

O&D Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2025
Powelton Club Newburgh, NY

1000AM

Everyone gathered to work on our tray favor project. This began with coffee, tea and delicious offerings. Each table had bare and boring wreaths and pine cones. We then added some ribbon, greens, berries and bling. Transforming them into lovely works of art, small enough to fit on a meal tray. Such a lovely call to action: brighten someone's day or Holiday Season. They were just beautiful, and to see them compete in mass really looked amazing! Many thanks to the Membership Committee for all of the behind the scenes efforts to prep for this event. Thanks to Beth Santiago and Kathy Stradar for hosting our delicious and festive luncheon. It was a wonderful happy day. The chocolate mints were a delicious touch!

Meeting Start: 1148am

Members Present: 52

Guests: 2

- I. President Michele Lindsay: Holiday Greetings! Welcome to our Members and Guests on this festive day of celebration and giving back to the community. Thank; you to our hosts Beth Santiago and Kathy Stradar for organizing! Today we have Two guests Terryanne brought an old friend Patty and Pam brought a dear friend Desiree. Welcome ladies and thanks for your help today. Thanks to the Committee members and all who assisted with gathering, preparing in advance, and for delivering these sweet favors. Thanks also to Eli Hart, Linda Onofry, Susan Christensen and Carrie O'Leary. We made over 400 pieces to share with Meals on Wheels and Nursing Homes in our Orange and Dutchess communities.

Just a few announcements: Tomorrow 12/10 GCA Headquarters will be hosting their annual Holiday Tea hope some can make it in.

1/15/26: We are co-sponsoring with other clubs in our area a talk with Doug Tallamy on The importance of Oak Trees. The lecture will take place at the Cary Institute. I will Send the Zoom link when available. Also on that date the New York Committee will host a lecture by Page Knox at the Colony Garden Club on the Garden design. Please also look out for Zone III Call to Action in support of the Plastics Reduction Infrastructure Act. Jennifer had sent out informational links and will resend. NAL also has information about donating to our regional Food Bank.

Paul Brothe Updated us on Visiting Gardens. The tentative date is May 17,18,19th; he will be sending out some survey questions. This is the weekend after Mother's Day. We are still fine tuning our visit but Mount Vernon and The Gardens at Dumbarton Oaks are on the itinerary. Paul also shared how to "debug" and glaze pine cones from our gardens.

Place pine cones on a cookie sheet lined with foil or parchment. Place in a preheated 350 degree oven and "roast" for 10-15 minutes. This gives them a nice shiny look when the sap melts. Service announcement: Do not forget to line your cookie sheet or it will never be a cookie sheet again!

The Bench Show Steering Committee will meet 12/10 and will circulate information about opportunities to get involved.

Jill, Lori Stacy and I met and are working towards updating our website. Soon we will be able to see exhibit information and scheduling. To access our website: Redroses2025
Lastly, please be sure to sign in. This is helpful in planning and programming. See Report.

- II. Approval of Minutes: Motion Made Carrie O'Leary, seconded by Eli Hart. All In Favor-ALL.
- III. Vice President Eli Hart: The Long Range Planning Committee has made their final recommendation for hostessing duties and feel it is a fair and workable plan and will share with members after final approval. Thank you for all the help with the committee. See Report.
- IV. Recording Secretary Carrie O'Leary: I have a basket that will be set up next to the name tags for dropping them in after the meeting. This will serve as another way to verify attendance. Thank you Linda Onofry for the suggestion. I will also be sending around the attendance sheet at the start of each meeting moving forward.
- V. Corresponding Secretary Lori Adams: No Report.
- VI. Treasurer Linda Tawse: See Report.
- VII. Finance Chair Susan Christensen: No Report.
- VIII. Committees
 - A. Awards Susan Christensen: No Report.
 - B. Bulletin Dorian Winslow: We made the GCA Bulletin for our Habitat for Humanity planting.
 - C. Civic Improvement:
 - D. Conservation Terryanne Maenza-Gmelch: We will be doing a community project to align with the bench show. Either a Bioblitz or Pollinator Path project. We are still working on improving our water in and around our neighborhoods, this initiative does not change.
 - E. Floral Design Colleen Fogarty: Talked about creating topiaries. See Report.
 - F. Founders Fund Beth Devine: No Report.
 - G. Garden History and Design Alison Spear and Kim Redl Lawrence: We are preparing 3 garden proposals for the Smithsonian Institute. The three potential gardens are from the homes of Kim Lawrence, Susan Davidson and Alison Spear. This is very exciting.
 - H. Grants and Donations Liz Allen: No Report.
 - I. Historian and Archivist Susan Metzger: Will move to New Windsor after the winter.
 - J. Horticulture Linda Onofry and Sue Gillinder: Seed Exchange today! See Report.
 - K. Membership Beth Santiago: Deadline is February for new member nominations. We created over 400 tray favors to be delivered throughout Orange and Dutchess Counties. Thanks to all!
 - L. National Affairs & Legislation Jennifer Weiss: Lets all try to help our local food banks. Thanks in advance.
 - M. Photography Gail Simon: The December meeting is Macro Photography. The Photography Committee is planning a Zoom Meeting in January to discuss future exhibits as well as plan an outing to photograph a garden in the spring as a group. Please check out the

GCA website and view the Fall Focus Contest entitled "The Grass is Always Greener". Our own Jill Swirbul has a wonderful entry. See Report.

O. Policy & Long Range Planning Eli Hart: See above and see report.

P. Technology, Printing & Communications Stacey Hawkins: Working to improve our website.

Q. Visiting Gardens Paula GIBLIN Sink and Paul Brothe: As stated above working on a Mt. Vernon trip the weekend of May 17th.

IX. Projects

A. 1810 Garden Jane Glazman: No Report.

B. Downing Park Martine Najork and Carolyn Newman: See Report.

C. Grasshopper Grove Martine Najork: No report.

D. P4P Trailside: Native Plant Garden: Jeanette Redden and Fenella Hecksher: No Report.

X. Areas of Special Interest.

A. Bellefield Maria DeWald: The Park is open and we managed to reschedule two of the workshops that had been cancelled. Well attended hands on deck clean ups of the Garden. The rejuvenation committee with our new director of Horticulture and Interpretation has assumed the role of the Project Manager, now resumes planning for winter projects and volunteer coordination and preparations for the Spring. See Report.

B. Habitat for Humanity Sarah Peacock: No Report.

XI. Old Business: None.

XII. New Business: None

XII. Adjournment: Motion made by Linda Onofry. Seconded by Carrie O'Leary. All in Favor-All. Meeting End: 1325PM

Respectfully submitted:

Carrie O'Leary

Recording Secretary

"Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers."

Kahlil Gibran