

# West Trenton Garden Club

Barbara Bernhard,  
*President*

Lorraine Persiani,  
*Vice President*

Linda Gerasimowicz,  
*Recording Secretary*

Iliana Okum,  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Susan Fair,  
*Treasurer*

Jeffrey Tryon,  
*Newsletter Editor*

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# The Garden Path Newsletter

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

DECEMBER 2020

*Dear Garden Club Members,*

Happy December Everyone! Yes, friends, finally an end to 2020, a year of lockdowns and so many changes in the way we live our everyday lives, masks, Telemed Dr. appts., Zoom meetings, smaller gatherings with family and friends. But it's a small price to pay for keeping ourselves and those we know healthy and safe. With the promise of two new vaccines becoming available in the near future, life is starting to look up! Here's hoping that next year at this time, the Corona virus will be a thing of the past. Amen to that!

We have many birthdays in December. For all of you, enjoy celebrating at this special time of year!

Janis Stia – December 3, Zofia Jablonski Feulner- December 15,  
Pat Bowker – December 13, Colleen Harrison – December 24,  
Jim Keenan – December 14, Anna Adomaitis – December 25,  
Heidi Furman – December 28

Many thanks to Heidi, Rick and Anne, along with all the members who were so kind to give of their time to get the bulbs planted at Birmingham Park. The fruits of their labor will grace the garden come spring!

Thank you also to Linda Reasoner for placing a beautiful, patriotic wreath at the Blue Star Memorial for Veteran's Day, in honor for all who served for our country.

Iliana Okum and Terry Palise collected and delivered the donations to Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. Thank you for your donations, especially to Iliana, for keeping the club's tradition alive in helping to bring some happiness to others during the holidays.

Our exquisite Christmas Tree now adorns Morven, awaiting the Festival of Trees. As you can see from the picture, the outstanding job Heidi and her committee did creating the handmade blue and white decorations. Thank you Heidi, for another beautiful, creative tree! Ingrid Fair, thank you to you also, for your show- stopping topper. It's just amazing to see your talent come shining through, all with the use of just water bottles!

Our 2020 Annual Poinsettia Sale is fast approaching. For those of you who ordered, thank you for continuing to support our club. Please remember to pick up your flowers on Friday, December 4 starting at 10:00 AM at Terry Palise's home: 24 Hopkin's Drive Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, or call 609-896-2011 (after 10:00 AM).



**NOTE: WE WILL CONTINUE  
WITH OUR ZOOM MEETINGS ONLINE  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 7 P.M.**





Many thanks to Janis Stia and Terry Palise for co-chairing the Poinsettia Sale!

Don't forget, we have our Zoom Holiday Party on Monday, Dec. 7 at 7PM. Camille Rainiero has sent out invitations via e-mail. Please be sure to RSVP to Camille and let her know if you will be sharing any of your holiday traditions. There's prizes to be had! It's sure to be a memorable night!

Lastly, is my Christmas wish for You ... Peace, good health, love and happiness as we move into 2021. During 2020, we learned not to take anything for granted. I want to thank each of you for sticking by me this year and helping to keep the WTGC afloat during this pandemic. I greatly appreciate all your support with our activities and fundraisers. A special thank you to Rick Lazarick, who has been instrumental in enabling us to meet by way of Zoom. You are all very special to me!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANUKKAH ! HAPPY KWANZAA!

My Best Always,  
*Barbara Bernhard, President WTGC*



Photos by Iliana Okum



Photo by Jeffrey Tryon

### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The West Trenton Garden Club Meeting was held via the internet as a ZOOM meeting on November 2, 2020. Twenty eight members participated. President Barbara Bernhard called the meeting to order at 7:05. She welcomed all members, our guest speaker, Debra Pomroy Moyer and Nottingham Garden Club Members. She also gave birthday wishes to November birthday members. Barbara read a thank you card from Fredricka Billups for being featured in the Club's yearbook.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary, Linda Gerasimowicz reported the minutes of the October meeting are in the Newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes will be filed as reported.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Susan Fair reported a total of \$8,099.98 in the Club's account.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Corresponding Secretary, Iliana Okum reported she sent a sympathy card to the son of former member Dorothy Chrambanis. She also sent a cheerful card to Fredricka Billups following a minor accident.

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Holiday Party**-Chair Camille Rainiero reported she will send an invitation to all members. She will check on the budget to create some prizes for the party. It will be a ZOOM party on December 7th at 7:00pm.

**Spring Bulb Sale**-Co-chair Sue Fair reported the sale was a great success! Total sales were \$1, 066.00 with a profit of \$596.00. She wanted to thank all who donated bulbs for Birmingham Park.

**Trenton Psychiatric Donations**-Chair Iliana Okum reported she will be collecting donations Thursday November 5th in the parking lot of the Ewing Community Center from 2-4pm. She will then compile an inventory and then deliver everything to the hospital.

**Yearbook**-Chair, Helga Fontus reported all members received color copies this year. She thanked Sue Fair who distributed them at the bulb sale pick up and other members who helped deliver the rest.

**National Garden Club Grant**-Helga Fontus reported she applied for a small grant from the National Garden Club to purchase pollinator signage for garden centers in our area. The signs will be placed near plants that attract individual pollinators. Rick Lazarick also reported signs could be placed at the Rain Garden at the Boys & Girl's Club garden.



**Birmingham Park**-Chair, Heidi Furman thanked all who donated tulip bulbs and will come up with dates to plant them. She contacted the Ewing Township Recreation Department concerning the sign at the park. She said they will make any repairs and refurbish the sign so that it retains its historical look.

**Morven**-Chair, Heidi Furman states the committee will be decorating a tree in the Garden Room on November 16th.

**Scarecrow Contest**-Barbara Bernhard reported for Chair, Ingrid Fair that the contest has ended. Our scarecrow did not win, but there has been a lot of interest by the public visiting Birmingham Park, so "Diggin It" will remain there a little longer. Barbara thanked Ingrid and her committee for a great job.

**Beatification Awards**-Chair, Grace Starrett again stated awards were given to Erini Restaurant and a private home on Berwyn Ave.



**Flowers for the Library**-Chair, Alicia Magee took a photo of Grace Starrett's beautiful dried arrangement to Marrazzo's to be displayed. It can also be seen on the Mercer County Library page.

**Poinsettia Sale**-Chair, Janis Stia reported that orders must be received by November 9th. You may call or email her with your order. Pick up is on December 4th starting at 10am at Terry Palise's house.

**Discussion**-Grace Starrett wanted to update everyone on the things that belong to the club that are stored in her garage. There are 15 storage containers. Many contain books with minutes from the meetings and photos of children who may have children of their own now. Heidi Furman stated there were things missing from the information she has on Birmingham Park. Barbara Bernhard reported that Linda Reasoner checked with Applebee's and they are not doing the pancake breakfast at this time.



**Program**-Chair, Pat Bowker introduced Debra Pomroy Moyer who will design a Fall Wreath and a Winter Table Arrangement which will be given away in a drawing to two lucky members. Heidi Furman and Ginny Sari were the winners.

Pat Bowker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. It was seconded by Ginny Sari.

— *Linda Gerasimowicz,*  
*Recording Secretary*



**Birmingham Park Historical Sign**

On the to-do list at Birmingham Park was the restoration of the free standing wooden sign holding the historical plaque which details the area’s significance during the American Revolution. A call was made to Ted Forst, head of the Ewing Township Recreation Department, who quickly moved to get the sign refurbished. Many thanks to Department of Public Works Carpenters Rich Raike and Mike Wollert who expertly built the new frame. It took only a week from the time Ted got the request for the sign to be completed. With a coat of gleaming white paint and a move to a more prominent spot in the park, the sign stands as an invitation to all who pass by.

I would also like to acknowledge that through our Garden Club’s collaborative initiatives with the Township’s Recreation Department, the Public Works Department, the Ewing Green Team, the Arts Council and Art Has No Boundaries, we have drawn an increasing number of visitors to the park. Our efforts facilitate outreach, community enrichment and cooperation.

– Heidi Furman

**Spring Bulb Planting and Maintenance at Birmingham Park**

A big thank you goes out to our very generous members who purchased and donated tulip and daffodil bulbs for planting at Birmingham Park. The red and white tulips will most certainly enhance the Blue Star Memorial marker next spring.



Thank you too to our members who came out to our two day bulb planting and weeding events earlier this month:

Anne Chmielewski, Zofia Feulner, Heidi Furman, Rick Lazarick, June Miller and grandchildren, Iliana Okum, Lorraine Persiani, Camille Rainero

It’s also notable the number of visitors our little pocket park receives regularly. I can honestly say that I and other volunteers meet at least one visitor to the park each time we’re there. We humbly field compliments and words of gratitude for our efforts in maintaining the park for their enjoyment. Some folks use the park while they wait for their laundry to finish. Others come by on their Revolutionary War history pilgrimage. Birmingham Park also offers a nice spot to enjoy a coffee and donuts. Whatever the reason for the visit, we are happy to be caretakers.

– Heidi Furman

**WTGC Entry in the Morven Festival of Trees 2020**

Our entry to the Festival this year occupies a unique place of distinction in the Garden Room at Morven. The beauty of the tree decorated with hand crafted ornaments is enhanced by the wall of windows which let in natural light.

The beauty of Delft china inspired images of winter blue and white, which led to our 2020 theme. We once again had a very creative, capable and hard working group of crafters. Many thanks to them all for their dedication.

Heidi Furman-Chair, Anne and David Chmielewski, Georgiann Cook, Ingrid and Kevin Fair, Susan Fair, Linda Geiger, Lorraine Persiani and Grace Starett

During these unprecedented times, we acknowledge our interdependence. It is now more important than ever to support one another and our wider community.

Plan your trip by visiting Morven's website to purchase timed tickets.

— Heidi Furman



Photos courtesy of Heidi Furman

# FLOWERS FOR THE EWING LIBRARY



A massive dried arrangement by Grace Starret!



A holiday berry arrangement by Linda Reasoner.

## Ewing Branch Public Hours

Aged 65+ and  
Immunocompromised  
Individuals — Monday and  
Friday: 10 am to 11 am

Monday and Friday: 10 am to  
4:30 pm

Wednesday: 1 pm to 7 pm

Saturday: 2 pm to 4:30 pm

## Contactless Curbside Pick-Up

Tuesday and Thursday: 10 am  
to 4:30 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 12:30 pm

Until further notice, the library is not accepting displays as they would need to be regularly sanitized. Our local supermarket, Marrassos, has a very nice locked display board in the front hall and the Manager has agreed to let us put our monthly photos there. Accompanying the photo is the following note:

## West Trenton Garden Club Welcomes New Members!

Virtual meetings the first Monday of the month  
at 7:00 PM.

You can see more  
about us at our website: [www.westtrentongc.org](http://www.westtrentongc.org)

— Alicia Magee



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## Mark Your Calendar

**DECEMBER 7** - 7 p.m. WTGC Holiday Celebration (Virtual Zoom meeting) and Ugly Sweater Contest!!!

**FESTIVAL OF TREES AT MORVEN** - Now through Sunday, January 10, 2021. Visit [www.morven.org/festival-of-trees](http://www.morven.org/festival-of-trees) for details.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANUKKAH ! HAPPY KWANZAA!**

## Happy Birthday!

Janis Stia – December 3, Zofia Jablonski Feulner- December 15,  
Pat Bowker – December 13, Colleen Harrison – December 24,  
Jim Keenan – December 14, Anna Adomaitis – December 25,  
Heidi Furman – December 28

## Don't Forget!

**"VIRTUAL" FLOWERS FOR EWING LIBRARY** - Linda Reasoner



### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Please submit all info for *The Garden Path* to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month. [wgtcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgtcnewsletter@gmail.com)

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO THE  
WEST TRENTON GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY CELEBRATION  
AND  
UGLY SWEATER PARTY CONTEST! (PRIZES AWARDED)  
DECEMBER 7, 2020 AT 7 PM ZOOM**

We would also like to have the members share:

- Traditional custom or homemade recipe (send with RSVP)
- Horticulture display: poinsettia, amaryllis, or greenery
- Handmade craft: wreath, needlecraft, ornament or greeting card

**PLEASE RSVP by December 1 AS TO WHAT YOU PLAN TO SHARE OR JUST ATTEND AND ENJOY THE CELEBRATION!**

