

# Take All The Time You Need

By Linda Graham

The house didn't get cleaned Because the camellias were blooming And my soul took all the time it needed To honor their flowering.

The house didn't get cleaned
Because the sun burned away
the storm clouds at last
And my body took all the time it needed
To bask in the warmth and rejoice.

The house didn't get cleaned Because one friend turned 50 And another friend fractured her pelvis And another friend spontaneously showed up for sushi And two more friends got married.

Our hearts took all the time we needed for Food and fun and laughter.
Being together in Sabbath time more important
Than sweeping the dust bunnies.

The house didn't get cleaned,
And so when friends came over tonight,
We filled the house with soup and salad,
Love and light, poetry and music
Tears and laughter.

And our deepest selves
Took all the time we needed
To hold and cherish
one another
In the house filled with
dust bunnies
And comfort and love.



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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.

# Landscaping with Native Plants

Jamie Schneck

David Brooks, a professional naturalist, spoke to our club in September covering drought and pest resistant wildflowers native to Illinois. He said our area is host to 13 different species of milkweed, the host plant for monarch butterflies. Many of them are rare or endangered. Butterfly gardens that include native host plants in addition to nectar sources are best at supporting our local pollinators.

His hand-out included a host of native species



appropriate for gardens for sun and shade, in wet/moist, average, and dry soil. He also spoke on how to plan ahead, designing plantings, prepping our site, planting, and how to maintain.

He welcomes garden clubs to visit Schaumburg Park District's 135 acre Nature Center at Spring Valley, 1111 E. Schaumburg Road (where he works), throughout the year to learn more about prairie wildflowers and ecology, spring migratory birds, heirloom kitchen gardening and the history of Schaumburg's German farming community.

Chicago receives its name from the French adaptation of 'shekaakwa,' the Algonquin native word for the wild leek or ramp, which was abundant in the oak woods along Lake Michigan.





# Plot-to-Plate Garden 2023

Gail Sanders

As our season has ended, we would like to thank the 20 garden club members who helped the committee weeding and watering our club's garden. With sturdy tomato cages donated by Better Bilt Products of Addison, a new bottle watering system and especially your efforts, the garden made it through heat and drought allowing us to harvest 511 pounds of fresh organic produce to be donated to local food pantries. As with any year, there were successes (195 lbs of tomatoes and 99 lbs of zucchini) and failures (0 lbs green beansdarn you rabbits). We will welcome your help in 2024 to have another productive season.

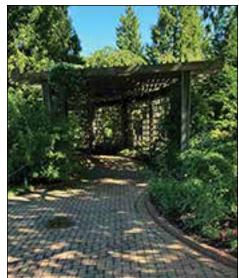
#### **Plot-to-Plate Committee:**

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



Please save juice bottles (about 52 -64 oz) to be used in watering our 2024 garden. Here is a picture of what we need.









# Time for Fun!

Joyce Basel

Halloween happened right after our marvelous Anniversary Party and I was already feeling the anti-climax of that when the sudden freeze caused everything that was still







alive in my pots to simply die!!! I was in the doldrums and so decided to make my pots look pretty and cheer myself up a little. These are all things that were in my garage gathering dust!! Scarecrows and silk leaves and flowers made everything look a whole lot better for Thanksgiving. After that I started on Christmas lights! Happy Holidays to you all!!















Floral pots decked out for the holidays create show stoppers at Joyce Basel's front door.

# Snowman Crossing Library Tree Decorating

Cathy Gall

Several of our members decorated the garden club's Christmas tree at Snowman Crossing at the Bloomingdale Library on Sunday, November 26th. It was a bit chilly, but we enjoyed our time together despite the cold. Afterwards we warmed up with some hot chocolate and cookies. It's always nice to spend some time together!

Joyce and Henia (below) unbury the tree from snow so Hector (right) and everyone else can decorate the tree.









From left to right: Jennifer Moore, Joyce Basel, Hector Rivera, Henia Sullivan, Cheryl Svee, and Cathy Gall.



Submitted by Cheryl Svee



# Pointesettia Centerpiece Craft

Project and Photos by Debbie Matuszak

Debbie Matuszak took ideas from Linda Steck, Gail Sanders, and the board and organized everything needed to do the Christmas craft project for the residents of the West Suburban Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. We made 35 beautiful pointsettia centerpieces to brighten their eating areas for the holidays.

















# Holiday Recipes

# Raspberry Thumbprint Cookies

littlesweetbaker.com Laurie made these using Gail's raspberry jam.

### **Ingredients**

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar, divided

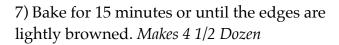
1 large egg

2 tsp vanilla extract

1 cup seedless raspberry jam or preserve

### **Instructions**

- 1) Preheat oven to 325°F and line 3 cookie sheets with parchment paper.
- 2) In a medium bowl, toss together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
- 3) In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the butter and 1 cup sugar (reserving the other 1/2 cup for rolling) together on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3 or 4 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed. Mix in the egg and vanilla extract until incorporated.
- 4) With the mixer on low, stir in half of the flour mixture until just combined. Repeat with the remaining flour mixture.
- 5) Roll the dough into 1" balls and coat in sugar. Place 1" apart on the prepared baking sheets.
- 6) Make an indent in each cookie using a 1/4 tsp round measuring spoon or your thumb. Fill each well with raspberry jam. Slightly overfill so that's it's rounded on top because the jam will flatten out as the cookies bake.



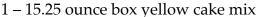
Laurie's modifications: 1) Use only 1/2 the sugar called for in the recipe. 2) Use chopped pecans to roll cookies in instead of sugar.

## **BACARDI** Rum Cake

Jamie brought to November craft.

### Cake

1 cup toasted pecans or walnuts, coarsely chopped



1 – 3.4 ounce pkg. Instant Vanilla Pudding mix

4 large eggs

1/2 cup cold water

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup Bacardi dark rum

(For yellow cake mix with pudding in the mix: Omit pudding, use only 3 eggs and 1/3 cup oil.)

### Glaze

1/2 cup (4 ounces) unsalted butter 1/4 cup water 1 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease and flour 10" tube or 12-cup Bundt pan. Sprinkle nuts over bottom of pan. Mix all cake ingredients together. Pour batter over nuts. Bake 45 to 55 minutes. Let cake cool in pan for about 30 minutes. Invert it onto a serving plate.

Glaze: Melt butter in sauce pan. Stir in water and sugar. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in rum.

Prick top of cake. Drizzle glaze over the top and sides of the cake. If desired, brush the excess glaze from the bottom of the plate onto the cake. Allow cake to absorb glaze. Repeat until glaze is used up.





# 2023 Member Christmas Party









Photos by Jamie Schneck

Our party at Jameson's Charhouse this year was on a Sunday so we kept things light with a menu that included bruschetta with chopped tomatoes/basil, mini crab cakes, spinach pies, teriyaki chicken skewers, and meatballs in marinara sauce. It was all topped off with a white elephant gift exchange and a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Everything was just lovely and was enjoyed by all!

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# 2023 Member Christmas Party (cont'd)









This year was a casual event, where a glass of wine was welcome and friendships were celebrated. We are blessed to come together with open hands and hearts that can honor and assist those around us.

### And ... to Celebrating 60 Years!

We are especially thankful for the years of devotion so many community members have contributed to helping the Bloomingdale Garden Club grow. History started in a garden—and so did we. One idea built upon another brought

us to where we are now, thriving and sharing with those in need. It's a mission, a purpose, a heavenly assignment—the right people at the right place and time doing the right things. The longevity of the club says it all—60 years of inclusitivity, even through Covid, and we're still growing. Thanks to you all, for all you do!

### **2024 Upcoming Meetings**



**Annual Business Meeting** 

### February 20

Curative Properties of Tea by Marcy Lautenan-Raleig

#### March 19

Fighting Climate Change in Your Backyard (and Frontyard) by Mike Nowak

#### April 16

Annual Flower & Plant Sale Prep

#### May 10 - 11

Annual Flower & Plant Sale

#### May 21

Who's Who of Owls by Mark Spraeyer

*In place of meetings, 2024 Summer events will be field trips yet to be determined by the programs team.* 

# Bobbie Pulido Honored

The day after our Anniversary celebration, Joyce personally delivered the roses to Bobbie Pulido at Sunrise Senior Living. Bobbie is 83 and while she did not know exactly why she was getting flow-

ers, she was delighted with them.

Joyce



# West Suburban Donations



Cathy Gall

Once again the generosity of our club members was apparent in a big way. After 4½ days of collecting during the first week of December, the holiday items for the residents at the West Suburban Nursing and Rehabilitation Center were delivered to Vina, the Activity Director. On behalf of the residents, she expressed her continued appreciation for our club's thoughtfulness.

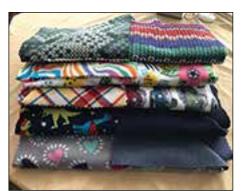
Fleece blankets seemed to have been on the minds of many of our donors this year. A special shoutout to Pauline for her donation of so many double sided fleece blankets that she had lovingly sewn and donated! The attached picture shows her clever color combinations for each side of the blankets! Other donations included socks, gloves and scarves to keep the residents warm, and shampoo, deodorant, lotions, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, snacks, activity books and holiday

cards to keep residents entertained.

Many thanks to all who contributed this year! You're the best! Happy New Year to All!!















### 2023 Club Officers and Committees

*President	Cheryl Svee		
*1st Vice President	Marietta Serenda		
(Membership)			
*2nd Vice President	Debbie Matuszak		
(Programs)	& Kimberly Kennedy		
*3rd Vice President	Linda Kunesh		
(Ways and Means)			
*Treasurer			
*Publicity	Jamie Schneck		
(Website, Trowel, Graphics)			
Publicity Contributors			
Publications	Akhila Meda		
Proofreading	Linda Kunesh		
Photo Retouching	Alan Schneck		
Facebook			
Website Support	Dan Vitacco		
*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@gmail.com Phone: 630-372-6003 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 1:15 PM. Program begins at 2. We meet at:

Cornerstone Faith Community Church 118 S. First Street, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

#### Contact Us At:

bloomingdalegardenclub@gmail.com

#### We're On The Web:

bloomingdalegardenclub.org