

# Topiary Times

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

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92nd year, since 1925



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe, but 'tis the season to give thanks. As WGR President, I am grateful for our wonderful members whose contributions both big and small make our club an enjoyable one with so many worthwhile projects, programs, trips and meals!

We are currently in the throes of decorating Van Neste for the holidays which is a good example of how we come together to give back to our community, along with the upcoming Children's Evergreen Wreath Workshop. See below for details on all club events.

Special thanks to Judith, husband Dick, and Liz for their outstanding contributions to our new Resource Room, another WGR project benefitting the community. Please check it out if you haven't yet, and I look forward to toasting all of you at our upcoming holiday luncheon on Dec. 8 at Ridgewood CC. Cheers and let's keep up the "dirty-y" work!

Jenny

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**

Ridgewood Country Club

96 West Midland Avenue

Paramus, New Jersey

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

*No Guests Please*

In lieu of gift exchange,  
please consider bringing an  
unwrapped gift of clothing for  
Center for Hope & Safety *(details below)*

HOSTESSES: Irene Palatucci and Barbara Hyslop

*If unable to attend, please notify Carol Lehmann, [c414l@aol.com](mailto:c414l@aol.com)*

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**BOARD MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10:30 AM** - at Lisa Betancourt's home, 305 Gardner Road, Ridgewood. If you are unable to attend, please contact Lisa at [whitspen@aol.com](mailto:whitspen@aol.com) or (201) 444-7508.

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** - The luncheon is at Ridgewood Country Club on Friday, December 8. Eileen Dowling must have your check for \$35.00, made out to the WGR, by December 3. Parks and Rec is organizing a collection for the holidays for Center for Hope & Safety, formerly known as Shelter Our Sisters. Requested items for women and children include mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, slippers, thermals, pjs and underwear (*children only*).

**WORK DAY AT THE LIBRARY - OCTOBER 17** - *photo by Judith Field*



The Library Garden is being tended by Jenny Given, Irene de Castro, Toni Cohen and Judy Collins.

**LIBRARY DESK FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THURSDAYS**

11/16 - Judith Field

11/22 (*Wednesday before Thanksgiving*) - Dorothy Folger

11/30 - Karen Fox

12/28 - Marge Garfield

**WORK DAY AT VAN NESTE PARK - OCTOBER 31** - *photo submitted by Judith Field*



Eleanor Collins, Barbara Masarky, Lisa Beatencourt, Cynthia Halaby, Maria Gilosa, Judith Field, Barbara Ferrante, Toni Cohen, and Judy Scanlan cleaned up the Gardens at Van Neste. Not pictured is Eileen Dowling.

**GREEN KIDS - NOVEMBER 2, "Giving Thanks" at the Stable - photo by Lisa Betancourt**

The children made 80 favors for Meals on wheels Thanksgiving trays. Dried flowers and seed pods were adhered to a birch base.

Girl Scouts from Troop #95376 helped, and fun was had by all.



**2018 SECRET GARDEN TOUR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Lisa Betancourt has graciously offered to host the Garden Tour Full Committee Meeting at her home on Wednesday, December 6. The meeting will start promptly at 9 a.m. to cover all topics prior to the Board Meeting, which will follow at 10:30 a.m.

**WRAPPING BOXES FOR HOLIDAYS AT VAN NESTE - NOVEMBER 13 at Community Room, Stable - photos by Judith Field**



Lisa Betancourt, Irene Palatucci, Maria Gilosa, Eleanor Collins and Jenny Given stand among the "gifts".



Busy at work are Liz O'leary, Jenny Given, Lisa Betancourt, Eleanor Collins, Marianne Maher, Dorothy Folger and Irene Palatucci

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**RESOURCE ROOM UPDATE - NOVEMBER 14 - Open to the Public Day.** The Habernickel Family Park Gate House.

Liz O'Leary arranged for publicity in the local newspapers, inviting those interested to come, relax, and browse through the many garden books for planting fall bulbs and cleaning up their gardens for the winter. Barbara French volunteered and helped categorize the books, the most recent being donated by Mandy Clark and Marcia Frifield. More have also been picked up from a Freecycle.com posting. Although there were no visitors from the public, Liz, Barbara and Judith continued with the filing of records and displaying of posters and flyers from past Garden Tours and Ed Days. The next Open Day is Tuesday, December 12, 1-3 p.m. with Carol Lehmann volunteering.

**UPCOMING STABLE GARDEN CLEAN-UP - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 9:30 AM.** Bring pruners, rakes. Need many hands.

**DECORATE VAN NESTE WITH WRAPPED BOXES - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 (Rain: Nov. 21), 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Please bring hammers for tent stakes and scissors.

**UPCOMING LIBRARY GARDEN WORK SESSION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 9:00 AM-11 AM (rain date 11/29)**

This will be the last Library Garden work session of 2017. Work will include cutting back, raking, dead heading, and placing evergreen trees for the winter garden. Please come with pruners, rakes, lawn bags and an hour of your time.

**THE NATIONAL CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**

The Garden Conservancy is sponsoring an Open Day at Atlock Farms in Somerset, NJ. Their "Experts in the Garden" program will feature Ken Selody of Atlock Farm, who will present classic topiary plants in several forms and styles at 11 a.m. Their production and maintenance will be covered. Admission is free. Please call Sharon Gilsenan at 201-445-1865 or email her at [sfg165@gmail.com](mailto:sfg165@gmail.com) by November 28, if you would like to drive to Somerset with her.

**GROUP LIBRARY ARRANGEMENT, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 (3 weeks because of holiday)**

Toni Cohen, Debbie Engel, Barbara French, Marcia Frifield and Cynthia Halaby

**EVERGREEN WREATH WORKSHOP FOR KIDS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 9:15 AM - 11:30 AM, at the Stable**

Kids will be making wreaths to take home. There will be 24 children, so lots of help is needed at 9:15 to get ready. Please stay to help the children. Anyone who can volunteer should contact Anthea Luter at [abluter@hotmail.com](mailto:abluter@hotmail.com) or (201) 857-5063 or Leslie Kolvek at [lesliekolvek@verizon.net](mailto:lesliekolvek@verizon.net) or (201) 447-1841, so they will know how many can help.

**BREAKFAST MEETING AND PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 3, Library Auditorium - photos by Judith Field and Debbie Engel**



Liz O'Leary, Janel Clinch and Jeannette Wiener served a delicious breakfast, which preceded a program by Kay Joo of Beers.

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**MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING - November 3, 2017**

Present: Betancourt, Bigos, Blanco, Bryan, Clark, Clinch, Cohen, E. Collins, J. Collins, de Castro, Dowling, Engel, Field, Folger, Fox, French, Friefield, Garfield, Gilosa, Gilsenan, Kolvek, Lehmann, Masarky, Modelski, O'Leary, Saunders, Steffens, Unver, Vermylen, Weiner, Wiest, Wirtz.

Meeting was called to order by Sharon Gilsenan, Executive Vice-President. Sharon thanked Kay Joo of Beers Flowers for her program and the WGR hostesses.

President's Report: Sharon reminded members that Eileen Dowling is collecting checks for \$35 made payable to the WGR for the luncheon at the RCC December 8. There will be no gift exchange. A suggestion of \$2-3 for valet tip was discussed.

Betty Wiest is planning an overnight trip to Newport, Rhode Island on Dec 5-6 to visit the historic mansions decorated for the holidays. There will be an open Garden Conservancy day on Dec. 2 featuring Atlock Farms and Sharon is asking if anyone would like a ride with her. June 18 will kick off "National Pollinator Week" and the WGR will be planning a special project during that week.

Special Projects: Eleanor Collins reminded members to sign up and attend the Nov 13 'wrapping of the boxes for Van Neste'. Location: The Stable at 9 am. She needs 15-20 members.

Jeannette Weiner thanked the members who helped make the arrangements for the Children's Aid and Family services.

Membership: Carol Lehmann reported that Vaibhavi Udeshi will be joining WGR in February 2018.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen Dowling reported that our Nov. 1 balance was \$10,154.74.

Garden Tour: Maria Gilosa requested that members forward her the names of their yard, irrigation and pool service companies so she can compile lists for potential tour sponsors. There will be an all committee meeting at 9 AM at Lisa Betancourt's on Dec 6 before the scheduled 10:30 AM board meeting.

Hospitality: Marge Garfield reported all going smoothly.

Green Kids: Leslie Kolvek reported on making 80 favors for the Meals on Wheels trays the previous day at the last 2017 Green Kids program. She needs 12 volunteers to help with the Dec 9 wreath workshop at the Stable. A NGC grant was submitted for the garden and a cleanup date will be forthcoming. The schedule for the spring, 2018 Green Kids program will be available soon.

Habernickel: Irene de Castro reported that they have applied for a NGC grant for the garden. The garden is closed for winter.

Library Garden: Judy Collins reported that they had applied for a NGC grant. Nov 28 will be a cleanup/bulb planting session.

Van Neste: Cleanup on Halloween morning was well attended. A grant to the NGC has been submitted for improvements to the War Memorial gardens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Betancourt