

THE GARDEN POST

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Winter 2024 - Issue 197



Donna Robinson
President
Kalamazoo Garden Council

Welcome, everyone, to the second half of our experiment in shared leadership of the Kalamazoo Garden Council. Thanks to Joey Miller's suggestion of a "Plan C" last Spring, the Board voted to try rotating presiding leadership of our meetings with a primary figurehead President to meet legal 501(c)3 requirements.

Based on everything I've heard, the system seems to be working as we hoped it would. Directors have successfully participated in leading the Board meetings; attendance, participation and focus at the meetings has been wonderful. Steadily throughout the Council year so far, members have stepped forward with innovative ideas and enthusiastic participation in the ownership of this venerable institution of ours.

The Members Market in September was one example; the evolution of the Lynn Dinvald Flower Arrangers Lending Library is another. Lead Chair Sue Conat was masterful in her leadership of the 70th Annual Greens Sale. She retained great ideas from past years while also streamlining its meeting and committee chair responsibility tracking. She'll be a wonderful resource for the next year's Lead Chair.

Due to all of you, our Council is in good hands. We're a true federation of clubs with an ever-evolving future and before we know it, we'll all be out in our beautiful Council House clubs' gardens again!

Fondly, Donna Robinson



If you have items you'd like to have included on the agenda, please contact the presiding Director listed below before the first Tuesday of the month, please contact the Director above.

February ~ Landscapers Club Director, Inge Mesik

March ~ Petal Pushers Club Director, Suzanne Muma

April ~ Western Hills Club Director, Joey Miller

May ~ Westwood Club Director, Laura Woodruff

June ~ NO BOARD MEETING
Annual Meeting TBA



GREENS SALE 2023 UPDATE

KGC held its 70th anniversary Greens Sale at the beautiful Portage Zhang Senior Center on December 1st and 2nd, 2023 and it was a wonderful event! The weather, though cold, was perfect for shoppers and workers alike. A little rain didn't seem to faze the community because shopping was brisk. KGC members worked together like a well-oiled machine from set-up on Thursday afternoon to cleanup on Saturday evening.

It takes awhile for final net profits to be counted. Why? Because we wait for reimbursements to be turned in, checks to clear, and loose ends to be reconciled. However, preliminary numbers indicate a net profit of about \$19,500, which is about \$2,300 less than the 2022 sale. Thanks to everyone who contributed in some, shape or form to make the Greens Sale a success!

Sue Conat, Lead Chair

Snapshots of GS2023 on Page 2.

70TH ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER



HOLIDAY GREENS SALE



Louise Adams Beautification Award

By Marcia Wielenga, Finance Chair

The Louise Adams Beautification Award encourages member garden clubs to actively be involved in civic beautification projects within the community. The award money (up to \$200 per club) helps compensate the clubs for plant materials used in the projects, as well as equipment necessary in maintaining the area.

This years' award winners were:

Burke View Garden Club continues to supply birdseed to Kairos Dwelling and this year began work at Grace Valley Assisted Living on Douglas Avenue.



The scope of the project included flowers, mulch, and general cleanup of the property.



Chula Vista Garden Club purchased and planted more perennial plants in the Plainwell/Otsego gardens to minimize time and cost for annuals in their gardens. In Otsego the gardens include the North Farmer Street Pollinator Garden and the South Farmer Street Blue Star Memorial Garden.



In Plainwell there are two gardens on the corner of Acorn Street and the M-89 Industrial Park, an Art Sculpture Garden (pictured at right), and a Blue Star Memorial Garden.



Kalamazoo Garden Club for their "Welcome to Kalamazoo Northside Neighborhood" sign, also known as the North Gateway to the city. The 2023 plantings included yellow and orange canna lilies, lantana, and million bells which created the hot colors this summer. Mums were added in the fall.



Westwood Garden Club continues their work at the Veterans Memorial at Riverside Cemetery on Gull Road. This years' expenses included a round of flags, lights, mulch, and spraying for ants and weeds. The handicap ramp is now completed which allows disabled Veterans access to the Memorial.



The total of all receipts came to \$2,143.16 with the total payout to clubs equaling \$768.20. GREAT JOB GARDENERS!!

All KGC clubs can apply for these funds to defray the cost of their projects. Application forms are available in the "Member Area" of KGC's website. The annual deadline to apply is May 1. If you have any questions, please contact Finance Chair, Marcia Wielenga.

National Lifetime Achievement Awards

were presented at the Council's annual luncheon held last summer on June 13. One was presented to Jeanette Meyer who was thanked for her many years of to the Kalamazoo Garden Council. (See the article in the Summer 2024 Garden Post.) A second award was for Barb Eshuis. However, Barb was out of the country on a trip of a lifetime. When she returned, Bunny LaDuke attended her club's meeting and presented the award to her.

Barb has been a member of Burke View Garden Club since January 1973. It is a small club and she has held every position on the Board except treasurer, but has been the president countless times. Barb has enjoyed the friendships she has made over the

years and what she has learned about gardening.

Barb stated that her club surprised her with the MGC State Life Membership in June of 2015. And, the Kalamazoo Garden Council shocked her when they presented the National Lifetime Award in 2023. "While I don't feel I have done anything more than most members of my club or the Council, but I am very grateful for these awards and recognitions."

Next time you see Barb, congratulate her on being a recipient of these lifetime achievement awards!



Kalamazoo Garden Council Officers 2023-25



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Special thanks to the follow members for contributing photos and/or stories included in this edition of The Garden Post: S.Conat, B.Eshuis, K. Kienle, N. Shirah, A. Stork, and M.Wielenga

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY

12 MGC Monday Meeting on ZOOM at 6pm

MARCH

8-10 Home & Garden Show by Kalamazoo Builders' Association at KZO Expo Center. Many educational speakers and kids' activities planned by Kalamazoo in Bloom & Master Gardeners

11 MGC Monday Meeting on ZOOM at 6pm

22-23 Wedel's Garden Expo
KGC Booth to be set up by Sue Conat
Details with sign up for workers TBA

APRIL

8 MGC Monday Meeting on ZOOM at 6pm

MAY

20 MGC District 3A Fun Day at Kalamazoo Nature Center
Details TBA

JUNE

10-11 MGC State Conference
Bay City, MI - Details TBA



Affiliated Organizations:



Follow our website and Facebook page for educational information and upcoming events:

www.kalamazoogardencouncil.org

For questions about this publication, contact Karla Labby, Newsletter Editor, at karlalabby@yahoo.com.