuals, 34 flats/cases of vegetables and herbs, 6 cases of

accent plants, 210 pots of 6" and one-gallon plants, 16 trays of wave petunias, and 58 6" & 1-gallon pots of perennials. Trust me, that was a LOT of work, ladies and gentlemen! MANY of the plants were on the floor requir-



ing a LOT of bending & then twisting to get them on carts!!! And since it was the week of Mother's Day, the Greenhouse was absolutely a madhouse! By the time we left there were NO parking spaces available, let alone available carts! People were waiting in line to get both.



Those who went to Sunrise included Henia, Jennifer, Gail B., Jeff, Cheryl, Hector, Ofelia, Cathy D., Kim K., Dawn, Jeanette, Gail S., Linda S, and me. We were thrilled to be joined by Jeff's sister who met us there and was a tremendous help.

July Dollars: And speaking of Sunrise, if any of you purchased \$100 or more in plants for yourself and/or if you travel to Sunrise this June and purchase \$100 or more in plants, you will be issued a pink coupon called "July Dollars." Each is a \$10 value and good for up to half off your purchase when redeemed July 1-August 5, October 2-31, and December 1-23! So don't throw away those pink coupons. If you have any and don't think you'll use them, let me know and we'll get them

to someone from our club who will use them!

Tables, Set up, & Delivery: Tables were delivered by Unique Party Rental on Tuesday, May 9. and much to our surprise, Park District staff Mesha & Nemanja



opened and set up all 55 tables for us on Wednesday morning! We were able to get everything set up just in time as the Sunrise delivery came earlier than expected on Wednesday morning. In



addition to all of the plants noted above, Sunrise also delivered 210 gorgeous hanging baskets! The most beautiful were the 12" Begonias and Combination baskets of which we most likely will order more next year!

Thursday's delivery from Clesen arrived earlier than expected, too, and included 171 cases of 4 1/2" pots of annuals & 20 hanging baskets.

Are you thinking "WOW! That's a LOT of plants!?!?!" Yes! Yes, it is!

Pre-Sale Orders: All of the 56 pre-sale orders were sorted and inventoried on Wednesday and Thursday and available to those customers at 8 AM on Friday. Between 8AM and noon (before we officially open to the public), pre-sale customers who picked up their orders and club members working the sale purchased an additional \$4,321 in plants!

Yes, it really does pay to submit a pre-sale order. Not only do you save money and get your plants



early, you also have the best pick to purchase hanging baskets, veggies, herbs, and anything else we cannot include on the pre-sale order form.

Breakfast on Saturday: Now how cool is this??? Pastor Jeremy and "crew" from Cornerstone Faith Community Church provided us with a hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice, etc. on Saturday morning prior to us opening to the public! Unbelievable! I don't know of any other garden clubs that have this kind of support from "it's meeting host." Right?



As you will see in Cheryl's Financial Report, we netted a profit of nearly \$6,600 after all expenses and income were accounted! Even with increases in cost of plants and 11 fewer pre-sale orders (56 this year; 67

last year) that's a couple hundred dollars MORE in profit than what we made last year. Honestly, we do this sale for a lot of camaraderie AND we have a LOT of fun! Profit is great, but not our primary goal.

Perennials brought in \$754! A special thank you to Cheryl & Carole!

The Raffles and sale of gently-used tools, books, & magazines netted a profit of \$442.76! Thank you goes out to Kathryn, Marilyn, & Maureen for all your great efforts! And a special thank you goes to Marilyn for the adorable tea cup spider plants and to Kathryn for making the precious Fairy Garden.

I wish you all could have seen the little girl whose grandfather won the Fairy Garden. When they came to pick it up, she jumped up and down



and clapped her hands. That smile was worth a million dollars! We delighted in her joy and clapped along with her!

Another sweet story: We saw a man with a T-shirt that said "Plant Dad." We commented on it and he then had his two little girls show us their T-shirts, too. And then the mom got in the reveal! All of their T-shirts related to gardening. But I think the mom's was the best: "Mind your peas and cukes!"

Not sure if you all know this, but for the past few years we have bought a case of 'Jack Be Little' miniature pumpkins to give out free to the kids at the sale. This year, we ran out of all 18 quite quickly. We encouraged them to take photos of their harvests and to share with us next year.



What to do with the left-overs: I know many of our members thought we had a LOT left over, but \$565.85 in plants was just 3% of the cost of our flowers and plants. I think that is extremely reasonable! And please keep in mind we only sell over 2 days. I heard it is not unusual in the retail world to have 5-7% left over. We donated 12 hanging baskets to Pastor Jeremy after the sale to give to ladies in his church who perhaps were moms and unable to attend Mother's Day services. We also gave some plants to beautify the church grounds. The rest were given to club members who had worked MANY hours at the sale.

To all of you on the Flower & Plant Sale <u>Committee:</u> Thank you for all your many, many efforts and time. We could never do this sale without you. You all contributed a great deal and I want to especially acknowledge Henia, Cathy, & Cheryl for all the EXTRA time and effort they personally provided.

5 Gift Certificates totaling \$90 redeemed

Next year remains an unknown at this time, but the Committee will gather at my house on June 19th to "debrief" the Sale and discuss successes and challenges! If you would like to contribute your thoughts, please contact any of us.

Thank you everyone!



Your 2023 Flower & Plant Sale Committee

Joyce Basel • Gail Berry • Jeff Dengler • Cathy Gall • Jennifer Moore • Hector Rivera • Ofelia Rivera • Henia Sullivan • Cheryl Svee • Linda Kunesh

2023 Plant Sale Financial Report



Cheryl Svee					
Income:		Cradit Card	Colon (F2)	2.00 90.5-1	
Pre-orders (56 sales)	9,938.50	Credit Card Sales 6533.00 89 Sales			
Collected Days of Sale – Deposited	14,132.79	Fees Incurred (178.81) 172.00 Fees Collect			
	24,071.29	Net	6,354	4.19 (6.81) Loss	on fees
Expenses:		Perennials	754.00		
Sunrise Invoice	11,035.19	Raffle Pots	262.26	(322 collected mi	nus 59.74
Clesen Invoice	5,465.00			for plants/soil/p	oots)
Table Rental	606.67	Misc, tools, b	ooks,	1	,
Misc. Expenses (potting soil, tableclo	ths & clips,	magazines	-	(All items were	donated)
pencils, delivery men tips, BPD staff	gifts) 247.46	Collected:	1,196.76	- (1)	
Master Gardener Help Desk	125.00	Donations/T	ranefori	8	
	17,479.32		i ali SiGi .		12.00
NET/PROFIT	6,591.97	Plot-to-Plate			43.90
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Trinity Service	es		27.30
Other Notes and Fun Facts:		Wings			46.80
Received \$50 in donations!		Leftovers to 0	Cornersto	ne Church	
52 people asked to be added to our n	nailing list!	and BGC Members 565.85			
11 Refund vouchers totaling \$163 issue	ed/redeemed	TOTAL			683.85



Pots Needed

Don't throw away those empty pots from the nursery. We can use 6", 1-gallon, and larger pots to use next year to pot up perennials. Please be sure they are clean. You can put them between the sheds at the Maintenance Building. One of the Committee members will get them into the shed for storage. Thanks.

Memorial Day in Bloomingdale

Joyce Basel

The little cemetery on Lake Street was again bedecked with yellow ribbons and was spruce and pretty. The weather was perfect—a bright sunny day, not hot yet with a little breeze, and people began to gather around 9:30 am for what is now a tradition in Bloomingdale. I met up with our most senior member Jo Dabrowski and sat with her in the front row! Her husband was a veteran and a founder member of Bloomingdale VFW Post 7539.

Our own Air Force veteran Hector Riviera and his wife were there and I was also delighted to see Kelly and Dan Vitacco. If there were any other garden club members, and I hope that there were, I just did not see them.

The ceremony this year was a little different with three different but very poignant speeches by VFW members and of course the gun salute and playing of Taps is always wonderful and makes me cry. My late husband Mike passed away over the Memorial Day weekend in 2005, He was in the Navy in World War II and I always feel that this salute is personal as he was such a proud American and so patriotic.



Memorial Day 2023 Franco Speaking

Pastor Jeremy and several members of the Cornerstone Faith Community Church choir provided the hymns and their beautiful voices echoed through the trees.

Did you know that this cemetery has graves dating back to the War of 1812? and the Civil War! And each veteran's grave is decorated on this day with a cross and ribbon denoting the conflict in which he or she served. Our Club donates red, white and blue carnations every year so that those attending can take one to place on a grave after the service. It is rather wonderful to see the community lining up for a carnation and then strolling through this lovely little place to place a flower on the grave of a fallen hero!

I am so proud that our Club participates each year with this donation—Thank you! And I am always glad to be there to remember we have the lives we do because of those who gave theirs for us. Freedom is not Free—God Bless America!

News from GCI Speaker, Dolly Foster

Hello Gardeners!

For those of you who have not heard from me in a while, Hello again! Now that I am finishing grad school, I am doing some consulting work and putting on a large plant sale at my home from June through September. If you are looking for pollinator plants, I have them!

My plant list for this season is available. I have added annuals to the list, expanded the offerings of natives and added a limited number of Heirloom Tomatoes. My plants (except for the tomatoes) are all pollinator plants. I grow my plants with no chemicals, no neo-nics etc. They are safe for pollinators and hummingbirds.

A small number of plants overwintered and I will be selling those one year old plants for \$4 each starting May 1st.
The tomatoes will be ready by mid-May.
Opening Weekend is June 16 to 18, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



As always, I will take private appointments if you need a little extra advice. Text or email me. If you are interested in a home consultation, email me and we can set something up. Maybe you are looking to put in a vegetable garden but need some advice? Converting a conventional landscape to natives? I can help you with that. If your club wants to learn new gardening methods, I have 15 topics ready to go.

I hope to see you at the plant sale. Cheers!

Dolly Foster, Horticulturist Dolly@Hort4U.net 219-937-5988 www.hort4u.net

A Letter from Joan



Happy Spring 2023! Hope you're getting more sunny days in Illinois than I am in Kentucky. Happy to see new faces in positions for the Garden Club. Congrats, Laurie, for taking on Treasurer!

Enclosed is my membership dues for 2023. Wishing I was still able to come to monthly meetings. Miss you guys!

May you walk down life's road with a song in your heart,
May you always have health and good cheer,
May the luck of the Irish be with you
Throughout every day of the year!

Happy St. Patrick's Day Regards, Joan (O'Brien) Skotleski

Thank You!

I want to extend a special thank you to Jamie Schneck, Linda Steck, Debbie Matuszak and Susan Jurkus for a most beautiful and scrumptious spread of five flatbread treats at our January meeting. I have never had such a wonderful treat! And of course, the presentation made the flatbreads look most appetizing. Glad you published your recipes in the February Trowel.

For the February Meeting, Gail Sanders brought a couple of lovely treats, one of which was garden pots of chocolate pudding with candy worms! That was delicious! Thank you, Gail, you make the best treats!!!!!

Fondly, Laurie

Esther Ahlrich at 90!



Joyce Basel

Esther Ahlrich has been a member of our garden club for almost fifty years!! She has most certainly been one of our most active members and until very recently attended every meeting and participated in as many activities as she could.

Her garden(s) on Schick Road were a testament to her green thumb and her pots were always gorgeous. Hardly anyone knew that in the back there was also a remarkable vegetable garden!! and it is from this garden that she harvested the rhubarb that went into her famous pies!!

Esther has held every office on the Board of the Bloomingdale Garden Club. She has been President at least twice, Membership Chair and I believe Treasurer many years ago. During the time that our club's membership was reduced, she

worked tirelessly to encourage existing members and recruit new ones.

When I was first nominated to be President—many years ago—Esther assured me of her willingness to guide me and, indeed, she became my mentor and the person to whom I went when I needed advice. Her memory remained sharp until just a year to so ago and, as you all know, she is now in a memory care facility.

On Sunday, June 4th Esther turned 90 years old and it was my pleasure—indeed my privilege—to create a beautiful bouquet for her and deliver it. She was at lunch when I arrived and so everyone there was able to admire her flowers and wish her Happy Birthday! While, I do believe that she recognized my voice, I know she did not really know who I was.

Nevertheless, as usual she was gracious and her delightful smile made my day. Her sense of humor remains intact as when I told her that the flowers were sent by her friends at the Bloomingdale Garden Club she responded "Yes, I know those kids!" . . . and I said: "You and I are among them" and immediately she quipped "No, too old!!"

I laughed heartily, and everyone there joined in! She appeared delighted to have made the joke and I left feeling that I would probably giggle all the way home! Indeed I did!

Happy Birthday Esther!

Bobbie Pulido

Those who attended our last meeting heard from Joyce Basel that Bobbie Pulido had been placed in Hospice Care. Cards sent to her home address are read to her by Joyce.

Beverly Mioke



Sadly we've been advised of Beverly's passing on Sunday, May 21. She was one of our Senior Garden Club members. She had been in a care facility in Bartlett. She was known for her artistic talent as well as her love of gardening.



Photo was taken from Joe's obituary from when he was in the Navy.

Joe Boryla

Joe Boryla's life was celebrated on June 9th. Both Joe and Joyce were members of our Club. Joe's family requested donations to the Wounded Warrior Project which was honored by the Bloomingdale Garden Club.

DuPage Care Center Resident Gardeners say Thank You!

We started with a blank slate and you provided the flowers.



Cast

We spent a beautiful morning planting.



DuPage Care Center provides quality long term skilled nursing care as well as short term rehabilitative services to DuPage County residents in a professional and cost-effective manner. Our 2023 contribution to DPCC was \$400.00 in flowers from our Flower & Plant Sale.

Linda Kunesh champions the DPCC Garden Program as the University of Illinois Extension DuPage Master Gardener Team Leader for DPCC. She and many other Master Gardeners, including our own Peggy Laraia, Gail Sanders, and Cheryl Svee have worked with the Garden Program for many years. Fifty-five Resident Gardeners each have their own raised bed garden plot where they plant vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

The Resident Gardeners and staff at DuPage Care Center wanted to thank Bloomingdale Garden Club for our contribution that brings respite to everyday routines, beautifies the grounds, and provides a sense of pride and accomplishment for each participant.

The beds are full and we look forward to a wonderful growing season!



Thank you, Bloomingdale Garden Club, for your donation!

Riche

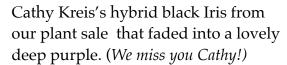
POSTCARD Picture Perfect!



Photos from Chery Svee's garden with Linda's Yellow Bartzella (right); Cindy Glenn's Spring visit to Holland Michigan (below).











2023 Club Officers and Committees

*President Cheryl Svee
*1st Vice President Marietta Serenda
(Membership)
*2nd Vice President Cathy Dicken and
(Programs) Jeanette Moline
*3rd Vice President Linda Kunesh
(Ways and Means)
*Treasurer Laurie Dring
*Publicity Jamie Schneck
(Website, Trowel, Graphics)
Publicity Team
Publications Akhila Meda
PhotographyDebbie Matuszak
ProofreadingLinda Kunesh
Facebook Cathy Gall
Website Support Dan Vitacco
*Recording Secretary Linda Steck
*Corresponding Secretary Joyce Basel
Plot-to-Plate Garden Gail Sanders
Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman, Barbara
Weisenburger
Good Cheer Jennifer Moore
Hospitality Carol Lockerbie
Memorial Garden Joyce Basel
Nursing Home Liaison Chris Magnatowski

*Denotes Executive Board

Let Us Hear From You: jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net Call or Text 630-915-0051

Posting Months:

March, June, September and December

OUR VISION

To educate members and the community about gardening through informative and educational meetings, workshops and activities

- To develop and promote projects for civic beautification and environmental stewardship
- To support philanthropic endeavors which aid the residents of the Bloomingdale community and surrounding areas
- To provide opportunities for fellowship for those interested in gardening and environmental and civic responsibility
- To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds
- To further the extermination of invasive and/or noxious plants

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons at his or her request of application regardless of residence. Annual dues are \$25.00 for a single member and \$30.00 for a couple when paid January 1st through June 30th. (\$6.00 pays each member's State Garden Club dues; and \$7.00 for each couple).

Half year dues for new members are \$12.50 for single member, and \$15.00 per couple when paid July 1st thru December 31st.

Visitors are always welcome, but we encourage them to join the club after 3 visits in order to help out with the costs of our monthly programming.

Meeting Location:

The 3rd Tuesday of each month. Social time and announcements at 6:15. Program begins at 7 PM. Cornerstone Faith Community Church 118 S. First Street, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Contact Us At:

bloomingdalegardenclub@gmail.com

We're On The Web:

bloomingdalegardenclub.org