

# Clippings

## JAN 2019

NEWSLETTER FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF HINGHAM

### ✧ *A Message from the President* ✧

Dear Garden Club Members,

The fall is such a busy time for our Club - in addition to our meetings, the gardens were put to bed, we enjoyed the Octoberfest fall social, we made and sold 260+ wreaths, we went on two field trips, and we celebrated the holidays at our December luncheon. If you missed any of these events, they are described in this issue and Ester Zhong has posted videos of many of them on Facebook.

One of the things that I appreciate about our club is that everything we do is an opportunity to learn something and be inspired. After the presentation by floral designer Tony Todesco in November, I went straight to Michaels so I could try to duplicate one of his designs. I freely admit that I am not very creative but I am pretty good at following directions. I was pleased with my Thanksgiving creation and I know that I am not the only member who was motivated to try something new. He was fantastic!

I have been to the Breakers several times but I couldn't have imagined how beautiful it would look decorated for the holidays. I took photos of some of the arrangements to add to my collection of floral design ideas.

We returned to the Garden House at the Old Ordinary for workshops and sales this year. As we worked, many members fondly reminisced about past times in the Garden House and our job was made easier as the space was entirely ours for the duration of the process. Having worked on wreaths since I have been a member, I thought I knew everything there is to know about making wreaths but the amazing organization of Chair, Penni Hughes streamlined the process and resulted in the successful assembly of this year's beautiful wreath.

We have some interesting speakers in the new year and a field trip to a tulip farm. Our annual meeting will also be a President's Tea with a presentation by member, Sarah Boynton. I hope you are as excited as I am about these opportunities to learn.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who make my job easier: my fellow Officers, Directors, Committee Chairpersons, the active members who work so hard on the various committees, and the associate members who enthusiastically attend meetings and social events - that's basically everyone! As host of this year's fall social, I want to gratefully acknowledge the talents and hard work of our Hospitality Committee. As host, I barely had to lift a finger! The decorations, delicious food, beer and wine, faithfully carried out the theme and a wonderful time was had by all who attended.

Looking forward to 2019!

Joyce

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

JAN 16: MEETING

FEB 13: MEETING

MAR 20: MEETING

APR 17: MEETING

DTBA- FIELD TRIP  
Tulip farm

ART IN BLOOM  
APRIL 27-29

MAY 15: MEETING

JUN 12: MEETING  
& LUNCHEON

## Oktoberfest

On October 27th, the Garden Club held its annual Fall Social at the home of Joyce and Robert Mandell. In total, we had about 52 members and guests, including some prospective new members. The Hospitality Committee had decorated the Mandell home with Oktoberfest themed garlands, casual floral arrangements in beer steins and the traditional blue and white checked table cloths, plates and napkins. Guests were greeted by Nancy Herde who gave each woman a traditional, decorated Lebkuchen cookie on a string to wear around her neck for the evening...While guests socialized around the attended bar before dinner, they enjoyed both traditional Oktoberfest beers and German and Austrian wines along with warm Bavarian pretzels, and German cheeses and sausages. Dinner was served buffet style and included Oktoberfest favorites such as Weisswurst, Sauerkraut and sausages, roast chickens, Kartoffelsalat(potato salad) and a variety of green salads. Deserts offered were traditional recipes of German Chocolate cake, Apple Kuchen, strudels and assorted cookies. All cooking was done by the Hospitality committee members. The freshly made sausages and pretzels as well as the cheeses and smoked sausages were acquired at Karl's Sausage Kitchen in Saugus, MA. The day after the party, remaining flowers were gathered into bouquets and distributed to local hospitals and nursing facilities for enjoyment of the patients. Many thanks to the committee for their help and dedication in making this a successful and fun annual event. - Meg Glazer





***PITCHER  
PERFECT!***



## Visit to Flax Pond Farms



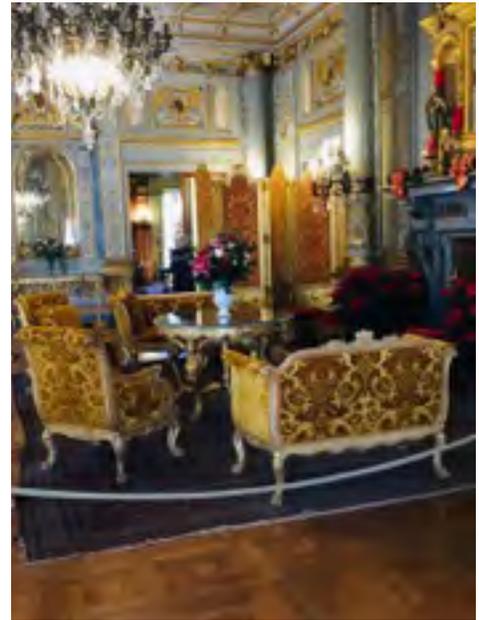
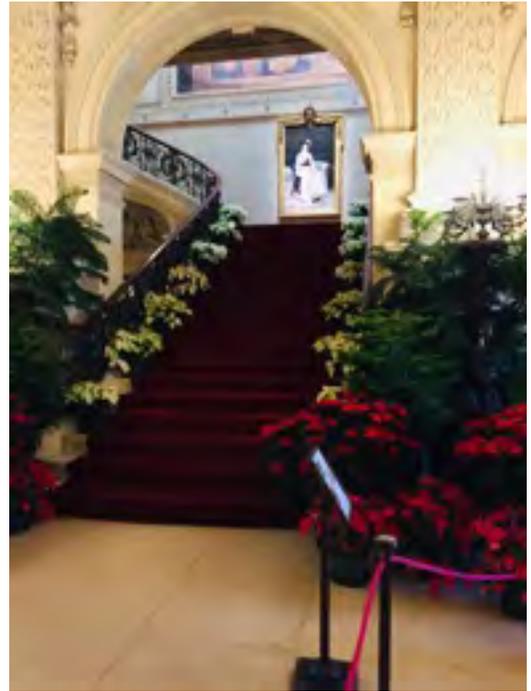
On October 10th members of the Garden Club visited 100 acre Flax Pond Farms in Carver. These cranberry farms are part of the Ocean Spray Cooperative and produce 150 - 200 barrels per acre. Although the farm has been in production since the 1890's, the current owner is Jack Angley who proved to be a most informative tour guide. He spoke of the dry harvest his farm employs, as well as irrigation, pest and temperature control issues. We witnessed the helicopters carrying containers from the fields to the Ocean Spray facility. An explanation of old methods and tools was also provided. Esther and her father tried the old cranberry sorting machine! Hot but fun field trip!!! - Debra Flaherty



## Off to the Breakers!

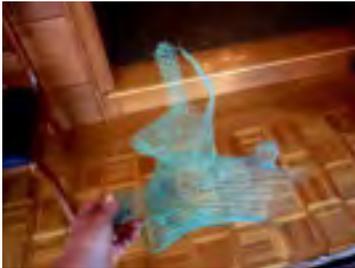
What an inspirational way to start the holidays! Members of the Garden Club toured the Breakers Mansion in Newport which was dressed for the season! The staircases of the grand foyer were lined with large red poinsettia plants while the main attraction was a very large red poinsettia Christmas tree! The dining table was set with the best china and crystal which sparkled under the enormous chandeliers! While each of the remaining rooms was seasonally decorated, the second showcase was the kitchen with it's numerous Christmas trees! The audio tour provided a wealth of information from how the family lived while in residence to the history and facts regarding the construction and maintenance of the mansion. A very fun day!!

-Debra Flaherty



## Horticulture Committee

*While the arrival of fall brings a winding down of outdoor gardening activities, members of the Horticulture Committee and Garden Club were treated to a creative lesson by Chair Susan Zuger.*



Inspired by the Green Animals topiary garden near Newport RI, we did a demonstration on making our own potted green animals.

Using the lightest gauge of hardware cloth (available at Home Depot or Lowes) cut out shapes to create an animal form of your choice. Copying a pattern for a stuffed toy animal is useful. Cut out the shapes with tin snips and then sew the parts together with galvanized fine wire leaving openings to stuff with spagnum moss and spray paint the completed frame green to protect the wires and blend in with the final moss covering. Using a glue gun cover the outside of the frame with dried sheet moss and then wrap it with clear fishing line leader to hold it tight. Stuff the inside of the frame with spagnum moss and potting mix, and close off the openings with more sheet moss glue gunned in place. Pot up the topiary form with a miniature ivy to slowly train over the form. It will look attractive upon completion and will become quite impressive as the ivy finally covers the entire form. The large bird topiary pictured was made for our last club garden tour and is now fully covered with ivy and just requires watering and an occasional clipping to keep him neat. Leaping bunny, shown in process, is underplanted with miniature cyclamen to finish it off.

It is a great project that will grace your garden in the summer and a sunny window sill in the winter.

-Susan Zuger



**In another workshop,** Susan demonstrated the art of transforming homemade marshmallow fondant into lovely sculpted flowers. Not only beautiful, but delicious!



## And now it's your turn...

### **Dress up your winter potted plants with a "pot-en-fleur" basket.**

Now is the perfect time to find a large basket left over from holiday gifts or even found at the Swap Corner of the transfer station and use it to transform an ordinary houseplant into a beautiful Winter season display.

Materials: 1 large basket

hot glue gun, an old chopstick as a pusher, and a small bowl of ice water to plunge in your fingers in case of contact with hot glue (ouch)

floral wire

heavy plastic garbage bag

old bowl or deep glass pie plate that fits in the basket

pine cones, nuts in the shell, dried pods, twigs from the garden, dried vines, and dried moss

scissors,

white glue, metallic spray paint, glitter (optional)

Cut out a large enough part of the plastic garbage bag to line the inside of the basket, pushing it down and folding the excess down between the basket edge and liner. Secure it with hot glue all the way around. Place the bowl or glass pie plate in the bottom to act as a saucer for watering your plants. The plastic liner will contain any small splashes when watering. Varnish, gild, or glitter any of the dried materials that you choose.

Work your way around the edges of the basket wiring on pine cones, hot gluing small cones, nuts and twigs to enhance the basket sides and handle.

Fill in spaces with bits of dried moss secured with the hot glue gun. Make sure that you leave space to insert the pot of your plant as you bring your embellishments over into the interior edge of the basket.

Now pop in your potted winter blooming white hellebore, the poinsettia left from Christmas that still looks good, the cyclamen that could use a little glamour, or the amaryllis bulbs that are finally starting to shoot up. Fill in any gaps between the basket and pot with a bit more moss and show off your handiwork.

Best of the season from the Horticulture Committee!

Susan Zuger



## Wreath Project



The Wreath Committee got together for their first workshop at Joyce Mandel's house to make bows on Tuesday, September 25. Thereafter, 18 workshops were held at the Garden Shed behind the Old Ordinary to make, assemble and sell our annual fundraiser wreaths. More than thirty Garden Club members along with their family and friends helped assemble the bows, pinecones and balls needed to make the eventual 263 wreaths that were either sold or donated to the Community. It's been a few years since the Garden Club has been able to use the Garden Shed but this space really lends itself to our wreath-making project. Lots of GCH members really turned out to help and told entertaining stories. Workshops were held from 9:30 till 12:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays so members could come late or leave early and lend a hand if only for an hour or two. The workshops are a great way for new members to meet people though I noticed plenty of long-term members helping out and making new friends too. The balsam wreaths were delivered on Veterans Day, assembly began the next day and everyone really got in the spirit with the scent of Christmas in the air. After two months of diligent work wiring 6,312 pinecones, 1052 triplet balls and 263 bows, the committee was on schedule for wreath pickup the weekend after Thanksgiving. Our traditional wreath of gold and natural pinecones accented with shiny red balls and gold edged red ribbon was well received and as always, we sold out. We also continued the new tradition of making a huge Community Wreath to hang in front of the Old Derby Museum .

Most important, the Wreath Committee made more than \$8,000 for the Garden Club to put towards their good works around town. Thanks to all the members who made this year's Holiday Wreath Sale another successful fundraiser for the Garden Club of Hingham. -Penni Hughes

# Holiday Luncheon

On December 12th, the Garden Club members gathered for the annual Holiday luncheon and meeting at the Lightkeeper's Cottage in Cohasset. This annual event is always a crowd pleaser and brings together many members who may not otherwise attend monthly meetings on a regular basis. As a themed event, the Hospitality committee had decided to have floral and table decorations in the theme of the "12 Days of Christmas and Hanukkah Fun!" Each dining table was set with a neutral, cream colored cloth and place settings, allowing the table decoration to represent, in a variety of creative ways, the twelve days of Christmas. "Hanukkah Fun!" was displayed at the dessert table while the Cookie Swap table was embellished with a sweeping display of Christmas nutcrackers! Once again, the Hospitality Committee had asked that members contribute appetizers, and a variety of salads and main courses for the members to enjoy. Meg Glazer baked a variety of cakes that were offered with coffee for dessert. This year, we decided to have a cookie swap and were not disappointed in the variety and participation from the members! Lovely, home baked cookies were displayed on long tables and gave members a good choice for what types they would take home to enjoy over the holidays. Many thanks to the Hospitality committee for their dedication to making this a fun event for all! -Meg Glazer



# The Twelve Days of Christmas

*On the first day of Christmas*

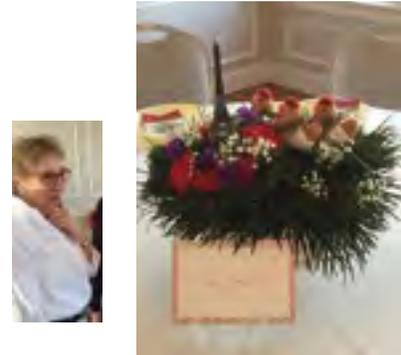
*my true love gave to me...*



**A partridge in a pear tree**  
-Erin Bradley



**Two turtle doves**  
-Jeanne Sylvester



**Three French hens**  
-Kathy Norman



**Five gold rings**  
-Jane Shute



**Six geese a laying**  
-Shirley Rydell



**Eight maids a milking**  
- Carolyn Clark



**Nine ladies dancing**  
- Ellen Garrow, Sarah Boynton  
and Jill Setian



**Twelve drummers drumming**  
Anne Veilleux and Nancy Herde

## ***WHAT GARDENERS***

### ***DO IN WINTER...***

1. Sharpen tools
2. Disinfect pots
3. Build an indoor seed starter
4. Sort through seed packs and discard
5. Visit the gardening section of the Library
6. Take advantage of post-holiday sales
7. Go online and explore gardening sites
8. Dream of spring

*Looking for a Sunset Bird  
in Winter*

The west was getting out of gold,  
The breath of air had died of cold,  
When shoeing home across the white,  
I thought I saw a bird alight.

In summer when I passed the place  
I had to stop and lift my face;  
A bird with an angelic gift  
Was singing in it sweet and swift.

No bird was singing in it now.  
A single leaf was on a bough,  
And that was all there was to see  
In going twice around the tree.

From my advantage on a hill  
I judged that such a crystal chill  
Was only adding frost to snow  
As gilt to gold that wouldn't show.

A brush had left a crooked stroke  
Of what was either cloud or smoke  
From north to south across the blue;  
A piercing little star was through.



Robert Frost

Note from the editor:

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Clippings.  
Particular thanks to Esther Zhong for her photographs.

-Carolyn Clark