

The Perennial



2018-2019

Issue 6: February

Website: ArlingtonGarden.org

Facebook: m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma

We had a resounding success on January 9, 1910 – no, that’s not a typo! --- as Jessa Piaia, in period costume, portrayed Isabella Stewart Gardner in front of a delighted crowd who found it easy to transport themselves back 99 years. With a sense of humor and lots of well-researched facts about both the public and private Mrs. Gardner, Jessa spoke about her life and the legacy of art that she left for all of us to see whenever we go to her museum in Boston.

There’s another treat in store for us in February...

”The Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary and its connections to Arlington”

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Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 - 10:30 am
St. John’s Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St. Arlington, MA*



Club members Jan Ford and Lally Bennett will present this program, which they also presented for the Arlington Historical Society. As well as their work at Belmont’s Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary, Jan and Lally work in two of the Club’s civic and historic garden sites – the Jason Russell House and Town Hall Gardens.

Remember ...

The February meeting is also a “bag lunch” month.
Members, please bring your own lunch. Your Board and Hospitality
Chairs will supply coffee, tea and dessert for all.

Garden Therapy – no January Program

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### *Civic Development Chair Nancie Richardson*

#### *...and Garden Tip of the Month*

While the Club’s civic projects are now being insulated under our recent heavy blanket of snow, Nancie suggests...

*Members who like a little green around their garden in the winter might consider planting sedges (like liriopse and others - especially if they are variegated) this coming growing season because these plants stay green all year.*



*She has a number of them along her driveway garden area and they give great pleasure in the cold winter months.*

### *Environment Chair – Karen MacKinnon*

#### ***Plant for Native Pollinators***

*It’s the time of year when plant and seed catalogues are arriving in the mail. When browsing through these beautiful pages, why not consider adding plants to your yard or containers that will support local pollinators? We know that native bee populations have been declining and this also is true of insect populations in general. We can help out by adding more native plants that will attract pollinators.*

*Things to consider when planting to attract pollinators:*

- *Plant native plants which have co-evolved with the native insect life.*
- *Plant host plants so that insects can lay their eggs on plants that will provide food for the new insects upon hatching.*
- *Plant plants with a variety of bloom times to provide nectar and pollen from early spring to late fall.*
- *Consider adding a water source – pollinators generally prefer a shallow water source, for example a rock with a hollow area that can be filled when you are watering your plants.*
- *Refrain from using pesticides and herbicides.*
- *Consider a brush pile and leave it undisturbed for habitat.*

*For a detailed list of pollinator plants for our area please check out the following link from the [National Resources Conservation Service](#)*

*And on a related topic....*

Grow Native Massachusetts is proud to present its 2019 *Evenings with Experts* lecture series - the 10<sup>th</sup> year of presenting renowned speakers on native plants and ecologically sensitive landscape design

**Each lecture will be held at**

Cambridge Public Library | 449 Broadway | Cambridge, MA  
7 - 8:30 pm

**Lectures are free and open to the public.**

**The 2019 program**

The Challenge and Promise of Restoring Urban Landscapes  
Wednesday February 6, 2019

*Steven Handel, Distinguished Prof. of Ecology and Evolution, Rutgers University*

Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Understanding the Vital Powers of Plants Wednesday  
March 6, 2019

*William Cullina, Executive Director, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens*

More than Just the Buzz: Finding Real Solutions to Native Pollinator Declines  
Wednesday April 3, 2019

*Robert Gegear, Assistant Prof. of Biology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

A Grassland Restoration Tale of Weeds, Wildlife, and Renewal  
Wednesday May 1, 2019

*Jenna Webster, Senior Designer, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates*

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And now for something completely different – a matinee performance of “*Becoming Dr. Ruth*”

Thursday, May 9th - 12 pm matinee

Mosesian Center for the Arts
321 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472

\$25 per person

Becoming Dr. Ruth chronicles the life of noted psychologist Dr. Ruth Westheimer from her early years fleeing Nazi Germany to her time spent as a sniper in Jerusalem and beyond. This illuminating one woman show from the author of Freud’s Last Session is a humorous and heartfelt portrait detailing Dr. Ruth’s incredible journey to become a pioneer in the psychology of human sexuality and the world’s most famous sex therapist.

*Several people signed up at the January meeting.
Would you like to add your name?*

If so, please email or phone Emily Snyder by February 1st

Payment and carpooling will be arranged closer to the performance date, but to ensure purchase for a group, we have set a 2/2/19 deadline.

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The Dept. of Public Works’ Recycling Center, Grove Street, offers one Saturday morning a month to drop off hard-to-recycle materials, such as bulky rigid plastic, foam packaging (the stiff kind that breaks when you bend it), scrap metal, clothing and textiles, books and media, plus specialty items on occasion.

On Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> the Health Department will be collecting medical sharps. Bring them secured in a red sharps collection box, available for sale at Maida Pharmacy, 121 Mass. Ave., E. Arlington

One member has already signed up for this series – maybe you would like to too



## Home Horticulture Lecture Series

*Ten evening classes packed with practical information*

Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 PM

March 21 - May 23

CONVENIENT LOCATION JUST SOUTH OF BOSTON

- All levels of gardening experience welcome!
- Taught by senior Massachusetts Master Gardeners
- No reading, homework, testing or volunteering required
- Topics include important fundamentals such as building great soil and how plants work, as well as practical how-to's like basic landscape design, perennial selection and care, and combating weeds, diseases and pests

For more information and to sign up,

<http://massmastergardeners.org/spring-2019-home-horticulture-series/>



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*And finally*

**SAVE THE DATE** Dedication of the Robbins Town Hall Gardens

Reflecting Pool Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm