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<http://www.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org>

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **85** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 84 NO. 10**

(First Chartered 1936)

**December, 2021**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**

**PLACE: Zoom - see link below**

Program accessible from anywhere in the world via the Internet

You can “Join using a Browser” Downloading ZOOM is NOT required

A telephone # is supplied for an audio connection with or without a computer

**PROGRAM:** Please be sure to join us for our Annual Holiday “Gathering” on Thursday, **December 9 at 7:00pm via ZOOM**. This year we have once again invited the very busy floral designer, **Michele Peters, owner of Ambiance Floral & Events** in Loudonville, to do a very special video floral demonstration live from her very own studio!

**Michele** is a long-time friend of our club, who for numerous years has done some truly unique and outstanding holiday floral arrangements at our holiday dinner meetings. She is a certified floral designer who has won many awards, having also been inducted into the prestigious American Institute of Floral Designers organization.

Traditionally our December meetings were also special as a designated “Ladies Night,” and we honor all the women in attendance with a beautiful Poinsettia plant to take home. Also, the arrangements that Michele made that evening would randomly be raffled as free gifts to several of those in attendance. Well, be sure to join us for this year’s event, as the tradition will continue. Those on the ZOOM video presentation on December 9 will be eligible to have their name pulled to receive one of **Michele’s** fabulous floral creations, which will be personally delivered to you from one of our club members the next day.

So, we excitedly wait to see what fantastic ideas **Michele** will come up with this year, and we hope you will be a part of this fun event where you can be eligible to take home one of her floral delights!

**Topic: Michele Peters, owner of Ambiance Floral & Events**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83271676748>

Meeting ID: 832 7167 6748 One tap mobile +19292056099,,83271676748# US (NY)

## **October meeting Thank You.**

For our October meeting we took advantage of the unusually warm weather to meet outside at the **Indian Ladder Farm**. A dozen of us met, did some apple picking and enjoyed some apple cider, donuts, and great conversation with friends.

Thanks goes to all that participated and especially to **Greg Goutos** for continuing to come up with great programs as we are unable to meet for formal dinners as we have in the past.

## **Two \$500 Scholarships Awarded**

### **Scholarship Winners Announced**

The Scholarship Committee received two stellar applications this spring from students attending college who are majoring in degrees supporting the green industry. The **Joe Herman Memorial Scholarship** is normally a \$500 award given to one student a year, but last year no student applied for the scholarship. The committee decided that because it was not given last year, that we had extra funds available to support giving two scholarships out this year. Congratulations to our two recipients, which we hope to invite to an upcoming club gathering for the rest of us to meet!

**Kyle Mazzola** attends SUNY Cobleskill, where he will be starting his senior year in the Bachelor's program. He is majoring in Agriculture and Animal Science/Dairy Management. He personally maintains a 3-acre vegetable garden, where he donates many of his extra produce to the local food pantry. He has been involved with 4-H and FFA for many years, and currently serves as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee in his hometown of Plymouth, Mass.

**Elizabeth Brzezinski** is a returning student to the college experience, who is attending SUNY Delhi. after being a stay-at-home mother of four children, ranging from 5 to 17 years old. She is a Floriculture major and has served as the Vice President and Treasurer of the Horticulture Club. She currently works at Hannaford as well, where she is the plant merchandiser in the flower department.

## **Club dues support community work**

**Garden Club of the Capital District** members support educational programming, a scholarship program and youth gardening initiatives club dues. The club board of directors has established a new dues tier for 2022, reflecting our transition from the Men's Garden Club of Albany to the Garden Club of the Capital District.

In addition to our long-standing \$25 dues for individual members, we will now offer family memberships for \$30. We are appreciative of members paying dues early in the new year.

Please send your check - Payable to GCCD  
to: Russ Greenman GCCD Treasurer  
25 Worthman Lane  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

## Youth Gardening

Our Youth Gardening program has found another worthwhile program to support. Check out our very own - **Bill Stoneman's** [The Vegetable Project](#) -

Dear Friends,

We have seen some nice responses to a number of initiatives in recent weeks, ranging from engaging big crowds of kids at the **Myers Garden Club** to connecting with a bunch of teachers at a couple of different schools who we have not previously worked with to building relationships with people with district-wide curriculum and instruction responsibilities. A short note below from **Gary Nowik**, sixth-grade science teacher at Myers and steadfast partner for just about forever, is about another satisfying moment, but one that is a bit different than some of the others.

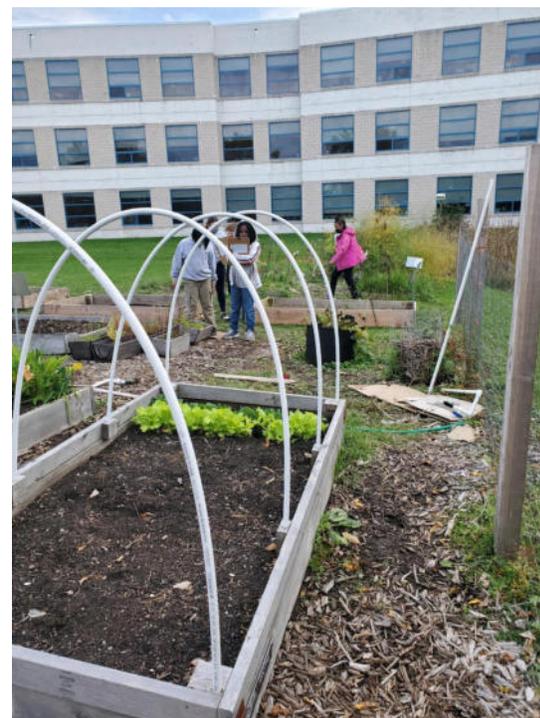
The difference is that we had no direct role in **Barbara Kennedy's** step outside, even if we would like to take some credit for giving the idea of outdoor instruction some visibility.. It's also notable because social studies doesn't offer quite the obvious connection with the garden that science or perhaps family and consumer sciences do. We're pretty sure, however, the contribution to wellbeing that fresh air and sunshine and green grass make can support social studies classes as well as all the rest of them!

I am looking forward to the next report of a teacher harnessing the power of exposure to nature!

Bill

Creating hands-on learning opportunities

[www.vegetableproject.org](http://www.vegetableproject.org)  
[www.facebook.com/vegetableproject](https://www.facebook.com/vegetableproject)



## Youth Gardening - continued



Recently **Jack Meagher** joined **Bill Stoneman** in a seventh-grade family and consumer science class working with kids starting seeds for growing pea shoots.

Soon the classes will harvest everything and use the pea shoots as the core of a green salad, all within a 40-minute period. The hope is that kids, with this far more tactile experience than is typical, will engage far more than is typical. It's so valuable with such hands-on work with kids to have more adults involved than also is typical. The close-up trusting exchanges between kids and adults is such a crucial part of what the Vegetable Project seeks to offer. Gardening is just a great vehicle for all of this.

Feedback says: **Jack Meagher** was great!

Thanks **Jack Meagher** and **Bill Stoneman**

## Youth Gardening - continued

Dear Friends,

The school lunch program served a bit of our produce at Albany High School just before Thanksgiving. We have planted tulip and daffodil bulbs with about 100 students at three schools in recent weeks. We will start a worm composting operation at Albany High shortly (and wouldn't mind hearing from teachers at other schools who would be interested in doing the same thing in their buildings). And our afterschool Garden Club at Myers Middle School, our longest-standing program, is suddenly attracting crowds – week after week – like we have never seen before!



We are not sure what is driving the Garden Club attendance. We have never asked kids to sign up. We're **a bit overwhelmed with 35 or so students who have shown up the last five weeks**. We are stretching to come up with meaningful activities for such numbers. We are hopeful, however, that the middle schoolers are responding to the common theme in all that we do – building some teaching and learning around doing and touching and tasting and experiencing. And doing all of that outdoors as much as possible.

We focus thusly because we know that these are crucial elements in growing healthy kids and because we know that healthy kids – certainly including social and emotional health – will have better academic and life outcomes. We also keep this focus because we know that the experiential learning that we're talking about can be a part of a school program the moment a school organization decides it really is worth the effort.

On the heels of our traditional pause to consider all that we have to be thankful for and at the beginning of the busy holiday season, we at the Vegetable Project want to express our gratitude to individuals and organizations who support and encourage our work, who seem to say with their partnerships and goodwill and [financial contributions](#), “Yeah, some of those things you keep talking about make sense.”

Oh, and by the way, we don't plan to be idle for the next few months just because school gardening is at the core of what we do and the days are getting colder. We will stay busy growing greens on classroom window sills, cooking, composting, starting long-season summer garden staples indoors and so much more. In other words, more doing and touching and tasting and experiencing.

Please keep in touch, follow us on [Facebook](#) and other social media platforms, subscribe to our [blog](#) and tell others about what we do!

**Bill Stoneman**

## From the Al Miller archives:

### BIRTH DATES & TREES

Sep 03 to Sep 12 - **Weeping Willow (Melancholy)** - likes to be stress free, loves family life, full of hopes and dreams, attractive, very empathetic, loves anything beautiful, musically inclined, loves to travel to exotic places, restless, capricious, honest, can be influenced but is not easy to live with when pressured, sometimes demanding, good intuition, suffers in love until the find that one loyal, steadfast partner; loves to make others laugh!

Sep 13 to Sep 22 - **Lime Tree (Doubt)** - intelligent, hard working, accepts what life dishes out, but not before trying to change bad circumstances into good ones, hates fighting and stress, enjoys getaway vacations, may appear tough, but is actually soft and relenting, always willing to make sacrifices for family and friends, has many talents but not always enough time to use them, can become a complainer, great leadership qualities, is jealous at times but extremely loyal.

Sep 23 (only) - **Olive Tree (Wisdom)** -- loves sun, warmth and kind feelings, reasonable, balanced, avoids aggression and violence, tolerant, cheerful, calm, well-developed sense of justice, sensitive, empathetic, free of jealousy, loves to read and the company of sophisticated people.

Sep 24 to Oct 03 - **Hazelnut Tree (Extraordinary)** -- charming, sense of humor, very demanding but can also be very understanding, knows how to make a lasting impression, active fighter for social causes and politics, popular, quite moody, sexually oriented, honest, a perfectionist, has a precise sense of judgment and expects complete fairness.

Oct 04 to Oct 13 - **Rowan Tree (Sensitivity)** -- full of charm, cheerful, gifted without egoism, likes to draw attention, loves life, motion, unrest, and even complications, is both dependent and independent, good taste, artistic, passionate, emotional, good company, does not forgive.

Oct 14 to Oct 23 - **Maple Tree (Independence of Mind)** -- no ordinary person, full of imagination and originality, shy and reserved, ambitious, proud, self-confident, hungers for new experiences, sometimes nervous, has many complexities, good memory, learns easily, complicated love life, wants to impress.

Oct 24 to Nov 11 - **Walnut Tree (Passion)** -- unrelenting, strange and full of contrasts, often empathetic, aggressive, noble, broad horizon, unexpected reactions, spontaneous, unlimited ambition, little flexibility, very loving and uncommon partner, not always liked but often admired, ingenious strategist, very loving and passionate, no compromise.

Nov 12 to Nov 21 - **Chestnut Tree (Honesty)** -- of unusual stature, impressive, well-developed sense of justice, fun to be around, a planner, born diplomat, can be irritated easily, sensitive of others feelings, hard worker, sometimes acts superior, feels not understood at times, fiercely family oriented, very loyal in love, physically fit.

Nov 22 to Dec 01 - **Ash Tree (Ambition)** -- extremely attractive, vivacious, impulsive, demanding, does not care for criticism, ambitious, intelligent, talented, likes to play with fate, can be very egotistic, reliable, restless lover, sometimes money rules over the heart, demands attention, needs love and much emotional support.

**From the Al Miller archives: continued**

**BIRTH DATES & TREES**

Dec 02 to Dec 11 - **Hornbeam Tree (Good Taste)** -- of cool beauty, cares for its looks and condition, good taste, is not egoistic, makes life as comfortable as possible, leads a reasonable and disciplined life, looks for kindness and acknowledgment in an emotional partner, dreams of unusual lovers, is seldom happy with own feelings, mistrusts most people, is never sure of its decisions, very conscientious.

Dec 12 to Dec 21 - **Fig Tree (Sensibility)** -- very strong minded, a bit self-willed, honest, loyal, independent, hates contradiction or arguments, hard worker when wants to be, loves life and friends, enjoys children and animals, few sexual relationships, great sense of humor, has artistic talent and great intelligence.

Dec 22 (only) - **Beech Tree (Inspiration)** -- vivacious, attractive, elegant, friendly, unpretentious, modest, does not like anything in excess, abhors the vulgar, loves life in nature and in calm, not very passionate, full of imagination, little ambition, creates a calm and content atmosphere.

**History - 30 years ago –**  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 1991

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, December 5, 1991 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Joe Raggio** opened the Meeting at 7:41.

The Minutes of the November Meeting, which was actually held on October 31, 1991 was approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

**Fred Day**, our Treasurer, presented the Financial Report which was approved. As of October 31, 1991 there was balance on hand, including all accounts of \$13,667.24.

**Herman Mau**, the Budget and Finance Committee presented the 1992 Budget. Approved.

National Office sent a letter to our Club asking that we not discourage non-affiliated Clubs from participating in Regional meetings. **Al Sekora** in talking with **Joe Raggio**, was surprised at our concern with the Regional Organization. **Fred Day** also talked with **Al** and left him with an awareness of our stand.

President **Joe** read a letter from the Greater Loudonville Assoc. who will have a Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7, 1991 at 5 pm cordially inviting our Club to attend. If we do attend we as individuals should identify ourselves as MGCA members. They appreciate our interest in their Traffic Triangle Beautification efforts.

**Joe Raggio** spoke of his satisfying experience as speaker at the Delmar Kiwanis Club informing them of the Men's Garden Club of Albany's activities.

At this point, **Joe** assured the Board that we still belong to the Men's Garden Clubs of America as well as the Gardeners of America.

**Fred Day** reported that we are being charged a Sales Tax. A discussion followed and **Fred** is going to see what can be done about it.

**Don Otterness** reported on the Memorials. He has been notified by Delmar that the park we have been planting memorials in, is full. They are looking for a new location. A memorial for **Dwight Morton** is being planned by our Albany Cooperative Extension members. **Mrs. Hughes** is to be contacted about a memorial for **Paul**.

Three Scholarship candidates are being review and acted upon.

**Herman Mau**, President elect asked members to be thinking of possible fund raising ideas.

The minutes for the second half of the meeting were written by **Wally Dillenbeck**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted by  
**Tom Baker**, Secretary.

\*\* Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 30 years ago" **Thanks, Tom Baker!!!**

# GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY CLUB ACTIVITIES

## Adopt-a-Highway - 25 years

We had a good run... We started our Adopt A Highway program back in 1994 by building a raised bed out of Hemlock and lots of rebar. Ten years later in 2004 - we built a raised bed that would last a lifetime. Unfortunately when construction started on the Exit 7 bridge off of I-90 our concrete base, block structure, soil and flower bulbs mysteriously disappeared leaving only the steel we drove down 5 feet to keep the Very thick concrete base from heaving.. **Ken Abele** played a key role in the design and construction of our second raised bed on I-90 at Exit 7

Westbound. Built to last This was build as a Memorial to an outstanding member - **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**. This project took years to get State and Federal approvals and lots of hard work from members of the Garden Club of Albany. ps. If you know who borrowed our several thousand pound raised bed - **please ask them to return it**. Perhaps someone with big boy toys on site while working on the bridge knows. Thanks!!! Built to last... Destroyed in hours

## Adopt-a-Highway - 25 years - continued



**Someone that was working on the bridge at Exit 7 of I-90 knows where it is.  
This was our Memorial to Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**

**Albany International Airport  
Don Wrieden – Chairman**



**Memorial Garden**

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension  
15 Martin Road Voorheesville, NY

**Joe Huth / Chuck Scott** Memorial Garden  
Chairmen



For many years, our club has maintained a beautiful Memorial Garden as a tribute to our “Gardeners Gone to Rest.” The garden is located in Voorheesville on the grounds of the Albany County Cooperative Extension

**Memorial Garden  
At CCE Albany  
the early days**



**Memorial Garden  
At CCE Albany  
2021**



## Memorial Garden continued

Along with perennials, shrubs and trees, there are plaques that lists the names of our club members that have Gone to Rest.





**Gardening from the Heart - 35  
years  
at the  
Center for Disability Services**



Volunteers include: **Russ Greenman, Greg Goutos, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, and Don Wrieden.**

35 = years supporting one location and for years, two locations Every Wednesday

4 = the (low) average number of MGCA volunteers on site

50 = sessions per year and for years 100 sessions per year (50 /site)

2 = Hours on site per session – 9:00am – 11:00am

= ~15 years x 50 weeks/year x 4 people / site x 2 sites === 6000 volunteer hours

PLUS

= 20 years x 50 weeks/year x 4 people / site x 1 sites === 4000 volunteer hours

===== **10,000 hours of volunteer's time supporting the Gardening From The Heart program at the Centers for Disability Services by members of the Men's Garden Club of Albany.** =====

Add to that, prep time, construction of a huge greenhouse and many raised beds and you'll see that the 10,000 hours is only a portion of the time our members have spent supporting this great program.

We owe a big thanks to **Al Miller** and **Tom Baker** for initiating this project back in 1984.

**Tom Baker** and **Al Miller** started working on founding the Gardening From the Heart program way back in 1984 but he may say that it really didn't start until 1985. Originally our club had two teams of members that would teach classes, every Wednesday, at two locations with the adults at 700 S. Pearl St. in Albany and with the children at 314 Manning Blvd in Albany, NY. COVID-19 restrictions kept us out of the building, and we're waiting to hear what the next steps are for our activities at the 700 South Pearl St. location.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Myers Middle School Garden Club <b>The Vegetable Project at Myer's Middle School</b> 100 Elbel Court, Albany 12209 Please reach out to <b>Bill Stoneman</b> prior to attending: <a href="mailto:thevegetableproject@gmail.com">thevegetableproject@gmail.com</a> or 518-728-6799
Thursday, <b>December 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm</b>	<b>Michele Peters, owner of Ambiance Floral &amp; Events</b>  Floral demonstration live from her very own studio!  Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83271676748">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83271676748</a>
Thursday, January 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Director's meeting</b> – via Zoom. Members are welcome to join in. reply to this email and we'll send you the link when it becomes available.

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

## Amazon purchases can support or club

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Log into your Amazon account and Select **Men's Garden Club of Albany**

Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

**Please support research for ALS** (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Lou Gehrig's disease) in memory of one of our most active members - **Mr. Bill Town**

Click on this link to read his story: <http://community.als.net/teamtown>

Special thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for our terrific website

<http://www.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org/>

Go ahead - click on it - you'll be glad you did.

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

We continue to welcome 501(c)3 deductible donations that can be dedicated to support our **Memorial Garden**, or the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**.

Please send your 501(c)3 tax deductible donation to **Russ Greenman** GCCD Treasurer

Please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 477-8321 for details

*In Memory  
Of My  
Loving Wife, Young  
Bruce Wilcox*

*In Memory of  
Louis Meo  
&  
Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of  
Al & Barbara Miller  
Dave & Phil Harris  
Bill Barr  
Christian & Mildred Lebrecht  
Ed Tompkins  
Avrom Koblenz*

*In Memory of my parents  
John and Carrie Meagher  
They both loved Plants and Flowers  
Jack Meagher*

*In Memory of  
Grandpa & Great Grandpa  
Carroll W. Greenman  
Russ, Maria, and Carl*

*In Memory of  
Wally Dillenbeck  
and  
Don Otterness  
By Tom Baker*

*In Memory of  
Bill Town  
Joe Herman*

*In Memory of  
my Dad  
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