



The Perennial - February 2020

2019-2020: Issue 6

Website: <ArlingtonGarden.org>

Facebook: m.facebook.com/arlingtongardenclubma



February Program ~ Monday 2/17/19 – 10:30 am
St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St., Arlington, MA

~ Yes, it's the Presidents' Day holiday, but the meeting is still on. ~

Please note: AGC meetings will be canceled if Arlington schools are closed because of snow or if there is a parking ban on at the same time as the meeting.

From Nancy Pike, VP-Programs

Noted flower arranger Thelma Shoneman will show us how to make flower interpretations of our favorite music pieces. On March 27th the Robbins Library will host an evening soiree, a fundraiser

for our Arlington libraries as well as the Friends of the Robbins Gardens, representing all types of music, from operas to musicals to children's books with scores. You'll be seeing reminders of that often in coming months.

Members of the Garden Club were treated to a presentation by Lou Greenstein at the club's **January meeting**.

Lou, a well-known celebrity TV chef with a lifetime of experiences, is also witty, gracious and very talented in the art of arranging fruits and vegetables. He showed us how to arrange butternut squash and eggplant into vases of edible pieces of art that can be used as table centerpieces and then be eaten or used to make soup. He did the same with fruit, and made some comical animals out of items such as radishes (mice) and pears (birds?).

In addition to this, Lou gave us a crash course in kitchen knives and how to sharpen them. So all in all, it was a very informative and fun talk.



A few lucky Club members became owners of Lou's raffled-off carvings... and word has it that one creation made a tasty pureed soup!

REMEMBER...

February is another "brown bag" lunch meeting. Bring your own, and desserts will be provided by the Club's board.

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For March, April and May meetings members will provide lunch.

The wonderful lunches we enjoy are compliments of the members whom Hospitality asks each month. A sign-up sheet will be posted at each meeting. When you do sign up, bring one of your favorite dishes to share at one of our Spring meetings. We request salads, sandwiches, and desserts.

Because our membership has grown, please be sure to bring enough of your food choice for 20 people. This way, we will all be assured of enjoying a delicious lunch with friends.

Thank you for your generosity!

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***Garden Therapy***  
***Carol Nahigian and Carmen Torres, Co-Chairs***

Next meetings are February 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*The Club sadly notes the passing of longtime Garden Therapy pianist, Florynce Bronstein. Below is Florynce's obituary followed by two tributes from Club President, Janet Pagliuca and Garden Therapy Co-Chair Carol Nahigian, which were posted on the funeral home's website.*



BRONSTEIN, Florynce Ruth (Schivek) Passed away on January 11, 2020. She was born on January 17, 1941 to Harold and Mae Schivek of Chelsea, MA. She graduated from Chelsea High School in 1958, married Kenneth Bronstein in 1959. She had one son, Michael, in 1960. The family moved to New York in the early 1960's and she returned to college where she graduated from Vassar college in 1970 with a degree in musicology as well as earning a Phi Beta Kappa award. She taught music in the New York public school system until the mid 1970's when she made a career change and was then actively involved in the travel industry until her retirement almost fifteen years ago. During that time, she served as the first female president of the Greenwich Connecticut Rotary Club. She moved to Watertown, MA in the late 2000's where she remained active in various civic and artistic activities. She loved to visit New York City to go to the opera, museums, and the theater. She is survived by one son, Michael Bronstein, her sister Rowena Davidson, and two nieces, Susan Saunders and Rebecca Murray. Services will be arranged privately by the immediate family.

The Arlington Garden Club would like to express their deepest sympathies for Florynce's family. A few years she volunteered her time to play the piano at one of our nursing homes where we visit monthly. She immediately felt like family and was very happy to be able to share her musical experience with our group. A few years ago, she advised us her schedule would not allow her to continue. We wished her well and thanked her for finding us. We are all saddened to learn her life has taken a different direction. She will always be in our hearts.

Janet Pagliuca, Arlington, MA



The Garden Therapy Committee of the Arlington Garden Club is very saddened to learn of the passing of our friend, Florynce Bronstein.

Florynce joined our group at the Park Avenue Health Center as a volunteer pianist and through her music, brought joy to the Garden Therapy morning sessions. All who heard Florynce's playing were uplifted. She came early and kept playing throughout our sessions. (Each month has a season theme, which Florynce would match.) One time, in particular, she chose to play popular show tunes.

In between playing, Florynce would share about her life adventures. A delightful, warm hearted person, she touched all of us - Garden Club members, patients, families and staff.

Thank you, Florynce.

Carol Nahigian  
Co-Chair Garden Therapy Committee

## ***Civic Development - Nancie Richardson, Chair***

### **GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY !**

Summer. Hot. I mean *really* hot. So the workers for the **Ridge Circle** are meeting at 8 a.m. to thin the perennials and pull weeds. But 8 a.m.? Hey, I'm up, still in my pajamas and working on my second cup of coffee, but I'm not out and about yet. I like to ease into the day rather than get shot out of cannon. But it's the garden club and I promised. Off I go.

"We're going to plant more herbs in the garden this Wednesday. If it's rainy or too hot, we'll reschedule." Okay, the **Kitchen and herb garden at the Jason Russell House** seems to be more my speed.

Work schedule at the **Prime Planter** up in the Heights. The eight volunteers each get assigned two weeks during the growing season to water, weed and deadhead. But I can go *anytime* during those weeks: pick a nice day, morning/afternoon, whatever works around my schedule of medical appointments and mani/pedis.

**Town Hall Gardens and** next door at the **Whittemore Robbins House**. Work days scheduled the same day of the week, every other week. Easy peasy commitment. Show up when you can. There's always several people there.

And the best thing about all of these projects is the laughs shared, friends made, the satisfaction of making Arlington a prettier place and, without exception, people out shopping, walking their dogs or driving by in cars that stop or shout out their car windows: "Thank you! It looks great!"

We're coming up on the growing season (Punxsutawney Phil says spring is coming soon and who are we to question a ground hog?), and we encourage all of you to join in our civic development projects.

Volunteer. Get involved.

Have trouble getting up after you've been weeding in the dirt?  
Plenty of friendly hands to pull you up. I speak from experience.

**Small commercial.** The Nominating Committee is looking for a Civic Development Chair for our Board of Directors. Pretty easy job that requires you to oversee our various civic planting committees as well as our Beautification Committee who runs the adopt a planter or island program. We have a happy history of people stepping forward to chair these sub committees so things run pretty smoothly. Please consider taking on this Board position. End of commercial.

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## **Environment Corner - Chair, Karen MacKinnon**

**Remember:** Please bring your button batteries to Club meetings!

**Arlington's Recycling Center's Next Open Day** (weather permitting)  
**Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 12 noon**  
**51 Grove Street**

The Concord Garden Club is showing a film about Piet Oudolf  
**"Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf"**

**February 12 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**The Umbrella, 40 Stow St. Concord, MA 01742**

Open to the public at no charge

Piet Oudolf is the creator of the High Line in New York City and other famous gardens around the world.

**Arlington Community Education course: Spring Garden: Prep for Success**  
**Tue, February 25, 7pm – 9pm** **Arlington High School**

Description Grow your garden confidence! This class will cover the basic elements necessary to ensure your garden has the essential building blocks for success. We'll touch on topics including soil, sunlight, and water. Learn how to assess the growing conditions of a site and how to know whether you have the right plants in place for maximum health. The focus will be on perennials, annuals, and shrubs (not vegetables). Come away with a plant list you developed for either an existing garden bed or a new one.

[Register](#)

**Museum of Science Free Lecture Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> | 6:30 – 9 pm**

### **Wicked High Tides**

Join us for a fun and interactive evening where you can discover how communities around Boston can be more resilient to sea level rise. In this forum event, you'll explore the social, economic, and environmental impacts of sea level rise, work with others to recommend resilience strategies, and learn about how participating in community science can help inform scientists about how communities are at risk for flooding. Light refreshments will be provided.

Want to get involved in community science now? [Get started.](#)

*This program was created in partnership with Northeastern University, Arizona State University, SciStarter, and NISE Network thanks to funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This program is free, thanks to the generosity of the Lowell Institute.*

*Due to limited space, an RSVP is required to attend. Please [email](#) if you have any questions or concerns*

## **It's time to nominate some new members to the Board**

**Vice President-Operations, Lolly Bennett is chairing the Nominating Committee, along with 2 other Club members.**

A slate of nominees is presented at the Club's April meeting and is voted on at the May meeting. New officers take office in June each year.

Please consider joining the Board in one of the open positions! It's a wonderful learning experience, and you will be making a valuable contribution to the Club's success.

Be assured, previous office-holders will always 'teach you the ropes' and ease the transition into your new role

### **Following is the update of open Board positions for the 2020-21 year:**

|                                     |                                                                   |                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>                   | <b>OPEN</b>                                                       | Janet Pagliuca is completing 3 years.)                                                                       |
| <b>Vice President - Operations</b>  |                                                                   | <b>Lolly Bennett</b> will continue as long as she is supported in the making of the Club's <i>Yearbook</i> . |
| <b>Vice President - Programs</b>    |                                                                   | <b>Nancy Pike</b> will continue.                                                                             |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                    |                                                                   | <b>Kathy Creedon</b> will continue                                                                           |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>          |                                                                   | <b>Jan Ford</b> will continue                                                                                |
| <b>Civic Development Chair</b>      | <b>OPEN</b>                                                       | <b>Nancie Richardson</b> is completing 1 year                                                                |
| <b>Environment Chair</b>            | <b>OPEN</b>                                                       | <b>Karen MacKinnon</b> is completing 3 years                                                                 |
| <b>Garden Therapy</b> (2 Co-Chairs) |                                                                   | <b>Carol Nahigian &amp; Carmen Torres</b> will continue                                                      |
| <b>Hospitality</b> (2 Co-Chairs)    | <b>ONE POSITION OPEN</b><br>(Zoreh Damghany is completing 1 year) | <b>Bronwyn Dillon</b> will continue.                                                                         |
| <b>Membership Chair</b>             |                                                                   | <b>Ginger Tower</b> will continue.                                                                           |

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|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Publicity Chair</b> | <b>OPEN</b> | <b>Flo Dunlap</b> is completing a term |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|

*Having created Books in Bloom five times, the committee has decided to freshen it up in the new decade and is asking you to participate in this joint Garden Club / Friends of Robbins Library fundraiser event...*

**Books in Bloom is becoming *Music in Bloom* !**



**Friday evening, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ~ Robbins Library**

- We need members to sign up to be floral displayers - think songs, children's songs, musicals, operas - and books based on music! Please be in touch with Patsy to sign up.
- At both the February and March meetings we will ask members to sign up with ways of helping:
- Bakers/food providers
- Cocktail waitresses/food organizers/clean-up crew
- The Jim Nicoloro trio will provide music for the event.

Please be in touch with committee members with any questions or comments.

We will have tickets available for members to purchase - and hopefully take any they can sell!!

***Patsy Kraemer & Sally Naish – Co-Chairs***

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***Membership - Chair, Ginger Tower***

We have a new member - #96 - Heather is also new to the community.

Heather Rifken

Please add Heather's information to your email lists. Thanks.