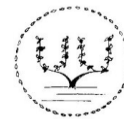


THE GARDENZETTE



The newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, VA www.rockspringgardenclub.com

Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc., Central Atlantic Region, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., District III; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District



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General Meeting

Thursday January 16, 2025 – 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

Anita's and Thea's Adventures in Scotland

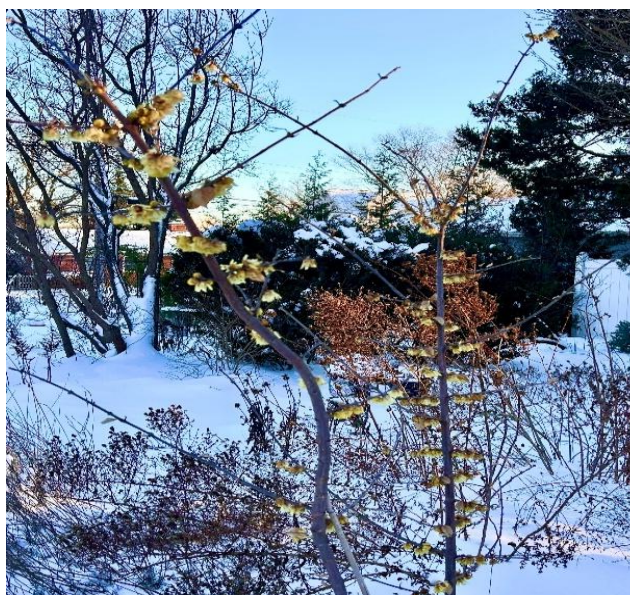


Happy New Year 2025! For our January program, join club members Thea McGinnis and Anita Brown on their fun powerpoint journey to Southwest Scotland – castles, golf, and Robert Burns country.

President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

As I get ready to write this, snow is steadily falling outside. Several years ago, I watched a program on Piet Oudolf, the Dutch garden designer and nurseryman who focuses primarily on structural characteristics in the garden, such as leaf or seed pod shapes. The program highlighted his Hummelo garden in the Netherlands throughout the seasons, and his garden looked particularly spectacular in the winter months when the snow and frost covered the grasses and the black seed pods of his perennial plants. Inspired, I planted several grasses and sturdy stalked perennials that I do not cut back, such as echinaceas, liatris, and hydrangeas, in the hopes that when they stand up to the frost and snow, coated in white, I too will create an ethereal otherworldliness look in my garden. I hope that you all are standing strong and beautiful after this latest snowfall as we move into our winter club activities after a busy autumn. The next few months will be all about bylaws revision discussions, new board elections, and membership renewals, and I encourage everyone to be as participatory as possible to ensure the continued strength and success of our garden club.



Maryam's wintersweet shrub blooming for the first time this winter. The flowers are beautifully scented!

December 2024 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$20,301.20

Revenue: \$498.00

Expenses: (\$103.79)

Net: \$394.21

Ending Balance: \$20,695.41

Next Board Meeting

Thursday Feb 6, 2025 at 4:30 pm

Attendance options are in-person at
Kate Abrahams's home

Or via Zoom

Design

of the Month:

Traditional Petite Design

By Kate Abrahams

I'm happy to report that many members have two design credits already after the pumpkins, trays, line designs, and Holiday Tea. The next months' assignments will introduce more design types that I hope you will try. January's assignment is a petite, traditional design using a bowl as a container. You can use a teacup and saucer if you like. A Traditional Petite Design is staged in a round bowl. Design is not to exceed 10 inches in height, width, and depth. Must use all fresh plant material, have a closed silhouette form (sphere, triangle, oval, or rounded triangle) and design is completed in both front and back. One point of emergence for plant material. The Frame of Reference or total allotted area for the design on the display table will be a 20-inch square space. A 20-inch-high backboard will be provided. Appropriate scale of the elements to each other i.e. size of the container to size of plant materials and proportionate filling of space within the Frame of Reference is important. Tips for Traditional Designs: Height of the plant material is 1.5 – 2 times the height of the container. Plant material is integrated rather than grouped and shows gradations of size, shape, color, and texture. It is visually a mass of plant material in a closed form rather than an open, airy design. For petite designs (under 12 inches tall), it helps to cut out a cardboard square with the maximum design dimensions to see if the design fits

within the space. In this case, a 10-inch cardboard square can measure the height, width and depth of the design. If you wish, making an open 10-inch square box can be even better. If you have any questions, please contact me. Also take a look at The NGC Handbook for Flower Shows, Chapter 7 Design, pages 63-71; this will explain traditional design types. The online handbook can be found at <https://gardenclub.org>. Choose the NGC FS HB with Revisions tab to display the complete Handbook. Good luck!



Garden Therapy

By Kate Abrahams

The Garden Club Ladies (Pat Getz, Mary Sliwa, Mary Garnett, Susan Scotti, Margi Melnick and Kate Abrahams) visited Miss Donna's classroom at Glebe Elementary to teach the 13 pre-schoolers about evergreen trees and shrubs. Pat began by talking about evergreens in the landscape which led to displaying branches of fresh evergreens such as aucuba, boxwood, pine, spruce, cedar, fir, juniper and holly, and different types of seed cones. The children enjoyed touching the examples of broadleaf and needled leaves and noticing the red berries on aucuba, the juniper's blue berries and hard or soft scales and cavities in the different cones. Mary Garnett read the picture book "**Little Pine**" which explains the special role of pine trees in the winter to provide shelter and food for forest creatures and how large and majestic they are among tree species. Then, Margi led the classroom in a rousing sing-a-long of Jingle Bells after distributing jingle bells to all the children. She showed them pictures of a horse drawn sleigh with jingle bells in the snow to explain the song's verses. They love to sing! Meanwhile, the team set up the two tables for the last activity, creating pine trees with short stems of Frasier Fir in an oasis-filled jar and decorating the jars with stickers and the trees with glittery pipe cleaners and tiny ornaments on hooks. The children happily created their trees and some sang along as they worked with the evergreen stems. Many thanks to all who participated and shared some botany knowledge to the youngsters along with holiday cheer!



Senior Outreach

By Mary Kudless

Holiday Magic: Donations, Herbal Decorations, and Music!

On December 17, the Senior Outreach Committee delivered the Club's final and generous donations to the Mary Marshall Home and also provided a beautiful hands-on program.

Many thanks to our Club members for their donations of socks and personal products for the 5th year in a row. We appreciated the willingness of our Club leadership to include Mary Marshall's Directors in our beautiful Holiday Tea. In attendance were Divina Alston, Executive Director, and Tujana Alston, the new Life Enrichment Coordinator. They really enjoyed the beautiful afternoon with us and transported all our gifts back to the facility for packing and delivery on Christmas morning.

Carol Froehlich led the day's program with assistance from Jody and Mary. There had been a request for decorations for the holiday tree. Carol devised a wonderful idea for the residents: she gathered numerous varieties of seasonal fresh and dried herbs, and we provided a medley to each resident who then filled up to 10 red sachet bags. The completed bags were placed on the tree and after the holiday will have another life, perfuming "sock drawers" and closets in the resident rooms. This program really evoked all the senses, as residents worked with us to identify, smell, touch and pulverize a range of herbal mixtures into their homemade sachets. The scents of rosemary, myrrh, lavender, lemongrass, cinnamon, vanilla and many others certainly evoked memories of holidays past, for all of us.



The fun continued with a lively holiday musicale. We assisted the residents to move to another room which houses a piano. Carol is both a pianist and a guitarist and devised our first musicale last year. Jody distributed a number of musical instruments, such as bells and maracas to the residents who jumped right in to accompany Carol's piano tunes, singing away and creating very happy music. We had a wonderful visitor to the program, Ann Marie Fay, who came to help out with the singing. She was a most welcome addition in her festive holiday sweater, and she can carry a tune, too!



The tree behind Carol, Mary and Tujuana is filled with the sachet decorations. We welcome Tujuana who was very excited about the program, clearly loves her new position and did a great job of helping the residents to enjoy every minute of this special afternoon. We look forward to working with her in the coming year, as we bring seasonal, floral, and nature-oriented programs to the Seniors who live at Mary Marshall Assisted Living.



Youth Activities

By Pat Getz

The Youth Activities committee met at Tuckahoe Elementary School in December to guide 12 second graders in creating some holiday cheer. Our program started with Liddy Schwartz reading a book about how a variety of animals live and thrive in the winter, while the children ate their lunch. They were quite taken with the book and offered lots of questions and comments. We then explained our project for the month, building holiday trees. Each student received a plastic jar filled with oasis, and pine branches gleaned from a Christmas lot (thanks Kate!), and a few other types of greens from committee members' yards. The students each constructed a tree in the jars. After the trees were built, they were supplied with markers, stickers, tiny beads and wire hangers, and foam cutouts of winter-related shapes to decorate the trees and jars. The children were all very enthusiastic about their creations and excited to be able to take them home and share with their families.



PHOTO GALLERY

**From the December Holiday Tea at
Charlotte Benjamin's house**







**Atlanta Botanical Gardens Holiday Display
From Pat Getz**



