

Garden Scoop Newsletter – March 2024

This month our monthly meeting will celebrate our club's 90th anniversary. Despite its humble beginning in March 1934, with just a handful of members, the club has grown over the years and has become a very successful civic organization. Anniversary celebrations can be a time to reflect on the past, recognize accomplishments, perhaps dress up and enjoy a bit of glam, and above all else have fun!



Jean Olson won first place for most authentic 1930's & 40's costume at the Arlington Garden Club's 75th Anniversary party 2/9/09.

In April 1954, the Arlington Garden Club celebrated its 20th anniversary with a big community wide garden tour event with select gardens open to the public. Tickets were sold to the "Garden Tour, Placement Show, and Silver Tea." Gardeners city wide were to put on their "best bib and tucker" and see that lawns were neatly cut and trimmed, gardens weeded. Efforts were made to impress visitors by also cleaning up the city parks which included a work party to paint a park fence. Visitors were expected from out of the area and included members of other garden clubs in Oak Harbor, Anacortes, Sedro Woolley, and Concrete as well as the general public. One of the members hosted a tea while others

offered special features in their gardens such as an outdoor fire pit, rhododendrons, woodland garden, and a plant sale. The Placement Show was a floral arrangement competition. The arrangements that were submitted were displayed at the tea and at the various gardens.

As part of its Centennial Celebration in 2003 the Arlington Garden Club donated a bench to be placed along the Centennial Trail. At that time 16 benches lined the trail. They were designed and made in Arlington.

In 2009, the club once again held a big celebration for the club's 75th anniversary. The guest speaker impersonated, and dressed like, Eleanor Roosevelt. She spoke of how Eleanor, former First Lady, had been a huge advocate of gardens and gardening. She had started a Victory Garden in the White House lawn and caused quite a ruckus in the farming community who viewed this as competition. Of the 100 club members in attendance, half of those who attended dressed in the style of the 1930's. Jean Olson won first place for most authentic 1930 & 40's era costume. She wore a dress her mother sewed at age 17 in 1944. Long-time members and past presidents were honored at the lunch served on fine china provided by Carol Jacques (one of our current members).

At our next meeting in March, we have the honor of celebrating our club's 90th anniversary. This will be time to have some fun and perhaps enjoy a little glam if any members wish to wear costumes. Bea and Marcia continue to seek out and uncover historical information about the club. This has included searching through newspaper archives and a recent trip to the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum. If you have historic documents please notify Marcia who is trying to, initially, compile a list of what exists. The

stories will continue in the next few editions of the Scoop until we wrap up the year at our meeting in June. It is important that we preserve this information and consider how we can best do this. The museum has asked that we provide them with copies of these 90th anniversary articles. Are there records that we want to copy and transfer to their care? That will be something our board needs to ponder.