

THE

# Garden Club of Dearborn

November - December 2025

## NEWSLETTER

### BOARD MEETING

January 7, 2026

10:00 a.m.

McFadden Ross House

### Upcoming Events

Beyond the Bloom  
Gardening Conference

March 14, 2026

9:00a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Garden City Highschool  
6500 Middlebelt Road  
Registration Information  
Coming Soon

### November Birthdays:

21 Ruth Ann Johnson  
25 Maiyah Devenport  
30 Janet Damian

### December Birthdays:

1 Mary Calder  
1 Laurine Griffin  
6 Cynthia Casillas  
8 Jo West  
13 Henrietta Flanz  
19 Marti Biscaro  
20 Joanne Zatek  
23 Michelle Mikulec  
23 Rachel Pearson

Editor:  
Mariya Fogarasi

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Otto Baumgart

[www.gardenclubdearborn.org](http://www.gardenclubdearborn.org)

### *President's Corner*



*Rose Wiggle*

Seasons Greetings! Our club had an exciting November and December. Our November workshop, led by member, Linda, Johnson, was productive and fun! Members donated many wreaths, centerpieces, and small trees for the Children's Foundation Festival of Trees held at Dearborn Performing Arts Center. It was reported that all of our Club's donated items sold out before the last day of the Festival. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful fundraiser for Children's Hospital.

This year's Holly Berry Brunch was a success! Almost 300 guests enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel with 133 baskets raffled off. So very grateful to all the members, sponsors, and businesses that donated to our yearly fundraiser. A special thanks to all the hard-working volunteers who helped make it all happen. It was so wonderful to see new member involvement.

We are looking forward to an outstanding 2026. To all members of the Garden Club of Dearborn: THANK YOU for your dedication and support throughout the year. Wishing you joy and peace this Holiday season and may 2026 bring you health, prosperity, and a truly outstanding growing season!



### Next General Meeting

January 12, 2026 @ 11:00 am  
First Presbyterian Church Dearborn

SPEAKER: Janet Macunovich

"Simplify Your Landscape"

Hosts: M. Fogarasi & M. Mikulec

*Blooming With Purpose Since 1915*



We have Ron Wiggle to thank for this beautiful carving of our new Garden Club logo after Linda Johnson designed it for us this year and commissioned him to use his woodworking skills. The logo will be displayed at all our meetings and adorns hats, tee shirts, and tote bags, also appearing on our club greeting cards, in our directory, and on stickers. It was designed to be compatible with the Garden Club national and state logos using the single rose, the favorite flower of our founder, Clara Ford.



The logo measures 18 inches across. Master Craftsman Ron cut each letter out individually using a power saw with a very thin blade (a scroll saw) and he also cut out the pieces of the rose. He did a fabulous job, even making a trip to Home Depot with Rose Wiggle's logo tote bag for the exact pink color in the background! AND this was one of his first scroll saw projects! In Linda's words, "what a guy"!

Thank you, Ron! Your work of art will grace our meetings for years to come!

Creative juices were flowing at our November meeting which is traditionally dedicated to making wreaths for the Festival of Trees Benefit (Children's Foundation of Detroit, formerly the Children's Hospital of Michigan). Our photographer, Otto Baumgart, took the group photo showing 19 incredibly creative ladies and men proudly displaying their wreaths and centerpieces. Twenty-eight members and one guest, Gwen, whom Rose and Marlene met at the Senior Expo Fair in September, attended the meeting where members were welcome to make a wreath or centerpiece for donation to the Festival of Trees or take it home. As usual, we had quite a variety, each and every one beautiful! Mary Bugeia worked at home, making and donating both a lovely two-foot tree as well as a wreath in patriotic red, white and blue with two white birds.

Many thanks to all those who came up with creative ideas and inspired others along the way, too. Yummy snacks were provided by Mary Ellen Matigan and Terri Bungee: homemade quick breads, cheese, crackers and fruit were on the table for a nibble and chat during the morning. A post-event report from longtime member Anina Bachrach down in Florida made us glow: all the Garden Club of Dearborn donations to the Festival of Trees sold! What a wonderful feeling. Anina was the impetus and founder of our club's participation in this worthwhile event back in the 1980's. Thank you, Anina, for all your dedication over the years!

Our Holly Berry Brunch, held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel for the second year, was a complete success! 294 reservations, 133 prizes all wrapped and gleaming in cellophane with bright bows, and a delicious buffet lunch surrounded by a festive atmosphere gave everyone a holiday glow in their hearts.

Most attendees, however, have no idea of the work involved to make this annual fundraiser happen. Planning starts in the summer: committees are formed, talks begin with the hotel manager, members start to look for baskets, Terri Bungee makes her lists and starts recruiting businesses for prizes and sponsorships, and members think about donations. Members' donations make up the majority of our prizes; each and every one adds to the variety we can offer, enticing guests to buy more raffle tickets and resulting in higher profit for our club.

Holly Berry Brunch Chair Carol Chrzaстek (thank you, Carol!) kept us all on track and ensured smooth sailing through the various stages of preparation. Rose Wiggle, our President, served as Master of Ceremonies and Linda Johnson gave the invocation.

Holly Berry Brunch Committee



Dorothy McLeer from the University of Michigan Environmental Interpretive Center nominated and then awarded student Angel Linear a \$1500 scholarship from the Michigan Garden Clubs. Our club acts as agent for the Michigan Garden Clubs which awards scholarships to sixteen universities. Angel is a senior, majoring in environmental science with a concentration in geosciences.



Angel Linear & Dorothy McLeer

All our volunteers number too many to list but please know that each and every one of you contributed to our overall success, and that the brunch would not have been possible without your time and efforts. It was also wonderful to continue to see new member participation.

Even as this newsletter goes to print, Karen Marzonie, Terri Bungee and Carol Chrzaстek are over at the church, taking back the final items used at the brunch. As they put things away in storage, they are also taking inventory of what will be needed for the 2026 HBB. When everyone leaves the hotel and goes home, it is not over by a long shot!

Many, many thanks to these three dedicated members who consistently go above and beyond for our club. Where would we be without you?

## Introducing Our New MGC District 1 Director: Karen Block

*by Linda Johnson, GCD District 1 Rep.*

The old adage “When you want something done well, ask a busy person to do it” certainly rings true in the case of our new Michigan Garden Clubs District 1 Director. Karen Block will continue to serve as the Livonia Garden Club's co-president until June while taking on the new job of Director, which began in June.

She also belongs to the Farmington Garden Club and the Creative Flower Arrangers Guild. Karen's day job is Book Editor, and she is currently editing a 400-page novel on her computer. In addition, she sings in her church choir and is active in local charities such as the Christmas Giving Tree, providing gifts for 200 children. Whew!

Karen is a West Sider, living in Redford with her two cats, Frank and Fiona. Her married daughter lives in Plymouth, providing additional perspective on gardening life. While living west of Woodward, she is committed to visiting every one of the 27 clubs in District 1, from Grosse Pointe to Farmington, and from Taylor to Pleasant Ridge.

Karen has already participated in 10 club meetings, including our own September 8 potluck - where she contributed a dynamite tray of enchiladas. She also attended our Holly Berry Brunch - where she not only bought raffle tickets - but won the lovely white porcelain Nativity Set donated by member and Treasurer, Laurine Griffin.



Karen Block with HBB Nativity Set Raffle Prize

Karen's vision is one of being of service to all garden clubs in the district. She wants to help build a stronger network among clubs, encouraging sister/brother clubs to interact and work together toward common goals. To this end, she plans to build a District 1 website and to be a resource for clubs to address common concerns and to help solve problems.

On a personal level, she intends to build relationships with every club and to be a liaison between the Michigan Garden Clubs and District 1. Of course, she will also perform the traditional duties of helping to organize entertaining and educational district meetings and to support club events and fundraisers. Ambitious? Definitely! But Karen Block is just the person with both the energy and skills to bring her vision into reality.

We are so fortunate to have Karen Block as our new District 1 Director and look forward to working with her in the months to come!

Terri Bungee has received posters for the annual Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl poster contest from Duvall Elementary; other participating schools (Long, Lindbergh, and McCullough-Unis) will be turning them in very soon. Haigh could not participate this year but the art teacher has indicated interest for next year. Promoting this annual art contest involves much calling and calling again and trying to reach the correct teacher and / or principal. Thank you for all your efforts, Terri, it's not easy but we're lucky to have you with your knowledge of the Dearborn schools.

Take a look at our website, [www.gardenclubdearborn.org](http://www.gardenclubdearborn.org) when you have time and please feel free to refer it to others, too. Our new webmaster, Max Ullrich, has done a great job updating it with current and pertinent information.

Our Buddy's fundraiser in October raised \$69.00 from the \$875.00 worth of food we ordered. Thanks to all who came and dined with our group.

#### Members' Page:

Our lone entry for this newsletter is from Linda Johnson, showing the wreath she made with sprigs from her garden. Linda, you are definitely our number one wreath maker! Stay tuned for the story of Paulette and Otto Baumgart's bottle tree in our January newsletter.



*Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and happy new year!*

## GCD Festival of Trees Workshop – November 10, 2025





## GCD Festival of Trees Workshop – Continued





## GCD Holly Berry Brunch Fundraiser

December 6, 2025



## GCD Holly Berry Brunch Fundraiser – Cont'd



## GCD Holly Berry Brunch Fundraiser – Cont'd

