

# GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK January 2019

BOX 3253 TEANECK, NJ 07666 [www.gardenclubofteaneck.org](http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org)



## **Sat. January 5th, 2019 10 a.m. General Meeting**

In this first general meeting of 2019, groups will continue to coordinate, develop and fulfill



### **Notes from Joe Begley GCT President**

Welcome to 2019 and another year to grow things, turn soil and have pleasant times with our garden buddies. I'm so excited my gardens are planned and in just 3 months I'll be turning soil, stringing lines and bubbling over with anticipation. We are going to have fun this winter getting ready for the Great Spring Plant Sale! Doug's got huge plans, just look at the green house. It is already filling up with all your hard work. We're gonna run out of room! So let's get on with it!

### **Notes from Doug Raska Horticulture Director**

Many of the Garden Club members are old enough to remember the TV show "Ben Casey." It opened with a stentorous voice saying "MAN, WOMAN, BIRTH, DEATH, INFINITY." As gardeners we get it. Our gardens are dead, but it's a time of hope and planning for the future, following the cycle of life. Seeds and plugs have been ordered. Mother plants for cuttings are thriving. Spring will come again, so get ready for a busy January.

### **Report from Len Schwartz Greenhouse Director**

Thank you all for doing your group UPKEEP assignments in the kitchen, bathroom, meeting room and the greenhouse. By doing these activities on a weekly basis we maintain the usability of the greenhouse in a fair and equitable way.

One of our water hose reels had broken a while back and rather than replacing it with another weak plastic one we purchased a metal self retracting air hose and hooked that up to the water line instead. It seems to be functioning, so please try it out. It takes some effort to extend the hose but it will stay out once you hear a ratchet sound. An additional pull causes the hose to retract by itself, but this should be done in a controlled way so that the hose spreads out evenly on the reel. I hope that this system works but let me know about any problems you experience.

For the first time last year we were able to collect enough boxes from places like Cosco and farmers markets to supply our box needs for the plants sale (about 900 boxes). We saved over \$400 in costs by using these recycled boxes. We need to all start bringing in SHALLOW boxes with depths no higher than about 4 inches to repeat our not buying boxes.



## Notes from the Editor

### Laurie Ludmer

Gardening is both an art and a science; a combination of functional processes and knowledge along with inspirational and aesthetic pursuits. In order to have gardens and plants that are productive and healthy, it is imperative that the soil, water and air are non-toxic, risk free and safe from harmful poisons. This is true of the plants in our lovely GCT greenhouse as well with the larger environment in which we live - Teaneck as well as New Jersey and the United States. Unfortunately, many of the most crucial environmental protections which had been put in place to safeguard our environment are being rolled back under the current administration. It is imperative, as “guardians of the green” that we stay informed, and when possible, do what we can to ensure and protect our most precious air, earth and water - essential necessities for all living things.

As 2019 begins, it is part of my resolution to do what I can to protect and promote the responsible use of the earth and its resources. Please join me in that resolve. To that end I have supplied a number of links:

<https://www.teanecknj.gov/environmental-commission>;

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/state/new-jersey>;

<https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey>;

<https://www.bergencountyauduban.org>;

<https://www.cleanwateraction.org>

There are also a number of books that also might be of interest:

*Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson

*The Politics of the Environment*, Neil Carter

*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Annie Dillard

*This Changes Everything*, Naomi Klein

*The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben

*The Song of the Dodo*, David Quammen

*Walden's Thoreau*, David Thoreau

So as I turn to face this new year with hope and energy, let me say - Best Wishes to all for a Happy, Healthy and Green New Year!

Laurie

## HAWTHORNE SCHOOL PROGRAM

### Olga Newey

I thank the groups for propagating plants for the school program, for labeling them and for identifying which groups did the plants.

On one of the Hawthorn School's benches (facing south), I have a lot of stuff that needs repotting or propagation. Members are invited to use these if they are looking for plants to propagate for the school program.



Winter Beauty

photography by L. Ludmer



Annette's Orchids

photography by L. Ludmer



Please send articles, photos, resources, etc. for consideration by January 25th for the January Newsletter to Laurie Ludmer, Editor

# Holiday Open House, Skylands

Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2018

Two Holiday Trees, 125 Roses, & A Cast of Many Members



1



5



2



3



4

Below:  
6 Guests Stella Franco  
& Christina Mackensen  
with Lord Grantham  
(Doug Raska)



6

Left-Right:

- 1 Family Pictures
- 2 Guest (Len Schwartz) & Flapper (Aura Altieri)
- 3 Poinsettia in basket
- 4 Donkey ear plant
- 5 Rose-red curtained bar



7



8



9



10

7 Flapper (Aura Altieri)  
8 Lady Mary (Olga Newey)

9 Lord & Lady Grantham  
(Doug Raska, Robyn Lowenthal)

10 Flapper (Robyn Lowenthal)

Two thousand eighteen is Teaneck's third year at the Holiday Open House at Skylands. We showcased a warm holiday setting, this time with the theme of "A Country Manor," modeled on *Downton Abbey*. Designers Doug Raska and Robyn Lowenthal continued to involve many members as room stagers, docents and dressed the parts of the cast of *Downton Abbey*.

Garden Club members played Flappers (Aura Altieri, Robyn Lowenthal), Manor residents (Lady Mary: Olga Newey, Lord Grantham: Doug Raska, Lady Grantham: Robyn Lowenthal). Guests were played by Len Schwartz, Stella Franco and Christina Mackensen. Holiday Open House visitors who asked about the "family" were shown the gallery of table-top pictures.

The live plants, equally attention-getting, featured two Christmas trees, an 8' Norway Spruce and a Norfolk pine, 125 real roses, poinsettia, hydrangea and even a *Kalanchoe gastonis-bonnierei* (Donkey Ears plant). Decorations made of small terrariums in brandy snifters punctuated the Library bookcases. Wine glasses with flowers within festooned the trees.

Visitors sat on the sofas facing the fireplace and looked at the American oak panels, replete with garlands and a large wreath made from two types of holly and Southern Magnolia, the latter from Doug Raska's garden. And a number of visitors went to the bar and asked for a virtual toddy from the Bartender (an improv role.) Photos courtesy of Stella Franco, Aura Altieri, Robyn Lowenthal, Pat Libutti, Article: Pat Libutti