

# GARDEN CLUB Newsletter

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## Season Greetings from your President!



By the time you read this, our Holly Berry Brunch will have come and gone. I'd like to thank those of you who donated gifts, time and effort to make this a very successful and worthy event. We can also thank the businesses who cared enough to donate too. Support them as a gesture of gratitude. Success comes from all of us supporting this fundraiser. Pat yourselves on the back. Well done!!

As winter begins to creep in on us, remember all the satisfying work we have done in our gardens. This is a good time of year to re-group for the next growing season. Time for our tools to get cleaned up and sharpened, if necessary. Maybe consider some Native Pollinator plants too. The catalogs will arrive in January. You can enjoy browsing and create new ideas for your garden. I'm excited to hear our speaker in January speak about Native Plants. A few more in your yard helps every bit. Bring a guest. Bring your questions. It's sure to be informative.

Wishing all of you peace, prosperity, good health and happy gardens in the coming year.

*Cynthia Casillas*



Creative juices flowed at our November meeting as 23 of our members met to make beautiful wreaths/holiday items for the Festival of Trees, add ideas or simply give encouragement and praise to those with artistic flair. Armed with ribbons, baubles, glue guns and more, our group photo shows the happy results. In addition to the wreaths, Mary Bugeia created a seasonal swag and decorated two smaller trees, while Terri Bungee decorated a lantern centerpiece. Four guests joined us and were welcomed warmly: Jean Burns, Lisa Marchetti, Cynthia Mason and Rachel Pearson.

Thanks to Linda Johnson who took photos of the wreaths she saw at the Festival – some had already been sold but she photographed the Garden Club of Dearborn donations still on display. Many thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile annual endeavor to support the Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Marzonie Baumgart Casillas



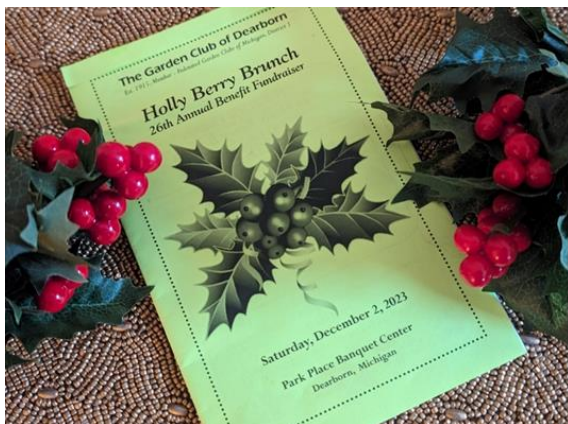
Karen Marzonie presented the Lifetime Achievement Award with Michigan Garden Clubs to our photographer, Otto Baumgart, thanking him for his work and dedication to our club. It was indeed a proud moment!

Otto and his wife Paulette joined our Garden Club of Dearborn in 2015. After retiring from Ford Motor Company, Otto started a second career as a wedding photographer and uses his talent to make beautiful photos of all our events. He knows how to bring out our best smiles and he knows all the tricks – after all, we can all imagine the various situations he encountered at countless

weddings! We were very lucky to have Otto and Paulette rejoin the club after moving to Tipton, Michigan and their devotion is evident in the 60 miles they drive one way to attend meetings. In 2022, Otto was named resident photographer and unanimously elected “Volunteer of the Year”, so it was no surprise to see him be granted this very special award. We are both proud and so very fortunate to count Otto among our members and reap the benefits of his work, too. Thank you, Otto, for all the wonderful work you do for our club!



Otto & Award



What a wonderful time we had at the 26<sup>th</sup> Holly Berry Brunch! And what a successful annual benefit fundraiser it was, too! Anyone entering the Park Place dining room and seeing the red poinsettia plants in golden foil-covered pots on crisp, white tablecloths with alternating red and green napkins knew they were in for a treat. Along the side, 100 prize baskets shimmered in cellophane wrap with their beautiful bows and beckoned to be viewed, oooohed and aaahed over, and - ultimately – bid upon. Great thanks go to

Jennie Somers for making the festive bows in various colors and patterns that always put the finishing touch on the baskets and make them even more alluring. Alongside the baskets, five silent auction prizes rounded out the variety.

Carol Chrzastek was the HBB Event Chair and Cynthia Casillas served as Master of Ceremonies. Cynthia's daughter, Amelia Krupa stepped in again this year to announce all the winners. Approximately 238 admission tickets were sold for the event and after they were all gone, requests were still floating in. Great thanks go to all who helped in many different ways: you made it happen, we worked as a team, we put on a great show.

At our December meeting, a total of 32 members (including two guests, Rachel Pearson and Jean Burns - we do love repeat guests!) shared a delicious potluck lunch and reminisced about the brunch. Carol received a huge round of applause although she was quite emphatic that the success was a team effort and while every single donation generated ticket sales and made money, it was fun to hear which top ten prize baskets received the most tickets:

1. Ford's Garage Gift Basket
2. Cracker Barrel Gift Basket
3. Barbie Doll Gift Basket
4. Dearborn Sausage/Coupons Gift Basket
5. Chocolate Lover's Gift Basket
6. Olga's/Coupons Gift Basket
7. Stained Glass Hanging Wreath
8. Mati's Deli/Coupons Gift Basket
9. Vacuum Cleaner & Duster
10. Polish Basket



Paulette Baumgart & Linda Gunderson  
Putting Together Their HBB Barbie Basket

The final numbers are not in yet but our Garden Club has profited quite handsomely this year! The silent auction, the 50/50 raffle, the basket raffle prizes and, for the first time, the poinsettias on each table all succeeded in adding to the final count.

For our monthly raffles, a beautiful Christmas cactus was won by Marlene Bankwitz; Mariya Fogarasi won a cute little stone garden rabbit, Mary Bugeia won a miniature tree, Nanette Fisher won the mystery prize – a 2024 Farmer's Almanac, and Sandy Butler won a tube of Mary Kay Satin Hands hand cream.



Cynthia Casillas' game "Ribbons and Bows: A Silly Left/Right Christmas Game story for your holiday party" was a big hit and has been sent out to everyone through email. We also learned that Paulette Baumgart wrote an article which was published in the recent December/January 2024 issue of "Mary Jane Farm" magazine and featured on page 69.

Mary Bugeia passed around a copy of the letter from former Michigan Garden Club President Carol Brodbeck to Senator Sue Shink urging HB4159 to be placed on the Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee hearing schedule as soon as possible, designating the Black Swallowtail as the official Michigan butterfly. Several members who had not yet signed the petition did so at the meeting.

Please mark your calendars for our January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with the presentation about native plants by Janet Damian. Titled “Native and non-native plants, what’s the difference? And why does it matter?”, her talk will include the hows and whys of including native plants in your yard and home gardens. What are the benefits to the ecosystem (birds, bees, pollinators, etc.) to include native plants - everything from ground covers to trees?

The Garden Club of Dearborn wishes all its members a safe and happy holiday. May we come together in 2024 and bring more joy to the world!



*Merry Christmas*



# Festival of Trees November 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Workshop







## 2023 Holly Berry Brunch











happy holidays



# GCD December General Meeting & Holiday Potluck

