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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 84 NO. 1

(First Chartered 1936)

January, 2021

DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 28th @ 7:00 pm - Program details on page # 2

Dear Friends,

The Men's Garden Club of Albany has stood the test of time, having brought gardeners together in friendship and fellowship and offered service to the community since 1935. Like other organizations, however, its future is brightest when its spirit reflects the community it is a part of. Therefore, with keen understanding that ideas about community change, the club's board of directors believes that it is time to embark on a new and important journey:



With leadership of our president, **Joe Raggio**, board members agreed in December 2020 to propose to club membership removing the word "Men's" from the club's name and to welcome women, really already valued partners, as formal club members. We are not proposing a new name just yet; indeed, we still are taking stock of the formal requirements for making such a change.

Still, it's really an exciting development for fellows like me who are both proud of our first 85 years and eager to build in the years ahead. Our club has experienced some challenges in recent years. All manner of membership organizations have seen declines in participation over the last generation. Add a worldwide pandemic to that and it's become even more difficult to keep in touch and share the joy of encouraging life from the soil around us. At the same time, interest in gardening is soaring. And few pleasures can bring people with diverse perspectives and experiences together as well as gardening can.

Thus, I look forward to many more years with our old friends and ask all of you to help bring new friends into the group!

Bill Storman

PROGRAM: Shade Gardening – presented by: **Judith Fetterley** is a Master Gardener with the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension

Gardening in the shade can be a challenge. It can also be a chance to create great beauty. A focus on foliage – texture, habit, shape, color – can yield extraordinary results. This presentation offers an introduction to shade gardening issues and possibilities.

Judith Fetterley is a Master Gardener with the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension. She also manages a small perennial garden design business, *Perennial Wisdom*, and writes a bi-weekly column, “Out in the Garden,” about her adventures in gardens.

PLACE: Zoom 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

DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 28th @ 7:00 pm

Our website Home page (<http://mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>) has a link to: the hand-out for this program [Shade Gardening](#)

Topic: **Shade Gardening by Judith Fetterley**

Time: Jan 28, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cornell.zoom.us/j/91489567451?pwd=aFUvZ1RoeGtqT0E5amQwNGlOWTF4dz09>

Meeting ID: 914 8956 7451

Passcode: 634595

One tap mobile

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December program Thank You

For those who were able to join us on December 10 for our very special Zoom Holiday floral demonstration done by **Michele Peters** of **Ambiance Floral**, you know how talented this award-winning designer is. We thank **Michele** once again for taking the time during her busy schedule to show us her insights on how to make very festive arrangements using unusual containers and materials. This time was even more special as we got a glimpse of her while she was working in her beautiful studio in Loudonville.

At the end of the evening, the six beautiful arrangements were all randomly raffled off to six lucky women who had joined us for the event. The next morning, club officers **Greg Goutos** and **Russ Greenman** went over to **Ambiance Floral** and personally delivered the arrangements to the very appreciative recipients. Those who were fortunate to receive one this year were:

Tina Raggio, Janet Meagher, Nellie Goutos, Susan Jacobsen, Judy Warren and Gail Wrieden.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Growing Greens Under Lights

I must eat greens every day. Or so I've been indoctrinated. During the summer I can grow my own greens, and the lettuce, collards, Swiss chard and kale from our garden fill the bill. But in the winter, it's off to the grocery store. This winter I decided that I'd try and grow lettuce under the grow lights that I normally only use in the spring to start seedlings. Lettuce seemed to be a logical candidate due to vertical space constraints. I would dearly love to grow Swiss chard, being my favorite, but mature chard grows too tall for my limited setup. The lettuce variety I chose was Red Fire, a loose leaf variety that I've been growing successfully outside for years.

As I would for outside transplants, I started my seeds in six packs. After maybe 2-3 weeks I transplanted them into either 4" or 6" pots (10 in total). Watering is done from the bottom using a dilute solution of Miracle Grow. Each tray holds 3 or four pots.

My grow light setup consists of six 4' LED shop lights hung from 2 shelves in groups of three. I keep the lights very close to (often touching) the lettuce plants in order to maximize the light exposure. Temperatures in our basement run about 70 degrees (the furnace and hot water heater are nearby).

The results? Fantastic! The Red Fire plants grow like weeds in this environment and I'm able to harvest several lettuce leaves every day without the supply running low. As insurance I'm starting additional seedlings every four weeks, assuming that the original plants will eventually run low on gas.

As mentioned above, I used 4" and 6" pots. As you can see from the photo below, the 6" pot at the top of the photo produces a much larger plant. In fact the plants in the 6" pots are about as big as they get in the garden.

I'm excited by my success (living through a pandemic definitely lowers the 'excitement' bar),

and will be experimenting with other greens. I'm considering Asian greens such as Mizuna and Pac Choi as well as cress.

Finally, a note on harvesting. Harvesting the outside leaves works best, encouraging the plant to grow new leaves. But even using this regiment I find those outside leaves tend to wilt very quickly and I need to remove them periodically.



Stay Healthy!

**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** during 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



**Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman**



Memorial Garden

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension
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 continued

Along with perennials, shrubs and trees, there is also a plaque that lists the names of our club members who have passed away in recent years.

Thanks to **Joe Huth** we now have 40 new matching name tags. Over the years the name tags were showing their age and now they look fantastic. Thanks **Joe Huth** for all your work to get these ordered and installed.



Jack Meagher (front) and **Chuck Scott** (background)

Membership

Dues are Due: \$25 / member will cover both Local and National memberships.
Ads payments for 2020 are due – published in the DIRT, Website and at public events
Please write checks to: Men's Garden Club of Albany

Mailing address:

Russ Greenman (treasurer)
25 Worthman Lane
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Tom Baker

We thank all those that made tax deductible donations to the MGCA in memory of **Tom Baker**.
It was so nice to read the notes from so many people that knew and loved **Tom**.

Herm Mau has been in and out of Hospice and he's currently at home being cared for by **Mary**.
I'm sure she would welcome your calls and perhaps a visit.

We continue to welcome 501(c)3 deductible donations that can be dedicated to support our **Memorial Garden, Gardening From the Heart program** at the Center for Disability Services, or the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**.

Please send your 501(c)3 tax deductible donation to **Russ Greenman** MGCA Treasurer
Please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 477-8321 for details



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.**



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.

Seeking Candidates for the Joe Herman Memorial Scholarship

Do you know a deserving college student who could benefit from receiving a \$500 Scholarship from our club? This year the Scholarship Committee would like to ask all our members to consider a personal family member or friend who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or a high school senior registered to begin a college program this fall.

Ideally, they should be pursuing studies in any horticultural-related field, including agriculture, environmental studies, forestry or natural resource management. Applicants need not live locally, and can be male or female. Perhaps you have a child, grandchild, nephew or niece, or know of a neighbor that would qualify?

For more information and an application, **please contact Greg Goutos, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052, or at ggoutos @nycap.rr.com.**

Youth Gardening

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

The Vegetable Project volunteers built some hoop houses to extend the growing season. December 12, 2012 these photos were taken of a nice warm home for a vole. The heat has allowed him to have a nice supply of greens all winter.



History – 30 years ago – by Mr. Tom Baker

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

JANUARY 3, 1991

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, January 3, 1991 in the Cerebral Palsy Center.

President **Joe Raggio** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the November 29, 1990 meeting (in lieu of the December meeting) were approved as read by **Tom Baker**, Secretary.

The Treasurer's Report as presented by the Treasurer **Al Miller** was approved. The balance in the General Fund was \$5,913.48, in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$742.29. and, \$5,965.57 in the Endowment and Investment Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- * SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: **Don Otterness** reporting. Three people originally applied and two dropped out. The third candidate, **Thomas Cupp** of Clifton Park was deemed worthy by **Don** and **Wally Dillenbeck**. **Mr. Cupp** is a student of Environmental Science and Forestry at State University, Syracuse. His Major is Landscape Architecture and is a transfer student from Cobleskill.
 - * DIRT AD COMMITTEE: **Ferd Johnson** reported that all the ads have been completed.
 - * CALENDAR COMMITTEE: **Charlie Schade** reported that 25 are left that can be used for guest speakers and new members. 300 will be ordered for next year.
 - * FALL BULB SALE: We received a \$50.00 credit for bad bulbs of last year and the bill for the complete bulb order has been paid. A check for \$750.00 will be sent to the Berkshire Gardens for our annual contribution to the Gardens.
 - * BUDGET COMMITTEE: The budget was presented and was approved by the Board.
 - * AWARDS COMMITTEE: Because of job commitments **Glenn Witecki** has had to give up the chairmanship. His replacement will be filled soon.
 - * COMMITTEE JOB DESCRIPTION: **Joe Raggio** asked that all committee chairmen present a job description of his committee and have picked a co-chairman, by the next Board meeting which will be February 7, 1991.
 - * CALLING COMMITTEE: **Al Miller**, chairman, proposed that members who regularly do not attend our dinner meetings, not be called time after time. They will have to call in their own reservations. If and when they become regular attendees, their names will be back on the calling list.
 - * PROGRAM COMMITTEE: **Herm Mau**, Chairman:
February 28: Meeting will be held at Veeder's Restaurant. The program will be **Warren Able** and the topic will be Photography.
- OLD BUSINESS:
- * Club Size: Was discussed again and the consensus was that an organization which has slow growth, its members are more likely to stay in than one which has fast growth. **Bob Ireland** said that statistics show that a growth of 15% is the most desirable.
 - * **Ferd Johnson** and **Charlie Schade** audited the books and found them in good order.
 - * **Al Miller** said that the 1991 directory will be out in February with no change in the format.
 - * It has been requested that the directory be expanded. Volunteers are needed. President **Raggio** has indicated that a proposal and mock-up must be presented by the February meeting. The Board will act on the findings of these volunteers.
 - * **Andy Cytrynak** and **Ken York** are the co-chairmen of the Year Book Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

** Editor's note: **Tom Baker** faithfully documented our minutes since way before he had a personal computer - somehow he managed to digitize all of the minutes he had taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 -or 30 years ago" Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|---|---|
| Today! | Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards |
| | |
| Thursday, February 5 th at 7:30 pm | Director's meeting – via Zoom |
| Thursday, February 25 th @ 7:00 pm | Monthly meeting featuring a guest speaker from the Cornell Cooperative Extension via a Zoom meeting |

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

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Go to 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.

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.mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>

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

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Young
Bruce Wilcox

In Memory of
Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus

In Memory of
Al & Barbara Miller
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

Carroll W. Greenman
Bob



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