

THE

# Garden Club of Dearborn

February 2026

## NEWSLETTER

### BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2026  
10:00 a.m.  
McFadden Ross House

#### Upcoming Events

Gardening Workshop  
Series - Caroline  
Kennedy Library  
March 14 - 2:00 pm  
Spring Bulb Garden  
Workshop  
English Gardens  
March 21 - 11:00 am  
Master Rain Garden  
Course  
Henry Ford Cent. Library  
March 25 - 6:00 pm

#### February Birthdays:

24 Ron Wiggle

#### March Birthdays:

9 Otto Baumgart  
13 Mary Ellen Matigian  
14 Sandra Paynter  
17 Terri Bungee  
20 Jennie Somers  
29 Judy Polcyn  
29 Sharon Snider  
31 Mariya Fogarasi

Editor:  
Mariya Fogarasi

Chief Photographer:  
Otto Baumgart

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

### President's Corner



*Happy Valentine's Day!!*



*Rose Wiggle*

The days are getting slightly longer, the sun is peeking out more and more and those arctic temperatures are hopefully a thing of the past.

We started out the month making lovely little centerpieces - 35 in all - that were donated to senior shut-ins at Corewell Commons-Dearborn. A big thank you to club member Linda Johnson for all her hard work and guidance in making this happen.

Gardeners know now is the time to prepare for spring. Order and start some seeds indoors, prune dormant trees and shrubs, etc. February is also a good time to check that your gardening tools and equipment are in good condition so you are totally ready for the growing season.

Kim Gucwa has set up a wonderful speaker for our March meeting so I hope everyone can attend and take advantage of Gail Morrell's tips and suggestion about insects in our gardens!

### Next General Meeting

**March 9, 2026 - 11:00 am**  
**First Presbyterian Church Dearborn**  
**600 N Brady Rd, Dearborn, MI 48124**

Speaker: Gail Morrell - Master Gardener, Instructor, Trainer and Owner of The Gardener, Inc. - a garden maintenance company. Gail will present: "Garden Insects: the Good, the Bad and the Beautiful."

Host: Linda Stechison & Marie Komnenic

February may have been frigid outside but a warm glow was hovering over our meeting. Thirty-one members and four guests – Gerald Fisher, David Haynes, Gwendolyn Holt and Katie Sanfilippo – enjoyed the “Cup of Love” Valentine’s tea and craft, and this warm glow continued to spread over residents at the Commons Corewell Health center long after everyone had gone home. Many thanks to Linda Johnson and her team for organizing a superb meeting; many thanks to hostesses Jean Burns and Kim Kovacs-Guwca; many thanks to Linda and to our club photographer, Otto Baumgart, for all the colorful photos. Most of all, thanks to Linda for summarizing our meeting, too, in the following article.

When club members visited the Arab American National Museum’s rooftop garden last fall, we were invited to participate in their annual event: “Gather and Grow: Seed Swap at the Al-Hadiqa Rooftop Garden” on Thursday, March 5 from 5-7pm. If you have seeds to donate to our swap (the organizers prefer organic seeds), please notify Mariya Fogarasi; we

have pre-labelled packets to use and will repackage whatever is donated. If you would like to attend, please join in – park in back of the museum and enter the annex which is right next to the back door (doors will be unlocked during from 5-7pm). This is our club’s first time attending so it will be interesting to see how it unfolds.

The National Garden Clubs “Plant America: Blue and Gold Star Memorial Beautification Program” is offering grants to existing gardens in celebration of America’s 250th anniversary. After conferring with Judy Henn, who chaired the Blue Star project for our club together with Karen Marzonie in 2009, Rose Wiggle applied for a grant. Our club was awarded \$500! Per the program guidelines, 75% of the grant amount will be awarded upon approval and 25% will be awarded after approval of the final report. The grant emphasizes planting red, white and blue flowers. Congratulations and bravo to Rose and Judy for acting on this so quickly!

# GARDEN CLUB OF DEARBORN'S ANNUAL VALENTINE TEA: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

*by Linda Johnson*

On February 9, the members and guests of the Garden Club of Dearborn lived up to their motto “Blooming With Purpose Since 1915” at the annual Valentine Tea, hosted by Kim Kovacs-Gucwa and Jean Burns. The room was in full bloom in a sea of Valentine colors as everyone wore their “Valentine Best”, many even topping off their outfits with their favorite hats. On every table's pink tablecloth was a centerpiece of red, pink and white flowers ready for a “Make and Give” project. Members shared their favorite finger foods on an 18 foot long buffet table that also featured heart-shaped cookies and a delicious sheet cake decorated with hearts and flowers.

The afternoon was not only blooming with a combination of friendship and great food in a lovely setting, the meeting also stressed the club's philanthropic purpose of sharing with the community. In her report as the Dearborn Museum Guild Representative, Mary Bugeia encouraged everyone to give some time to the Dearborn Historical Museum this Spring by volunteering to work on the Pioneer School Program (Pioneer Days) presentations to Dearborn's 1,500 second graders. Katrina Harris also spoke about how much fun she had dressing up as a pioneer woman and working with the children. It's a wonderful way to serve our young people.

After enjoying the delicious Potluck Buffet and a brief business meeting. President Rose Wiggle introduced First Vice President for Programs, Kim Kovacs-Gucwa, who has done a remarkable job of securing speakers this year. She gave a little background information about Linda Johnson, who was then assisted by Jean Burns in leading a “Make and Give” floral arrangement workshop. The activity was entitled “Love in a Cup” and everyone made a little Valentine arrangement in a mug from the flowers, hearts, and message tags on the center of each table. Linda guided them step-by-step, using the “Thriller, Filler, Spiller” method.

When all 35 of the cups were completed, everyone gathered with them on the stage steps, had a group picture taken by club photographer Otto Baumgart, and put them into long floral boxes for delivery to The Commons Corewell Health Senior Living Dearborn (formerly Oakwood Commons), another part of the club's “Blooming with Purpose” philanthropic mission. Mary Bugeia had made arrangements with Justin Berthiaume, Recreational Program Coordinator, to distribute the flowers to the residents. After the meeting, Mary joined Kim Kovacs-Gucwa, Jean Burns, and Linda Johnson in delivering the boxes of flowers to him in the lobby. He was delighted to get this beautiful contribution and couldn't wait to share the “Cups of Love” with some seniors who would really appreciate a little Valentine Joy.

All in all, it was a LOVE-ly Valentine Tea on so many levels—the perfect purposeful mix of Friendship, Fun, Food, Fashion and FILL-anthropy!

**GCD VALENTINE'S DAY TEA – FEBRUARY 9, 2026**



# GCD VALENTINE'S DAY TEA – CONT'D



# GCD VALENTINE'S DAY TEA – CONT'D



# The Commons Corewell Health Senior Living Dearborn

## - Senior Recipients and Comments -

These are Amazing!

I want one!  
How do I get one?

GORGEOUS!

Oh  
WOW!

Are Those for  
US?!!!

These are  
beautiful!  
Oh my  
goodness....

