

NEWSLETTER

Petals and Persiflage

September 2020 Vol. 31 | No. 7



Proudly Celebrating 90 Years

*C*ongratulations!

We did it!! It felt like dipping a toe into the water then jumping in the deep end, but we had a wonderful Annual Meeting, held safely and respectfully together outside in Kathy Mitchell's spacious and beautiful backyard. The energy and joy at seeing each other in person was palpable.

Thanks to all of you for your colorful masks and willingness to jump in and help put it all together!

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday is Garden Club day!

September 29th – Board Meeting and

90th Proclamation Fairfield

October 6th – Membership Meeting

October 27th – Board Meeting



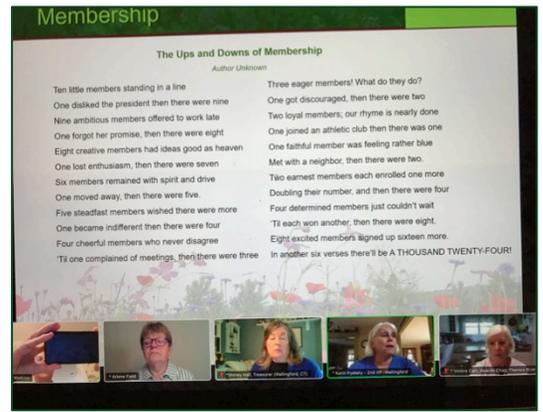
As we reminisced with our Heritage Minute and heard about our activities last year, (and we accomplished a lot before Covid) it acknowledged the closure of the past year and made us all ready to tackle the new one. Plus, our extensive and stunning gardening event that surrounded our meeting heralded a new beginning, a new GFGC calendar year, a new perspective and a new optimism.

The next day, I attended Federated's Presidents Day via Zoom. Over 100 members participated in the event, a record attendance. During the meeting, I learned how other garden clubs are continuing to enjoy and share their knowledge and love of gardening by taking advantage of their surroundings and

technology such as Zoom. We were encouraged to go to National Garden Clubs' website as all Gardening Schools are being held virtually, with the the exception of Flower Show School, and are very popular. Federated's schools this fall are full, but another state may still have openings for a class of interest to you.

Closer to home, the Garden Club of Madison, CT has launched an initiative to try to plant 3,000 bulbs along the CT coast called "Daffodils over Madison" and would love other shoreline clubs to participate. And, the Wilton Garden Club has webinars and YouTube videos posted on their website! From virtual private garden tours in Newtown to viewings in shifts of the movie, "The Gardener", garden clubs in CT are thriving and moving onward with their missions.

As for the Greens Farms Garden Club, we will continue this new year with the symbolic planting of a tree and dedication of our beautiful 90th Anniversary Plaque at the Victorian Cottage Garden on September 29th at noon. All are encouraged to attend as it will take place outdoors with face masks worn. Our next Membership Meeting will be held outdoors as well in Jacque O'Brien's fabulous backyard on October 6th at 12:30pm with a program at Gilbertie's afterward. A field trip to a local sanctuary and hopefully a private garden tour are also in the works. As we gain momentum, this might just be the beginning of the best year ever! See you soon!!



Greens Farms Garden Club

P.O. Box 105, Greens Farms, CT 06838

www.greensfarmsgardenclub.org

Proud member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.; the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.; and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Enjoy your Gardens, *Ann*
Ann Watkins, GFGC President

Ann Watkins' perfectly color-coordinated green lunch and attire at the GFGC Annual Luncheon

Reading of Board and Committee Chair's Annual Reports (behind the mask) at the Sept. 15, 2020 GFGC Annual Meeting



Awards



GFGC's **Petals & Persiflage** has won The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. 2019 - 2020 Publication Award for Newsletter! Thank you to all our members who continually contribute newsworthy articles, tips, tidbits and photos and to Dina Schmidt for pulling them all together each month.



Ann Watkins, Jacquie O'Brien and Maren Hood

Since 1940, the Awards Bowl has been given each year to the member of our club contributing outstanding work for that current year. This year's well-deserving Award Bowl recipient is **Jacquie O'Brien**. Congratulations Jacquie! Thank you for your tireless Plant Sale efforts, consistent can-do attitude and for always going above and beyond.



Chris Supernaw (seated) and Maren Hood

The Greens Farms Garden Club began awarding The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Life Memberships in 1974 to honor members who have rendered great service to our club over the years. The 1974 winners were three charter members; Mrs. Thomas Coggeshall (Edgarda), Miss Katherine Grout and Mrs. William D. Powell (Sophie). In September 1977, Sophie Powell requested that the interest from the Fund bearing her name be used to purchase Connecticut Life Memberships moving forward.

This year's Life Membership Award was proudly presented to **Chris Supernaw!** Congratulations Chris! Thank you for your enthusiasm, club commitment and unwavering friendship throughout the years. Your zest for life (and our club) is simply contagious and our membership is brighter for having you be a part of it.



Maren Hood, Ann Watkins and Judy Reynolds via Zoom

In June 2010, the Awards Committee at the time decided to create the Heritage Award to recognize the dedication and steadfast service of women who have been members of the club the longest. This year's Heritage Award (presented via Zoom) goes to **Judy Reynolds**. Congratulations Judy! Thank you for your long-standing service and dedication. Our club has thrived for 90 years because of committed and active members like you.



HERITAGE MINUTE

Greens Farms Garden Club's roots run deep...

In 1940, GFGC charter member, Miss Katherine Grout was awarded by The New York World's Fair "Gardens on Parade" for a flower arrangement she created.

Miss Grout was born about 1890 in Brooklyn. Her Father Edward M. Grout, was the regular Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York, but defeated by Frederick W. Wurster. He was a former law partner of WIII-ISM J. Gaynor, Borough President of Brooklyn and Comptroller of NYC.

Miss Grout was honored by GFGC during its 40th anniversary year around the age of 80. She was also a member of Brooklawn Country Club Women's Tennis and Bowling Teams, Black Rock Yacht Club, Fairfield Hunt Club, Thursday Thimble Club and a Debutante of Fortnightly Cotillions of Brooklyn, NY.

Courtesy of Maybette Waldron and The Notable Ninety Team



Annual Luncheon



Exhibits

GREENS FARMS GARDEN CLUB Life is a Garden, Tend it Well, *a gardening & creative arts event* 9.15.20

The Exhibits Committee and garden club member friends were excited to work on an in-house gardening and creative arts event that took place following our annual meeting on September 15th. The theme for the event was "Life is a Garden. Tend it Well." Our GFGC members were encouraged to participate and many did with great enthusiasm and support for the event. Many thanks to all who helped to make the event a success. How fortunate we are to have so many very creative garden club members who were willing to share their talents with us.

Exhibits Committee Members:

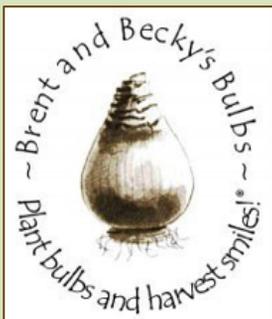
- Mary Lou McGuire
- Diane Parrish
- Jane Steiger

GFGC Event Friends:

- Kathy Mitchell
- Judy Reynolds
- Chris Supernaw
- Maybette Waldron

Thank you for tending our garden well.

*Gael Ficken,
Exhibits*



REMEMBER BRENT & BECKY'S BULBS! A family owned and operated company since 1900 and are a great source for high quality bulbs and more! Items are shipped when they are ready for planting in your USDA zone. Any time you plan to order bulbs please consider using them as GFGC gets 25% back on every purchase. Go to www.bloominbucks.com or call 877-661-2852 and select The Greens Farms Garden Club (it's under "T"). They also have great bulbs for winter forcing (amaryllis, paper whites, etc.), gift cards, garden accessories and tools. Check out their website at brentandbeckysbulbs.com.



Proudly Celebrating 90 Years

please join us for our

90th Anniversary

Tree Planting & Plaque Dedication

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Twelve o'clock in the afternoon
Victorian Cottage Garden
Fairfield Historic Town Green
725 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT

*90th Anniversary Proclamation to be read by
Fairfield First Selectwoman, Brenda Kupchick*

ceremony will be held outside | dress for weather
face masks required

Conservation



Shall we start with a good news item? The Aspetuck Land Trust has acquired the organic, 34-acre Gilbertie's Farm in Easton. It is adjacent to The Randall's Farm Preserve, making a 68-acre tract which helps to anchor their Green Corridor initiative. We have supported ALT's work for many years.

Now for the not so good: The climate is getting warmer very quickly. This week, September 14-20, has 6 hurricanes or tropical depressions in the Atlantic Ocean/Gulf of Mexico, wild-fires ravaging thousands of acres in California, Oregon and Washington, and a huge chunk of a Greenland ice sheet breaking off.

These events are all directly related to the warming temperatures of the oceans. Warmer oceans allow larger storms to develop, hotter and drier weather to persist over land, and ice sheets to melt. The scary statistics and information keep piling up:

- Summer 2020 was the hottest on record in North America. The extent of Arctic sea ice was 29% below the 1981-2010 average.
- A 44 square mile chunk of Greenland's ice sheet broke off on Sept 14th. That's about the size of Manhattan! Two glaciers in Antarctica are collapsing, when they melt sea level could rise several feet.
- The current hazy conditions are caused by smoke from those wildfires in the West circulating via the jet stream.

Reliable sources of information are important. Here are some of the many science-based sources that are trustworthy... Yale Environment 360: e360@yale.edu | US Geological Service: USGS.gov | Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution: whoi.edu Visit Aspetuck Land Trust's website, for homeowner recommendations at: www.aspetucklandtrust.org/what-homeowners-can-do.

Mary Lou McGuire, Conservation

Potpourri

Have something special to share? Don't Keep it to yourself!

Send it to dbottoneschmidt@gmail.com to be included in our next newsletter

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

What a delightful surprise to receive The Heritage Award with the beautiful orchid plant ~ thank you, thank you!

It was fun to be ZOOMED in to join you all for our 90th Annual Meeting and "Life is a Garden.....Tend it Well!" event ~ a creative, vibrant, enthusiastic celebration!

Our club has been a wonderful part of my life for thirty-three years, and you all are **THE BEST** of friends!

Again, my warmest thanks for such a lovely honor.

Cheers, Judy Reynolds



In loving memory of

VIRGINIA M. DESEL

*March 2, 1927 –
September 10, 2020*



It's the little things that make me smile.
- **Jacque O'Brien**



Martha Stewart completes a variety of outdoor projects at her Bedford, N.Y., farm; her famous friends seek Martha's advice for their own home and garden projects. They're fun and informative. Find full episodes at: <https://watch.hgtv.com/tv-shows/martha-knows-best>
- **Phyllis Kaschub**

Two quick notes from the Ways & Means Committee...

1. Start looking at your plants and determine what you can donate for our Plant Sale next year. It's our major fundraiser so every plant helps!
2. Bring any ideas for next year's Plant Sale to the October meeting...or email me at jisteiger@yahoo.com

THANKS! Jane Steiger



Picture from the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. Taken before the fires 😞
- **Sandy Lewis**

Upcoming Dates & Details

Tuesday is Garden Club Day!

Gov. Ned Lamont's mask order issued April 17 remains in force. It requires a mask or face covering for "any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person." Thank you for observing this order at all our in-person events and helping to keep our membership safe.

September

BOARD MEETING (CALL)

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Time: 10 AM meeting

Place: Zoom Call

Detail: Call will be hosted by Diane Parrish via Zoom. The invitation has been emailed by Ann Watkins. Check your inbox from September 23 at 10:30 AM for call in details.

90th ANNIVERSARY TREE PLANTING & PLAQUE DEDICATION

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Time: 12 PM (following board mtg)

Place: Victorian Cottage

Detail: Fairfield 1st Selectwoman, Brenda Kupchick, will be presiding over the event. All members are invited to attend.

Happy Birthday!

September	10	Ann Watkins
	17	Ashby Cassidy
	17	Celie Rosenau
	19	Carol Wahl
	27	Carol MacDonald
	29	Barbara Carr
	30	Pam Waesche
October	10	Dina Schmidt
	11	Gael Ficken
	15	Rivers Teske
	16	Maybette Waldron
	26	Betty Gosselin

October

TRIPS: TOUR H. SMITH RICHARDSON WILDLIFE PRESERVE with CHARLIE STEBBINS

Date: Monday, October 5, 2020

Time: 9:50 AM arrive / 10 AM start

Place: H. Smith Richardson Wildlife Preserve
39 Sasco Creek Road, Westport
(parking at Preserve with overflow at Southport Beach)

Topic: Connecticut Audubon Board Member, Charlie Stebbins, will speak on how native plants have attracted a wide range of birds and insects to Open Space. Thank you to Barbara Harman and Misty Beyer for organizing this event! Wear comfortable shoes for gravel and grass surfaces. RSVP Pam Toner at (917) 319-1580 or ptoner@optonline.net.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Time: 12:30 PM meeting / 2 PM program

Place: Jacque O'Brien's

307 Greens Farms Road, Westport

Topic: A social distancing presentation covering Fall garden care like pruning, planting and pollinators will follow at 2 PM at Gilbertie's Herb & Garden Center, 7 Sylvan Road, Westport. Shopping with a discount will follow the presentation. Please RSVP to Jacque O'Brien or jacquemob@gmail.com so we can provide Gilbertie's a headcount.

BOARD MEETING (CALL)

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Time: 10 AM meeting

Place: Zoom Call

Detail: Call will be hosted by either Diane Parrish or Pam Toner via Zoom. An invitation will be emailed prior to the meeting.

Please visit greensfarmsgardenclub.org for up-to-date info on meetings, member directory, plus minutes, newsletters, by-laws, fun pictures and more!