

From the Vine

# Milford Garden Club Newsletter



**Mark your  
Calendar**



**Program: Members Holiday Party**

**Date: Thursday, December 9th**

**Time: 6:30 PM Social  
7:00 PM Dinner & Fun**

**Where: Milford Senior Center**

This Month's event

## Christmas Holiday Party

Cost \$20 Tickets to dinner must be purchased by December 3, 2021

Dec 9	Thurs	"Christmas in Nature" Holiday Party
Dec 16	Thurs	Tea Time - Noon—Meet at Bakers Contact Mary McFarland if coming
Feb 28	Mon	Newsletter Deadline - Martha Klemmer
Jan 20	Thurs	Tea Time - RSVP to Gail Cooper if coming

**Milford Garden Club  
Est. 1948**

**A Member of the Michigan Division  
Woman's National Farm and Garden Association**

## President Report

**Linda Smith**

### DECEMBER

I am looking forward to our gathering in December to celebrate the holidays. Please make sure you purchase your tickets by December 3<sup>rd</sup> to attend the dinner on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased by contacting **Janet Kinney, Bonnie Lynch, or Linda Becker**.

We are collecting donations by cash or check at the December meeting for the Lee Home. The ladies who live there would appreciate our donation which allows them to go on an outing. You may give or send your donation to **Cindy Bauman** by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

At our November meeting, **Karen Kitcher** was our guest. She heard about our club through social media. She lives in Novi but likes all the things we do an organization. Hopefully, we will see her at a future meeting. Welcome, Karen!

**Linda Becker, Tina Schave** and **Bonnie Lynch** have agreed to serve on our nominating committee. They will be contacting the membership prior to our March meeting to secure candidates. Please let them know if you would like to serve in one of the positions or reach out to the current board for more information about the various offices.

The membership decided at our November meeting that they would like to gather in the months of January and February on the second Thursday in the evening. **Linda Becker** will coordinate the January gathering and **Martha Klemmer** will coordinate February. Watch your email for more details as we get closer to the new year.

Our historian, **Anna Van Hyfe**, has created a memory book for our organization. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact **Brook Qualman**. There are 8 copies available from our first order.

I was excited to hear that we have 7 gardens for our garden walk in June of 2022. It has been two years since we held our last walk and I am looking forward to viewing all the gardens this year!

We have gotten permission from the YMCA to hold our plant sale in the camp pavilion area on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date. We need lots of plants and volunteers to work the sale! **Susan Absher** is the chairperson.

Warm regards,

Linda Smith

## Annual Collection for Lee Home

We will have a collection for Lee Home at the Holiday Party on December 9.

If you will not be attending the party and would like to contribute, please make checks payable to **Milford Garden Club** and mail or drop them off to Cindy Bauman by December 20.

**Lee Home is most grateful for our donation which enables the lady residents to enjoy an outing. Thank you for your kindness!**



Homes for the Aged Facilities

The Milford Garden Club

## FACEBOOK

The Milford Garden Club has a Facebook site.

Ask other gardeners about problems with your plants

Ask for solutions suggestions.

Share garden tips with others

You must be a Facebook user, then search for

**The Milford Garden Club**

Then Post

## A Christmas Garden Story by Cindy Bauman

Elizabeth sat on the tall wooden stool in her garden shed, hunched over the workbench cluttered with wreath frames, spools of ribbon, floral wire and clippers. She poked a finger through the boxwood clippings, quickly sorting the bushiest pieces from the scraggly ones. The latter would be nice to throw in the fireplace later. She pinched the tips of the good pieces between the fingers of her left hand and with a quick swish of her right hand stripped the leaves off the bottom inch. Elizabeth liked the vibrant smell of the crushed leaves which to her smelled like peaches, although a few of her friends in garden club said they found the scent of boxwood unpleasant. "It must be like cilantro," she thought. "Some people have a gene that make the herb taste of soap, while others find it delicious."



She looked out the small window above the workbench, its dusty panes filtering the sunlight into a hazy glow. It was that magical time before twilight, when the low rays of winter light bathed the garden in gold. A few leaves of the Japanese maple still held on, crinkled and red, dangling above the pale yellow hosta leaves that lay like wilted lettuce on the ground. Brown vines of sweet peas hung from the trellis, their battered tendrils blowing gently in the breeze.

An explosive rustle of leaves under the maple made her heart leap – was it Holly? A fat fox squirrel popped out of the leaves, sniffing the cold air. Elizabeth sighed. It had been almost a year – why did she still think the cat would come back?

She picked up the Styrofoam ball and continued to half-heartedly push in the boxwood sprigs. Each year a boxwood ball hung from her garden arch, the centerpiece of the garden, lavishly draped in a garland of white pine, cedar and spruce with flowing satin ribbons. Decorating the garden was Elizabeth's favorite part of the holiday season. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the beauty of nature and the spirit of the season inspired her to celebrate the garden, her outside "home". Tonight, remembering Holly, her heart wasn't quite in it. Time to call it a day.

Elizabeth sunk into her favorite wingback chair and sipped a glass of Chianti. "Ahhhhh," she whispered, her eyes closed and her lips turned up in a smile, "let these aching bones rest." She had worked hard in the garden today, transplanting Azalea and Pieris shrubs before the ground froze next week with the arrival of a forecasted cold front. The fireplace blazed and everything felt cozy ... except for the tartan-patterned cat bed that sat empty by the fire screen. Elizabeth looked at it and her eyes filled with tears.

continued on next page..



## Christmas Story - Continued from previous page

Holly had been her companion for 11 years, her constant shadow in the house and in the garden. A few days before Christmas last year, Elizabeth was making a wreath in the shed while Holly slunk through the garden looking for a fat mourning dove. When it was time to go inside, Holly was nowhere to be found. Days and weeks went by and – nothing. Sick with regret for not keeping an eye on her pet, Elizabeth had to accept that Holly was gone forever. Tonight, she really missed that big black cat

Elizabeth switched on the TV to take her mind off things with a new episode of Gardener's World. "If I had ever gotten married," she thought, "I would have liked to have met a nice good-looking guy like Monty Don. A strong gardener ..." A few seconds later, her head fell back against the cushion and she was asleep.

Over the next several days Elizabeth worked from early morning until sunset, finishing the last garden tasks before winter finally cast its spell of sleep. She put most of the statues in the shed, placing each one carefully on the shelves. It was a ritual of memory as she looked at them, recalling when and where she bought or received them as gifts. She especially loved the statue of two small stone mice sitting on a toadstool, one of them lying belly-up and laughing. Her great-aunt Sarah had given that to her over three decades ago, and it always made Elizabeth smile to look at the mice and remember the fun she and Aunt Sarah used to have, now just an echo in her heart.

"I know what I'll make for Noel Night!" Elizabeth said to herself excitedly, "Aunt Sarah would love it." Next week was the village Christmas fair, Noel Night, for which her garden club always had a booth and sold holiday floral arrangements made by the members. It was one of the events she most looked forward to, when Elizabeth and her friends shared their holiday plans and saw creative new ways to use things from the garden. Last year her friend Gina made a fabulous Christmas tree from gold-painted Hydrangea blooms, their delicate gilt petals sparkling in the light. It was magnificent.

Elizabeth walked around the garden, looking for things to use in her arrangement. "Hmmm," she thought, snipping off a dozen *Carex buchananii* plumes, "maybe I can make mice out of these." She bent and twisted the feathery stems, seeing if she could fashion a mouse. She continued to see what else might be useful: Prickly black echinacea blooms, cherry-red rose hips and the pretty tops of millennium garlic ... lovely, but not for this project. Elizabeth tripped over a crooked brick as she stepped over the border of the herb garden. "Another project for spring," she muttered. "Reset all the brick and sandstone borders."

The Thai basil, lemon verbena and other tender herbs had long since expired. Still full and green were the sage, thyme and parsley. The long spires of anise hyssop were striking against the blue sky. "Yes, yes, yes," Elizabeth said. "These will work." As she harvested bunches of the herbs, their pungent aroma filled the crisp air. She finished just in time as the sun set and the solar lights came on in the garden.

continued on next page..



### Christmas Story - Continued from previous page

The next day Elizabeth fashioned the base of her arrangement with floral foam and chicken wire, chuckling as she was surprised how well it was coming along. It was a mild day in the 40s and she was able to work outside on the picnic table. Steam rose from herbal tea in a gray and red pottery mug, a souvenir from a trip to Winterthur.

By noon, she had finished the arrangement and set it in the garage to keep cool. She went back to the picnic table and made wreaths for her brothers and their children.

Large scraps of balsam flew from her hands and started to pile up around her. Small bits of decorations scavenged from old floral arrangements, presents and cake decorations glittered here and there. Elizabeth tucked them into the wreaths, trying to fit the personality of each family member. Sparkly candy cane cupcake toppers accented the wreath for one of her nephews who loved to bake, while clip on feather birds added an elegant flair for her oldest, sophisticated niece.

Relieved to be finished with everything, Elizabeth went inside and looked forward to Noel Night tomorrow, and dinner with her family the following day.

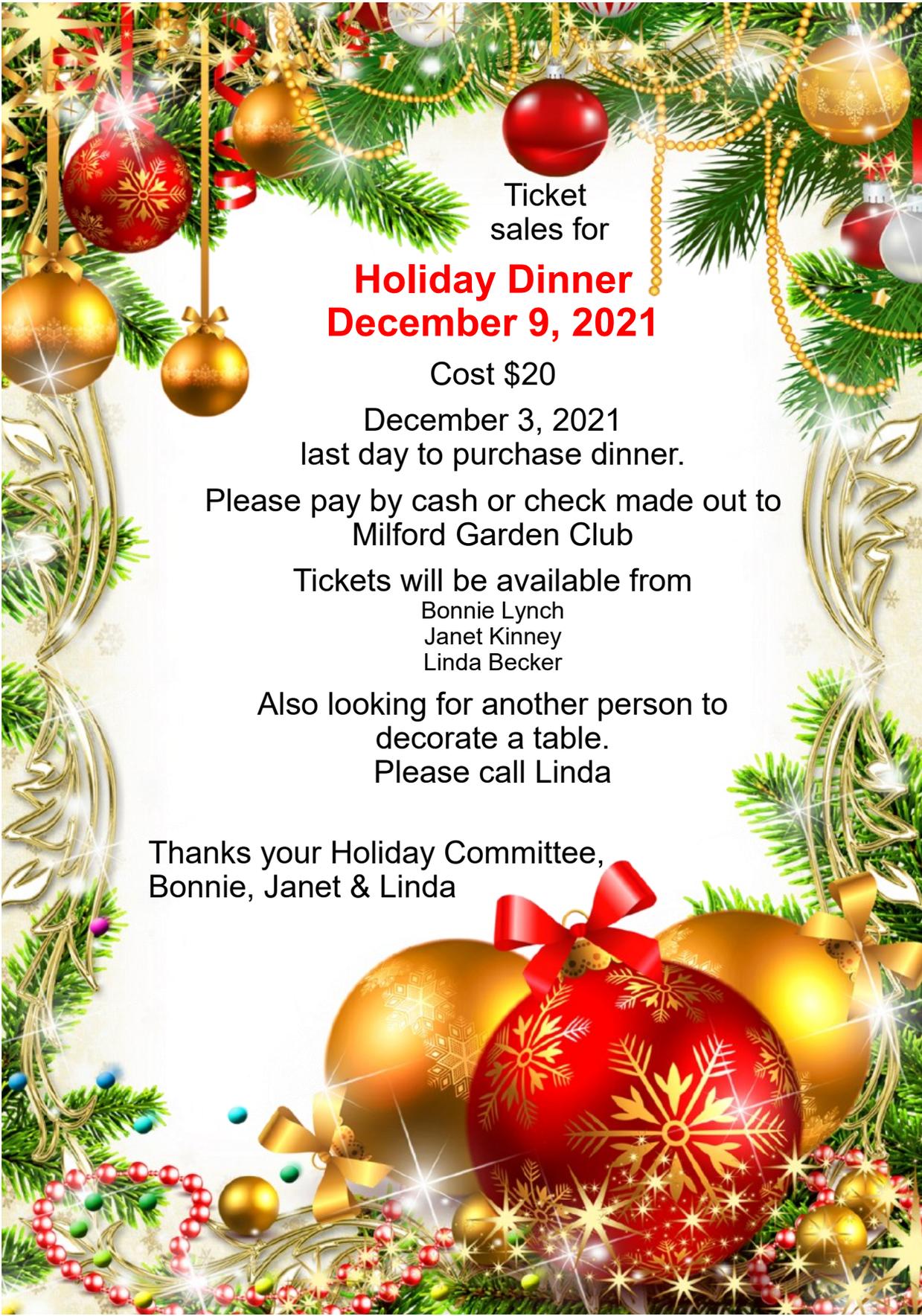
The temperature had dropped to the 30s by the time Elizabeth arrived at the garden club booth the next evening. "Hello ladies!" she called out. It was good to see her friends after working solo for so many days. She was, as always, struck by the fun and beautiful creations they had made. She took out her own arrangement just as a little girl and her mother walked up to the booth. They smiled as they looked at the plump, three-dimensional cat which Elizabeth had crafted from herbs and evergreen. Surrounding the cat were the grass-plume mice, nestled against the cat. Elizabeth placed a tag on the arrangement, which read "Peace on Earth". The mother and daughter bought the arrangement. They wanted to tease their cat, they said, who was an ardent mouser. The next few hours in the booth passed quickly with good conversation, helping customers and sipping hot mulled cider.

Elizabeth went home, looking forward to relaxing by the fire. As she walked out of the garage door on the way to the house, she looked over at the picnic table. Something moved in the pile of balsam clippings left from yesterday's wreath-making. Elizabeth squinted her eyes. "Must be a raccoon," she thought. She cautiously moved closer. "No, that's too small for a raccoon ... the tail ... no, it can't be ..."

"Holly!" she exclaimed. The animal looked up and bounded over to Elizabeth. The big black cat frantically rubbed all over her legs, making little leaps into the air at each pass. Elizabeth lifted the cat into her arms and nuzzled her face into its fur, the purring vibrations letting her know that Holly was just as happy to see her.

"Where have you been? You poor thing. Never mind, you're home now." Elizabeth carried her cat into the warm house. Holly was home for the holidays, home forever.





Ticket  
sales for

**Holiday Dinner**  
**December 9, 2021**

Cost \$20

December 3, 2021  
last day to purchase dinner.

Please pay by cash or check made out to  
Milford Garden Club

Tickets will be available from

Bonnie Lynch  
Janet Kinney  
Linda Becker

Also looking for another person to  
decorate a table.  
Please call Linda

Thanks your Holiday Committee,  
Bonnie, Janet & Linda

# Orchids are amazing. Every one of them looks like their name. Enjoy!

Hooker's Lips  
(Psychotria Elata)



Dancing Girls (Impatiens Bequaertii)  
(Impatiens Bequaertii)



Laughing Bumble Bee Orchid  
(Ophrys bomyblifera)



Swaddled Babies  
(Anguloa Uniflora)



**MILFORD GARDEN CLUB MINUTES**  
General Membership Meeting Minutes

11/11/2021 Milford Senior Center

Call to Order @ 7:03

Agenda approved with the addition of Memory Book under New Business.

**Karen Kitcher** was a guest.

Thank you to our greeters **Terri and Jerry Hardick and Cindy Bauman** for room set-up.

General Membership Meeting Minutes for 10/14/21 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – **Cindy Bauman**

Total in Bank Account is \$6449.21. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Pennies for Friendship were collected.

President's Report – Linda Smith

Volunteers were needed to serve on the nominating committee. Linda Becker will serve from the executive committee. **Tina Schave** and **Bonnie Lynch** volunteered from the general membership.

Gatherings in January and February

**Linda Smith** brought up the topic of informal meetings for January and February on the second Thursday at 6 or 6:30 for dinner in a restaurant or hors d'oeuvres at a member's home. General consensus was positive. **Linda Becker** volunteered for January and **Martha Klemmer** for February.

A letter of thank you to the club from Karol LaHaie was read.

Chairperson Reports

Tea Group – **Mary McFarland**

11/18 at the home of **Denise Tyler**. Everyone planning to attend must RSVP. Please respond to the hostess as it is important that she has an accurate count the day before the tea to plan seating.

Devine Raffle – **Sheila Myers** and **Lisa Hill**

We need donated items for raffles. Buy your raffle tickets during the break for the raffle.

Yearbook – Contact **Brook Qualman** and **Terri Hardick** for any corrections. Pick up your yearbook tonight by the nametag table. The email address for the MGC has changed since the yearbook was printed. The new address is [milfordgardenclub@outlook.com](mailto:milfordgardenclub@outlook.com). The website has not changed and is still [www.themilfordgardenclub.org](http://www.themilfordgardenclub.org).

Holiday Party – **Janet Kinney, Bonnie Lynch** and **Linda Becker**

Please purchase tickets before December 3rd. Catering provided by Czapski's with vegetarian options.

**Garden Club Minutes** continued on next page.. 

Entertainment by a quartet providing holiday and contemporary music.

#### Unfinished Business

Donation to Belle Isle – We voted at the last meeting to donate \$50 dollars to the Belle Isle Conservancy. **Cindy Bauman** did some checking and discovered that in May 2019 we donated \$200 for the Oudolf Garden with the check made payable to the Community Foundation for SE MI. The payment came out of our speaker's budget as they presented a program on the plans for the garden. We are listed on the Oudolf Garden website as a donor. Do we want to make another donation in addition to the \$200 that we have already given? Should we purchase a paver that will be a more lasting presence for our club? The pavers are granite. A 6" by 12" paver costs \$250 and they are installed on the Sunset Point walkway. You are allowed a maximum of 5 lines of text with 21 characters per line including spaces and punctuation. If we purchase one, it can't be installed until next spring or summer. Do we want to act now or do we want to wait and see how successful our fundraisers are in the spring before making a decision?

**Janet Kinney moved to postpone the donation of \$50 to Oudolf Garden until June 2022 so we can review our budget for available funds. Motion carried**

#### New Business

Historian **Anna Van Hyfe** has created a Milford Garden Club scrapbook. A copy was circulated for perusing with the intent of future purchase. Currently there are 8 copies available. If there is greater interest there may be future copies from the publisher. Contact **Brook Qualman** to request a copy. Copies will be sold at cost.

**Terri and Jerry Hardick** thanked everyone for the donation of goods for Community Sharing

Meeting adjourned at 7:26

**Janet Kinney, Secretary**



### **Holiday Arrangements**

#### **November Speaker:**

**Andrea Gordon**

**From Blossoms on Main**

