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Anne Skalka
President

Linda Reasoner
Vice President

Rick Lazarick
Treasurer

Karen Lewandowski
Recording Secretary

Iliana Okum
Corresponding Secretary

Lorrain Persiani
Immediate Past President

Maggie Kramer
Club Parliamentarian

Jeff Tryon
Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design



The President's Message | Anne Skalka

December 2024



Dear Garden Club Members,

As the year draws to a close and our gardens settle into a well-deserved winter rest, I find myself reflecting on the incredible year we've shared. From vibrant spring blooms at the Ewing Library and Birmingham Park to the bounty of summer with our vegetables, dahlias and the warm hues of autumn grasses, our gardens have provided both beauty and a sense of community.

December is a time of quiet preparation and looking forward. Though our gardens may be dormant, our club remains active with plans for the coming year.

I want to thank each of you for your passion, dedication, and the joy you bring to our club. Your involvement makes our group a vibrant and nurturing space. Let's continue to learn from each other and share our love of gardening.

Wishing you all a warm and joyful holiday season and a new year filled with growth and inspiration. Remember to "Plant Hope" with every garden project! Happy Holidays and Happy Gardening!

*With appreciation,
~ Anne Skalka*

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2023

President's Report

President Anne Skalka: Meeting of November 4, 2024, was called to order at 6:31 pm. Anne welcomed 1 guest and 1 new member who were present.

Secretary's Report

Karen Lewandowski was not present, but reported that the minutes of the last meeting were in the newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Lazarick: Current balance of \$8,004.75.

Correspondence

Iliana Okum: Sent a thinking of you /get well card to Karen Lewandowski who fell and injured her shoulder.

Committee Reports

Bulb Sale

Rick Lazerick: \$417.55. \$180 donations dedicated to the park. Plant calendar update: Anne Chmielewski will help create the plant maintenance calendar and Devah Brinker will help create the perennial guide.

Holiday Party

Loarraine Persiani: Confirmed December 2 at Sal DeForte's. Bring a wrapped holiday gift (around \$10)

Mill Hill Child & Family Development

Anne Skalka & Devah Brinker: The planting site garden project was a success. Perennial plants were planted in the flower beds at the entrance of the building. Hoses and sprinkler heads were supplied also so the school employees can water the flower beds this fall.

Preservation Committee

Linda Reasoner: Next meeting November 15, 2024. The committee is still sorting thru the boxes. They have the boxes separated into decades now. The next step is to go through each decade and sort what to keep and what to discard. The first archive article and photos were in the November newsletter it featured the history of Brimingham Park.

Awards

Linda Reasoner: The TPH donations, Birmingham Park, Pass the Can, Mill House Garden Project applications are completed. Recycling with Heide will be completed soon.

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024

Morven

Barbara Bernhard: The overall theme of the show is Holiday Traditions and Celebrations. Our theme is Holiday Traditions at the Shore “She Sells Seashells by the Seashore”, Set up is November 19th Set up in Gallery 4, back room. Show runs November 20th through January 5th Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 4pm. The next committee meeting is on 11/7/24. Please come out and see our tree and vote or vote online. We want to win first prize.

Drumthwacket

Lorraine Persiani – Drumthwacket: We are in the Library and our theme is “Honor Holiday Books”. Dates are December 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 11th. Registration for tickets starts on 11/6. Tickets are timed! Each day the mansion is open from 11 – 2pm

Holiday Plant Sale:

Lynn Aspinwall: 6” Poinsettias are \$6.00 & 8” are \$12.00; Cyclamens are \$12.00 payment is due on pickup. Delivery date is Saturday 11/30/24 at Lorraine’s home.

Spring Plant sale:

Elle Belcheff: Committee sign up sheets will be sent around at the next meeting.

Publicity:

Elle Belcheff: Plans on putting our club on Facebook and other social media platforms. She would like to spotlight our members’ gardens and or houseplants and advertise our monthly meetings and speakers.

Scholarship breakfast

Barbara Bernhard / Linda Reasoner: Will be held on Saturday April 26, 2025 at the Hollowbrook Senior Center from 9 – 11am. Tickets will be available at the March meeting. Raffle baskets will be accepted up until April 15th. We must have them early so they can be wrapped and labeled correctly.

Trenton Psychiatric Hospital

Iliana Okum: Numerous bags of donations were brought in by our generous members. The gifts will be delivered to the hospital a week before Thanksgiving.

Flower Show:

Pat Bowker: Sent out the schedules via email. Artistic crafts are Halloween themes, she suggested looking for your material now. Pinterest has very good ideas to use. Helga Fontus will have the sign-up sheets at the next meeting.

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024

Refreshments

Thank you to the Hospitality Committee: Linda Gerasimowicz (chair), Pat Bowker, Catherine Button, June Rosso, Diane Sanchez, Janis Stia, Jeff Tryon.

Member Questions:

- Can houseplants that are brought inside and found to have ants be saved?
- Put ant traps in the pot
- Remove soil, rinse roots and repot the plant
- Use houseplant spray found online
- Submerge entire pot in water to remove eggs from root ball.

Member Extras:

- Anne Skalka found and purchased the shovel that was shown at the October meeting at the CAR meeting. Stated it can be purchased from the vendor if anyone is interested.
- Lynn Grillo researched online about the spade that Sophia displayed at the October meeting. Lynn found one on eBay and stated it was the last one available.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:03pm.

Happy Birthday!

- Lynn Grillo - December 2
- Janis Stia - December 3
- Catherine Button - December 12
- Pat Bowker - December 13
- Zofia Jablonski Feulner - December 15
- Jill Voorhees - December 21
- Heidi Furman - December 28

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Alicia Magee

Holiday Party

Please bring your holiday craft to the party to help with our raffle.

Newsletter Deadline

Submit all info to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month via email at:

wtgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

Morven Festival of Trees

Nov 20, 2024 - Jan 5, 2025

Holiday Open House at Drumthwacket

- Wednesday, December 4, 2024
- Thursday, December 5, 2024
- Friday, December 6, 2024
- Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Wednesday, December 11, 2024

WTGC Annual Holiday Party

*December 2, 2024,
Sal De Fortes Ristorante
1400 Parkway Avenue, Ewing NJ 08628*

Please bring a "homemade" craft, treat, or garden item to help with our traditional raffle. Suggestions: wreaths, greens (e.g., decorative pine, holly, etc.), a holiday plant or arrangement, homemade holiday cards and treats, special holiday teas or coffees, etc.

All attendees will receive a small poinsettia to take home. The raffle is a fundraiser for the club and participation is appreciated (purchase of a ticket).

See you there!

Co-chairs: Lorrain Persiani and Diane Sanchez

Don't miss these beautiful exhibits with decor by members of the West Trenton Garden Club!

[Click Image to Visit Website for More Info](#)


MORVEN

MUSEUM & GARDEN

FESTIVAL *of* TREES

ON VIEW

NOVEMBER 20, 2024 *through* JANUARY 5, 2025

- 
- Wednesday, December 4, 2024
 - Thursday, December 5, 2024
 - Friday, December 6, 2024
 - Saturday, December 7, 2024
 - Wednesday, December 11, 2024

The Library at Drumthwacket (past decor)



Holiday Party, 1996



Holiday Party Poinsettia



Holiday Party



Millie DeFlesco, Trenton Country Club



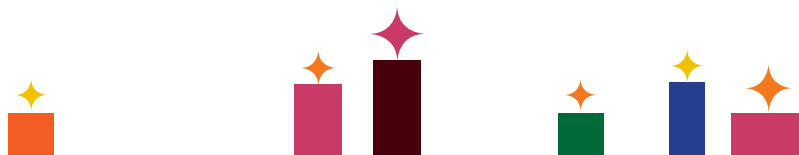
Maggie and Carolyn

Holiday Memories

By Anne Chmielewski

Holiday memories are warm and joyful. The tradition and friendship experienced at the West Trenton Garden Club Holiday Parties are very special remembrances. Each year, on the first Monday of December, members gathered to celebrate at the finest local venues. Each location was unique and had special qualities. At Larry Peroni's Waterfront (aka Diamonds, and now Erini) we sat at round tables in the back-garden room. One year we were serenaded by a women's choral group. In 1998 we entered the doors of the Trenton Country Club. The setting was exquisite. Millie deFlesco played the piano and we sang carols. The memory brings a tear to my eye as I think about the energy and holiday spirit she shared. Truly, she was a gifted and beautiful woman. The food was exceptional! Another outstanding location was Paulie's Anna Rose (aka Lieggis, and now Blooming Grove). Their banana cream pie was mouth-watering. The food was excellent and the portions were generous, we sang carols a capella and our voices filled the restaurant.

Recently we celebrated at Revere where we were able to enjoy time together again, after the pandemic. Santa Claus even paid a visit. Our most recent venue is Sal DeForte. We had the entire restaurant to ourselves last year and now we have found another place to celebrate the holiday and our friendship. Cheers to our lasting memories of Millie at the piano, Diane Sanchez's creative candy tables, and dear Grace Starrett's annual holiday blessing. As we remember, let us make new memories!



Gallery | Floral Design for Your Holiday Celebrations

By Deborah Pomroy



Gallery | *The Delaware River in Drought*

By Jeff Tryon

"I was near the boat launch on the PA side of Washington Crossing Park. There is an island and the water was really low at this point. The main part of the river still had some depth in channels since I saw a fishing boat go by. But the area I was in was very walkable."

