



# Garden Club News

## November 2012

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

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

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### Calendar: November 2012

The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 – 9:00PM, at the Teaneck Rodda Center. Our guest speaker that evening will be our own Mary Topolsky. She will speak to the club about “Japanese Gardens”.

<http://www.gardenclubofteaneck.org/maryTopolsky.html>

The next meeting of the Greenhouse Committee will be at 10AM on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

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### Member News

#### Message from Debbie Morgan, President

Greetings to all my friends! I hope by the time you get this newsletter, the election will almost be history and everyone's blood pressure will return to normal. In the meantime, our clubs back to planning and dreaming of next spring (I actually got some bulbs planted last weekend). The Holiday season is upon us and with it our 60th Anniversary party. At this time, the only certainty is that it will be on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. I am still awaiting confirmation on the place and the price. We are trying to keep the price under \$35 per person. I realize that it usually costs a donation of a dish, but since this is a special occasion, let us splurge a little. Everything will be confirmed by the November meeting. I promise that we will have a fabulous time. I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting. Yours in gardening, *Debbie*

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#### Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

Two weeks ago we discovered that none of the heaters in the greenhouse were operational. The DPW was contacted and worked for parts of two days repairing faulty components. We currently have heat. My thanks go to June,

George and Jason from the DPW for doing a good job.

Most of us have brought in our plants for the season. We plan to be vigilant about keeping them as insect free as we can. Reminder all plants brought in must be inspected, sprayed and given a yellow OK tag.

There are a number of open benches. They are available on a lottery basis for anyone who currently has a bench from last year and who would like to move. A diagram of all the benches is posted in the greenhouse showing your current location and listing the open benches. To be considered for the lottery you must enter your name on the posted paper under the number for an open bench. The lottery will be conducted immediately following the Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> greenhouse meeting. The remaining benches will then be distributed to qualified members who did not have a bench assignment last year. *Len*

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#### Reflections on the Garden of 2012 By Joe Papa – Horticulture Director

As the light fades and there is a chill in the air the few lettuce and kale are in the direction of the waning sun, our labor in the garden begins to wane as well. It is a time to clear and clean at your leisure no longer challenged by weeds

and pests, preparing your beds for the spring plantings. Reflecting on the successes of the last season, incredible Tomato yields, preserved and to be enjoyed throughout the winter months. The prolific Okra plants producing elegant flowers and unique fruit. Undulating Korean squash, with their robust yellow flowers laden with bees immersed in pollen. These images remain in our thoughts as we approach the season of diminished activity. It is the time to review your planting log, evaluate your new trials, and clean and store seed that you may have collected. Preparation for the spring planting begins with your inventory of seed as you impatiently wait for your seed catalogs to arrive. We become anxious in anticipation of the Winter Solstice knowing that once it arrives, the light, the birth, the renewal is initiated. We know then with certainty that soon we will again be connected to the soil, our mother earth, her bounty, and through this process our physical and emotional sustenance. *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. If your dues are not paid by the end of the month, you will be removed from the membership and mailing list. 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 by the first of the year.

On behalf of all our members, please welcome our five newest: Carol Rivera-Kron, Flor de Maria Contreras, Esther & Monica Honis, and Albert Frater. Speaking of new members, look around and ask your friends and neighbors to

join us in keeping Teaneck green, learning new things and having some fun along the way. Membership forms are on the bulletin board in the greenhouse, or can be downloaded from [membership\\_form2012-13.pdf](#).

Your continued support is appreciated. Even more important and the key to our ongoing success has been the volunteer hours put forth by our members. If you are currently not engaged on a committee, please sign up. If you have an expertise to share, or some time to give please consider a workshop or being one of our speakers. *Susan*

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### **Herb Garden & Outside Greenhouse Gardens by Nancy Cochrane**

#### **Herb Garden**

As the growing season comes to an end, plans are already in the works for the continued restoration of the Herb Garden. Cuttings of the fig tree have been done for the Plant Sale. We will all enjoy some of Sara Jones' Fig Preserves at the next Garden Club meeting. If you would like to be part of the new Herb Garden design, the Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 am at the greenhouse. Weather permitting; we will be meeting at the Herb Garden on November 4th. We are also looking for donations of herbs (especially lavender) and 10" terra-cotta pots with saucers. You can leave them on the Herb Garden bench in the greenhouse. Look for more Herb Garden Group activities in future newsletters.

#### **Outside Greenhouse Gardens**

Please remember to continue to keep your garden and pathways clear of any debris. Gardens must be cleaned up by December 1st.

A great big thank you to everyone for their contributions to the Teaneck Helping Hands Food Pantry especially Annette, Pat F., George, Ho Wen, and Christa. Over 100 pounds of tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, zucchini, beans, celery, etc. were donated during the summer. The recipients were very grateful to have

fresh produce available to them. We all look forward to continuing to give back to the community next year. Nancy

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## **Education Committee & School Program By Olga Newey**

### **Education Committee**

Olga with Nancy's ideas introduced their plan of starting an educational gardening program for the children of Teaneck. We are proposing that we have two meetings a month on Sunday afternoon. Each month will be a different unit. Each session will start with a lesson and then a hands-on activity. Nancy has developed a list of possible unit topics together with activities. Joe suggested starting with soil because that is where it all starts and having a worm farm. I'm investigating their purchase and care. What fun. If anyone has any suggestions or if you would like to be part of the Education Committee please contact me at [cosnew@optonline.net](mailto:cosnew@optonline.net) Our mission is to encourage gardening and what better way than to start with children.

### **School Program**

Our Hawthorne School Program, as I see it, would be part of the Education Committee. We have started to talk about what plants to propagate for their sale to the children. I always get three requests: the girls want lavender and aloe, and the boys want Venus Fly Traps. Venus Fly Traps are very difficult to propagate so I am looking into buying these. We will be setting up the dates for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade class to come to the greenhouse. Cynthia, Helen and I are all ready. Cynthia will do propagation on Thursdays. She has again volunteered to propagate geraniums for the students to buy. Helen will do Garbage Gardening on Wednesdays and I, will do herbs on Mondays. George Tipton has already started to divide his aloes.

The Thomas Jefferson School program: Len has helped Dr. Bush with the school greenhouse. We will be following up with her

to see what more we can do to enricher gardening program.

I thank all of you who have volunteered to help us. Olga

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### **Last Word**

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on how to improve our newsletter or website please contact Marty Steeil at [msteeil@gmail.com](mailto:msteeil@gmail.com). I leave you this month with several pictures of the Teaneck Municipal Green. The pretty red begonias are our donation.

