



January 12, 2017  
Ocean View Presbyterian Church

President Jean Sewald called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Jean reminded everyone to sign in.

### **Program**

Vice-president Maureen Ryan introduced our speakers, Jackie McPeak and Mary Noel. Jackie and Mary are both Delaware Master Gardeners and experienced designers. They shared their creativity with fabulous designs assembled before our eyes. Designs can be made quickly and enhanced with fruits, vegetables and other ordinary items you can find around your home. Mary shared a favorite book, *Bloom 365* by J. Schwanke. Jackie mentioned seeds that are available from Lisa Ziegler, an author and commercial cut-flower grower from Newport News, Virginia. See attached handout "Tips on Flower Arranging".

### **Secretary's report**

The minutes of the December holiday luncheon meeting held at Just Hooked in Fenwick were approved as distributed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lenora Gentry is spending the winter in their Florida home. Maureen Ryan has agreed to serve as acting treasurer in Lenora's absence. Maureen reported the balance in our checking account as of January 3, 2018 was \$ 9,715.04. We made a donation of \$525.00 to Food Bank of Delaware from generous donations of members at the December meeting. (Note: Additional \$25 received, donation totals \$550.) Expenses paid include \$120 for the poinsettias used at our holiday luncheon as raffle gifts.

### **President's Report**

Jean has received a request from Barefoot Gardeners for our Club to join them in sponsoring a presentation by Holly Shimizu at the Lewes Library on Saturday, September 8, 2018. Jean believes they are also asking Sussex Gardeners in Lewes to sponsor, which will determine the cost. There were questions about the topic, since several members have heard Holly speak at a fundraiser for the Delaware Botanic Gardens, also held at the Lewes Library. Jean will gather more information before the decision is made.

Bethany Women's Civic Club granted GBTS a \$150 donation for our Lord Baltimore Youth Program. Members of our Club attended their meeting on Thursday, January 11th for the check presentation. The donation will be used in the classrooms of the other 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes who are not part of our program. Maureen Eisenhart, who is a member of the Civic Club, reported that the members were impressed by the work of our Club.

Jean announced that Betty Bloomfield has agreed to have her name placed on the slate of officers to serve as our next president.

### **Membership**

Maureen Eisenhart announced our two new members at this meeting: Sallie Melvin and Barbara Ware. Maureen announced that we currently have openings for new members and encouraged us to recruit friends and neighbors who have an interest in gardening, environment and design.

Maureen also reminded everyone that Delaware Federated Garden Clubs has a policy for members to sign a Publicity Release form. Please see Maureen if you have not signed or if you have any questions. The release form is also available on the DFGC website, in the Members only section.

<http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-publication-release-fillable-01.pdf>

### **Youth Program**

Betty Bloomfield announced that there are openings to serve on the Youth Program at Lord Baltimore. Betty explained that the program is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, arriving 12:15 to be in the classroom from 12:30 to 1:30. The lesson plan includes an introduction of the environmental or gardening topic, related art or craft project and literary, reading a book. Children are exposed to scientific names in the discussions. There may be planning meetings in addition to the classroom time.

### **Publicity**

Pat Fulton reminded committee chairs to take pictures of activities and submit articles for the DRGC newsletter. The upcoming edition deadline to get news to Pat is February 7<sup>th</sup>. The next newsletter is in May.

### **Garden Therapy**

Sandra Lopez thanked members who participated in this month's project: Kathy Lesperance, Audrey Young, Kathy Roberts, and Martha Gallagher. The group did small arrangements in painted baskets for 9 participants at Cheer Center in Roxanna. This group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month.

### **Ways and Means**

Kathy Lesperance reported for Ria to remind everyone to mark your calendars for the spring Tea on April 27<sup>th</sup> 11:30 to 2:30 at Cripple Creek. The committee is collecting purses, scarves, accessories other than jewelry for sale at the Tea. (Note: Jewelry is being collected as a fund-raiser for Delaware Federation.)

### **Horticulture Moment**

Alva Hutchison presented Armchair Gardening in the winter as the time to plan. Cold winter days are a good time to look at nursery catalogues, gardening books and review what can be in your gardens for year-round appeal. Alva announced that there is a new partnership between NGC, P. Allen Smith and

Proven Winners. Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, several varieties of plants will be available to purchase with a special NGC code and will serve as a fundraiser for Plant America. More information will become available. Alva distributed two online sources of monthly garden guide: Delaware Cooperative Extension Service and our own Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs website. [www.delawaregardenclubs.org/gardening-guide](http://www.delawaregardenclubs.org/gardening-guide) She shared information about soil testing through [the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. www.extension.udel.edu/dstp/](http://www.extension.udel.edu/dstp/) See handouts.

### **Hospitality**

Nancy Hoffman thanked Maureen Ryan for serving as coordinator today. The hostesses for our lunch today included Ria Carraro, Pat Powell, Kathy Roberts and Cherie Dorfman. Cherie Dorfman was at the welcome table.

### **Sunshine**

Jean announced that Peggie Ravida is encouraging all members to come and see what this committee is doing on Tuesday January 16 at 2 PM at Peggie's home: 6 Virginia Court, Ocean View, off West Avenue behind the CVS. Sunshine Committee designs and makes seasonal cards for the Meals on Wheels program as well as sending cards to our members.

### **Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs**

Lisa announced that Nancy Hargroves, our National Garden Clubs president, is serving as one of the honorary chairs of the Philadelphia Flower Show, (March 3 -11) and will be recognized at the Preview Party on Friday, March 2. The 2018 theme is *Wonders of Water*.

April 18<sup>th</sup> is the next DFGC meeting and it will be a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Delaware Federated Garden Clubs. There will be a DFGC booklet only available at the meeting of historic information about every local club, the 60 years of DFGC and the Central Atlantic Region. The April meeting will be held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.

Lisa reminded everyone of the two President's Projects: TREE-mendous Delaware Tree planting at Delaware Botanic Gardens and the TREE-mendous membership growth. Trees will be planted in the woodlands near the meadow in a designated dedicated DFGC location. When you donate \$100 (or more in \$100 increments) to DFGC for TREE-mendous Delaware Tree Planting at Delaware Botanic Gardens, you will receive a certificate "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone you designate. Last year Delaware received an award from National for 5% increase in membership, primarily due to 2 new clubs in Sussex. Coastal Gardeners, our newest club, formed this fall and meets in the evening at the Library. There is a possibility of another new club in Heritage Shores in Bridgeville.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alva Hutchison*

Secretary

