



# NEVER DONE!

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THE GARDEN CLUB OF HARVARD  
VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 03

## January 28: Organic Herb Gardening

**Rita Wollmering, along with Brooke Finn**, runs the HERB FARMacy on 10 acres of old New England farmland in Salisbury, Mass. Their farm has become one of the top growers of organic herbs in the Northeast, as well as being a retail plant nursery with native plants, old-fashioned flowers, heirloom veggies, and a source of eggs and honey.

Founded in 1998, The FARMacy propagates nearly all its own plants from seeds and cuttings, enabling the selection of specific varieties for outstanding qualities and suitability for our climate. Rita and Brooke have been committed to growing organically from the start because they believe that is the best way to ensure healthy plants, nutritious food, and a sustainable environment.

Rita will describe the best conditions – soil, sunlight, water – for growing an organic herb garden and the timing and techniques for harvesting herbs, both culinary and medicinal.

# President's Ponderings



The last newsletter of this calendar year came up quickly.

Approaching year-end after a busy fall at the Garden Club is a wonderful time to take time to give thanks for this club, for its dedicated members, for its caring for our wonderful community (both people and places), and for being not only colleagues but friends.

The New Year offers continuation of our best efforts, working together to explore new areas, enjoy ongoing relationships with our loyal partners, and pursue new endeavors.

I look forward to working with you on these, and offer you peaceful holidays, filled with family and friends – and, of course, a very Happy New Year!

Margaret Murphy

# Reminders for January

## Library flowers

**Jan.7: Kathy Hewett**  
**Jan.14: Christine Moeser**  
**Jan.22: Margaret Murphy**  
**Jan.28: Josh Iverson**

**PLEASE SEND IN A PICTURE OF  
THE ARRANGEMENTS! THANKS!**

**JANUARY 21**

**BOARD MEETING AT KATHY JACKSON'S**

## Hospitality Chair January 28 Jessie Panek

**Shirley Boudreau**  
**Roxanne Daleo**  
**Kathy Hewett**  
**Mary Anne Jordy**  
**Fran Maiore**  
**Rachel Ross**  
**Kathleen Turnbull**



The November hospitality team

## Our arrangements



Kathy Hewett made these table arrangements for the Council On Aging Harvard artisans show and sale November 17-18 @ Harvard Congregational Church.

Both containers were provided by Fair Coordinator Reba Maisel, who inherited them from her mother.



## Holiday Greens Workshop

Congratulations to the team who delivered a wonderful Holiday Greens Workshop under the leadership of Deb Dowson and Denyse Cox, aided by transportation coordinator Kathy Hewitt and supply sherpa Jan Fradenburgh.

Attendees produced 40 beautiful arrangements for distribution to shut-ins, nursing homes, and several community sites around town including the schools, police station, and library. Many also produced arrangements for their own use after the donated arrangements were complete. The greens were varied, the flowers festive, and the decorative add-ons nicely complemented the gold trimmed white arrangements. We also had lots of fun, with holiday music and fellowship. The cleanup was also cheerfully and thoroughly accomplished.

All in all, it was a wonderful respite at the start of the holidays.

Thank you Team Deb! (M.M.)

# Memorial Becky Shives

## Remembering Becky Shives

BY CARLENE PHILLIPS | NOVEMBER 30, 2018

Those fortunate enough to have known a profoundly good person know how much their lives have been enriched by that goodness. Becky Shives was such a person. Becky's kindness, generosity, and unconditional love inspired the lives of everyone who knew her. She turned 85 in September, and it is very telling that on her special day she was heading up a hospitality committee at the Garden Club of Harvard, giving to others. Becky radiated joy in life itself and smiled and laughed with her whole being.

Sarah Rebecca Smith was Becky's given name but her nickname better captured her cheerful, upbeat nature. She had an older brother, Fred, who now lives in Honolulu. She met Lindsay, her husband of 63 years, in Spanish class when they were both students at North Fulton High School. They married after Becky graduated from Woman's College of the University of North Carolina and Lindsay pursued degrees in architecture. In 1961 they moved to a big, old farmhouse on Still River Road. Becky taught kindergarten and although she stopped working when their daughter Ansley was born, she always loved kids and created a rapport with them, no matter the age. Her grandson Cody shared on social media his gratitude to his grandma for supporting him from beginning to end in his decisions and more importantly through his art. A granddaughter, Shelby, lives in Greensboro.



Although Becky and Lindsay were very close to family, they chose to stay in the North. Becky never lost the trace of a Southern drawl and carried with her that famous Southern hospitality. A friend recalled that when a new family moved into the neighborhood, the Yankees hunkered down in their houses and it was always Becky who ventured out to extend a warm welcome. Another friend remembers visiting on a summer afternoon. Becky always had iced tea with mint from her garden served with "a little something" that she just "happened to have" (homemade cookies come to mind). Becky also brought with her a fierce loyalty to her roots. She was proud to say that when Sherman marched on Atlanta, her grandmother hid the silverware in the hem of her dress.

In the early '60s the pastor at the Congregational Church organized an outreach group called Ladies of Harvard. The group went to the Lancaster Industrial School for Girls to help with projects and act as role models for the troubled young women. That's where Nancy Gasser of Prospect Hill Road first met Becky and began a friendship of more than 50 years. Nancy said Becky was an inspiration to her at that first meeting in the way she interacted with the girls—a glimpse of what would be Becky's lifetime role of caring and outreach. She was a loyal friend, said Nancy, "more of a lady than I, but she was also great fun. We would often pile into the car and drive to Mount Monadnock—same route, no map." To Nancy and others, Becky was that thoughtful friend who gives small gifts from the garden or a poem from a book, perfect for that one person. She was "pure gold," said Nancy. Another friend recalled what a sports fan Becky was—especially of the Patriots—and how knowledgeable she was. "She read the sports page!"

Becky continued her caring outreach through volunteering for Harvard Help and Meals on Wheels, bringing support to those who needed it. Her faith was of profound importance to her, and for 56 years she was an active



and much-loved member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Clinton, where, a friend said, “she enriched the congregation and community by her quiet and thoughtful ministry to anyone in need.” Becky was the first one to extend compassion, bring a casserole, visit a shut-in, or arrange support. A natural peacemaker, she had no biases and never said an unkind word to anyone. Becky’s goodness was pure—she gave without fanfare, brushed off thanks, and met compliments with self-deprecating humor.

Known as the Lord and Lady of Still River, Becky and Lindsay had a very special relationship. The love that started in that high school Spanish class seems to have remained undimmed over 63 years. Even their teasing banter was loving. They were endlessly kind and supportive of one another and furthered each other’s interests, his in architecture, hers in gardening. Becky worked as business manager for Lindsey Shives Associates. She adored animals, and she and Lindsay always had a big old collie. They were both thrilled when Ansley was born and proud of her all along the way. Later they embraced their son-in-law, Sean Hadas, who wrote on social media that Becky was “a woman of unending grace, beautiful inside and out, who left footprints on the heart.”

Twenty-two years ago, Becky and Lindsay moved from the sprawling farmhouse near the road to a smaller, light-filled house that Lindsay had designed farther down on the property. Lindsay wrote in an email: “Becky was a gardener in the complete sense of that word, and the home she created inside and outside was like living in a garden.” Walking through Becky’s wonderful garden with her was a treat. She had brought some plants down from the old house, and different friends—she could name each one—had given her perennial divisions or saplings. The garden was full of whimsy, with a frog perched on a boulder, a hedgehog peeking from a shrub, and everywhere were Becky’s rock sculptures. She readily admitted she had “a thing about rocks.” Becky generously gave away cuttings and divisions, and so her spirit lives throughout the gardens of Harvard.

Becky admired the published poet Dorothy Burnham Eaton, who lived on the eastern end of Prospect Hill Road and with whom Becky became friends. Becky loved poetry, especially poems about nature and its creator. Two lines from Eaton reflect the belief by which Becky lived her life: “Faith is the ground we walk on/Love is the staff we bear.”

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*“Becky’s Garden” (Sketch by Suzan Osborn)*

# November 26<sup>th</sup> program: Brown is Beautiful



And so it began...



It evolved and grew...



And these were some of the results!



# Bloom N Art

Shirley Boudreau



As the days shorten and we settle in for the long winter, I want you to look ahead to March for an event to look forward to when it seems like the winter will never end.

**Think about the 3rd annual Bloom N Art, 2019.**

This year the exhibition will be on Saturday, March 16, Sunday, March 17, and Monday, March 18th at Volunteers Hall in the Harvard Public Library.

The response to our first two Bloom N Art shows was so positive and gratifying that we had to give a thumbs up to Bloom N Art 2019.

In the exhibit, Bromfield students will create works of art which will become subjects of floral interpretation for our GCH designers. The event brings together the talents and cooperation of so many people, from the participating students and floral arrangers to the teachers and garden club members behind the scenes. We are grateful to library personnel and members of the community who support our efforts.

Most of all, it's really fun for everyone.

So with that heartfelt promo, I invite all of our members to participate in this event in some way. If you would like to make an arrangement and have not had a chance to sign up yet, please let Deb Dowson know by our regular January meeting – Jan 28th.

Please don't be deterred because you have never "formally" arranged before. We had 7 novice arrangers last year and most of them have signed up again. We already have 4 new people who have volunteered this year. And if you'd like to work in a team, that's fine, too. There will be plenty of support from your member friends.



The more arrangers we have, the more pieces of art we can include in the show.

**WE WILL ALSO NEED HELP WITH:**

**hospitality**

**set up and cleanup crew**

**help with workshops (to be announced)**

**volunteers to be docents and greeters for the three days of the event**

**one or two people to water and tend to the arrangements on Sunday and Monday**

We will have a final piece arranging workshop on Friday, March 15th in the morning at Volunteers Hall and we will set up the exhibit that Friday afternoon. Or you may choose to arrange your piece at home and deliver it to the Hall.

During the first week of February arrangers who have volunteered will hear from Deb Dawson, our teacher liaison, who does a superb job pairing student art with our arrangers choices of what pieces of art they would like to interpret.

I will keep you all informed by email of upcoming events as the process unrolls.

So please join in the fun.

Shirley



# Library Flowers

Info: Bobbie Taylor



# REPORT ON THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT



## School Building Committee Report November 28, 2018

The Harvard School Building Committee met Monday, November 26 at the Town Hall. This was a “60%” meeting for architect’s plans and for the budget. The two separate budget estimating firms submitted their reports of overcost, one at \$600,000 and one at \$900,000.

The committee had been prepared for this and either changed non-essential items or deleted them entirely.

They trimmed 1.2 million with some of the items being:

- duplicated plumbing areas
- an emergency shower in the chemistry lab (not necessary for the level of studies in HES)
- landscape design (much simpler and less maintenance)

The committee meets on a regular basis and welcomes the public, always asking for comment and questions from those in the audience.

Pat Jennings 11/28/2018



## Flower Arranging Workshop

Betsy Morton was  
at the workshop on  
November 14 and  
made this  
arrangement

Picture taken by Carol  
Hartman



**CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION TEAM**  
**PICTURES BY MARY ANN PIASECKI**





# Digging in the Archives: The Fruit and Flower Mission

The Boston Fruit and Flower Mission was organized by Helen W. Tinkham in 1869 in Boston and was later incorporated into the Benevolent Fraternity Fruit and Flower Mission in 1908. Supported by private contributions, the mission, comprised of individual contributors and towns, was established to bring flowers, fruits and vegetables to people who did not have access to them. The Benevolent Mission served shut-ins, hospitals, schools, orphanages, and many “living with only the bare necessities of life.” The Mission also served the Robert Gould Shaw House of Roxbury, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood House, and the North End Union originally established as settlement houses in the early twentieth century as part of the Progressive Movement.

**Winnifred Louise Bryant Sturdy (1890-1981) a native of Harvard Massachusetts, an award winning gardener and a member of the Garden Club of Harvard,** along with her husband, was responsible for organizing the Fruit and Flower Mission in Harvard as part of the Association of Unitarian and Universalist Churches. The Garden Club of Harvard joined the effort coordinated by Winnifred Sturdy and the Benevolent Fruit and Flower Mission in August 1947. The Harvard Garden Club was diligent in its efforts in sending hampers of flowers and vegetables to the urban poor in Boston and as early as 1948 won first place among the other clubs and towns who participated in this massive enterprise. In the early years, the Garden Club members collected and packed the flowers gathered from the Harvard gardens in wicker hampers and sent them by rail to Boston. Later, as it became more difficult to coordinate rail delivery with distribution center schedules, the garden club members travelled by car and station wagon to the distribution centers with their bounty of flowers that were now packed in pails and cans. During the summer months armed with the bountiful harvests from the Harvard Gardens and beautiful flowers, the Garden Club made their deliveries to the Boston area twice weekly. By 1964, the Garden Club and the Fruit and Flower Mission were supplying the Boston area with 464 pails and 676 cans of flowers, fruit and vegetables as well as 600 jars of homemade jelly for the Holiday baskets for the frail and elderly of Boston. This was a large scale effort requiring organization, teamwork, and most of all a spirit of caring and giving by members of a small rural community organization for members of an underserved urban population.

In 1965 the Garden Club of Harvard organized to nominate Winnifred and Harry Sturdy of the Harvard Garden Club for recognition by the Benevolent Fruit and Flower Mission and by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts for their leadership as chairs and also for their individual contributions in coordinating the efforts

among the membership. The Garden Club wanted to recognize the “Flower Lady” who along with members of the club worked over the years in bringing flowers and flower arrangements, fruits, vegetables and jellies to the urban poor of Boston. Winnifred and Harry Sturdy were honored by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts with a special award for their service to the Fruit and Flower Mission in 1966.

**The Fruit and Flower Mission no longer exists, but the Garden Club continues its tradition of service and compassionate giving exemplified by its work with the Mission. The Garden Club presently provides Garden Therapy and Holiday Greens Workshops for people in nursing homes and assisted living centers.**

As Winnifred Sturdy remarked “If anyone has the mistaken idea that this is a waste of time or too much effort, they should see the smile on the face of an older man or woman who cannot speak our language but we both know the universal language of flowers.

All they ask is that you share with them the bounty of the fields which we even think of as weeds. Would that we could see the beauty they do.

When you are slipping plants do a few extra for this could be the only live interest to brighten the hours for someone who looks out on brick walls and hard pavement. Also do some small jars of jelly. They do not come with welfare supplies. Be thankful—show it—share it.”

Pauline Carroll

# Christmas Trees

## Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia...and a visit in Flanders



*Pictures  
taken by  
Denyse Cox*



*Visiting a Belgian friend, internationally renowned master florist Geert Pattyn, in his workshop. He creates the most beautiful arrangements. (Marijke Vallaeys) (In the garden a container with pine apples, willow branches and hellebores)*



# A walk in the woods

## The Kaufman and Russo conservation land walk



**PICTURE TAKEN BY JESSIE PANEK**