

Garden Club of Inverness 2024-2025
Compiled by Mary Ann Laforet

The Garden Club of Inverness hosted their annual Spring Luncheon at Makray Memorial Golf Club on Thursday, May 16. A primary goal of the club is to give back to the community. This year, GCI was honored to offer \$3000 each to three very deserving students planning to major in environmentally-related fields. This was made possible by the successful holiday luncheon in December, 2023. Save the date for the next annual GCI holiday luncheon at Medinah Country Club on Thursday, December 5, 2024. The theme will be "Sleigh Bells Ring."

The scholarship recipients are:

Christopher Marzagliano, who currently attends Michigan Technological University. He is studying Civil Engineering, with a focus on water resources and the environment.

Divya Saikumar, who currently attends Rice University. She is majoring in Environmental Science with a concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Aditya Gupta, who is a senior at Fremd High School. He will be attending Stanford University in the fall where he will major in Environmental Engineering.

The Garden Club of Inverness officers for 2024-25 will be: Judi Ray, President, Susan Erickson, 1st Vice President, Deb Dompke, 2nd Vice President, Joette Brown, Treasurer, Heidi Kolderup, Recording Secretary, Lauri Mitchell, Corresponding Secretary, Janet Sweno, Director at Large.

The club's next meeting will be on Thursday, August 15 at 9:30 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 630 S. Quentin Road, Palatine. Guests are always welcome. For more information about the club, visit www.gardenclubofinverness.com.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF INVERNESS



GCI Board

From Left to Right:

Front Row - Joette Brown, Susan Erickson, Judi Ray, Deb Dompke
Back Row - Laur Mitchell, Janet Sweno, Mary Ann Laforet, Judy
Tamm, Pam MacGillivray, Nancy Krye, Heidi Kolderup, Mary
Rubino, Kathy Rein

Annual Spring Luncheon at Makray Memorial Golf

BY SUSAN ERICKSON, PUBLICITY CHAIR

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Members, Friends & Guests

Join us Thursday, June 13

Garden Club of Inverness

Garden Party

Time: 11 am - 2 pm

Where: Luther Village 'Summer House'

1250 Village Dr, Arlington Heights, IL 60004*

*between Palatine Rd & NW Hwy on N Kennicott Blvd to Village Drive - see diagram

- Carpooling to Luther Village is strongly recommended
- Please follow signage to the 'Summer House'
- Drop off is possible and parking is at various areas within development
- Plant Exchange welcome, leave at table near drop off for handling ease & pick up after our luncheon

Activities

10am	set up of tables, beverages, serving pieces, etc.
10:45-11:10	Guests arrive, brief hospitality & social before demos begin
11:15	Opening remarks: Janet Sweno & Judi Ray
11:20	Lambs ear craft demo: Mary Rubino
11:35	Making Guacamole: Pam MacGillivray
11:45	Making Sangria: Jane Oppermann
12-1:45	Lunch - sandwiches, fruit salad, appetizers & treats
1:45	Thank you's -
2-2:30	Clean up

A fun time was had at the Summer House. We had demonstrations of making spirited drinks and using lambs ear to create ornaments. There was a plant exchange as well.

GCI 2024/25 Programs

August 15 - Susan Erickson - Oh My Dahlia!

Programs '24-'25

Susan is a new dahlia hobbyist but has jumped in with both feet! She will share what she's learned about growing these beautiful flowers, as well as some surprising facts. She started a year ago with 6 tubers, and now has multiples each of 26 different varieties! With names like Bridezilla, Beets Me and Cafe Au Lait, and sizes from tiny 2" blooms to 10" "dinner plate" varieties, dahlias offer something for everyone. Whether you put one dahlia tuber in a pot on your patio, or build an entire garden devoted to them like Susan did, everyone can enjoy the magic of these beauties.



September 19 - From Blooms to Business: The Story of Fancy Flower Girls

We will learn the inspiring story of Fancy Flower Girls, a small business that specializes in locally grown cut flowers and creates beautiful bouquets and arrangements for various occasions and clients. You will learn how Katherine, a local flower enthusiast, discovered her passion for flowers, developed her skills and knowledge, established her brand and market, overcame challenges, and seized opportunities in the cut flower industry. You will get a glimpse into the daily operations of FFG, from growing and harvesting flowers, to designing and delivering products. Our hope is that this program inspires you to grow cut flowers

in your own garden and to be an advocate for local businesses who strive to make our community a more beautiful place.



October 17 - Joni Cotten from Hawthorn Gardens - Fall Outdoor Planter Design

Joni's knowledge and engaging speaking style always keeps our group entertained. She will design fall outdoor pots that will be raffled off to lucky winners. Joni will showcase the latest fall plants, blending them with classic favorites in an innovative and refreshing way. You will leave inspired to create your own outdoor fall pots.



November 21 - Joyce Grattoni of Flowers by Grattoni - Fall Centerpiece Design

Club favorite Joyce Grattoni will entertain and educate us as she demonstrates how to make fall and transitional arrangements for your holiday table. Joyce is an accomplished floral designer and presenter who has been actively involved in the floral industry for more than twenty five years. Her genuine passion for flowers and floral design grew out of a desire to find an outlet for her creative energy. She is professionally trained in horticulture and floral design, and is a distinguished, long standing member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD).



February 20 - Leslie Goddard Presents Lady Bird Johnson

Imagine ... It is 1969 and Lady Bird Johnson has just returned to Texas at the end of her husband's presidency. As she welcomes visitors to her home, she reminisces about her years in Washington, the life-changing experiences that brought her to the White House, and how she forged her own path as first lady as an advocate for the environment, civil rights and her beloved husband. In this humorous, poignant and insightful historical portrayal, actress and historian Leslie Goddard brings the gracious Lady Bird to life.



March 20 - Deb Graham - Growing Fruit in your Backyard

Midwest Fruit Explorers is a backyard orchard society that was founded in the late 70's, here in the Chicagoland area. Members grow almost every variety of fruit that will survive in our growing zone, as well as many varieties that require winter protection. One of our founding members grew over 175 varieties of apples on dwarf trees in his Skokie backyard and didn't even eat apples! During this session you will hear about the varieties grown in Deb's home orchard and have a demonstration of tree grafting as a method of propagation used for most fruit trees. You can read more about the club and events it sponsors at www.midfex.org.



April 17 - Cindy Crosby - Dragonflies and Damselflies - The Garden's Frequent Fliers

Discover the fascinating and bizarre lives of these fliers--with plenty of group fun and lively interaction during the presentation. From their unusual life cycle of transformation, mystifying migratory habits, and their struggle for survival, there is plenty to discover and marvel about! Hear their cultural history, including some of the myths and superstitions that surround them. See close-up beautiful photography of some of our dragonflies in Illinois. Then discover how you can garden to attract these remarkable flying creatures.



A field trip to the Robbs home for a tour of beautiful Gardens