

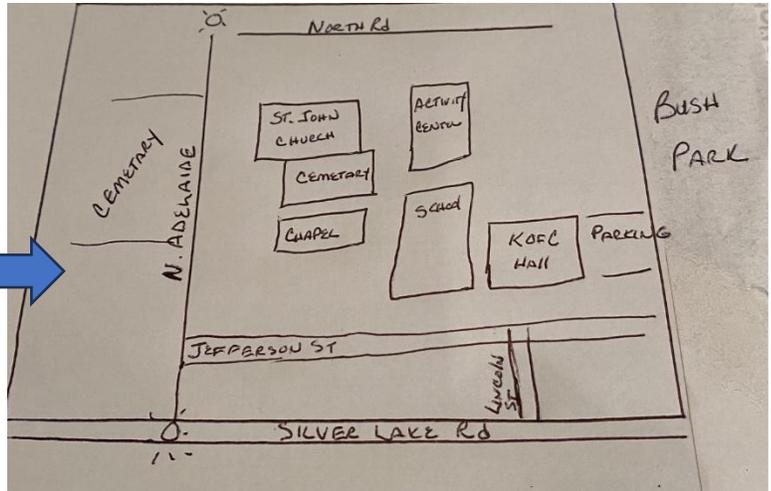
# OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

## October 2023 Newsletter

**MEETING:** October 18th AT 6:15 PM

**TOPIC:** Yoga Michigan

**Location: Knights of Columbus Hall**  
**514 Lincoln St, Fenton**



### Hospitality:

When describing our monthly meetings to potential members, we mention the socialization with like-minded members, the opportunity to learn new information about an aspect of gardening, and we always bring up the FOOD. The sharing of food brought in by our members adds a delicious and special warmth to our meetings.

That is why it is necessary for each member to sign up and participate when you say you will. We have increased the number of people on the sign-up list. This should ensure that there is enough food for each person present at the meeting. You DO NOT need to provide a dish for 80 people! But if you each bring an amount equivalent to the servings in a 9 by 13 pan (which is about 24 half cup servings) there will be plenty of food for all. You don't need to be fancy, expensive, or even homemade! Examples could be a cornbread, beans and franks, cheesy potato or mac and cheese casserole, a bowl of macaroni, vegetable or bean salad. 24 individual small sandwiches, deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, pieces of pizza are some other ideas. You can purchase a large cold veggie pizza at VGs for \$ 9.99.

Knowing that these are foods made or brought with love from many home kitchens, those with gluten (Celiac disease) and other allergies, need to use their own knowledgeable discretion when choosing food from these Potluck style offerings.

Those who have signed up for the October meeting are:

Kathy Wright, Linda VanCamp, Pat O'Keefe, Lisa Rolls, Melody Miller  
Geno Essenmacher, Patsy Essenmacher, Amy Doyle, Lynne Ronthi  
Marnie Boehlke, Maisie Nickola, Linda Rice.

**I need one other person for Hospitality for October, main dish or salad would be great.** Thank you. Lynne Ronthi



Lynne Ronthi, Hospitality Chair

### Membership:

If there are any name and/or address errors in the yearbook, please contact Nancy and Norm Kilgour.

The sustaining member certification-discount cards are in. Norm and Nancy will put them in the back of your name tags. Please remove them and place them in your card carrier/wallet.



## St. John Gardens:

On September 23rd a group of club volunteers removed all the annuals, dug out areas of black landscape cloth and planted new perennials, bulbs and hydrangeas. Thank you so much to the team of hard-working gardeners: Norm and Nancy Kilgour, Joan Runyan, Kathryn Wright, Jerry Loviska, Ray and Ann Barth, Diane Rice, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Leslie Ryan, Tina Imeson, Patti O'Sullivan, Karen Hall, Pat Manion and Karen Poloski. Click on <https://opengategardenclub.com/image-gallery> to see some photos of the crew!

## Rules for Photo Contest:

Submit only one photo for each season, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Pictures are to be no larger than 5X7 and must be digital so that we can put your photo in future newsletters or the yearbook. Photos should not contain any people. All winners will be in a newsletter or on our Facebook page. First and Second prize winners will receive a prize and be on the front and back cover of our yearbook.

## 😊 About the Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is a great opportunity for Open Gate Club to raise money for some of the many charities we

Adopt-A-Pet Gardens give to annually. Historically donations from the club have been given to:

### Benefactors:

- Adopt a Pet Gardens
- JR Winegarden Public Library
- Junior Master Gardener Program
- St. John Church plants and maintenance
- Linden Beautification: Butterfly Garden

Ultimately the goal is to provide a fun event to raise money for OGGC while providing a venue for camaraderie and laughs 😊. Taking the past history of our garden club and current trends from other places that do silent auctions, the committee is suggesting the following guidelines for the November auction.

Silent auction needs two key elements:

- Items to auction and
- People to buy the items

The committee is asking you to think about the Silent Auction and donations you have made or items you have purchased. How can we ramp this up and make this auction fun and interesting for those buying items?

### Donations:

Items donated can fit under many categories. We are encouraging you to be clever about your donations and think outside the box. We are hoping for 2 donations per member 😊

Silent Auction Contributions/Suggestions list:

- Lottery tickets
- Tickets for an event...sporting, theatre, show tickets
- Dinner...offer to make one for a group of 2, 4, or 6
- Boat ride and appetizers/desserts (hors d'oeuvres)
- Baked goods night of auction...take home
- Baked goods for date of choice or when in season...rain check

Craft project...cross stitch, knit, crochet, paint, etc....  
 Pie of the month coupon  
 IOU for garden help, dog sitting, coffee, etc...  
 Teach someone your hobby...to crochet, knit, paint, make cement stuff, can (jelly, salsa, pickles)  
 Donate one of your handcrafted items  
 Coupon book for Master Gardener Skills/insight for an afternoon  
 Local business donations...haircut, massage, nails, any type of gift certificate or gift card  
 Purchase gift certificate of gift card to donate  
 Create vases of greens or wreathes for the holidays

Think about the things you might buy and the items that have sold at previous auctions when picking a donation that works for you 😊

Guests:

We are also asking you to think about the guests you have brought or would bring to the Silent Auction. In order to make this a fundraiser, it would be great for every member to bring a friend or two. Our members do a great job supporting this event, but bringing a friend would perhaps encourage someone to join our club or make a fun purchase. Hoping everyone will bring a guest.

The committee hopes that by having every member complete a Silent Auction donation questionnaire (see attachment) and a Guest/Attendance Questionnaire we will have a better idea about what donations to expect and the number of people to plan for food and seating.

**Silent Auction: November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:15**

The silent auction is full of fun auction items and surprises! We just never know what items will be available on auction night. All items available at the auction are acquired by members (donated, found, requested) Members are encouraged to seek out and share items they hope others will want to bid on and buy. Any questions: call Lynn Behr or Linda VanCamp.

Donated items can include household items, garden items, gift certificates, crafted items, baked bread, lottery tickets, tickets, wine and garden help for a few hours. If you have a skill to offer, auction your time! Larger items are offered through a live auction with an auctioneer!

To avoid multiple requests to the same donor, please sign up the donor sheet with donor contact. **Donor letters will be available at the October meeting and downloadable from the website.** <https://opengategardenclub.com/garden-club-documents>



Lynn

Auction set up: please arrive at 4:00. You will help cover tables with tablecloths, help members fill in bid sheets for their items and set up items on bid tables.

Clean up: remove coverings and push in chairs, wipe tables as needed.

Cashiers: tally sales and take money at close of bidding.

Auction Set Up-4:00	Auction CleanUp-to follow	Cashiers:
Sherry Lahey: make reminder calls	Melody Miller: end of meeting reminder	Amy Doyle: organizer
Kim Fischer	Cara Wahl	Tina Imasen
Leslie Ryan	Janice Cooley	Linda VanCamp
Karen Maxon	Christine Webster	Vic Wasylyshym

Ray Barth	Suzanne Kelly	
Kathy Girgen	Debbie Wasylyshyn	

Thanks to all OGGC members who have signed up to help with this event. You are appreciated!

**Holiday Gathering: December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm**

We are already looking forward to this December event. Thank you to all who have signed up to make this a great evening! 4 people are still needed for clean- up. All members are asked to bring a dish to pass. The Food Crew will provide more information at the November meeting. Entertainment is booked and craft take away is planned.

Table Décor Committee: Select theme. Budget available. Plate, napkin, favor, décor with craft greens	Table/Room Set up: arrive 5:00 Tables/chairs already in place. Place table cloths and décor.	Table Clean up: at end of evening. Wipe tables/gather trash. Tables remain in place.
Kim Fischer: make contact with group	Kathy Girgen: make reminder calls to your group	Martha Romanowski: make reminder announcement at end of meeting
Karen Poloski	Sherry Lahey	Linda Rice
Karen Maxon	Lynne Ronthi	
Tina Imeson	Michelle Kusnier	
	Nancy Kilgore	
	John Kusnier	

Food Crew: select main dish, beverage, determine sub groups for membership. Tina and Lynn have suggestions/allowance for you.

Food Crew:
Skip Getz-Walsh: coordinator for group
Mary Kaye Schmelzer
Kathy Girgen

Bows for take away craft: Lynn Behr: contact group to set up meet and make
Sherry Lahey
Karen Hall
Mary Kaye Schmelzer
Deb Ryan
Tina Imeson
Karen Poloski

**Minutes Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting Sept 20, 2023**

**6:23 p.m.** St John Activity Center

Special Note: Next month's (October) meeting will be held in the Knights of Columbus Hall (behind school building, lower level)

All those who provided food and hospitality for tonight's meeting were acknowledged and thanked.

New members were introduced, including Janet Baxter, Deborah Bihum, Justin Davis, Holly Gall, Suzanne Kelly, Jennifer McKay, Amy & Patrick Mulholland, Carmi Murray, John Pendergast, Clifton Pinion, Megan Poirier, Dianne Swyrtek, Zana Wandshneider, and Christine Webster.

Judy Lytle spoke briefly about opportunities to support Evergreen Greenhouse, which is on Pollock Rd, on the grounds of Ascension Genesys Hospital. This greenhouse is staffed by volunteers and all proceeds go to the hospital. Now is a great time to shop for mum plants at great prices. But hurry; the greenhouse closes on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Refreshments

Betty Sheehy called all new members to gather for a group photo.

## 6:56 p.m. Business Meeting

Lynne Ronthi reminded members that sign-up sheets were available at the entrance. It is each member's responsibility to sign up 3 times each year for hospitality. If every meets their commitment, all members will enjoy a bountiful feast at each meeting. If a member is unable to meet their commitment, please contact Lynne so she can try to cover any potential shortfall.

Lynn Behr spoke about the Silent Auction, held November 15. Bring any items that you think will provide income for the club. Items can include garden equipment, decorator items, books, food/drink, services, etc. Last year there was a Pontoon Boat ride, including a \$60 certificate for Cancun restaurant on Lobdell Lake. Items are auctioned off to the highest bidder. Thanks to Cara Wahl for the wonderful job she did as auctioneer last year. (Hope she'll be able to do it again this year.) Sign-up sheets are available at tonight's meeting for Set Up, Clean Up, and Cashier. For more information, go to the club website: [opengategardenclub.com](http://opengategardenclub.com).

Lynn also spoke about the Christmas Party, December 13. Sign-up sheets were available at the meeting for set up, take down, and food. Entertainment is already covered. The craft is also covered (2 hanging ornaments each). If anyone has 1" wired ribbon to donate, contact Lynn Behr.

Norm Kilgour spoke about member name tags. He asked members to shorten up your name tags so that your name is clearly visible while you're sitting at table. If there is any discrepancy in the member book, please contact Norm for correction.

Betty Sheehy identified discrepancies with the Photo Contest details in the book. These will be corrected in the next Newsletter.

Karen Poloski spoke about fall clean up on St John the Evangelist grounds; Saturday, September 23 beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your clippers, bags, etc. to help clean up the ivy on the north wall (by the hydrangeas), removing all annuals and replacing them with perennials (hydrangeas, roses, and grasses; purchased at 50% off from Home Depot, and donated by members).

Karen also spoke about the need to clean up and maintain the garden at Adopt-a-Pet. A sign-up sheet was available at the meeting for volunteers for this activity. The date for clean-up will be announced via email.

Amy Doyle provided information on the 2023 Garden Tour. It was a great success; financials are available upon request to Amy. A new Chairperson is required for the 2024 Tour. New chairpersons for Equipment and Afterglow are also required. Please contact Amy or Ann Barth. Five houses are already committed for the

2024 Tour; 3 more homes need to be selected. The goal is to have all homes in/near Linden in 2024, and in/near Fenton for 2025. Please contact Patsy Essenmacher for potential addresses for home for the 2024 Tour.

A location for the 2024 Summer Picnic is required. Please contact Ann Barth if you'd like to volunteer your home.

7:20 p.m. Bathroom break

7:31 p.m. Presenter: Glen Pace Wonderful Woodlander Presentation.

Glen provided a handout listing over 45 plants that thrive in woodland environs. An open house tour is scheduled for October 12 from 3 p.m. to dusk. For tour dates, or additional information, you can contact Glen at:

Pace Garden

2426 Delwood Dr

Clio, MI 48420

810 247-4582 [pacegardens@charter.net](mailto:pacegardens@charter.net)

Door Prizes:

Book: 1001 Hints for Gardeners, won by Deb Scribner

Table Torch won by Patsy Essenmacher

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.