



# Garden Club News

## December 2012

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

### Calendar: December 2012

# HOLIDAY PARTY

## LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

You are all invited, whether you've been Naughty or Nice , to the annual Garden Club of Teaneck holiday party at the Richard Rodda Community Center On Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Music by Dr. Ron McKay, and photography by Marty Steeil.

Raffles and Games by the party organizers: Olga, Myriam, Nancy and Aura.

Please bring a donation of canned goods for the "Helping Hands Food Pantry of Teaneck." Your contribution makes a real difference helping families in our own community.

If you would like to participate in the grab bag/gift exchange game, bring a gender neutral related gift of \$10 max.

Members with last names that begin with the letter A through L please bring a MAIN dish or a SIDE dish. Please RSVP to Myriam Fiulleteau at 1-917-282-7602 or email her at [normelia10@yahoo.com](mailto:normelia10@yahoo.com) and let her know the dish you are bringing.

Members with the last names that begin with the letter M through Z please bring DESSERT. Please RSVP to Aura Altieri at 1-201-692-0034 or email her at [aaltieri@verizon.net](mailto:aaltieri@verizon.net) the dessert you are bringing.

Come prepared to have a good time!

### Member News

#### Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Happy Holiday Greetings to all my friends at The Garden Club of Teaneck! By now we have hopefully put Hurricane Sandy behind us and are trying to navigate the Holiday season and fast approaching New Year. I hope everyone is in good health and spirits. Our annual Holiday Party is on Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 at the Rodda Center. There will be an optional grab bag activity. Please bring a food donation

for the Teaneck Food Pantry. My personal thanks go to all the members who stepped forward to arrange this party. Plans are also underway to go to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March 2013. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for details.

On a more serious note, the members at the November meeting voted to pursue the application for a not-for-profit status or 501.3c status for our organization. This would include an application, and if granted, an annual report

to the Internal Revenue Service. More importantly, it requires a commitment from our organization to maintain and enforce the mission of the Garden Club of Teaneck. It may also require an additional degree of service from each member. Please give this move some serious thought. This discussion will continue in February. If you have any questions or concerns, about this matter please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

I sincerely wish you all a very healthy and happy New Year. Yours in gardening, Debbie

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### **Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director**

Last month's lottery for open bench spaces went well. Very few of us wanted to change spots and we were able to accommodate those of us who did mostly with the spaces they preferred. Only one bench space remains unused at this time. The rules for bench use are:

1. If your plants interfere with the light reaching anyone other member's plants, then your plants are too high and must be lowered in height.
2. The ground under and near your bench must be kept clean and weed free
3. Your plants should not block the aisles
4. Any plants brought in to the greenhouse must be healthy and insect free. They must be sprayed and given a yellow seal of approval.

At the December 1st meeting the greenhouse committee passed a motion to eliminate section 4e from our by-laws. This section says "Greenhouse committee officers cannot hold the duplicate position in the Garden Club". A notice of this proposed change is posted in the greenhouse and is also being announced in this edition of the newsletter. A final vote on this amendment will take place at the January meeting. Elimination of section 4e and a similar action to the Garden Club by-laws is important if we are to move towards a goal of

simplifying the Garden Club with one set of officers with one set of by-laws. I strongly encourage the passage of this amendment.

Hurricane Sandy knocked out power to the greenhouse for over a week and without electric power our gas fueled heating system does not work. If an extended outage were to occur during our plant growing period from February through April, we could lose some or all of our more temperature sensitive plants. The Greenhouse Committee Executive Board will be considering the costs of installing a gas fueled electric generator as a backup safety system. Len

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### **2013 Plant Sale News**

#### **By Joe Papa – Horticulture Director**

We have completed our plans for the 2013 Plant Sale. I would like to thank all who participated in the selection process: Dania Cheddie, Pat Fromm, Jane Furman, Robyn Lowenthal, Christina Gels Mackensen, Cynthia McKay and Len Schwartz. We will continue to offer Impatiens and expanding our selections in Begonia, Coleus, Marigolds, Geranium and Petunia. We are introducing Verbena and Celosia as new products. We are also adding to our selection of herbs thyme, cilantro and oregano. We will also offer more peppers. We have been working closely with our Grower, Van Vugt who's Horticultural Director Kevin Penning has provided invaluable information about greenhouse plant propagation, plant selection, fertilization, watering and lighting requirements as well as confirming our ready for sale dates. He noted that all plants are not created equal: each have special watering, heat, light and fertilization needs. Upon his recommendation we have purchased Ball Redbook Greenhouse Equipment and Crop Production, the bible in Greenhouse parlance. We will contact all the Group leaders to discuss the plant flow, transplanting and growing requirements. Joe

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## Message from Susan McGibney, VP of Membership

Thank you to all who have sent in their membership dues for 2012-2013. If you haven't sent in your check, please do it today. Please mail your check to:

Garden Club of Teaneck  
PO Box 3253  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Attention: Membership

The 2012-2013 membership cards will be mailed out in January.

Your continued support is appreciated. *Susan*

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## Message from Pat Taaffe, VP of Programs

If any member is willing to hold a workshop on a special talent/skill, such as cooking, photography, art, gardening skills, or any other hobby etc., please contact me at my email [programstgc@gmail.com](mailto:programstgc@gmail.com).

### Leaves as Mulch.

The longer I garden, the greater my appreciation for the value of organic matter. One of the very best sources of organic matter is autumn leaves. Leaves are packed with trace minerals that trees draw up from deep in the soil. When added to your garden, leaves feed earthworms and beneficial microbes. They lighten heavy soils and help sandy soils retain moisture. They make good mulch in the flower garden, are a fabulous source of carbon to balance the nitrogen in your compost pile, and will insulate tender plants from cold. *Pat*

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## Philadelphia Flower Show Trip

*Anna Kurz*

The Philadelphia Flower Show is March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The cost is \$60.00 dollars per person for

a round-trip and show entry ticket. No reservations will be accepted without full payment (send checks made out to *Garden Club of Teaneck*) to Flower Show, 417 Maitland Avenue, Teaneck NJ 07666. The bus leaves from the Teaneck Southern Little League parking lot at 8AM, returns at 6pm.

Questions? call Aura Altieri, 201 923-7028. (*See the flyer on page 4.*)

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## Where Did Impatiens Come From?

**By Sara Jones**

Impatiens are one of the few plants whose botanical name is also its common name, which alludes to the way the seedpods shatter when touched, scattering seeds up to several feet away. Most hybrids don't bear seeds, but the old fashioned Balsam or Bizzy Lizzy Impatiens can still be found in many cottage gardens, coming up year after year. Impatiens originated from east Africa. The modern bedding hybrids are derived from plants first named for the Sultan of Zanzibar (Impatiens Sultana) and later changed to impatiens Wallerana to honor Horace Waller, a British missionary. Many Impatiens naturalized in Central and South America after arriving on trading ships from Africa. In 1970 a team of USDA botanists in Papua, New Guinea discovered an impatiens species with large flowers and variegated foliage. Working in conjunction with Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, they produced what is now known as New Guinea Impatiens. *Sara*

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## Last Word

It is with a heavy heart that I inform all members of the Garden Club of Teaneck that George Tipton is in Holy Name Medical Center with congestive heart failure. Please keep him in your prayers and call him with your get well wishes.



Save the date: Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Garden Club of Teaneck bus for members and non-members alike going to the

# 2013 Philadelphia International Flower Show

This year's theme is Britain (England, Scotland and Wales).



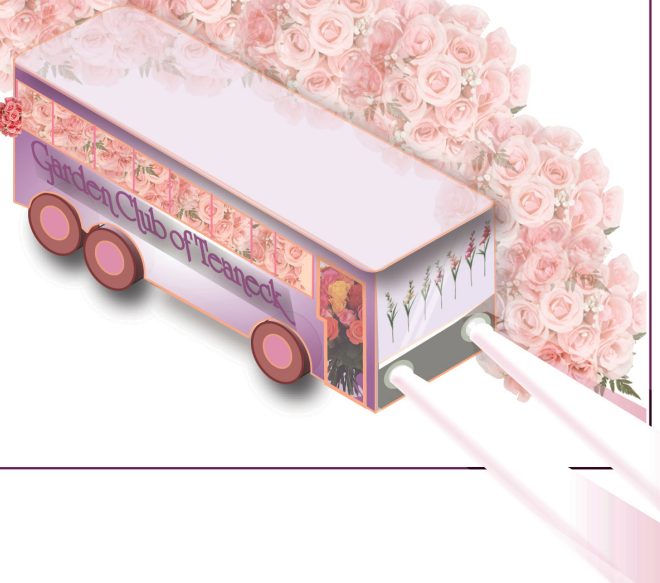
(Makes a great calorie-free gift!)

\$60.00/person for round-trip bus and show entry ticket

Questions? Please contact  
Aura Altieri 201 923-7028

email [Bus.PhillyShow@yahoo.com](mailto:Bus.PhillyShow@yahoo.com)

Bus leaves promptly 8AM from the Southern Little League Parking Lot, Glenwood Ave., Teaneck; returns 6PM; reservations without payment are not accepted. Send checks (payable to Garden Club of Teaneck) to Flower Show, 417 Maitland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666; please include your name, address, tel. number(s).



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