

# Topiary Times

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

[www.womengardenersofridgewood.com](http://www.womengardenersofridgewood.com)

93rd year, since 1925



## FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Ridgewood Library Auditorium

**Board Meeting 10:30 AM****Luncheon 12 Noon**

## THE DOORS OF GARDENS

Paul Kubryach, Landscape Design Architect, explores design of beds and plants for shade in new gardens and renovation of older gardens.

### Business Meeting

HOSTESSES: Karen Fox, Leigh Goodson, Phyllis Heilborn, Barbara Masarky and Mary Vermynen

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, the groundhog may have predicted 6 more weeks of winter, but I heard singing birds yesterday and it will hit 60 degrees today, so I am setting my sights on spring! And as a club, we are setting our collective sight on the Secret Gardens Tour on June 3. I love how we come together to put on this spectacular, signature event, and this year promises no less. Please see the details below and pitch in where needed. It is also time to assemble next year's WGR Board, so please consider taking on a position. I have found it so rewarding to be a board member and getting to know so many wonderful women is an added bonus. Speaking of which, I also want to extend a warm welcome to our new member, V Udeshi. Please be sure to say hello if you haven't already.

I am so proud of what we do for the Village with our hands, but it's what we do with our hearts that matters most, like coming together to support each other during difficult times. Please keep our friend Janel and all members in your thoughts and deeds.

Jenny

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## LIBRARY DESK FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THURSDAYS

2/22 - Anthea Luter            3/8 Barbara Masarky  
3/1 Marianne Maher        3/29 Liz O'leary

## GROUP LIBRARY ARRANGEMENT

3/15 - 3/29 Ginny Bryan, Mandy Clark, Eileen Dowling, Gail Modelski, Betty Wiest

**NJ FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW - "Color the World"** FEBRUARY 22-25 at NJ Convention & Expo Center, Edison, NJ

**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW - "Wonders of Water"** MARCH 3-11 at Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA

## CHANGES FOR 2017/2018 YEARBOOK

Please contact Judith Field, [judithwfield2@gmail.com](mailto:judithwfield2@gmail.com), with any corrections, changes or additions for the yearbook.

(Page 18) We have sad news. Dale Berian, a past Club member, has passed away.

(Page 14) We welcome a new member, V Udeshi, 658 Shelton Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450, phone: 973-320-2321, cell: 201-463-3359, e-mail: [vhudeshi@gmail.com](mailto:vhudeshi@gmail.com). Her husband's name is Himanshu.

**WORKSHOP – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 5-7 PM, (arrive 4:30 PM)**



*PINOT'S PALETTE*

### **Poppin' Peonies, Paint an' Sip**

Please join us to paint Pinot's Poppin' Peonies, on a CANVAS TOTE BAG! A portion of your fee will be donated to a nonprofit or community fundraiser, which will be to the WOMEN GARDENERS OF RIDGEWOOD!

The cost is \$37.

To register...

Click or paste into your browser:

<http://www.pinotpalette.com/ridgewood/event/207438>

PAINT. DRINK. HAVE FUN.

## REMINDER ABOUT DUES

Dues must be paid by March 15 for 2018-2019, so please make out a check for \$75.00 to WGR if you are an active member. Associate members pay \$37.50. Mail your check to Eileen Dowling, 504D Aspen Lane, Wyckoff, NJ 07481 or give it to her at the March 2 meeting. It is important that you pay on time so we can pay our dues to the Garden Club of New Jersey on time.

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## GARDEN TOUR UPDATE

The next full committee Garden Tour meeting will be on Tuesday, February 27th, 10 a.m. at the Stable. Please contact Maria directly if unable to attend. Our tri-fold "invitation," to be mailed out mid-April, is ready for final print. Volunteers will be needed to help with the mailing. Our Website and Facebook page will be updated with all ticket info but we first need to start testing PayPal. Each member is expected to take one decent shift the day of the tour. If you have any friends or family members who may be interested in helping, please email Barbara Masarky and Lisa Betancourt. Please contact Debbie Engel directly if you have anything to donate to the Potting Shed sale. Jenny Given has negotiated with The Catch-y Caterer, Ho-Ho-Kus, for pre-ordered box lunches, a first for our tour. We have been contacted by artists requesting to paint plein air the day of the tour; we agreed and will assign the gardens. Ticket design has begun; Judith Field has completed our map, Barbara Ferrante has started working on garden descriptions and Liz O'Leary has started sketches of each garden. The James Rose Center has asked for WGR volunteers to help spruce up the garden before the tour - date(s) will be announced.

## POTTING SHED UPDATE

Please gather any 'Potting Shed' items for donation. The club will sell everything at the 2018 Secret Garden Tour....

We need:

Floral, Garden and Yard equipment, tools and decor...

Power or Manual, Antique, Gently Used or New!

We will begin picking up donations in April. We appreciate each item for the benefit of the club.

Please call Debbie Engel at 917-678-6235 or email her at [kjdsengel@gmail.com](mailto:kjdsengel@gmail.com) with any questions.



**GREEN KIDS**, THURSDAYS, 3:30-4:30 PM, at the Stable, 259 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood

This is a nature and gardening club for Village youth, grades 3-5, co-sponsored by Parks & Rec and WGR. To volunteer, contact Leslie Kolvek, [lesliekolvek@verizon.net](mailto:lesliekolvek@verizon.net) or Anthea Luter, [abluter@hotmail.com](mailto:abluter@hotmail.com).

- April 5      Rock Art - The children will create painted rocks of snakes, caterpillars and bugs for the Green Kids garden and to take home.
- April 19     The Buzz on Bees - The children will learn about honey bees and the value of these vitally important creatures from Frank Mortimer, Chair of the Northeast Bee Keepers Association. He will give a demonstration with a live bee hive and have a honey tasting.
- April 26     Caterpillar to Butterfly - The children will be introduced to the life cycle and stages of the butterfly. We will house 'Painted Lady' caterpillars while they transform into butterflies. The children will learn about the Milkweed plant and plant some in their perennial garden.
- May 3        Rain Barrels and Water Conservation - The Children will assemble a rain barrel for the Green Kids garden and learn about water conservation from the Ridgewood Water Department.
- May 10      Wind Chimes for Mother's Day -The children will create wind chimes from bamboo and give them as Mother's Day gifts.
- May 17      Butterfly Release & Planting in the Garden - The children will plant flowers in the garden and release the butterflies to their new home in their garden.

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## HELP WANTED

WGR needs a Public Relations Chairman or Co-chairmen to finish out this year. If you (and a WGR friend) would agree to take on this position, you would be our hero(s), as well as gain so much useful experience in the field of public relations. The goal of this job is to help educate the public about WGR and the many community services we perform. No previous experience is necessary, just a knowledge of club activities and willingness to forward photos and information to the media, primarily The Ridgewood News. If you would like to help, please contact Jenny Given at [jgivfam@gmail.com](mailto:jgivfam@gmail.com) or phone (201) 612-0508.

## NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK - THE WEEK OF JUNE 18

As many of you already know, Ridgewood has been designated the first "Bee City" in New Jersey. This effort was spearheaded by Frank Mortimer, President of the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association, who is a local beekeeper here in Ridgewood. In celebration of this and to raise awareness of the role of pollinators, the week of June 18th has been designated as National Pollinator Week. Many organizations, such as The Conservancy for Ridgewood Public Lands, Health Barn, the Bergen-Passaic Native Plant Society, and the Ridgewood Public Library, have partnered to present a week of events. In this spirit, the Women Gardeners of Ridgewood is sponsoring noted guest speaker, Rick Mikula, "The Butterfly Guy" on Saturday, June 23rd, at 11 a.m. at Bookends. Rick is a Habitat Consultant for numerous museums, zoos, aviaries, universities, and parks, such as Dolly Parton's Butterfly Emporium at Dollywood and the Hershey Gardens Butterfly House. Rick has also been featured on Animal Planet and the Discovery Channel, as well as in newspapers, magazines and on the radio. Rick's presentation will be aimed at children, but will be delightful for the whole family. We are indeed lucky to be part of this event. All costs for this event will be underwritten by the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association.

## GARDEN GATE RESOURCE ROOM OPEN DAY - FEBRUARY 13, at Habernickel Park



Barbara French and Liz O'Leary are continuing to categorize the books for easy browsing.

The Resource Room welcomed its first visitor on the open day in February. With the help of sketches he made, we discussed ways for him to plant new gardens around a house he recently bought.

The Resource Room has recently had a number of maintenance issues taken care of by the Village of Ridgewood. It is now a very comfortable place to hold small committee meetings, or to just hang out and use the books to research projects in your gardens. As a reminder, the room is open to all WGR members on any weekday when the building is open. The signage has been adjusted to include black-lettered printing on the sign outdoors, and arrows placed on the walls indoors to help show where we are located. We could still use a bulletin board and more books. Nancy Greene from the Library is creating a flyer for us.

The next Open Day is Tuesday, March 13, 1-3 p.m. Dorothy Folger has volunteered to help. Please contact Liz O'Leary or Judith Field if you would like to volunteer for May 8 or June 12.



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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's that time of year again! The Nominating Committee, Sharon Gilsenan, Jenny Given and Anthea Luter, will be having their first meeting later this month. They are asking that, if any of the current chairs are interested in continuing with their present position, please contact them. If anyone is interested in becoming involved on a different committee please let them know of that interest as well. It is important to remember that being involved can be very rewarding. It is an opportunity to learn, form friendships and have fun!!

## LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 2, at the Library Auditorium



Judith Field, Debbie Engel, Barbara French, Samara Saunders and Lisa Betancourt prepared a Valentine lunch. Arnie Friedman from *Landscapes by design* discussed 'water wise' property.

## MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 2

**Present:** Betancourt, Blanco, Bryan, Clark, Clinch, Cohen, Collins, E., Collins, J., Dowling, Engel, Ferrante, Field, Folger, French, Garfield, Gilosa, Gilsenan, Given, Kokoska, Lehmann, Luter, Masarky, Modelski, O'Leary, Perog, Saunders, Scanlan, Steffens, Unver, Vermeylen, Wiener

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 by Jenny Given, President. Jenny thanked the hostesses for the lovely luncheon and thanked the program chairs for a very interesting speaker.

Jenny asked Carol Lehmann, Membership Chairman, to introduce our new member. Carol asked V Udeshi to stand so she could introduce her to everyone and she gave her a gift from the Club. Jenny also asked Sharon Gilsenan and Janel Clinch to introduce their guests. Sharon introduced her daughter, Leigh Saltiel, who is already working on our website placing our own photos there; and Janel introduced Nancy Ricca. Jenny reported to the club that Ginny Bryan had told us that Dale Berian had passed away. Dale was a long time member who had moved to Florida.

**Executive Vice President's Report:** Sharon Gilsenan reminded the club that this was the time of year we form a nominating committee to set up the committee chairmen for next year. Sharon asked club members to consider what they would like to be involved in next year, would they like a new job or would they like to continue in the one they currently have, and she emphasized that these jobs are fun and when shared with others in the club bring us all closer together.

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Sharon also reported that we are one of the participating groups in National Pollinators Week, June 18th to June 25th, 2018. The other groups are the North East NJ Beekeepers Association, Project Pride, Health Barn, Native Plant Association, the Ridgewood Library and the Ridgewood Conservancy. Each group is responsible for hosting an event during the week. We will be sponsoring a talk at BookEnds on Saturday, June 23rd at 11 AM by Frank Mutula who is an expert on butterflies. He will be dressed up as a butterfly and the event will be geared to families and young children. We do not have to pay for the speaker as Frank Mortimer the head of the Beekeepers Association and head of this committee has funds to cover the costs of the speakers. One day during the week the Native Plant Association will be holding a native plant sale.

**Programs:** Barbara French reminded club members that we have a workshop scheduled at Pinot's Palette on Wednesday, March 14th at 4:30 in the afternoon to drink wine, eat snacks, and paint a canvas tote bag. Barbara said she would have a flyer coming out soon. We need a minimum of 12 people.

**Treasurer's Report:** Eileen Dowling reported that we had a balance of \$13,249.61 on December 31, 2017 and our balance was \$12,423.51 on February 2, 2018. Eileen reminded everyone that she needs to collect \$75 dues by the end of March. We have to pay our dues to the Garden Club of NJ then. She said she would start collecting dues today and checks can be mailed to her or brought to the March meeting.

**Garden Tour:** Maria Gilosa reported that the garden tour was moving forward very quickly now. She said: our tri-fold mailing is being fine-tuned and will be mailed in mid-April, the homeowners questionnaires have been returned, we have received checks from all the sponsors and they are listed on our website, Barbara Ferrante and Liz O'Leary and Judith Field are working on the ticket, we are working on having a boxed lunch available to order in advance, we are updating PayPal so that boxed lunches can be ordered there as well as tickets, the potting shed chairs have sent out an e-mail looking for used pots, tools, and other garden items, two or three of the gardens will have artists working in them. Maria told everyone that we have scheduled a full garden tour committee meeting for Tuesday, February 27th at 10 AM at the Stable.

**Public Gardens:** Jenny noted that all the gardens are dormant now. She told the Club that we had heard from the National Garden Club in response to the applications we had submitted for grants to fund projects in our gardens. Two of the applications, Van Neste Park and Habernickel Park, were turned down. Jenny said that she believed that the National Garden Club was intending to fund community gardens that had been impacted by natural disasters, such as the hurricanes in the south and the fires in the far west. We have not heard about the other two grants.

**Special Projects:** Jenny and Eleanor Collins thanked everyone who had helped take down the holiday display in Van Neste on Jan 3. All the boxes that still look good will be kept for next year. They are currently in the shed at Habernickel but they will be moved (along with our other supplies for the boxes) to the basement of the gatehouse at Habernickel where we have a permit to store things. Many of the metal stakes used to tie down the boxes are still frozen in the ground at Van Neste. Anyone walking by might check to see if they can be removed.

**Resource Room:** We are working hard to get publicity for the resource room. We will add some more signs inside the gatehouse at Habernickel to guide visitors upstairs to the room. We can still use books and periodicals on gardening if anyone has any to donate.

**New Business:** Jenny reported that she had heard from Marcia Ringle, a member of the Preserve Graydon Committee that the American Sycamore tree at Graydon has died and is in danger of falling. It will be taken down by the Village. Marcia is interested in having help from us to gather seed pods from the tree to try and propagate another tree and to find ways to repurpose the wood from the tree. There is also interest in gathering photographs of the tree. Anthea Luter and Eleanor Collins said they would help.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Toni Cohen, Co-Recording Secretary