



Grapevine

January 2024

Volume 76 No. 5

Sudbury Garden Club

Plant so your own heart will grow ~ Hafiz ~

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year, for gardening begins in January with the dream."

~ Josephine Nuese.

Happy New Year 2024

GENERAL MEETING

SUDBURY GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS
www.sudburygardenclub.org

JOHN FORTI
Writer | Philosopher

zoom

JANUARY 10 | 7:00PM

THE HEIRLOOM GARDENER
Traditional Plants & Skills for the Modern World
2024-2025

THE HEIRLOOM GARDENER
TRADITIONAL PLANTS & SKILLS

Photos Credit: John Forti/Photos Credit: U.S. Lockier

Joint Zoom meeting with the Thursday Garden Club
7:00pm
Wednesday, the 10th
The Heirloom Garden - Traditional Plants and Skills

John Forti's newest presentation draws from his best-selling book, *The Heirloom Gardener – Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*. Richly illustrated, with period images and contemporary photographs, it is based on a long history of heirloom preservation, garden craft and homestead life that we can apply to our own gardens and landscapes.

At a time when we could all use a little good news, join us for a refreshing look at how you can make a difference and build habitat in your own backyard and community.

John Forti (www.iforti.com) is a garden historian and ethnobotanist who has directed gardens for Plimoth Plantation Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, Massachusetts Horticultural Society and Bedrock Gardens. As a “Slow Food USA” leader and biodiversity specialist, his preservation work has helped to restore countless native and heirloom plants and brought traditional artisanal practices to modern thinking. He has won numerous awards for historic garden preservation, children’s garden design, herbal and historical education and the 2021 Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs. His new book was inspired by his posts as *The Heirloom Gardener - John Forti* which go out regularly to millions on Facebook.

The Zoom link will be sent out on the Monday before the meeting.

BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 9:00 am

Location: Helen Crary’s Home, 1 Hunt Road



CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES

Library Flowers

- Tuesday 1/2 Joy Aldrich (New Year's Day)
- Monday 1/8 Marion Tratnyek
- Tuesday 1/16 Tara McElroy (MLK, Jr Day)
- Monday 1/22 Patti Walch
- Monday 1/29 Heather Halsey



If you need to reschedule your date for providing flowers, please find someone to trade with you and let **Bonnie Parri**, the Library Chair know. Please remember to pick up your container when your week is up. Thank you!

Please remember to ask the Librarians for permission to go behind the desk if you need to use that sink to water your display.

Please also send a picture of your display to Heather Halsey at halseyh@mac.com. The pictures will be added to our website! However, and wherever you want to take the picture is fine, either at home, or at the library.



Gathering of the Green Thumbs Lunch Date

Date: Friday, January 5 at **noon**

Location: Chili Basil Thai, 585 Boston Post Road, Sudbury

RSVP: Joanne Bennett, [978-460-2146](tel:978-460-2146)

Join us for lunch! This is a **fun** and great way to get together with old and new members of the club without having to do any gardening!

Wayside Inn Christmas Un-decorating

- Tuesday, January 9
- 8:30ish-11:00ish (Need to be cleaned up by their first lunch seating)

Please email Carol if you cannot attend: cshapanka@gmail.com

A very merry thank you to all who helped decorate the Wayside Inn this year! This is Jo Ann's 10th year and she still loves it! A bit of a rough year for the Inn with a chimney fire and no power for two days. But the decorations prevailed! We will need lots of help taking everything down, organizing and storing the hundreds of bits and bobbles. Hoping a few people will dress warm and help with the outside. We are looking forward to a bit of a re-vamp of some of the decorations this summer. See Carol for your 2 for 1 coupon & ornament on Take down Day.





Did you know SGC also coordinates a special day during which 2 local Girl Scout troops decorate outdoor trees for the birds to enjoy?!

The Inn treats them to hot chocolate and cookies.

This year we were there during the pouring rain!



Color Me Floral - January Winter Pop Up Workshop

Designer Change

Bad news and then good news! I worked some holiday magic to make this happen! First the bad news. Beverley Mason, Head Designer at Russell's Garden Center informed me last week that she could not do the Winter Pop Up workshop due to a personal event that week. I was disappointed for a minute, okay for a day. I contacted Allison Hassard, Frugal Flower Event Designer and I asked her if she could do the workshop. She said yes! So happy that Allison can do this on such short notice. Here is a little bit about Allison:



AiFD Certified, floral design lead Allison Hassard began her career in the industry at just 16 years old. Allison found her home with Frugal Flower 28 years ago, and today she oversees the company's wedding business. She is considered a female MacGyver and her happy place is creating beautiful backdrops and focal feature structures for her and her team's unparalleled floral designs. She received her wedding certification in 2021.

Space for this workshop is limited to 12 participants. Deadline to enroll is Wednesday, January 10, 2024. So far, 6 members have expressed interest and 4 have made payment.

- **Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024
- **Time:** 10 am - 12 pm
- **Place:** MCC
- **Fee:** \$47.00 payment by PayPal; \$2.00 surcharge, \$45.00 by check. Please make checks payable to SGC and note on the check that this payment is for the “January Pop Up Workshop”. Please mail your check to: Juju Lem Pang, 50 Ridge Hill Rd, Sudbury MA. 01776

Thank you! Let’s begin the new year with Color Me Floral!
Juju Lem Pang and Carol Shapanka
Co Chairs, Color Me Floral Workshops



A Note of Gratefulness from the Silver Plate

Our members are so very generous and several families will be able to celebrate the holidays.

Our total, including Thanksgiving, was \$1325.00. Two families were each gifted \$100 in gift cards to Market Basket. Three other families of single moms and young children asked for gift cards to Amazon for the holidays.

We all should feel good about the smiles we put on everyone's faces. Thank you again for thinking of others in our community.

With best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sara Salomon

National Garden Club Youth Contests for 2023-24

Here is your chance to gain national recognition for your child or grandchild by entering a poetry contest sponsored by NGC and GCFM. Any Massachusetts child can enter, sponsored by a parent/grandparent along with our club. It is open for children from Kindergarten to 9th grade. The theme this year is “I Spy Something Green” for the poetry portion of the contest. Deadline entry is **January 10, 2024**. Member, Lynn Noland’s granddaughter won in 2021 for her grade level, first grade.

Please find attached the contest entries information PDF files.

[National Garden Club Youth Contests for 2023-24](#)

[Poetry Letter](#)

[2023-2024 Theme](#)

PHOTOS

CONTINUED...

Two more photos from the Holiday Party in December!



BIRDIE BITS



The Birds are Back!

So many of you have asked "Where are the birds?" Your back yards have been silent. The bird feeders are full, but there's no one there. Such has also been the lament at Wild Birds Unlimited this fall and early winter.

Apparently, there are lots of food sources out there for the birds now after a mild fall, and rather than risk their lives at a feeder where hawks wait to pounce, birds find it smarter to shop elsewhere.

That is, until the weather gets cool or really nasty with rain, sleet, high winds, falling branches, and other hazards. Then the birds flock to the feeders for a quick bite of high energy food such as suet or peanuts and sunflower hearts. This week saw birds at my house zipping all around the feeders as well as the crabapple trees and the winter berry shrubs. There are no winter berries left after a group of winter robins came through. They left dozens of crabapples on the driveway after foraging high up in the trees. My understanding is that as the weather turns to freezing nights, the berries will become sweeter and fermented. Then the robins will return to a different feast. Some people report birds acting a bit crazed after eating a lot of berries with a high alcohol content!

Next came the bluebirds, flocking to the suet and peanut feeders. Several males are tolerating one another because it isn't breeding season where one male will predominate and chase off all comers. The odd behavior for my bluebirds this winter is that one male is acting as though he's protecting his territory by chasing off his image when he looks in the windows. He is there at the windows in our sunroom when I get up and still there off and, on all day, using a lot of energy to chase his rival self. It seems such a waste of bird energy now that we're heading

into wintry weather. I haven't found any source to explain spring behavior at this time of year. I hope some of you may know the answer.

There isn't another bird in our yard that loves our heated deck birdbath more than our bluebirds. Several will gather along the deck railing waiting for their turn. Their baths are so vigorous that we find ourselves adding water nearly every day. It gets a bit hazardous for us when the temperature dips below freezing, and all the bath water freezes onto the deck flooring! They have become very at ease with people at our house. We can sit at breakfast just about 10 feet away and know that they feel secure enough to continue their baths. Who needs any other entertainment when you've got bluebirds in your birdbath? It truly is a wonderous sight. We waited over 40 years for bluebirds to find us.

The Christmas tree always goes out to a spot just beyond the feeders so that birds can take refuge from the weather and predators. The sparrows, juncos, and finches all use the tree for refuge. My grandmother always hung stale donuts on the Christmas tree for the birds - but only some birds! If she saw a blue jay taking any of the donuts, she would hurry outside, waving her apron to scare them off. Blue Jays in her book were robbers and thieves and were not allowed. One of the most interesting things about being my age is all the memories that keep popping up that remind me of my place in the generations of bird lovers.

I hope that your birds are back in your yards now to entertain you this winter and to remind us about how important it is to protect the nature in our back yards. Providing food, water, and cover for the birds will help them safely through the winter, no matter what the weather. If you have birdhouses, keep an eye on them early in the morning and about 4 pm. Both bluebirds and downy woodpeckers are going inside the houses here to keep warm at night. Several bluebirds emerge from one of our houses in the morning. We suspect that they are this year's young and are still staying in the area.

Winter gives some of us a bit more time to observe and enjoy our back yard birds. It's always fascinating and inspiring, too, to see how they navigate the weather and adversity with hardly a feather out of place. There's a lesson in there somewhere I suspect!

Best wishes to all of you for a very Happy and Healthy New Year.
Karen and Marilyn

FROM OUR FRIENDS

Harvey Leonard Presentation, Climate Change: Simple, Serious, Solvable

We are inviting the public to attend a presentation by Harvey Leonard, Chief Meteorologist Emeritus of WCVB-TV/DT. Harvey will be presenting Climate Change: Simple, Serious, Solvable on **January 23rd, at 3:00 PM** at the First Parish Church United of Westford. The address for the church is 48 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. This event is free and in-person.

Details about the event and where to register can be found [here](#). Alternatively, you may contact me at this email address, admin@middlesexconservationdistrict.org, to RSVP.

This event is co-sponsored by the Middlesex Conservation District, First Parish Church United of Westford, and Westford Climate Action.


Andrea Grossman, District Administrator
Middlesex Conservation District
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PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**FEBRUARY 2024 GRAPEVINE
MONDAY, JANUARY 29**



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Keep in Touch!