

THE

Garden Club of Dearborn

January 2025

NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEETING

February 5, 2025
10:00 am
McFadden Ross House

Upcoming Events

Winter Sowing Workshop
Part 1
February 8
10am, 11 am or 12 pm
Env. Interp. Center
UofM Dearborn
Registration Req'd

January Birthdays:

3 Cynthia Pempeit
3 Marlene Wojtowicz
8 Wanda Unis Flaim
15 Mary Dietrich
16 Christine Dobrovich
20 Jackie Olinn
20 Rose Wiggle
22 Keith Bankwitz
23 Gary Morgan
24 Sandy Butler
29 Meredith Scharf

February Birthdays:

24 Ron Wiggle
26 Linda Gunderson

Editor:

Mariya Fogarasi

Chief Photographer:

Otto Baumgart

www.gardenclubdearborn.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Did you learn and enjoy Adam Sterling's presentation on Brain Wellness? I sure did! Next is Ikebana Flower arranging. I'm looking forward to learning about it along with our Valentine Tea. A big thank you to Linda Johnson for bringing our decorations for February! I know it's going to be wonderful.

This year our club will attempt to update our website and our logo. After January's general meeting, I received contacts for website management and graphic artists.

We have three positions to be filled for our leadership board. It's not difficult, members are forgiving and it's good community fun. The satisfaction of serving others will fill your heart. Please consider stepping out of your comfort zone. I guarantee you will not fail but soar to heights of gratitude.

I'm excited to teach others about winter sowing at the Henry Ford Centennial Library this month. The workshop will be my first time to teach others about the importance of native planting. Donna Kolojeskie will be leading. She is a passionate native plant enthusiast with an equally passionate commitment to improve our land.

I enjoy learning and having new experiences. I challenge all of you to do the same in 2025. *Stay healthy, happy with peace and prosperity.*

Next General Meeting Valentine's Day Tea

February 10, 2025 – 11:00 am
First Presbyterian Church Dearborn
600 N Brady Rd, Dearborn, MI 48124

Speaker: Leslie Ann Rosinski – Teacher of Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Interior & Event Floral Arranger

Topic: Ikebana Demonstration

Host: Linda Johnson & Jean Burns





Our next meeting will be a Valentine's Day tea on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 11:00am in the First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn at 600 N. Brady Street. Wear red or pink if you can!

Everyone is asked to bring a donation of finger foods (we won't have any utensils) for the tea and our hostesses, Linda Johnson and Jean Burns, will have elegant teacups on hand for an authentic experience. Marlene Bankwitz donated hats which members could take home and either decorate or wear them plain for the tea, too.

Thanks to our board for deciding to hold a January meeting after all, thanks to Terri Bungee for finding a fabulous speaker, and thanks to Carol Chrzastek and Terri for jumping in as hostesses! What a great way to start the year! Thirty-six attendees including six guests (Jean Burns, Gerald Fisher, Karen Laczkowski, Pat McIsaac, speaker Adam Sterling and assistant Summer Burgess) enjoyed a really upbeat and lively meeting this month.

President Cynthia Casillas called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for President Jimmy Carter. Cynthia also mentioned Wendy Turner, the church custodian, who is not well and to whom we gave a small donation with thank you note. Wendy's son, Jamie, is now helping out. Heather Yeaw then read the monthly excerpt from the book "100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names", featuring the peony, whose name origin goes back to ancient Greece – in fact, by 79 A.D. when Mt. Vesuvius erupted, the peony was already attributed with the power to cure twenty different illnesses. Peonies probably came to Europe from China, where they had been an important healing plant for centuries and then on to Britain with the Romans. By the time our forefathers brought them to the New World, they were being used for decorative purposes in both Britain and the colonies. Nowadays, we think of the beautiful blossoms as healing the spirit if not the body.

Karen Marzonie described how our club sponsored the peony garden at the Fair Lane Estate in the 1980's. Located across the road from the house and near the miniature farmhouse/playhouse, the garden borders are in the rough shape of a butterfly with open wings. The peony flower colors include white, and also soft, medium, and deep shades of pink.

(Side note: the Netherlands is the largest peony cut flower producing country with about 50 million stems each year).



To everyone's delight, Treasurer Laurine Griffin announced a Holly Berry Brunch profit of \$10,000! Sponsors brought in \$2600 (great thanks to Terri Bungee), even the poinsettias brought in \$155, netting a small profit this year. All in all, everyone agreed that the new location at Doubletree Hilton had been a total success, so much so that we have already reserved the room for this coming year on December 6, 2025. We had 292 reservations and Mary Bugeia received a well-deserved round of applause for handling the requested seating arrangements – no easy task.

Karen Marzonie invited volunteers to the Fair Lane Estate former pool room to count raffle tickets on January 4th. Thank you, Karen, for making this all possible under the gaze of – who else but – Henry Ford.



The top raffle baskets were:

1. Detroit Lions basket (hoodies, slippers, sunglasses, Tostitos and tray)
2. Mint 29 restaurant, \$200 gift card
3. The Henry Hotel overnight with breakfast
4. Detroit Lions basket (as above)
5. Dearborn Sausage \$50 gift card
6. Indoor/Outdoor 2'x3' Rug - Cardinal Motif
7. Cocktail Hour Basket: Whiskey, Vodka, Rum, etc. & \$15 Kroger gift card
8. Ford's Garage \$25 gift card with glasses, t-shirts, hats
9. Cariera's Cucina Italiana \$30 gift card
10. Basket with bourbon, scotch, two crystal glasses and ice trays
11. Mexican Fiesta Dearborn Gift Basket with Gift Card \$15
12. Bangkok 96 restaurant \$50 gift card

Many thanks to all our members who contributed prizes and baskets to the event. Every single prize donated means one more guest who won something and went home happy, and that's what we want, right?

Your club needs you! In June, new officers will be inaugurated for the next two-year term and we currently have three vacancies: President (remember, you are never alone! With a strong board behind you, you will rise to the occasion), First Vice President (responsible for Programs i.e. finding speakers) and Secretary (recorder at board and general meetings). Remember that jobs can be shared and if you know of someone who might be right for a position, please let Jo West know so she can contact her. Please remember that we all take turns and the club needs those who are able to step up and pitch in. That's the only way the club can keep on going.

Our Garden Club is looking for a webmaster to manage our website. We know there is someone out there who can do this with his or her little finger – we just have to find that individual and we are asking for your help. It's not a big job and would be greatly appreciated.

The budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26th at 1pm in the home of Laurine Griffin. Anyone is welcome to attend; this meeting is a good opportunity to understand how we budget our funds, forms the budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026, and prepares the club for where our money will go.

S. Burgess T. Bungee A. Sterling



Terri Bungee introduced our speaker, Adam Sterling, Business Director at Allegria Village (which he told us is now being called simply “The Village” which will “roll off the tongue better”). Adam has served in this position for over three years, preceded by ten years with the additional title of Life Enrichment Director when the retirement home was known as Henry Ford Village. Altogether, Adam has 28 years there along with three more years with the Alzheimer’s Association. Clearly, he was the perfect choice for a talk titled “Brain Wellness and Aging”.

Adam prefaced his talk with an invitation to our club for a tour, another talk, and lunch at some future point. He outlined pricing policy, had hand sanitizer and notes on every table, and launched into his talk assisted by Summer Burgess, who recently started working with him.

If anyone thought this topic would be dry and boring, they were wrong. Adam was lively, interactive, and full of facts and advice. Adam has a deep passion for brain health and is dedicated to helping individuals enhance their cognitive function and develop new neural pathways. Beginning with brain anatomy and changes with age, followed by making us all feel better by discussing normal forgetfulness, he engaged us with questions, more than one comment on Albert Einstein's brain (which continues to fascinate everyone), and both activities as well as brain health tips.

We added neuroplasticity to our vocabulary and learned how to practice it by using techniques to rewire our cognitive pathways. We made paper airplanes and flew them with our non-dominant hand. We could learn a language or learn to play an instrument. It can be something as simple as wearing a watch on the other wrist or varying a neighborhood walking routine. We must force ourselves to do things that challenge our brains!!

Don't forget aerobic activities, either, and take deep breaths to get oxygen to our brains (the brain uses 20% of our body's oxygen). Adding flax or chia seeds to our meals, bringing Omega 3 into our diet (critical!!), turning to tuna, sardines, salmon or mackerel (fatty fish) are all positive trends. Or simply eat seven whole walnuts daily and voila! You have enough fat critical for a healthy brain, the fattest organ in the body! Who knew?

A few more pointers: Anything that is good for the heart is good for the brain.

Sleep plays a critical role and is vital to good health – 70% of encoding long-term memories is done at night. We need at least six hours of sleep and we should aim for seven. Little by little, a little becomes a lot and small actions may seem inconsequential but they add up. And always remember: 40% of dementia causes are lifestyle-related. YOU have the power to control this!

Finally, from Adam Sterling's presentation: "If you don't know where you are going, you'll probably end up somewhere else". – Yogi Berra

At the end of our meeting, Katrina Harris' yummy homemade products were handed out to those whose birthdays were closest to our meeting, to our Holly Berry Brunch, and so forth: kimchi, hydrated onions, pizza in a jar (green tomatoes in olive oil with fennel and garlic) and chow-chow (a Louisiana mixture of cabbage, green tomatoes, relish, onions and garlic). Yum! Thank you, Katrina, for bringing these to share with our members.

The Garden Club of Dearborn and the Bryant Library through History

Our Garden Club Blue Star Memorial

As the end of her Garden Club presidency drew near in 2009, Judy Henn wanted to make one last big contribution and lasting memory, deciding to establish a Blue Star memorial marker in our city. Her first step was turning to then Michigan Blue Star Memorial Chair, Lorrie Dyal, who gave her the green light. Following that, she and Karen Marzonie, our current Awards Chair and PEG gardener, traveled the path as have so many other communities since 1945 when the program began to honor servicemen and women of the U.S. armed forces. A blue star, the centerpiece of the memorial sign, was chosen to symbolize the Blue Star on the World War II service flag which hung in many homes of service men and women as a tribute.

Meetings with Mayor O'Reilly and his staff followed. Where to place the marker? Both Ford Field and the Commandants Quarters were considered and voted down for various reasons before the Bryant library side area at the Clock Tower plaza was designated as the perfect location. Where to get a rock? Karen recalls several rocks uncovered during the City's Rotunda Drive area sewer project in temporary storage. She and Judy were allowed to choose their preferred rock and needed to find one with a flat side for the sign, after which the club hired a mason to attach the sign. A noble end for a rock indigenous to Dearborn, indeed.

Red, white and blue perennials were just perfect and a festive, ceremonious dedication took place on June 25, 2009, presided over by Mayor O'Reilly, other city officials, and our Garden Club. A perfect day for a perfect cause! Club members glowed, veterans saluted with pride, the Dearborn High School band played, scouts gave a tribute, and the sun shone down on a wonderful project. The veterans' photo was featured on the November 2010 city calendar page, too.

As the years passed and watering became more challenging (dragging that heavy hose) with crabgrass sprouting among the annuals, perennials replaced the original flowers. Judy maintains the garden every few weeks with a sense of pride lasting for fifteen years now. Recently, rocks have been placed on the memorial, signifying passers-by are thinking of their loved ones. Thank you, Judy and Karen, for this lasting memorial – a tribute to both our veterans and to our Garden Club, too.

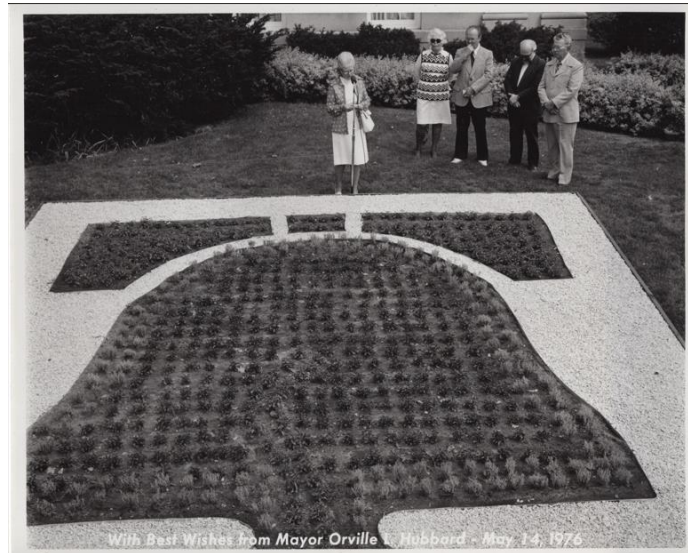
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Our Garden Club tribute to Dearborn's celebration of the American Bicentennial

On June 14, 1976, the floral Liberty Bell dedication took place on the Mason Branch Library lawn to commemorate our nation's bicentennial. The 12' by 19" bell planting was outlined with Gray Santolina and featured Red Alternanthera bedding while the bell clapper and yoke ring were Golden Fleece Alternanthera plantings. The entire floral piece was framed in marble clips, and the total cost was \$115.00. Our club earned unanimous endorsement from the Bicentennial Commission. The Garden Club committee, under the umbrella of then Mrs. Fred Jorgensen and chaired by Elizabeth Albertson, included Helen Ross, a 54-year ongoing member of our club.



Earlier that year, our Garden Club had planted a copper beech "Liberty Tree" on the Centennial library grounds as another living commemoration of our country's Bicentennial.

The Garden Club of Dearborn salutes Bryant library turning 100 years old

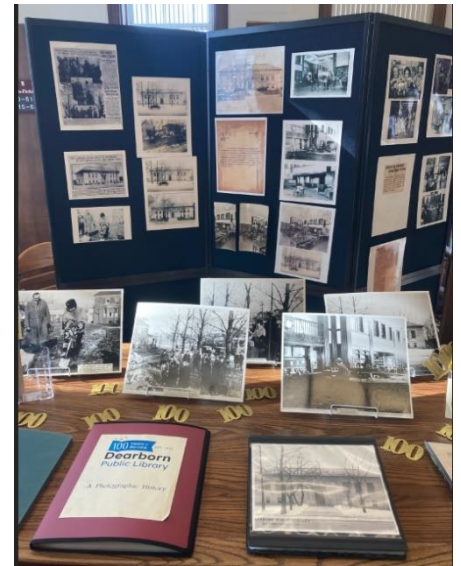
Did you know that our club's ties to the library are much stronger than most people know or imagine? Apparently, Clara Ford, our first president, asked her Garden Club members to contribute books for a noble cause and operated a casual "borrow or donate" operation from her home on the west side covered porch for the ladies.

So reads an excerpt from the "Historian" Summer 1969 edition: "The ladies of the Garden Club of Dearborn, civic and culture-minded, looked at the balance in their treasury at their regular meeting on May 26, 1919, and decided to use it to start a public library." "The Village Commission was approached and was in favor of such a movement and on October 15, 1919, they voted to decorate a public room in the Village Hall to be used as a public library." And of course, we know what happened next. In 1920, Clara Ford, had promised the club to give land for the library purpose and in 1923, she renewed her offer to donate the land on the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Mason Street to erect a building. The formal opening of the beautiful building was held on November 25, 1924. (This article in its entirety, "Five Decades of the Dearborn Public Library", can be found in the "Historian" magazine up in the Historical Museum archives).

A few of our members did attend the Centennial celebration this past December, and Karen Marzonie provided this photo of Cynthia Casillas with our Garden Club panels.



C. Casillas



In sum, our club's connection to the Bryant library started at the roots and is still going strong!

The Dearborn Country Club is turning 100 years old!



Over the past 2 years, DHM volunteer and Preservation Dearborn founding member Ian Tomashik dedicated his spare time toward nominating the famous Dearborn Country Club in Dearborn, MI, to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Club opened in 1925 as a personal entertainment venue for Henry and Clara Ford, who also oversaw its design and

construction by architect Albert Kahn and landscape architect Donald Ross. This site, less than a mile from Fair Lane and Greenfield Village, has been a center for sport and culture in Dearborn for 100 years. Along with covering the history of the Club, Ian will give an outline of the NRHP nomination process. This includes outlining sections of the NRHP registration form, the dialogue involved in proofreading/editing these sections with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), SHPO map requirements, and more. This talk takes place on Monday, February 3rd at 7pm in the Ross McFadden House at the Dearborn Historical Museum and is also live-streamed on the Preservation Dearborn Facebook page.

[Please note that this designation is not the same as historic protection for the building and that Dearborn still has no protected buildings without an up-to-date ordinance. Preservation Dearborn has been asking City Council to update the ordinance for five years now without success.]

The Dearborn Historical Museum is seeking volunteers for its Pioneer School Program

Every year, the museum hosts all second graders from Dearborn schools including some parochial schools, home schoolers, and charter schools. This program is the museum's biggest annual fundraiser. The children rotate between four stations going back to our area's pioneer days: the one-room schoolhouse, history, seed planting, butter churning and going into Dearborn's oldest home, the Gardner House. The museum is hoping for more volunteers this year – the program runs from March through May (9-12am, four days weekly) and *you may sign up for as many or as few mornings as you wish*. If you want to help for one week or just every Thursday or only for the month of April, the museum will be happy to have you. You are welcome to shadow an existing volunteer and see if the program appeals to you, you must be on your feet for three hours, you decide just how much time you wish to give. *The museum is grateful for any and all volunteers!* Everyone gets a script to follow and honestly, no second grader will know if you deviate slightly or forget a sentence or two! If this speaks to you, please call the Dearborn Historical Museum at 313-565-3000 for further information. It's loads of fun and the children can be very funny with their questions, too!

Our club donates money to many worthwhile causes and it is always lovely to be thanked. The Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn sent this lovely card.



Our plastic bottle cap collection is still ongoing for the Snow Woods plastic bench project. Please continue to bring your donations, much appreciated by that neighborhood.

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle”.

- Luther Burbank