

# News at Eleven

GCFP District XI

Summer 2022



Message from District XI Director, Marjorie Sears,

What a difference a year makes. This time last year we were still doing lots of Zoom. Granted we wanted to be outside and about, so we worked on it and we succeeded. We must have done a lot of planning during the Pandemic because we accomplished many things this year and we have over 550 photos on a PowerPoint presentation, so far, to prove it.

Looking back to our very successful Annual Meeting & Luncheon last September, we have bragging rights galore. Our Program won First Place from GCFP and a Certificate of Commendation from National Garden Clubs, Inc. Our PowerPoint Slide Show that showed our club activities won a GCFP First Place. We are grateful to the PAJC awesome designers for sharing their design skills with us when we were not sure that anyone would even show up.

We are grateful that many of the same designers are returning this year! Together they have chosen eight songs and will each make a floral design that reminds them of their particular song. Our Elvis will sing the song. We can pretend that we are at the Las Vegas International Hotel where Elvis lived and worked. Would you like to know the songs? All Shook Up, Hound Dog, Heartbreak Hotel, Burning Love, Jailhouse Rock, Can't Help Falling In Love, Whole Lot of Shaking Going On, The Wonder of You. Please send your Reservation in early as we might fill up fast.

This year you will be able to meet and greet the GCFP OFFICERS, President Sheila Croushore and VP Leeanna Ryba. Thankfully, we have District XI, member Pat Wolanski who is GCFP 2<sup>nd</sup> VP! Please make them all feel welcome. Perhaps they will be sitting at your table.

These past two years have certainly been an adventure. Sheila said she wanted us to have fun this year after all that we have been through! September 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have great designs and music! The designs will be explained and then raffled off! It will be a party to welcome Honey Bawduniak to her new position as GCFP District XI Director.



Judith Swanson

District XI's Forget-Me-Not Winner, 2022!

As Environmental Chair, District XI, Judi stepped up to the plate. For our Annual District XI Meeting and Luncheon, she prepared a program that stressed the perils of micro plastics finding their way, through wastewater, into our freshwater systems. Featuring Daphnia, a tiny planktonic crustacean that populates most of our freshwater rivers and lakes, her talk outlined the harmful chemical effects that deteriorating floral foams such as Oasis (used in Floral Designs) bring to microscopic and larger water creatures. Eight Philadelphia Area Judges Council members followed up with magnificent designs using alternative floral design techniques, to demonstrate that beautiful work can be done even if the popular floral foams are not utilized.

Judi has served "Gardeners of the Crooked Billet" since the year 2000 in various offices: President, Co-Vice President (programming), Recording Secretary. She has participated in every Annual Plant Sale and organized Club Hypertufa Work Shops. She has participated in Club Flower Shows.

Recently, Judi, retired as a Veterinarian, and now serves on the Hatboro Environmental Advisory Council. She has been appointed GCFP Environmental Concerns Chair by GCFP President, Sheila Croushore.

**GCFP District XI received the following awards at the National Convention:**

Certificate of Commendations:

FD2 – Floral Design Program – GCFP District XI  
FD2 – Floral Design Program – Norristown GC  
CE3 - Food Bank Donations – The Garden Club of Bristol Borough

Certificate in Appreciation of award participation:

MAE2B Social Media Website – Norristown Garden Club  
MAE2C Social Media Website – Norristown Garden Club  
MAE-4B Publications- Garden Club Federation of PA, District XI (News At Eleven)  
MAE-4F Publications – Old York Garden Club (Herb Garden Map)

**And just because we are so proud & we have photos for next year! It's all about the photos! Looking forward to next year's list already.**

**GCFP Convention AWARDS for District XI!**

**Four Lanes End Garden Club**, Website, Large Club, Third Place

**Garden Club of Bristol Borough**, Food Bank Donations from Club's Community Gardens, Medium Club, First Place

**Gardeners of the Crooked Billet**, Special Club Anniversary: 85 Years! Forget-Me-Not Award Winner: Judith Swanson.

**Norristown Garden Club**,

GCFP Program Award, Plants, Marge Eberz, First Place

Facebook Page, Extra-Large Club, First Place

Website, Extra-Large, First Place

Floral Design Program, "Fun with Armatures", First Place

Flower Show Schedule Award, Standard Flower Show “Make Mine Music”, First Place  
Flower Show Book of Evidence, Club Standard Flower Show, “Make Mine Music”, First Place  
Club Yearbook, 100+ Members, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Newsletter, Extra-Large Club, 3-12 pages, First Place

### **Old York Road Garden Club,**

Trash To Treasure, Marda Craig, First Place  
Beautification of Community Areas, Abington Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Holiday Project, Variety Club Cabin, First Place  
Wreath Workshop, First Place  
Membership Awareness, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Website, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Facebook, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Herb Garden Map, First Place  
Community Religious Garden, Medium Club, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Landscaping of Historic Area, Medium Club, First Place  
Container Gardening, Multiple Containers in One Location Grown by a Club, Train Station, First Place  
Newsletter, Medium Club, 1-2 pages, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Special Club Anniversary: 85 years

### **Trevoise Horticulture Society**

Plant Sale at Fire Company Prevention Presentation, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Newsletter, Medium Club, 13-24 pages, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Presidential Citation: Karen Wychock, Keystone Gardener Magazine Chair**

### **GCFP District XI**

Dahlia Diva Garden Tour, First Place  
Digital Media Presentation on Power Point “The Clubs of District XI”, First Place  
GCFP District XI Facebook Page, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Floral Design Program “Designing Without Oasis”, First Place  
Newsletter, “News At Eleven”, First Place

## **The Rain Chain by Judith Swanson**

The goal of a Rain Chain is not to “chain up” rain, which is near to impossible, but actually to help capture draining rain – from a gutter, an eave, a roof edge, or even a tree branch. Rain Chains can be an alternative to gutter downspouts, and are available in simple link style, or more decorative cup styles. You can even make your own!

The basic principles? Surface tension and gravity, which allow the falling water to adhere to and cascade down the vertically hanging chain, from which it is then directed into a collection receptacle or garden on the ground.

The collection system can be a rain barrel, a catch basin or bucket filled with stones to anchor the chain, a ground level swale, or an adjacent rain garden. Some folks will hang a number of decorative rain chains side-by-side in a small group over a set of potted plants, or over water-loving foliage, to provide them with a concentrated, dedicated source of water.

Historically, Rain Chains were initially used in Japan for hundreds of years, before they became popular elsewhere. The Japanese used rain chains to redirect water from roofs, but also to enhance and add a sound feature to garden décor, as well as to embellish temples.

Rain Chains traditionally are made of metal. The longest lasting are often copper, aluminum, stainless steel, and brass. Plastics or other lightweight material are not well suited, as they may sway in the wind, and create too much splash. Simple link styles are classic: the links can be single, doubled, or formed in a teardrop shape. Cup style Rain Chains feature a series of vertically aligned cups fastened along the length of the chain, through which the Chain runs. The job of the cups is to catch water, thus slowing its descent down the Chain, and to decrease splash. These cups come in many different sizes, styles, and degrees of ornateness. Some create enchanting water sounds when in use. A Rain Chain so designed can add to the outdoor appeal of a home.

Where to hang? Consider gutter sites that have a leak problem, or installing the Chain in place of a downspout. If no gutter, check roof overspill during a rainstorm. Where it's most intense may be a potential hanging spot, ie, as where two eaves meet and form an inside corner. Check the dripline and erosion gullies beneath un-guttered roof edges. For more ornamental Chains, think about hanging a small Chain from a tree limb to a ground level swale pit, large potted plant, or rain garden.

How to hang? There are instructions available online and on You Tube for hanging Rain Chains of various sizes and designs. Rain Chains are sold by the major hardware retailers, by many local garden stores and nurseries, there are a number of online retailers. Many come with installation kits which include gutter adapter tubes that can reduce water scatter and splash at the site of installation. Things to keep in mind are: install the Rain Chain where there is need for it, where you can be sure the weight of the Chain does not pull too much on the gutter or surface of attachment. Ensure the chain is properly anchored into a receptacle or ground feature using stakes, stones in a bucket or in a depression in the ground. As well, Rain Chains and cups come in different diameters and lengths, so you'll want to size the Chain for your site's space and needs. Most of all, try to put it where you can see and hear it in action.

**Enjoy your summer!**

**See you in September!**

**Adventures of District XI**

**Countryside Gardeners**



**Four Lanes End Garden Club**



**Hulmeville Garden Club**



Valentine wreath making workshop & Garden Tour.

**Market Day**



**Holiday Country Store**



**Garden**



Cornucopia Workshop

**Memorial Day Parade**



Hostesses for "Color Between the Lines"



Garden Party after Tour!

**Gardeners of the Crocket Billet**



**Garden Club of Bristol Borough**



**Norristown Garden Club**



Flower Show

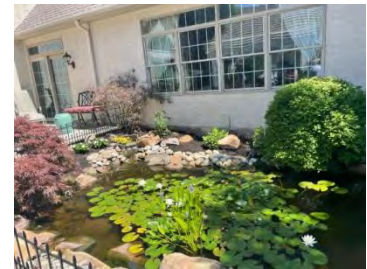
**Arbor Day Plant Sale**



Holiday Tour



**Plant sharing & Garden**



Blooming in the Country  
Garden Tour

**Plant Sale**



Contest

**Garden Tour**

**Old York Road Garden Club**



**Abington Library Award**



**Trash to Treasure 1<sup>st</sup> GCFP**



**Blue Star Marker Installation at American Legion, Post 10**

**Our G C of Philadelphia & Vicinity**

Our Garden Club of Philadelphia & Vicinity is participating in the following:



**'Ethel Day' Symposium: Unearthed History of Black Garden Clubs in America**

Thursday, April 21  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

African American gardeners have contributed to the gardening paradigm, the beautification movement, and American history for centuries. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Negro Garden Club of Virginia, which was a pivotal moment for African American gardeners and their efforts to organize. In this two-hour virtual symposium we celebrate and reflect on how that work impacts our communities today with a panel of leaders, horticulturists, historians, garden writers, and advocates who will speak to the contributions of Ethel Early Clark, one of four founding members of the Negro Garden Club of Virginia, and other African American gardeners who sparked the movement of establishing Black Garden Clubs throughout the United States.

Panelists include descendant of the storied Virginia garden club, Lillian Harris Ransom; Garden Director and Curator of the Anne Spencer House & Garden Museum, Shaun Spencer-Hester; horticulturist and landscape designer, Wambui Igpolito; author and garden visionary, Teresa Speigt; garden professional, Guina Hammond; and public garden leader, Abra Lee.

<https://experience.morrisarboretum.org/info.aspx?eventID=22> to Register for this Virtual Presentation!



**CBS 3 interview with Natasha Brown for Black History Month.**



**Holiday Gathering!**

**Swedesford Garden Club**



**Market Day, N. Penn Library**



**Plant Sale in the rain! Needed 2<sup>nd</sup> Day!**



**Nortj Penn Firehouse Urns.**



**The Outdoor Gardeners**



**Holiday Decorations**



**Chestnut Hill Market Day  
ready for customers!**



**Pollinator Garden**

**Tohickon Garden Club**

**@ Tincum Arts Festival**



**Linda O'Toole & Carol Cassel  
Present & Past President**



**Trevose Horticulture Society**



**Plant Sales Fall & Spring!**



**Making Birdseed Ornaments  
for upcoming THS Flower  
Show.**



**GCFP Convention**



Karen, Sue & Audrey made centerpieces!

**Flower Show School**



Lori Pancione, Flower Show Chair.

**“Color Between the Lines”  
District XI Flower Show**



Marj Sears & Karen Wychock,  
Chair



Sue & Karen with Designs



Many examples of Design.



Seed Money Chair with  
Owner of Burpee Seed Co.



District XI helped in many  
ways (Sue Bunkin & Mary  
Findlay @ Ways & Means).



Stay tuned for “North to  
Alaska” Flower Show: August  
12, (4-8PM), August 13,  
(10AM -4:30PM)

## Calendar of Events for District XI, Summer, 2022



**Plant A Seed, Watch It Grow!**



**The Trevoise Horticultural Society** will stage their 99th annual standard flower show "**North to Alaska!**" on Friday, August 12 from 4 to 8 PM and Saturday, August 13 from 10 AM to 4:30PM at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 5400 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA. The public is cordially invited; admission is free. Non-members are welcome to enter. However, advanced registration is required for competitive design entries. Contact the Advance Registration chair at 215-322-4154 prior to August 2, 2022.

**Thursday, September 15, 2022, Annual District XI Meeting & Luncheon, Cedarbrook Country Club. Fun Program with Elvis and Design Experts describing their favorite Elvis song!** Reservations required!

**Four Lanes End Garden Club** upcoming calendar of events:

Golf Outing to be held on Friday September 30th at 1:00. Middletown Country Club, Langhorne Harvest Day in Langhorne on October 29th from 10-3. We will have fresh floral arrangements, harvest crafts and sweet treats available for purchase.

Country Store and Garden Nook to be held on Saturday November 19th from 10-5. Richardson House, Langhorne, Pa. Country Store will have a beautiful variety of handmade holiday crafts, our famous homemade cookies and sweet treat table for yourself or your gift giving needs.

Garden Nook will have a unique variety of fresh floral arrangements and plants.