

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB OF MICHIGAN

November 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING:
November 19, 2025
LOCATION:
Father Harvey Activity Center
Program: Silent Auction
Time: 615 PM



2025-2026 Hospitality List

11/19/2025

Martha Romanowski *
 Debbie Wasylyshyn
 Carla Goll
 Sandy Wanger
 Jim Fornash
 Kim Alexander
 Kathryn Wright
 Jeanne Martin
 Karen Maxson
 Patti O'Keefe

1/21/2026

Nicolette
 Ellinghausen*
 Karen Poloski
 Cara Wahl
 Skip Walsh
 Amy Doyle
 Melody Miller
 Julie Buttigieg
 Dave Buttigieg
 Jim Fornash

2/18/2026

Dan Czmer
 Norm Kilgour
 Nancy Kilgour
 Ann Barth*
 Carmi Murray
 Deanna McCrate
 Becky Eberhard
 Deb Scribner
 Patti O'Keefe

3/18/2026

Karen Hall*
 Linda Van Camp
 Debbie Tegard-Harroun
 Nicolette Ellinghausen
 Karen Poloski
 Judy Lytle
 Kim Church

4/15/2026

Pat Manion*
 MK Schmelzer
 Pat Laycock
 Kay Baxter
 Judy Lyttle
 Joan Runyan
 Betty Sheehy
 Amy Doyle
 Melody Miller

5/20/2026	6/17/2026
Lisa Rolls	Julie Buttigieg
Nicolette Ellinghausen	Dave Buttigieg
Patti O'Keefe *	Patti O'Keefe
Greta Gatzko Evo	Jeanne Martin
Betty Sheehy	Betty Sheehy
Deb Scribner	Janice Cooley
Jeanne Martin	
Nati Horton	
Lisa Rolls	

HOSPITALITY: Note where your name is on these lists and put it in your calendar. If you do not see your name on one of these lists, please choose a month or two to contribute a dish to pass.

MEMBERSHIP: The list of all additions and corrections to the yearbook will be available at the November meeting.

ST. JOHN GARDENS: Karen Poloski wants to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all who worked so hard carrying and spreading multiple yards of mulch at St. Johns's on Saturday, November 1st. Her helpers were Kay Baxter, Janice Cooley, Jim Douglas, Kim Fishcher, Deb Henyon, Nancy Kilgour, Norm Kilgour, Patti O'Sullivan, Jim Pabst, Lisa Rolls, Matha Romanowski, and Leslie Ryan.



SILENT AUCTION: Reminder that the Silent Auction fundraiser will be held at the November Meeting. You can find more information at the www.opengategardenclub.com web site on the Club Documents page and attached to this Newsletter. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO COME AND ENJOY OUR HOSPITALITY AND BID ON THE MANY VARIED OFFEREINGS IN THE AUCTION.

Open Gate Garden Club Board Meeting

Oct 15, 2025

5:09 p.m. St John Activity Center Library

In attendance: Kim Alexander, Ann Barth, Ray Barth, Lynn Behr, Marnie Boehlke, Nicolette Ellinghausen, Norm and Nancy Kilgore, Pat Laycock, Leslie Ryan, Deb Scribner, Debbie Tegard-Harroun

1. Ann Barth mentioned that the Michigan Garden Club has “gone green”, substituting personal, reusable dinnerware at their meetings for Styrofoam and paper plates, etc. It was suggested that the concept be proposed at the business meeting to see if our members accept this idea.
2. Norm Kilgore brought up some bylaws (III.2, IV.1, IV.2) related to membership dues that should be reviewed in light of the fact that members can now enter anytime of the year (no longer just in September). There was discussion but it was decided to table the issue for this meeting and bring it up again at the next board meeting.
3. Leslie Ryan told the group that some members have asked about paying dues via PayPal, via QR code.
4. Financial data was provided for 2024-25, and the 2025-26 Budget. Kim Alexander moved to accept the budget, Ray Barth seconded it. Budget Approved.
5. Ann Barth discussed By Laws VII.3 (tax documents) – the club should be (but are not currently) filing Michigan Annual Reports.

6:05 p.m. Meeting ended

Open Gate Garden Club Member Meeting **Oct 15, 2025**

6:20 p.m. St John Activity Center
Welcome visitors and new members.
Thanks to Hospitality.

6:22 p.m. Dinner

6:53 p.m. Business Meeting

1. Marnie Boehlke will bring a suggestion box to meetings going forward. She will be responsible for monitoring all suggestions offered.
2. Betty Sheehy attended the Michigan Garden Club Annual Conference #6 in Midland. There were about 60 people in attendance, including many club presidents from all over the state. Money is available from the State of Michigan to help with conservancy issues. The group traveled to a competitive flower show at a nearby farm. The next meeting is Spring 2026.
3. Ann Barth relayed the Michigan Garden Club suggestion for conservancy efforts to reduce waste at monthly meetings. It was suggested that member begin by bringing personal cups to meetings to replace Styrofoam cups.
4. Lynn Behr asked that hospitality members arrive at monthly meeting at 4:45 to begin set up, one person at least (2 preferred), don't start cleaning up until after the meeting is over, as noted by adjournment from the club president.

5. Sign-up sheets were available for help setting up (4:15 p.m.) and cleaning up with the Silent Auction in November. Bid sheets were also available and will be on the night of the Auction; bids to start at 1/3 the value of the items. Letters are also available to local merchants for their participation.
6. Tina Imerson and Karen Poloski talked about the Christmas Dinner, December 10th. Sign-up sheets are available; set up to begin around noon, clean up the next day. There will be no speaker. Phil May will provide entertainment. Rose hips and greens are needed for the (optional) craft project.
7. Grounds clean-up has been postponed to Nov 1st. Karen Poloski will begin removing annuals. Fall ground preparation is spreading mulch.

7:15 p.m. Break

7:28 p.m. Speaker Presentation – Lee Burton on Sounds of Backyard Birds (songs and calls)

- Merlin Bird ID App is a free app from Cornell University that identifies different bird calls.
- Goldfinch – lose color in Winter
- Chickadees – good at detecting predators
- Titmouse – small, gray Cardinal-looking
- Nuthatch – upside down, white breasted and red breasted
- Junco – comes around in the Winter
- Pine Siskin – like thistles/Nyger (squirrel don't like those seeds)
- Norther Flicker – art deco bird
- Pileated Woodpecker – large, loud
- Cowbirds – nest in other birds' nests
- Blue Birds – will come to bird house
- Cedar Waxwing – Winter
- Recommended documentary – <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/an-original-duckumentary-preview/7957/>
- Native plant species attract birds and beneficial insects
- Recommended seeds to attract best birds: Black oil, sunflower, Nyger, cracked corn, suet, heated bird baths

8:33 p.m. Door Prize

Book – Ann Barth

Edison lights – Betty Sheehy

Houseplant – Deb Henyon