



Garden Club News

NOVEMBER 2016

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

GARDEN CLUB of TEANECK CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2016

Sat., Nov. 5, 2016, 10 AM. GCT Business Meeting, Greenhouse, next to 296 Lindbergh Blvd.

Thurs., Nov. 10, 2016, 7:00 PM. Speaker's Series Elaine Silverstein, "The Sustainable Garden". Rodda Center, Multi-purpose Room 2B, 250 Colonial Court, Teaneck, NJ, 07666. There is accessible parking in the senior parking lot at the back (enter from Palisade Avenue). Refreshments. The public is welcome.

Thurs., Dec. 1 through Sun. Dec. 4. Skylands Holiday Open House, 10 AM-4 PM. See the article on the Garden Club's participation on p. 3.

Sat., Dec. 10, 2016. HOLIDAY PARTY 11 AM-2 PM, Rodda Center. Details will be forthcoming from Olga Newey, Holiday Party Chair.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Please join me in welcoming new members of the Garden Club of Teaneck:

Linda Alford-Fennell

Joseph Begley

Danielle Brooks

Yv Desiderio

Marilyn Figueroa

Clara Fournier

Steven Schultz

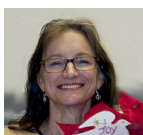
Laurie Ludmer

Christina Pami

Josephine Spellman

Aurora Tiu

We look forward to meeting each of you in person and sharing the joy of gardening with you.



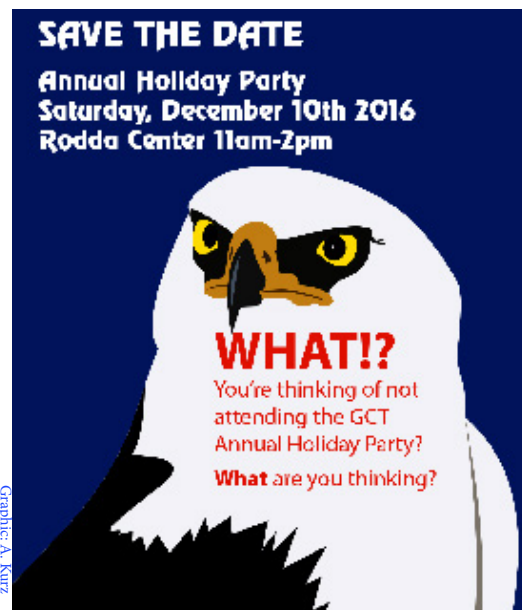
*Peggy Hazard,
Vice President, Membership*

Elaine Silverstein to Speak on "The Sustainable Garden"

By Mark Penchinar

Elaine Silverstein will present "The Sustainable Garden" on November 10 at the Rodda Center, 250 Colonial Ct., Teaneck, NJ. Refreshments start at 7 PM with the lecture following at 7:30 PM. She will start by defining sustainability, which covers composting and recycling autumn leaves on one's own property ("Leave the Leaves"). She will touch on sustainable gardening techniques, such as using native plants and avoiding chemical inputs. Handouts will be provided.

Elaine is a professional horticulturalist who designs gardens based on native plants and helps homeowners throughout Bergen County improve the sustainability of their properties. She is certified in Sustainable Landscape Management by the New York Botanical Garden and writes "The Backyard Environmentalist" column on northjersey.com. She also blogs at naturesurrounds.wordpress.com.





**Message from
Robin Jackson,
President,
Garden Club of Teaneck**

Hello, GCT Members and Friends,

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the season and remember others.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to USA veterans and their families.

I am thankful for my GCT garden that provided veggies for my family and others. I am thankful for all of you and your contributions to the gardening experience at GCT.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming business meeting on the first Saturday of November and our speaker's event on November 10th.

Be well,
Robin Jackson



**From the Desk of the
Horticultural Director,
Doug Raska**

Work Group Schedule: All work groups meet at the Greenhouse unless noted.

Sunday: *Herb Garden Group* Grace Kriegel

Memorial Herb Garden 9 AM-12 PM.

Sunday: *"Regular" Group* Time: TBA

Monday: *Herbs & Vegetables* starts 9-9:30 AM.

Tuesday: *Geraniums* 5 PM.

Wednesday: *Maintenance* 9 AM.

Thursday: *Perennials, Annuals* 3:30 PM.

Friday: *Propagation* 6 PM.

I'm eager to get started. Many members have brought plants to the Greenhouse to share for cuttings. I've started making scented geranium cuttings and a few other things. I'm ready to start sharing the joy with other members!

**Greenhouse
Director's Report
Leonard Schwartz**



So far fewer than a third of us have brought our plants into the Greenhouse but I expect that by very early November the night time temperature drop will be low enough to fill it up fast. As in previous years, we will set the thermostats to maintain a 55 degree minimum temperature. Please make sure that all plants entering the Greenhouse are insect-free and then sprayed.

Following up on the structural problem resulting from rust to many of the supporting columns: the Greenhouse is presently safe to use but will require remedial work, preferably in the next few months. We have met with the Manager, the head of the DPW, and the town engineer several times to formulate a safe, fast, and relatively inexpensive repair plan. We are still in the midst of this process.

A second, less difficult problem is that a week and a half ago an eight-foot section from one of the four roof vents blew away, leaving a hole in the roof. The Maintenance Group is in the process of sealing the hole, but in the long run, the upper venting system will need to be repaired next summer.

Starting in November, our work groups should start their weekly meetings. Rotating monthly group **upkeep assignments** for the kitchen, restroom, meeting room and Greenhouse should also start. ---Len

GCT COMMUNICATIONS

Garden Club Newsletter: November 2016

Editor: Patricia O'Brien Libutti. **Proofs:** Bruce Libutti, Anne Ediger. **Masthead logo:** Marty Steeil. **Publication:** 1st of the month September-June. **Article deadline:** 22nd of the previous month. **Article length:** 1 column (265-270 words). **Email contributions** to the Editor, libutti@gmail.com, by the 22nd of the month before publication.

Garden Club of Teaneck website. Webmaster: Anna Kurz. <http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org>.

GCT on Facebook: Page maintainer: Denise George. <http://www.facebook.com/gardenclubofteaneck/>

THE 2016 NEW JERSEY BOTANICAL GARDENS/ SKYLAND HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Overview

By Dania Cheddie

The New Jersey Botanical Gardens/Skyland Holiday Open House is an annual event that many look forward to attending each year. Well, that time will soon be here. The dates are Thursday, December 1st to Sunday, December 4th, each day: 10 AM-4 PM. There are also two evening receptions, Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd. Reservations for the evening events are recommended.



Knight in armor guarding the Manor staircase

Each year, the theme for the Open House varies. This year's theme is "A Gardener's Holiday". It is always exciting to go through the Manor and be amazed by each organization's interpretation of the theme. Volunteers from each organization contribute their talents and time. This year, the Bergen County Master Gardeners, the Passaic County Master Gardeners, the Ringwood Garden Club, the Wyckoff Garden Club, the Garden Club of Teaneck, and other organizations and individuals will be designing one of the Manor rooms.

The Garden Club of Teaneck's design team is Robyn Lowenthal and Douglas Raska. See Doug's article on this page for a description of Teaneck's design. Anyone interested in being a part of the Teaneck team should contact Robyn or Douglas.

If you're not able to be part of the Teaneck team, you can always volunteer at NJBG/Skylands during the Holiday Open House hours. They often need volunteers who are able to help out 2, 3 or more hours. This would be a nice experience for Garden Club of Teaneck members.

For more information, visit the NJBG website at NJBG.org or see Dania Cheddie.



*Garden Club of Teaneck theme:
"A Room with a View"*

THE GARDEN CLUB OF TEANECK'S DECORATING AT SKYLANDS

By Doug Raska

Robyn Lowenthal and I are working on a design for the "Breakfast Room" at Skylands Manor for their Holiday Open House, opening the first week in December.

The overall theme is "A Gardener's Holiday." Since the room is very much in an Italianate style we chose to theme our entry "A Room with a View", after the E. M. Forster novel about English tourists in Italy.

We also decided to create the feeling of winter holidays in Italy with an Oleander, Citrus tree, Bay Laurel, fragrant flowering bulbs and an array of plant material, instead of the artificial greens so much used recently in place of living plants.

Robyn and I have a sign-up sheet for those who'd like to help. See either of us to participate; your help would be appreciated.



2016 Children's Plant Sale with Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director; Ms. Warren-Givens, Hawthorne fourth grade teacher and Olga Newey, GCT School programs.

Plants for 2017 Hawthorne School Program

By Olga Newey

Last year, these plants sold well to the students: Geraniums (scented and regular), Moses in the cradle, Baby toes, Jade tree, Aloe vera (a biggie), Mimosa pudica (another biggie), Pothos, Cuban oregano, Mother of Thousands, Begonias in flower, Coleus, and Spider plants. Plants that did not sell or were passed over included: Lantana, Zinnias, and Dittany of Crete.

The children like a plant with a presence: either showy, smelly, active (*Mimosa pudica*) or useful (*Aloe*). We can try new ones to expose the children to new varieties. I would like loans of examples of mature, healthy, attractive plants of the above for demonstration when the classes visit (late March to early April).

There are loads of plants for propagation on the signed bench. The students like something substantial. Start early so the plants will be full. With some plants, such as Pothos, or Spider plant, put more than just one cutting; put four for Pothos. I was stingy and just put one Pothos cutting and the plant was too skimpy.

If you contribute a plant for propagation, please put your name in the pot so I can return the pot and plant at the end of the school season. I will provide labels. I need to order marking pens so they will be available as soon as I get them.

POST TALK: Mary Stone, "The Dos and Don'ts of Garden and Landscape Design"



Mary Stone is an affable and informal speaker who delighted the large audience at her talk on "Landscape Design Do's and Don'ts". She revealed a little of her path to landscape design via fashion design, not quite a direct path to her current career. She went through some very informative "don'ts", such as avoiding planting just one plant of a species. Instead, plant a swath to highlight the plant. Planting for all seasons is a good way to enjoy your garden all year long. When designing, you must think of the plant's growth and proportions for the future. Her pet peeve is dyed mulch, which she thinks adds a surreal look in the garden.

Black?

Red?

"No, no, no!"

All in all, it was a talk which generated many laughs many questions and provided us with much practical information.

AROUND THE GREENHOUSE



The Hawthorn tree outside of the front door of the Greenhouse, festooned with red berries.---Editor