


**GCFP 2023 Convention Presenters, Program Speakers and Make & Take Leaders
(in chronological order Friday-Sunday, April 21-23, 2023)**

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

<p>FRIDAY MAKE AND TAKE SESSION 11-11:45 AM</p> <p><i>Ribbon Magic</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Mary Jane Martucci</p> <p><u>Title</u> Master Flower Show Judge</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> Ribbon Magic</p> <p><u>Talk Description</u> Choosing the right ribbon and knowing how to tie attractive bows quickly and easily are important skills to make wreaths for successful greens sales, raffle baskets, gifts and prizes in plant sales and other fundraisers. Presentation is everything! They are also a focus in the new Botanical Arts Crafts division of an NGC Flower Show. Mary Jane will provide ribbon and instructions for at least two take home bows. Bring your scissors!</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Mary Jane Martucci is a talented, energetic and creative flower show design mentor, competitor and an accredited Master Flower Show Judge who currently serves as the GCFP Flower Show Evaluations Chair.</p> <p>A 25-year garden club member, Mary Jane fell in love with flower shows the first time she attended one. Judging became an integral part of her life. She was a District X Director for 4 years, which is where she learned the most about NGC and GCFP. Thanks to her love of all that is Christmas, she had to learn how to make her own bows.</p>
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FRIDAY
AFTERNOON TEA
PROGRAM
12:45-2:45 PM

Titanic Era Fashions



Name Deborah Popp Gilbert

Title Vice President, Elizabeth Township Historical Society;


Program Title Titanic Era Fashions

Talk Description It's been 26 years since the movie of Jack and Rose's tragic love story captured hearts, and 111 years since The Titanic sailed on its doomed maiden voyage.


Gather with friends to view a slide presentation with live commentary that reflects the changing roles of women like Rose from the Victorian Age to the Roaring 20s. Learn about the ship's centerpiece design controversy! Vintage fashions will be displayed. Pucketos Garden Club encourages you to wear a hat!

Bio Deb is a retired reporter and managing editor for 35 years, turns her story-telling skills from current events to those occurring in the past. Prompted as a child to read every roadside historical marker, her appreciation for history now encourages others to learn about and respect family heritage, local history and preservation. As VP of the Elizabeth Township Historical Society, she draws from the Society's clothing collection to illustrate fashion talks about the Victorian and Edwardian eras, the *Titanic*, World War I, the Roaring 20s, the *Queen Mary*, and World War II. She is a member of Britsburgh's Board and serves on its Executive Planning Team. With Britsburgh, she has presented at landmarks including The Frick Pittsburgh, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and The Priory of Pittsburgh. Debbie and her husband, Vaughn, have frequently visited the UK, and especially enjoy Yorkshire.


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<p>FRIDAY MAKE AND TAKE SESSION 3-3:45 PM</p> <p><i>Essential Oils for Gardeners</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Linda Louise Boyer's</p> <p><u>Title</u> Silver Wellness Advocate</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> Essential Oils for Gardeners</p> <p><u>Talk Description</u> Linda Louise Boyer's Make and Take program will entertain and lead attendees into making at least two essential oil sprays for use at home. Handouts with essential oil recipes will also be provided. Essential oils are a healthy alternative to common chemical-based products used in gardening—e.g., bug repellent, sprays for outdoor and indoor pest and disease control and as soaks for fruits and vegetables.</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Linda, aka “Crazy Old Oil Lady” is a self-employed Silver Wellness Advocate for doTERRA Essential Oils USA since 2012. She graduated from Pasadena City College in Musical Theatre and currently lives in Elderton, Armstrong County. Linda and her husband own a 165 acre farm and use doTERRA essential oils to aid plant growth and bug and fungus control. Linda also uses the essential oils on their beef cattle, horses, chickens, dogs and cats.</p> <p>Visit Linda, who presents programs for garden and other clubs, and is a 2023 Convention vendor, for more essential oil information. Her website is www.mydoterra.com/lindalboyer .</p>
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<p>FRIDAY MAKE AND TAKE SESSION 4-4:45 PM</p> <p><i>Propagation Tips: Hands on Cuttings, Seeds & Succulents</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Maggie Shafferman</p> <p><u>Title</u> Hunter's Run Nursery, Owner</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> Propagation Tips: Hands on Cuttings, Seeds & Succulents</p> <p><u>Talk Description</u> Learn about collecting, saving, and starting seeds... the easiest way to take cuttings from perennials and shrubs...plant divisions and specialty propagation including succulents! Each attendee will take home, from a variety of seeds and plants, a 3-cell tray with seeds, a cutting, and a succulent stem and leaf cutting.</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Her love of plants began at an early age as Maggie grew up on a farm in Central Pennsylvania. When she was 12, her dad built her first greenhouse. After high school, she was accepted into the Professional Gardener Training Program at Longwood Gardens. For two years, she was immersed in nothing but Horticulture and came away from this intense experience with a deeper knowledge and an even deeper love for plants. She then spent five years as the Head Gardener on a private estate in Virginia where she was able to apply and expand the education received at Longwood. With her husband she moved back to Central Pennsylvania in 2007 and began work on Hunters Run Nursery on the same farm where she first dug her fingers in the dirt of the vegetable garden. Maggie specializes in heirloom and cottage garden plants, unique herbs and a variety of perennials, shrubs, and small trees.</p>
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<p>FRIDAY INTERNATIONAL BUFFET DINNER MUSICAL PROGRAM 6:30 – 9ish</p> <p><i>International Village</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Mikey Dee</p> <p><u>Title</u> Musical Entertainer</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> International Village</p> <p><u>Program Description</u> Relax! Dress up in a fun ethnic or other costume (or not!) and sample various international food stations at our first-ever Friday evening of Convention! Hear the happy music of the pre-1965 immigrants in McKeesport. After dinner, ask for special musical requests or get up and try some dances!</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Mikey Dee began his musical career at the age of 4, first learning the guitar, bass and tamburitza instruments from his grandfather Joe Pavlecic, and he later learned to sing in multiple languages and play with Cleveland-style polka greats, such as Frankie Yankovic! From 2000 - 2022, Mikey Dee served as the Entertainment coordinator and stage manager for the City of McKeesport's annual International Village festival, and served as Master of Ceremonies in 2004-2022. Mikey performs around 400 shows a year for garden club fundraisers, senior centers, town festivals, playing everything from oldies to ballroom, polkas to tamburitza, and is considered a premium senior entertainer in the tri-state area. He has recorded and produced twenty-two albums and numerous singles to date, ranging from polkas and tamburitza, Christmas, country-western and standards. Mikey Dee was inducted into the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame in 2017 and "Man of the Year" from the UMPAPA Club (United Musicians of Pennsylvania Polka Association) in 2018. See more information at www.mikeydeeband.com .</p>
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SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

<p>SATURDAY SESSION A 10:45-11:45 AM</p> <p><i>A1 - The Safe Way to Can</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Marcy Cunkelman</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> Grandma's Way May Not Be The Safe Way to Can</p> <p><u>Talk description</u> Marcy will explain the correct way to can showing the difference between a pressure canner and hot water bath. There are no short cuts in canning and everything needs to be processed in canning jars with 2-piece lids. She has had some years of over 1,000 jars canned from jams, jellies and pickled jars to meats and salmon. Keeping current with updated USDA approved books and info is the best way to can the safe way.</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Marcy Cunkelman is a member of Evergreen GC, Dist VI and GCFP Birds and Butterflies Chair. She has done programs on Birds and Butterflies for many groups and Garden Clubs and workshops for the GCFP and CAR-SGC. She was the Keystone Gardener editor for 12 years and has done many convention program booklets for GCFP, CAR-SGC and the 2018 NGC booklet, which is now used by NGC to format a booklet. With many different hats, Marcy also wears an apron as a Penn State Extension Master Food Preserver, answering canning questions thru out the year and did workshops on the "safe way to can." In 2000, she won Best of Show in canning at the PA Farm Show in Harrisburg. A bucket list item checked off. She is married to Dan with a total care adult daughter, Dana Lee. They live on 4 acres of natural habitat they planted the last 21 years, with 2 rescue dogs and an inside, formally feral cat, who adopted them. There is always something going on and people are invited to visit their "Cunkelman's Safe Haven."</p>
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SATURDAY
SESSION A
10:45-11:45 AM

*A2 - Rachel Carson's
Gifts and Legacy*



Name Jeanne Cecil

Title Director, Rachel Carson Homestead

Program Title Rachel Carson's Gifts and Legacy: the Sense of Wonder and Environmental Ethic

Talk Description The sixth sense – a sense of wonder at the natural world. Rachel joked that she wished she could copyright the word “wonder.” A most used phrase is “wonder and humility,” including urging us to temper our gain of technical knowledge with wonder and humility. It’s at the core of her ethic, and how she encouraged teaching children, and the conversion of environmentalists. It’s the fundamental part of the mission of the RCHA.

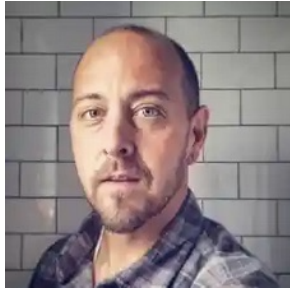
Rachel’s contributions to our understanding of the Web of Life, its interactions, and interdependence were delivered to an international audience of not only scientists, but ordinary people. Before “environment” had its current meaning and “ecology” became “eco-“ everything, Rachel delivered the message. Her contributions included recognizing unknowns, including the persistence of chemicals, undiscovered drug and chemical interactions, unintended consequences, using Americans’ rights to drive engagement and challenge the presumption of safety – and, of course, the benefits of wonder and awe at nature. Rachel Carson’s words have current and lasting importance as we continue to make ethical choices and live with their consequences.

Bio During her high school years, Jeanne was introduced to Rachel Carson’s writings by nature study teachers and environmentalist mentors who formed the RCHA (Rachel Carson Homestead Association) to preserve the Carson Homestead as part of Rachel’s legacy. With decades of professional experience in technical and business systems, Jeanne completed Master degrees in Public Management from CMU’s Heinz College and in Law from the School of Law at the University of Pittsburgh. Jeanne also served on local nonprofit boards as a member director and project producer. This background proves beneficial at RCHA, which Jeanne has been guiding since 2013.

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SATURDAY
SESSION A
10:45-11:45 AM

*A3 - Mastering Phone
Photography*



Name Don Orkoskey


Title Owner, WDO Photography

Program Title Mastering Your Phone Photography

Talk Description Master your phone photography, capture amazing photos of your garden and so much more through this fun and informative talk with professional photographer and photography teacher Don Orkoskey. This talk will give you the skills you need to feel more confident, less frustrated, and to create beautiful photos of your favorite subjects with nothing more than your phone.

Bio Don Orkoskey is a professional photographer with over 20 years of working experience. He has been teaching photography for over 15 years and regularly teaches at Phipps Conservatory, the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, and privately. Don is passionate about nature, is a certified permaculturist, and leads monthly nature photography walks in Pittsburgh.

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<p>SATURDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER 12-2:45 PM</p> <p><i>From Black to Green: The Story of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Mark Miller, Ph.D.</p> <p><u>Title</u> Director of Education and Exhibits, Pittsburgh Botanic Garden</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> From Black to Green: The Story of Pittsburgh Botanic Garden</p> <p><u>Program Description</u> Learn the story behind both the land and the organization that make up Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. Hear how a group of dedicated gardeners hatched an idea for a botanical garden in Pittsburgh and the efforts undertaken by many hands to create a rich community asset. The history of the Garden highlights the environmental reclamation work required to move from land used for logging, farming, shaft- and strip-mining to land that provides beautiful gardens, environment-based activities, and education programs for all ages in horticulture, ecology, art, health & wellness and hands-on exploration.</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Mark A. Miller is the Education Director for Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. He completed a B.S. in Horticulture, an M.S. in Agricultural Education, and a Ph.D. in Environment & Natural Resources at The Ohio State University, with a one-year Post-Doctoral research position. Mark has enjoyed a long and varied work history: 40 years as a landscape designer in Ohio, DC, and San Antonio; tree crop specialist and educator in the US Peace Corps; vocational horticulture instructor at the Ohio Reformatory for Women; program associate for the Ohio Cooperative Extension Service; Director of Horticulture/Co-Director of Education for the American Horticultural Society (AHS) and later Deputy Director of National Programs for AHS; seven years as Content Director for the gardening websites: www.learn2grow.com and www.growums.com and seven years as Outreach Education Manager at Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens in Columbus, Ohio. His current position allows him to create and manage education programs and garden-wide interpretation, oversee volunteer coordination, present horticultural and environmental classes, assist with development and installation of new gardens and buildings, and manage artist exhibitions in the new Welcome Center. Mark has served as a consultant and evaluator on a variety of projects and has authored, co-authored, edited or contributed to a number of published works</p>
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SATURDAY
SESSION B
3-4 PM

*B1- The Urban Forest in
Your Neighborhood*



Name Joe Stavish

Title Associate Director of Education at Tree Pittsburgh

Program Title The Urban Forest in Your Neighborhood

Talk Description Joe will introduce the meaning of urban forestry and discuss Pittsburgh's urban forest past, and plans for the future. Learn about the environmental services provided by trees, common stress issues, pests and diseases that trees face, and general tree care. Discover the Heritage Nursery and discuss some great local native trees.

Bio Joe coordinates the Tree Tender Certification courses, facilitates many programs including garden club talks, school visits, and nursery tours, and presents at national and regional conferences. He has instructed facilities and grounds crew training at universities including Carnegie Mellon, Chatham, and the University of Pittsburgh. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Slippery Rock University in Park and Resource Management with a minor in Environmental Education.

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SATURDAY
SESSION B
3-4 PM

*B2- Supporting More
Native, Diverse and
Productive Home
Landscapes*



Name Gabe Tilove

Title Director of Adult Education and Community Outreach, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Program Title Supporting More Native, Diverse and Productive Home Landscapes

Talk Description Our home landscapes have the potential to be so much more vibrant than the current standard. Through a variety of education and outreach programs, Phipps is helping our region's gardeners reimagine their backyard as rich, healthy landscapes for them and the ecological community.

Bio Gabe Tilove is the director of adult education and community outreach for Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, where he works to connect people more closely to the beauty of the natural world through education and outreach. Gabe directs 250+ classes annually on topics ranging from sustainable horticulture and native plant landscapes to botanical art, floral design, and culinary arts. In 2013, Gabe helped launch Phipps Homegrown program, and edible garden outreach program installing raised bed gardens for food insecure families. Over 350 backyard gardens have been installed to date.

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SATURDAY
SESSION B
3-4 PM

*B3- Native Landscaping
is for the Birds (and the
Bees and Butterflies!)*



Name Bob Mulvihill


Title Ornithologist, National Aviary

Program Title Native Landscaping is for the Birds (and for the Bees and Butterflies!)

Talk Description Native landscaping is for the birds (and for the bees and butterflies!)—Importantly, if you increase the attractiveness of your yard to these three B’s you will make it better (i.e., healthier) not only for them, but also for you—and for the planet, too! Many people have a yard dominated by a monoculture of close-cropped lawn, which they spend a lot of time, energy, water, and synthetic chemicals to maintain in this unnatural condition. This program will encourage you to think of your lawn as a blank canvas upon which you can paint (i.e., plant) a native habitat masterpiece that not only is beautiful, but also supports of a brilliant diversity of birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects and wildlife.

Bio Bob Mulvihill, the National Aviary’s Ornithologist, grew up in Squirrel Hill and has been an active member of the birding and bird conservation community in western Pennsylvania for more than forty years. He has a B.S. in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master’s in Biology from Indiana University of PA. He began his ornithological career at Powdermill Nature Reserve, the biological field station of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, where he worked at the world-renowned Powdermill bird-banding station. During his 30-year tenure there, Bob banded more than two hundred thousand birds and conducted in-depth long-term field research on Dark-eyed Junco, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Louisiana Waterthrush. He has authored more than three dozen scientific articles, including several related to the effects of climate change and local environmental stressors on birds. He has served for more than a decade on the Ornithological Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey. He has co-edited volumes on the conservation of Pennsylvania birds, written dozens of popular articles about birds and nature, and given hundreds of talks in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. Bob served as a regional coordinator for the first Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania from 1983-1989; he was the statewide project coordinator and co-editor of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania from 2004-2010. In 2013, shortly after he arrived at the National Aviary, Mulvihill brought Neighborhood Nestwatch, a citizen-science project developed by the Smithsonian Institution, to backyard bird-lovers in the Greater Pittsburgh area. He also brought Project OwlNet, a collaborative continent-wide study monitoring the migrations of Northern Saw-whet Owls, to Pittsburgh—banding owls three nights a week at a popular urban park in spring and fall. Bob has received awards in recognition of his research and education efforts to promote bird conservation from the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

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<p>SATURDAY DINNER PROGRAM, INSTALLATION & RECEPTION 6:30 PM-9ish</p> <p><i>Seasons</i></p> 	<p><u>Names</u> Angie Raitano, Mary Jane Martucci, and Diane Hughes are NGC accredited Master Judges and Floral Designers</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> Seasons by Floral Rhythms</p> <p><u>Program Description</u> (Left to Right) The Floral Rhythms trio of Angie Raitano, Mary Jane Martucci, and Diane Hughes will create floral designs showcasing their artistic talents to musical excerpts for each season of the year in this short program. [A champagne and dessert reception follows.]</p> <p><u>Bio</u> (Left to Right) Master Flower Show Judges Angiela Raitano, Mary Jane Martucci, and Diane Hughes are highly skilled floral designers, mentors judges and leaders in GCFP.</p> <p>Angie served as GCFP President in 2009-2011 and is current President of Landscape Design Society of Western Pennsylvania in District VII. She and Mary Jane are members of Valley Garden Club in District X. Diane is also in District X but is a member of Great Meadows Garden Club.</p>
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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

SUNDAY
SESSION C
9:30-10:30 AM

*C-1 Creating linkages
and connecting to schools
with gardeners*



Name Adia Effiong

Title Director of School Garden Programs, Grow Pittsburgh

Program Title Creating linkages and connecting to Schools with gardeners

Program description During this presentation we will explore ways to support and or start a school garden in your community. Gardening has many intersections and spans all demographics and ages, we will explore ways that your garden club can support through volunteering, fundraising, mentoring, teaching and even building school gardens. Your club is in a unique position to help advance the School Garden movement and grow the next generation of gardeners in your community. Bio:

Bio Currently serves as Director of School Garden Programs at Grow Pittsburgh. She leads a team of dynamic educators that work with over 40 schools and nearly a dozen Early Childhood centers across the Pittsburgh region. In addition to her role as Director she is on the Chatham University Eden Hall Campus K-12 Programs Advisory Board, The Pittsburgh Food Policy Council Child Nutrition Sub-Committee , and PA Statewide Farm to School Network Policy Working Group. She envisions a day where every child in the region has access to a Garden Based curriculum and learning to grow food is part of the school day.

Adia holds a B.A. in Health Services from the University of Pittsburgh and a M.Ed in Health Education from The Pennsylvania State University. Her background is in public health with many years in Early Childhood leadership. During her time at Grow Pittsburgh she has connected with community partners, expanded the School Garden Network and consulted with many school and Out of School Time programs to support their school garden dreams.

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SUNDAY
SESSION C
9:30-10:30 AM

*C-2 The Many Facets of
Conservation,
Restoration and
Protection of Ecosystems*



Name Rose Marie Muzika, Ph.D.

Title Director of Science, Research and Collections, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Program Title The Many Facets of Conservation, Restoration and Protection of Ecosystems

Program Description Contemporary concerns about global change and biodiversity loss dominate ecological and environmental sciences and rise to the topic of public concern. The practical approaches to address these issues include conservation practices, restoration activities and preservation of natural systems. This presentation will address some history of these approaches, and successes, losses and consequences of activity geared to address global natural resource crises.

Bio A native of Fayette County, Pennsylvania Muzika graduated from Seton Hill College (as it was known at the time), and took a PhD in Forestry with an emphasis in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Michigan State University. She is a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship (University of Iceland) and a Harvard Fellowship.


Professionally she was employed by the US Forest Service in research in Oregon and West Virginia, and was a Professor at the University of Missouri where she taught courses in Forest Ecology, Forest Health & Protection, Field Ecology, and Botany. She also advised and mentored many graduate students.

At the University of Missouri, she served as Department Chair of Forestry and Associate Director of the School of Natural Resources. She has been with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History since 2018 and is currently Director of Science, Research and Collections, and maintains offices at the Museum in Oakland and at Powdermill Nature Reserve where she has been a research associate since 1995. Research topics over her career include fire ecology, disturbance ecology, forest insects, diseases.

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<p>SUNDAY SESSION C 9:30-10:30 AM</p> <p><i>C-3 A History of Garden Design in the United States and How This Garden Heritage May Guide Future Design</i></p> 	<p><u>Name</u> Joshua Beblo</p> <p><u>Title</u> Landscape Architecture Adjunct Professor, Penn State University</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> A History of Garden Design in the United States and How This Garden Heritage May Guide Future Design</p> <p><u>Program Description</u> Beginning with the gardens and landscapes designed and managed by indigenous peoples and continuing through those introduced from Europe during colonialization, this session will initially explore how the variety of styles were developed or modified to be successful in the environmental conditions of the builders. Both agricultural and aesthetic gardens will also be examined in the context of the specific society using some places that are typical yet not well known. A brief description of styles that have been introduced in modern times will follow and lead to a proposal of concepts that will illustrate the potential for design in the future.</p> <p><u>Bio</u> Joshua has taught landscape design history, garden design, planting design, and plant identification courses at several universities and institutions in western and central PA for over a decade. Having degrees in landscape architecture and education, he enjoys sharing his passion for plants, gardens, and landscapes with others as much as he enjoys digging around in his plant collector's garden. Joshua has presented lectures at local organizations as well as at national conferences. He also has provided consultations and designs for private and community garden projects. During the winter months he designs the sets for a local high school's musical theater productions.</p>
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<p>SUNDAY LUNCH & PROGRAM HOSTED BY JUDGES COUNCIL 11 AM - 2 PM</p> <p><i>Under the Rainbow</i></p>  <p><i>(Tonya & Mary)</i></p>	<p><u>Name</u> Nine “Best of the West (PA)” accredited NGC Flower Show Judges/ Floral Designers from three Judges Councils present created designs focused on a different rainbow color and to various musical selections.</p> <p><u>Program Title</u> Under the Rainbow</p> <p><u>Program Description</u> This floral design program features COLOR by the “Best of the West (PA)” designers - flower show judges from the Erie Area, Laurel Highlands and the Pittsburgh Area Judges Councils. Come and see 9 unique designs each focusing on a different rainbow color and presented to various musical selections.</p> <p>It promises to be an inspirational display. Let's celebrate our own local talent and the COLOR they share. All completed designs will be raffled off including the container.</p> <p>Mary Hetrick, State Judges Council Chairman from District VIII’s Presque Isle Garden Club and Gospel Hill Garden Club, will host the luncheon with Tonya Young (District IV- The Garden Club of York) as Master of Ceremonies.</p>
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