



March 2021

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We Grow Great Plants, Can We Also Grow Our Club?

Perhaps you have heard this joke before. An optimist and a pessimist were walking along. The pessimist said, "The world is a mess, things couldn't get any worse." The optimist says, "Why of course they could!" While not on such a serious level, a recent conversation at our Garden Club Board meeting brought up the subject of the need to grow our club and add some younger members. With each passing year, the average age of our club ticks up, but at the same time we add some wonderful younger members that bring their enthusiasm, knowledge and skills to our club. We face the same challenges as many other service clubs and even our churches and synagogues today, "How do we recruit new members?"

On pages 12-13 of this newsletter you will find the 2-page proposal developed by Leslie Meredith, our recent Publicity Chair, that outlines some excellent ideas on how to attract new members. If you have any ideas you would like to share on how we can grow our club membership, we would love to hear from you. Our Membership Committee just launched a new initiative to attract new members. Our club is currently offering 3 free months of our Educational Programs and Newsletters to any guest you would like to recommend—your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family. We welcome all levels of gardeners to our club including people that are new to gardening, people with many years of experience gardening and everyone else somewhere in between.

From my years in the insurance business, I always felt the best way to grow my client base was through personal referrals. Nothing sells like a personal endorsement. So please take this opportunity to read Leslie's suggestions and then think about people you can refer to take advantage of our special trial offer. Please contact [Renie Norkiewicz](#) or [myself](#) to sign-up your friends and neighbors for this three-month trial. And by the way, if you have any other good ideas about growing our club, we would love to hear them.

Jim Spannagel

March 22th @ 7 PM
Zoom General Meeting

***Getting Your Garden Prepared
After Winter and Early Blooming
Perennials***

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

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March Educational Program

March 22th @ 7 PM

Val Solaski, Programs

Getting Your Garden Prepared After Winter and Early Blooming Perennials

Presented by Erin McHugh



Erin McHugh was born and raised in Southern California and is a third-generation gardener. She has been gardening for 25 years, with a special interest in heirloom vegetables and perennials. Erin has an AA in Liberal Arts from Ventura Community College and studied Horticulture for two years at Harper College. Before coming to Platt Hill, she worked as the Staff Horticulturist at the Cary Country Club, was in Nursery Sales at Goebbert's and was the Assistant Manager and Tree and Shrub Manager at City Escape in Garfield Park. Erin is currently the Perennial Manager and Education and Activities Director at Platt Hill Nursery in Bloomingdale.

Ready, set, spring into action and learn how to prepare your garden after another Chicago winter! This presentation will cover what you need to do now to set up your garden for the upcoming growing season. It will also provide an overview of Spring and early blooming perennials that you may want to consider adding to your home landscape to beautify next spring.

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

We Need Your Help

Have you visited our website lately? Please take a few minutes to visit our [garden club's website](#) and browse through the updated features our website offers. Mike Dennehey has been very busy maintaining the club information on the website to make sure it's current. During the quarantine our club has been very successful in offering Zoom Educational Programs and conducted Zoom Board/Committee Meetings making our club viable and active in its continuation of providing information to our members and the community.

Our club is in the process of planning our 2021 Garden Walk, Unique Boutique, and Plant Sale. These fundraisers provide scholarships, educational programs, support conservation and beautification in our community. It is the volunteers who make our fundraisers successful and we will need your help once again.

Since we cannot meet in person, the Garden Walk and Plant Sale volunteer sign-up sheets are posted on our website under **Members Only** page. Members who have not requested access to the **Members Only** page will need to follow the instructions below.

How to get started

Visit the [AHGC website](#) and hover your cursor over the **Members Only** tab. Click on "Instructions" and follow the step-by-step instructions to register. The AHGC website chair, Mike Dennehey, will confirm your membership request and provide you with access to this secured content. Registration is a one-time event and once approved you will be taken directly to the secured member content. If you have any website questions, please send [Mike Dennehey](#) an email or call Mike at 847-255-0133.

[Renie Norkiewicz](#)

AHGC Membership Co-chair

March Gardening

Bev Krams, Horticulture

MARCH GARDENING....Really?

Well, this is what you have been waiting for.
Let's get started....doing what, you say.....

First find the grass. Has that snow melted yet? If so check around and see what is actually coming up; crocuses, grape hyacinths, daffodils?

Do not walk across your garden when the soil is wet. Tramping through the soil compacts the soil and impedes root penetration and causes poor drainage.



Follow through on our February speakers suggestion to send your soil sample into the Farm Bureau. Find out just what you do have in that soil!

You can start pruning shrubs that flower on new wood...Panicle Hydrangeas .i.e. Annabelle Hydrangeas and spireas.

Don't forget those ornamental grasses. Hopefully half of it is not all over the yard! Wrap duct tape around those tall dried grasses and trim to about 8 inches tall. Don't forget the gloves, long sleeve shirt and maybe an assistant would be helpful!

If you have burlap on any of your evergreens now is the time to unwrap them.

Slowly start spring cleanup. Rake debris off carefully in the area where your early bloomers will be coming up. Take it easy on the soil....delaying cleanup is better for beneficial insects and spiders who are overwintering. Doug Tallamy agrees with The Habitat Network that overwintering insects such as bees, certain butterflies and moths get 'going' after a stream of 50 degree days. And that's when you should get moving too!!

Empty and clean bird boxes. Wear gloves!

SPRING IS COMING!



The Village of Arlington Heights 2021 Landscape waste collection season is April 1—December 14.

For more details visit the [Village website](#)

I ILLINOIS

Extension

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

Gardeners Corner Spring 2021

[Click here](#) to view the spring issue

Gardening Knowledge

Bev Krams, Horticulture

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

First Day of Spring Virtual Garden Event

La Porte County Master Gardener Association
Saturday, March 20, 2021

Session #1 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT
“The Edible Garden, Month by Month”
Speaker: Beth Botts

From seed shopping to harvest, what you need to do to keep your vegetable, herb, and fruit garden on track throughout the season. [Click here to register](#) for Session #1



Session #2: 1:00-2:00 p.m. CDT

“Spring Woodland Wildflowers of the Lower Lake Michigan Region: History, Folklore and Physiology”

[Click here](#) to register for Session #2

Salt Creek Park District: Chicago Botanical Garden Field Trip

Tuesday, April 6 @ 9am-4pm
Cost: \$15

Come with us as we visit the Chicago Botanical Garden with its world-renowned plant collections and displays; it is one of the country’s most visited public gardens. The 385 acre garden features 23 display gardens and three native habitats, uniquely situated on nine islands surrounded by lakes. Lunch will be on your own.

Registration deadline April 1st [Click here to register](#).



Walk in the Woods

Friday, April 30 @ 10 A.M.
River Trail Nature Center
3120 MILWAUKEE AVE. | NORTHBROOK, IL
Free



Spring is the best time to get outside and enjoy fresh air while exploring the wild and diverse native flowers in our area. Join us as we wander through the forested trails in search of native wildflowers in bloom. Walk as little as a half mile or be adventurous and walk another half mile or more. The trails are unpaved, so be sure to wear your closed-toe walking shoes. Discover what else is on-site after our walk is over with free time to explore on your own. Bring your water bottle and enjoy a day in the woods with friends. Transportation is not provided. Wintrust Bank | Call Norma Ahlstrand @ 847-483-6013

Melinda Myers Live Webinars

[Click here](#) to view the list of webinars.

WildOnes

Midwest Native Gardening Basics Series [Click here](#) to view the schedule

Chicago Botanic Garden

Adult Education [Click here](#) to view the online classes



Celebration of Life for Bea Salis

By Mike Dennehey

Bea Salis passed away on Saturday, February 6th while in hospice. Bea was a garden club member in the '90's through about 2002. She was an avid gardener, traveler, and friend to all. She taught medical QC classes in Amsterdam over the years. On one of our trips, she guided Pat and I around Amsterdam on a day-long walking tour, taking us to the flower markets, diamond cutters, the seamier part of town, and to her favorite restaurant.

[Click here](#) to watch a video celebration of Bea's life. Her life story begins at 10:30 minutes into the memorial video, and you can see her skydiving experience at 14:22 minutes.

If anyone has an address for a Salis family member, please contact [Shelley](#). Our club would like to send a sympathy card to the family.



Derby Line Greenhouse Trip

Shelley Plischke

Plan to join us this year as we make our annual trek to the Derby Line Garden Center on Wednesday, April 21st.

Kathy Gerault and her family have created a little jewel of a nursery located in the rolling meadows east of Genoa Illinois, where they hand plant and lovingly care for thousands of the most beautiful annuals you will ever see. *They are there for the picking and its really hard to stop!*

They will be expecting us and open the greenhouses for the AHGC on April 21st at 9:30 am. It is about a 30 minute drive from Arlington Heights. Enter the address into your GPS and off you go: **16061 Derby Line Rd. Genoa, Il. 60135**

Please note: Derby Line Garden is not equipped to accept credit cards, so payment must be cash or check. Since dining restrictions have opened up again it might be fun to stop for lunch on the way back if anyone is interested. A good time to share garden plans and ideas.

Mark your calendar, make a list, and prepare yourself for a gardeners dream! If you have any questions please contact [Shelley Plischke](#)



Butterfly Garden Expansion Project Needs Volunteers

Kathy Wolan, Civics

The Lake Arlington Butterfly Garden we helped establish in May of 2019 is going to be expanded, thanks in part to our club's 2020 \$1,000 donation to the Arlington Heights Park District.

Volunteers will be needed to plant the 288—3-inch prairie plant plugs at the south side of Lake Arlington on May 15, 2021, at 10 AM. If you would like to put on your gloves and bring a trowel for planting, please contact [Kathy Wolan](#) or [Jim Spannagel](#). The number of volunteers may be limited due to the COVID-19 guidelines, so let us know ASAP if you would like to be included.

More details will follow closer to the planting date.



Have You Ever Seen an Elephant Ear Bloom?

Mike Dennehey

When fall came last year, I decided to bring in an Elephant Ear, *Colocasia esculenta*, to see how it would do as a house plant over winter. I dug up the plant, brought it inside and planted it in a very large pot. A surprise appeared the last week of February in the form of a bloom forming. One half week later it opened and by the end of the second week it turned yellow and withered. It's gone but that's okay, another bloom is forming right now.



Ask A Master Gardener

EASTERN REDBUD PRUNING

QUESTION: *What can I do with a 10-year old Eastern Redbud next to my house that has grown way too tall and has numerous two foot tall healthy saplings growing near the trunk? Is it possible to cut the main trunk of the tree, giving more light to the shoots to grow and take over?*

ANSWER: As you may know, Redbuds bloom in spring all up and down the branches (not just at the outer branch tips). It is easier to prune while dormant as you can see the branching structure much better without leaves. However, if you prune it before spring, you will lose those blooms. Or you can wait until immediately after blooming so you can enjoy the show.

Having said that – yours is a big tree for a Redbud and they are not a very long-lived tree. Off hand, I cannot see how to prune it to reduce the height. All of the smaller branches that hold most of the blooms appear to be on the top third of the tree. In some plants, you can head them back by pruning just above a side branch but I don't see any of those. They were probably pruned off in the past.

The small saplings are from seed so are separate plants and should grow up to be nice trees in the future. You can even dig up the ones away from the trunk and transplant them. But based on my experience, do it while they are very young as the root structure is much more extensive than you might imagine. When they get to the desired height, you can control them by cutting the main stem just above a side branch. This will redirect future growth below that cut.

Maybe your best strategy is to leave the parent tree alone and let a small sapling develop. As it gets bigger, you can then cut down the parent in favor of the sapling. And don't worry about the shade of the parent tree – Redbuds are understory trees that are used to growing in the shade of taller trees.

Think spring! Consider cutting a few branches in late winter (late February or early March) and bring them inside for forcing. Good luck with your reclamation project.

— *Pete Landwehr, Master Gardener*

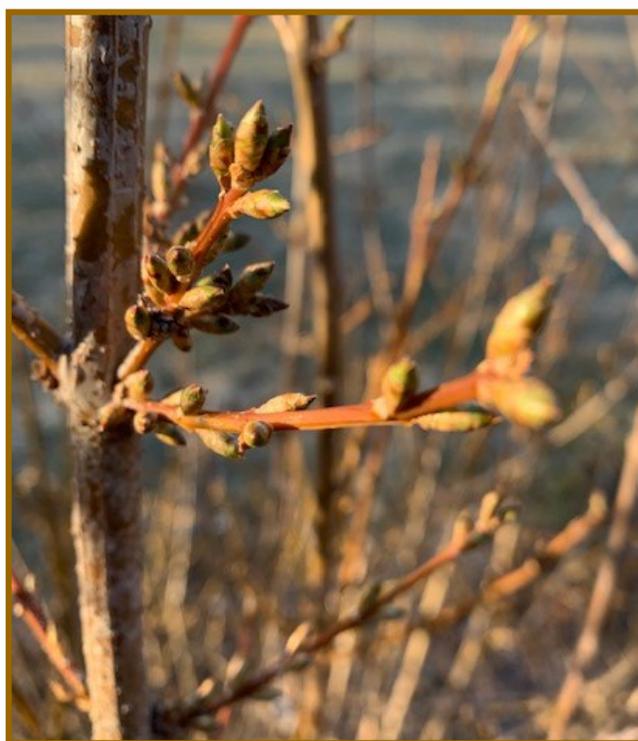




Reminder about our April Meeting

Val Solaski, Programs

Our April 26, 2021 program, “Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels,” presented by Meredith Schnelle, is being done in partnership with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Therefore, you must register for the program through the Library’s website. The event is already on their April events calendar for 7:30 pm on April 26. You can register now by [clicking here](#).



Forsythia buds, March 2021

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 Koepfen
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

Please send photos of your spring gardens to [Bev](#).

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes

Julia Bruett
Pat Dennehey
Carol Elliott
Margaret Gray
Kathy Hendricksen
Bev Krams
Cindy Kriemelmeyer
Connie Landwehr
Mike Relaz
Diane Lanigan
Suzanne Scheetz
Kathy Wolan



Cyndi Monroe, late winter/early spring Garden

Your Membership Annual Renewal Fee is Due May 1st

During the past year the Arlington Heights Garden Club made every effort to adapt to the quarantine by providing interesting gardening information in our Newsletter and offered Educational Programs by Zoom.

Hopefully, in a few months we can meet in person, converse with fellow gardeners, share interests and just be among friends. We have been adapting over the past year and will continue to do so to provide the best possible experience for our members.

For your convenience the **AHGC Membership Form** is provided on page 14 this newsletter or you can [click here](#) to access the form on our website. Please mail or drop off your dues with the membership form to:

Renie Norkiewicz
110 N Kaspar Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Thank you,
[Renie Norkiewicz](#)
Membership Co-chair
847-394-5145

Treasurer's Report

Arlington Heights Garden Club
Treasurer's Report
March, 2021

<u>Checking Account Balance 2/28/21</u>	<u>Stmt Date</u>	\$	1,597.77
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Transfer from savings	3/1/21		1,628.44
4 Unique Vendors	3/8/21		200.00
Total			1,828.44
<u>Disbursements (cleared):</u>			
	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Ck Date</u>	
Total			-
Checking Account Balance 3/31/21		\$	3,426.21
Savings Account Balance 2/28/21			1,628.44
Interest Income @ 0.02%			
Transfer to checking	3/1/21		(1,628.44)
Savings Account Balance 3/31/21		\$	- Closed 3/1/21
CASH IN BANK 3/31/21		\$	3,426.21
Receipts to be deposited			
Total undeposited receipts		\$	-
Open invoices and checks written but not cashed			
	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Ck Date</u>	
Mike Dennehey	1410	2/19/21	360.00 3 yr website renewal
Garden Clubs of Illinois	1411	3/1/21	100.00 GW/Plant Sale ad
Total outstanding checks and invoices		\$	460.00
ADJUSTED CASH POSITION 3/31/21		\$	2,966.21

AHGC Board Meeting Notes

Nancy Asquini Dean, Recording Secretary

AHGC Board Meeting | March 8, 2021 7:00 PM

President-Jim Spannagel

District IX annual meeting (virtual) tomorrow March 9th 10:00 a.m. Must register in advance to attend.

Ryan Miller, who is in charge of Farmer's Market, would like Garden Club participation in the weekend market to help it grow and also benefit our Club. Would we be willing to have volunteers a few Saturdays, also possibly set up an information table. (We will have a table four Saturdays in June to promote the Garden Walk and Unique Boutique.)

The February secretary's board minutes and February treasurer's report approved.

Civics – We will be helping the Arlington Hts. Pk. District plant 288 3" plugs on Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 AM expanding the butterfly/pollinator garden at Lake Arlington. Volunteers will be needed, but will be limited in number due to Covid. If interested, contact Kathy Wolan or Jim Spannagel.

Conservation – Let Jim know by April 1st if you've planted a native tree since spring 2019 either on public or private property, giving tree name, location and date. GCI is collecting totals and providing to National Club. Goal is 6,000. Last call.

Garden Walk Monthly Meeting – Kathy and Aileen will hold Zoom meeting on Monday, March 8th at 7:00 PM.

Horticulture – Bev has submitted articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

Membership – New Member Campaign. Three months of newsletter free. Importance of going to "Members Only" section on website was stressed.

Plant Sale – Saturday, June 5th from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed.

Programs - March "Getting Your Garden Prepared After Winter and Early Blooming Perennials" by Erin McHugh. April "Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels" in cooperation with Library. Must sign up for April meeting through the Library.

Publicity – Lesley Jackson and Connie Landwehr. Will be co-chairing the Publicity position.

Summer Meetings – June in Aileen Koeppen's garden. July in Renie's garden.

Nominating Committee. Will present slate in March, voting by email in April.

Attracting New Members – New home owners-use realtors? Houseplant programs?

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM

Arlington Heights Garden Club - Attracting Younger Members

Situation

Our club is comprised mainly of folks 65+. This makes it difficult to complete civic projects and fundraisers that rely on physically demanding tasks. Also, without a steady infusion of younger members, the long-term sustainability of the club is threatened.

Target

Attract and retain 10 new members per year who are under 45 years old

Insights

1. Possible hooks/benefits (why might a younger person want to join?)
 - a. Community building/connections
 - b. Volunteerism/Giving back
 - c. Fun hobby/learn new skills
 - d. Health/outdoors/exercise
 - e. An activity to do with the whole family
2. Possible barriers?
 - a. Unaware it exists
 - b. Lack of time
 - c. Perception of club as "not for me" (may think it's for little old ladies only)
3. Our prospects
 - a. Adults who live in Arlington Heights. May be married or single, with or without kids
 - b. New residents with new homes/yards may be more keen
 - c. Watchers of HGTV who enjoy entertaining seem like good prospects
 - d. Interested in the conservation and the environment
4. Consider down and dirty research
 - a. SurveyMonkey pushed out on Facebook groups to explore awareness, barriers, benefits and program/event ideas that are most appealing to our prospects

Proposal

1. Trial/sampling
 - a. Donate to fundraisers/raffles (check with schools, churches, PTA, WINGS, Clearbrook, NWSRA, etc, all of which have fundraisers that include silent auctions and raffles)
 - i. Memberships, free plant coupons good at plant sale, garden walk tickets
 - b. Special "Members bring a friend" social/meeting
2. Partnerships – go where young homeowners already gather and connect
 - a. Scouts – offer to develop and run gardening badge activities
 - b. Library
 - i. start a seed swap/library
 - ii. Expand the library of things to include gardening equipment
 - iii. Continue to work with them on co-programming (they may have ideas for topics they are looking to offer)

- c. General - Suggest and participate in a club fair event, like when colleges have fairs with all the different student organizations at tables where students can ask questions, get literature and see what's offered. All the different village organizations could take a table, and people could visit to see what's offered in A.H. Host at Village Hall or at the library.
 - d. PTA – offer to come present at their meetings, advise on starting a school garden
 - e. Sherwin Ace – cross promotion tied to plant sale/garden walk? Buy \$25 worth of garden supplies/equipment and get a free ticket/coupon for a free plant. Ace would promote out sale/walk through their email marketing and in-store signage (maybe put a flier inside the bags of their customers)
 - i. Members get discounts (but then would need some way to ID members)
3. Participation/presence at existing community events that already attract young people
 - a. Set up a table at Night Out, Promenade of Art, Mane Event, Frontier Days, etc. Hand out seed packets, plants, cut flowers with info on club membership and benefits
 - b. Continue parade participation but not just Memorial Day/promoting Garden Walk. March in other parades to promote membership.
 4. Call for volunteers for civic projects and with garden walk/plant sale
 - a. Service hours required for D214 Honor Society
 - b. Ag students at RMHS looking for relevant experience
 5. Add membership drive aspect to Plant Sale and Garden Walk
 - a. Flier with upcoming schedule of programs to plant sale customers
 - b. Same flier to garden walk attendees
 - c. Include year's membership in garden walk raffle/auction
 6. Experiment with new types of programming geared to atypical audiences.
 - a. Kids – planting activities at Farmer's Market
 - i. One example: Beanie Babies
 - b. Teens – put them in charge of "makeovers" at post office, other civic garden spaces. Give them a budget and a garden club counselor but let them take some ownership and be creative
 - c. Young adults: Garden crawl – like a pub crawl but visiting a string of 3-5 gardens all within walking distance of each other. Coolers of beer and wine offered at each stop. Or create a template for how neighbors can organize their own on their block.
 - d. Host planting parties. Could do at a meeting, or during the plant sale/unique boutique
 - i. Participants sign up and pay (\$25 at the Flower & Garden Show)
 - ii. All materials provided
 - iii. Instructor walks them through planting up a container to take home
 - iv. Could do edible containers, a pizza garden, fairy gardens, herb gardens, etc.
 - e. Topic young families are interested in include (based on Google search trends).
 - i. Composting
 - ii. Growing food
 - iii. Low maintenance gardening
 - iv. Container gardening (patios/decks)
 - v. Building and growing in raised beds
 - vi. Succulents (including making vertical succulent "art")
 - vii. Butterfly gardens/raising/saving monarchs
 - viii. Creating outdoor living spaces
 - ix. Chemical-free lawns and gardens (garden safety for kids and pets)

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

RENEWAL DUE DATE MAY 1ST

Membership Renewal Individual \$25.00 Couple \$40.00
New Member - June thru May \$25.00 New Member - January thru May \$12.50

Name(s) _____ Birthday Month _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip code _____

Home Phone(s) _____ Cell Phone(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

In an effort to better serve your gardening needs the AHGC is eager to learn your areas of interest. Please share your thoughts and ideas to help us provide programs you would enjoy. _____

In order to get involved and meet people, we recommend members sign up for at least one or more committees. Please (✓) check committee(s) of interest and a chairperson will contact you with information on how you can help.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic
<i>(Plan Workshops)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Civics
<i>(Community Beautification)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation
<i>(Environmental Issues)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Walk
<i>(Club's Main Fundraiser)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture
<i>(Plant Info/Events)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality
<i>(Organize Refreshments)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<i>(Process Members)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<i>(Monthly Newsletter)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale
<i>(Annual Plant Sale)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs
<i>(Select Meeting Programs)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<i>(Media Notices)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship
<i>(Arrange Scholarships)</i> |

Website

(Club Website) If you wish to serve as a chairperson, please indicate committee _____

I would like to bring treats to the general meeting.

Sept Oct Nov Jan Feb March April May June July

"I grant the AHGC permission to use photographs taken of me or including me at Garden Club meetings and events to be used in whole or in part for the purpose of promotion, social media and art for the sole use of the AHGC."

Please mail this form and your check made out to Arlington Hts. Garden Club to: Renie Norkiewicz, Membership
110 N. Kaspar Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60005

(847) 394-5145

laren4@att.net

02/09/2021