



January 2021

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

“PLANT AMERICA WHILE ENCOURAGING NEW GARDENERS”

—Garden Clubs of Illinois 2021 Theme

The above theme, created by our Garden Clubs of Illinois president, Marilyn Krueger, is something our members have been doing for over 65 years. In this age of COVID-19, I would like to focus on the words, “While Encouraging New Gardeners.” Many newspaper articles have made the observation that more people than ever have taken an interest in gardening. The unavailability of garden seeds in stores and seed catalogs was just one indication of how popular gardening has become. This seems an ideal time to introduce/assist others, especially young people, to our favorite past time.

Alfred Lord Tennyson in 1833 wrote “Ulysses” with the line, “I am a part of all that I have met.” I’m not a literary critic, but I believe this line to mean that humans are shaped by a combination of all their life’s experiences. By exposing our grandchildren, or neighborhood kids to the experience of planting seeds and appreciating life bursting through the soil crust, and then enjoying the taste of a fresh tomato right in the garden, we are forming a person who will love and appreciate the natural world around us. At a time when our Mother Earth faces greater peril than ever, this small attempt might help us and the next generation be better people—people who care about both the world we live in and, each other.

Jim Spannagel

**January 25th @ 7 PM
Zoom General Meeting**

*Everything You Wanted to Know
About Hydrangeas*

See page 2 for more information on this meeting and program presentation.

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January Program

January 25th @ 7 PM

Val Solaski, Programs

Everything You Wanted to Know About Hydrangeas

Presented by Olga DeSio

Olga DeSio is a North Suburban Cook County Master Gardener and takes part in maintaining community gardens in Maywood and Des Plaines along with volunteering at the Friendship Park Conservatory.



"I can't get my hydrangeas to bloom?" This presentation will answer all your questions about the most popular Mopheads to the petite ever blooming BoBo (PW) and provide practical tips for choosing and caring for these gorgeous, long blooming shrubs!

A Zoom invite will be emailed out to all members prior to this meeting.

Member Benefits

Renie Norkiewicz, Membership Co-chair

As an Arlington Heights Garden Club member you are eligible for a \$10 discount for an individual membership at the [Chicago Botanic Garden](#). For your convenience the 2021 AHGC Membership List has been submitted to the Chicago Botanic Garden as proof of AHGC membership. To obtain the \$10 discount for new/renewal membership, please inform the Chicago Botanic Garden you are an Arlington Heights Garden Club member.



COVID Vaccination Survey for Cook County Residents

As the COVID vaccine continues to be distributed throughout Cook County, the Cook County Department of Public Health is surveying individual healthcare and essential workers who live or work in suburban Cook County, **as well as suburban Cook County residents** to understand their interest in receiving the vaccine. The survey responses will be used to understand demand and build appropriate capacity to vaccinate. This is not a vaccine registry. It is a survey tool to assist in planning as additional vaccine is distributed. By completing the survey, individuals will be added to a list to receive updates on COVID-19 vaccine availability including the timing and scheduling.

[Click here](#) to fill out the survey.

Book Review

Bev Krams, Horticulture

Local Dirt: Seasonal Recipes for Eating Close to Home by Andrea Bemis

Andrea Bemis was known for her blog “Dishing up the Dirt” which morphed into her first book: **Dishing up the Dirt: Simple Recipes for Cooking through the Seasons** (2017). It features 100 creative and whole-foods recipes with a variety of color photographs taking you through the four seasons. It begins in spring with Honey Roasted Strawberry Muffins, taking you all the way through winter and her Hoisin Glazed Brussel Sprouts. Sound delicious?

Andrea and her husband own and run the six-acre organic *Tumbleweed Farm*, outside of Portland, Oregon. Her first and second book are inspired by what is grown in the soil and picked by hand on their farm. She focuses on the REAL life of a farmer, where the food on your table comes from and the importance of locally-sourced foods— eating as close to the land as possible.

Connie Landwehr brought her second book to my attention, **Local Dirt: Seasonal Recipes for Eating Close to Home**. If you have spent time tending a garden in your backyard, like the Landwehr’s do, this is a great book to put that kale, kohlrabi, beets and butternut squash you are growing into some of these great recipes.

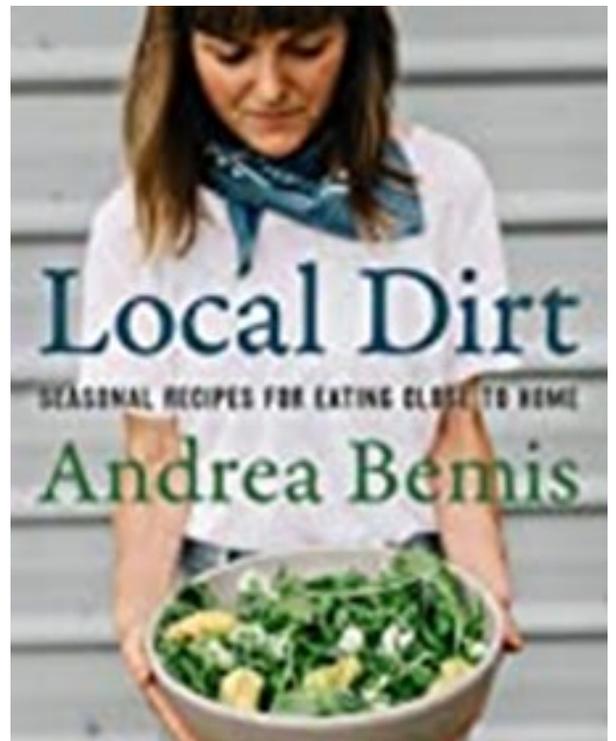
Inspired by her commitment to supporting the local food movement, Andrea began thinking about the can of coconut milk, avocados, Italian olive oil and lemons in her pantry. These certainly had an extensive footprint. She came up with a great idea of a 30-day challenge to cook and eat only locally grown food from ‘LOCAL DIRT’. She extended the distance to a 200 mile radius.

She again shares her stories, photos and 80 additional recipes for sustainable eating. Organizing the recipes by season again, she gives the reader creative dishes which can be adapted to any part of the country for local produce.

Try the Roasted Cauliflower. It is delicious and since we still had Swiss chard growing in our garden in December we decided to try the Creamed Swiss Chard ---another winner!

In **Local Dirt**, Andrea offers the inspiration, instruction, and advice we need to eat deliciously and sustainably. Support your local towns Farmers Market if you don’t have that garden out back and enjoy her recipes.

The Arlington Heights Memorial Library has both books available.



Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams, Horticulture

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Foodscaping in Containers

Saturday, January 23, 2021 @ 10am CST

Brie Arthur's Virtual Seminar

Free

This bestselling author will create foodscap containers for year round bounty. Hanging baskets, patio planters, fabric bags and vertical gardens! Discuss container selection, placement, soil, fertilizer, watering needs, maintenance tip, and color combinations for a delicious harvest. For registration information [click here](#).



Wildlife: If You Build It, They Will Come

Saturday, February 20, 2021 @ 10:00am - 11:30am

Free

In collaboration with Citizens for Conservation, veterinarian, naturalist, photographer, and videographer Stephen Barten has documented myriad birds, twenty species of mammals, and fifteen species of reptiles and amphibians in his own yard, the benefit of replacing buckthorn and other invasive plants with native plants. [You will need to register for this session through the Barrington Library](#)



Nature Speaks: All the Little Things

Thursday, January 28th @ 7-8:30 PM

Chris Helzer, Author and Director of Science for the Nature Conservancy

Free Zoom Presentation by the Prospect Heights Public Library

When people think about nature, they tend to focus on the big charismatic animals we learned about as children. However, ecosystems function because of much smaller organisms, including plants, invertebrates and many others. Those 'little things' and their complex interactive networks are worth knowing and appreciating. Chris Helzer is a world class photographer and his photo-heavy presentation will introduce you to some of those little creatures, including a diversity of plants, ants, grasshoppers, plant hoppers and much more as he explains how they form and maintain resilient and healthy ecosystems. You really do not want to miss this visual feast! [Click here](#) to register for this presentation.

Wild Things Conference

Two Weekends: February 19-21st and 26-28th

Registration fee for each weekend is \$15

Staying Connected through Nature. Workshops and Presentations from regional and local experts.

Two weekends in February 19-21st and 26-28th.

For more information [click here](#).

Garden Gate Magazine Free Courses

For more information [click here](#).

Chicago Botanic Garden Education

For more information [click here](#).

Have You Planted Any Trees Lately?

Jim Spannagel, President

“Each One to Plant One”

Have you planted or helped plant any native trees since the spring of 2019? One of the goals of the [National Garden Clubs \(NGC\)](#) is for “[Each One to Plant One.](#)” NGC is encouraging all garden club members to plant at least one **native** tree during the period from spring of 2019, to June of 2021. Marilyn Kruger, president of Garden Clubs of Illinois, has asked each club president to tally and send in the number of trees planted by our club members.

If you have [planted](#), [been involved with](#), or [helped in planting](#) any native trees since the spring of 2019, please send an email to [Jim Spannagel](#) and provide him with the following information:

- ◆ Name of the native tree planted
- ◆ How many trees were planted
- ◆ Name of the village, city, or town where planted
- ◆ When was tree planted (month and year)
- ◆ Was the planting location a residence, business, church or public property
- ◆ Who planted the tree (Arlington Heights Garden Club member, scout troop, civic group, church group, etc.)

If you haven't been involved in the planting of a new native tree, there is still plenty of time and you can send an email after you do so. What a wonderful way to do your part in the fight against climate change.

This project of the National Garden Clubs will likely continue after the spring of 2021, so please continue to keep a list of native trees you may plant in the future.



Holiday Party, December 2020





A Beacon of Holiday Spirit During COVID

Renie Norkiewicz, Membership Co-chair

It is tradition for the Arlington Heights Garden Club to decorate three holiday trees in the Arlington Heights Community. Due to COVID-19 two locations were closed to the public. The Arlington Heights Village Hall offered to continue the AHGC tradition and our club provided the tree trimming supplies. The village staff beautifully decorated the Holiday Tree providing the spirit of hope, happiness and good will to all. Many thanks to the Village Hall staff for continuing the AHGC Tree Trimming Program during this unusual time.



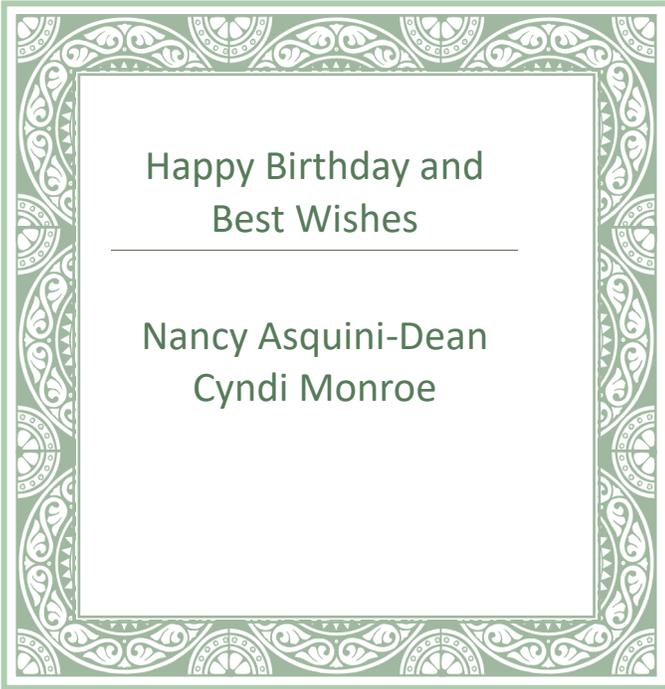
Board of Directors

President	Jim Spannagel
Secretary	Nancy Asquini-Dean
Treasurer	Pete Landwehr

Committee Chairs

Artistic	Barb Franks
Civics	Kathy Wolan
	Mike Relaz
Conservation	Daniella Sents
	Christina Preston
Garden Walk	Kathy Hendricksen
	Aileen Koeppen
Horticulture	Bev Krams
Hospitality	Marilyn Weber
	Joe Weber
Membership	Renie Norkiewicz
	Shelley Plischke
Newsletter	Mona Frisbie
Plant Sale	Bob Bruett
Programs	Val Solaski
Publicity	Leslie Meredith
Scholarship	Mike Dennehey
Website	Mike Dennehey





*"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.*

*'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."*

-Oliver Herford



New Membership Campaign

Renie Norkiewicz, Membership Co-chair

The Arlington Heights Garden Club would like to provide an opportunity for our members to invite their gardening friends and neighbors to experience the benefits of being a member of our Garden Club. The club is offering **3 complimentary months** of the AHGC Newsletter and the Zoom General Meeting Program as an introduction to our club activities.

This offer starts in March, so please ask your gardening friends and neighbors now so they can get the full three months of the AHGC Newsletter and AHGC Zoom Programs.

To enroll your friends and neighbors in this offer, I will need their name and email address. If after three months your friends and neighbors are interested in joining our club, they can contact me for information or visit our club [website](#).

Our Purpose states it BEST!

The Arlington Heights Garden Club is a community organization welcoming all levels of gardeners. We provide a forum to educate and share knowledge and experience, encouraging the love of gardening while fostering friendships. Our club promotes, protects and encourages environmental and conservation best practices. We provide community guidance for civic beautification and support to students and other non-profits.

If you have any questions, please contact Renie by [email](#) or phone (847) 394-5145

Community Gardening in Action

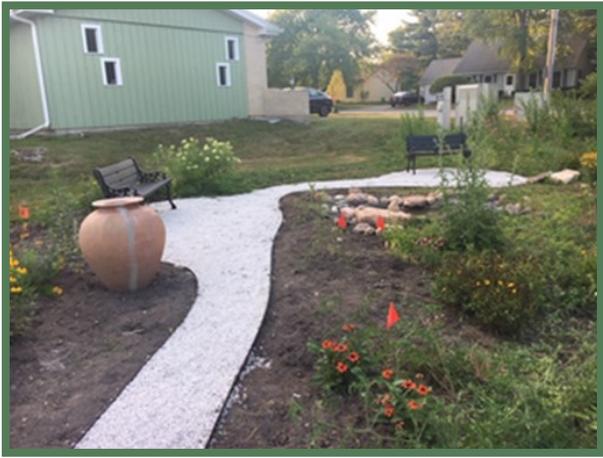
Kathy Hendricksen, Garden Walk

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights has had a congregational Green Team since 2005. The team has led Earth Sunday celebrations, hosted a "veggie share" where members bring extra garden produce to church for others who need it, hosted an annual Earth Day forest preserve cleanup project, and recently installed 272 solar panels on the church building's roof which produces more electricity than the congregation needs.

Following up on an idea from Green Team committee chair Kurtis Frank, the Green Team and Landscape committees partnered in the spring of 2019 to plan a pollinator garden on the church grounds. Designed and constructed by Green Team member, Thom Kraak, the site was prepared last fall and the first set of perennials were planted by church volunteers. Work continued this summer to create a gravel path, benches, and a small pond that includes a solar powered pump to trickle water to attract wildlife and provide rocks for resting butterflies. This past October additional perennials were planted by socially distanced church volunteers. There are over 40 different varieties of native plants and cultivars selected to bloom at various parts of the season and to attract pollinators and butterflies.

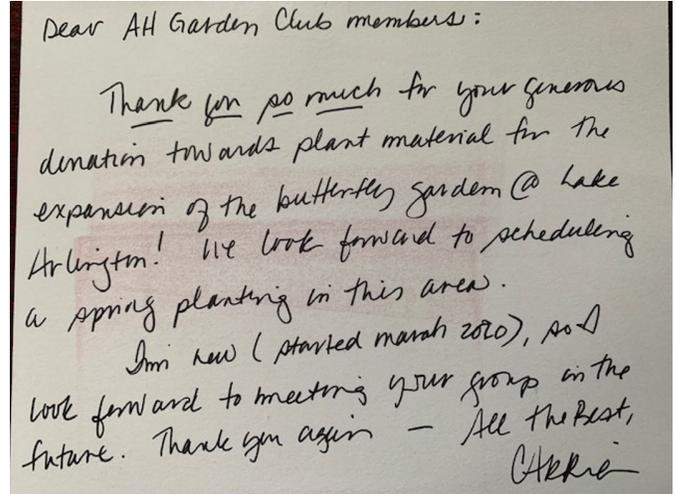
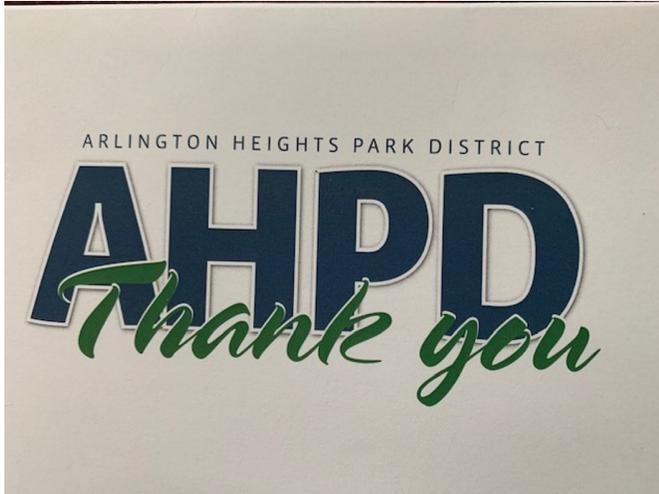
One of the goals of the garden is to demonstrate to the congregation and community the beauty of native plants and sustainable landscaping. Green Team and Landscape Committee member, Kathy Hendricksen had learned from her fellow Arlington Heights Garden Club members and University of Illinois Master Gardeners Pete Landwehr and Bev Krams about the Conservation@Home program when it was introduced a few years ago. She made obtaining this classification a goal for the Our Savior's pollinator garden and was pleased Pete and Bev were the on site evaluators to award certification this past November.

Note: This article was published in the Winter 2021 Issue of Conservation@Home Cook County [Newsletter](#)



Butterfly Garden at Lake Arlington

Carrie Fullerton, The Executive Director of the Arlington Heights Park District, sent this thank you note to our Garden Club for the donation towards the expansion of the Butterfly Garden at Lake Arlington.



Winter Gardens

We would like to display a collection of your winter garden pictures for the Arlington Heights Library window box (when the library reopens), to highlight our AHGC and our members winter gardens. If you would be so kind as to take a few pictures of your winter garden and send them to [Bev Krams](#), who will be putting this collection together.



Recycle Your Old or Unusable Holiday Lights

As you take down your holiday lights, some may not be working properly and instead of throwing them in the garbage, recycle them. Non-working strings and blanket lights, as well as extension cords can be dropped off at the Health and Human Services office (green bin just inside the parking lot door) at Village Hall, or at Public Works Center at 222 N. Ridge Avenue until February 26th.



For more information please contact the [Village](#).

AHGC Board Meeting Notes | January 11, 2021

Arlington Heights Garden Club January 11, 2021

President -- Jim Spannagel announced the change of the Garden Walk Meeting to the third Monday of the month from 7-8 pm. It no longer precedes the Board Meeting and is a virtual meeting at this time.

The District IX annual meeting (normally a luncheon) on March 9, 2021 will be a virtual meeting this year. No details available as yet.

The **secretary's** November Board minutes and the treasurer's reports for November and December were approved.

The only Holiday tree displayed this year was at the Village Hall. Other locations were closed. A picture was taken of the tree and will be in the newsletter.

Programs -- The November meeting featuring "Soaring with the Birds" had 42 attendees! Our January 25th General Meeting will feature "Everything You Wanted to Know About Hydrangeas" by Olga DeSio. Non-members will need to register for our January meeting on Hydrangeas. All members will receive a Zoom invite for this meeting.

Conservation -- The National Club has asked GCI to compile the number of trees planted by garden club members from Spring of 2019 thru 2021. The goal is 6,000 trees.

Garden Walk 2021 -- First meeting is a virtual meeting on Monday, January 18th from 7-8 pm. Jim to send out Zoom information and Kathy preparing the agenda.

Membership -- Three new members signed up from October thru December.

Hospitality -- The December 14th Virtual Holiday Party had 34 attendees! The Prospect Hts. High School Choir did a presentation. Thanks to all who arranged this event. It was a success.

Plant Sale -- Bob Bruett will meet with Pete to discuss this sale and decide on date. Would like to coordinate with first Farmers' Market date which is 1st Saturday in June.

Website -- Mike is working on website changes as suggested at meeting in November and asks that any additional ideas be forwarded to him.

Scholarship -- Board decided on one \$1,500 scholarship for 2021 due to current situation.

Appreciation to local hospital workers and first responders. The idea was brought up to plant a tree on hospital grounds dedicated to these workers. Board liked idea. Further discussion at next Board meeting. Possible donation to a fund also considered.

Nominating committee needed. Certain positions are at end of term and need filling. Looking for people to serve on this committee.

How to attract younger members (question posed by Joe Weber) Several suggestions made (hand out info cards at plant sale, work with other groups, etc.) Looking for more ideas. To be discussed at February Board meeting.

Nancy Asquini Dean, Recording Secretary