



Troy Garden Club Branch Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Inc.

Monthly Meetings at 3753 John R, Troy, MI 48083
Second Wednesday of the Month at 12:00 noon
September through June



January 2024

President's Message ~ Dave Becker

Another year has gone by, and there's so much to celebrate in 2024! The celebration will include the 53rd anniversary of the Troy Garden Club's founding, the 50th garden walk, a new president and a growing membership.

The December meeting was special, with the Troy High School Concert Choir getting us all into the holiday mood!

I look forward to taking on the role of president with a little trepidation, but I know that, with our established strong team of officers and members, it will be a fun and successful year.

I hope to get to know each and every member and to share our love for gardening and our camaraderie.

One of the upcoming events that I look forward to in January is speaker Judy Garrett. Her topic will be *The Ten Most Beautiful Gardens in the World*. (See page 4.)

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!



Jimson Weed / White Flower No. 1,
1932 oil on canvas by Georgia O'Keeffe

"If you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it is your world for a moment." – artist Georgia O'Keeffe

Editor's note:

(O'Keeffe professional & biographical information below courtesy of the internet)

After reading the Georgia O'Keeffe quote above that Dave Becker included with his first president's message, I thought back over my 16+ years as a TGC member. In doing so, I realized that our members tend to be "lifelong learners," both within the club and in other organizations and surroundings. *One of the things I like best about TGC membership is that I'm always learning something new.*

For example, after I read Dave's quote from artist Georgia O'Keeffe, I found myself searching online through many of O'Keeffe's flower paintings. *(Thank you, Dave!)* Before then, my O'Keeffe knowledge was general and limited.

[FYI, my first experience in an art museum - when my age was still in single digits! - was a visit to the DIA for an exhibit of the art of German masters. That visit sparked a lifelong interest which continues in our family to this day.]

So when I discovered O'Keeffe's *Jimson Weed / White Flower No. 1* online . . . , oh, be still my heart! I had to know more. Among the things I learned:

- Georgia O'Keeffe routinely left New York State in cold months to paint at another home in Abiquiu, New Mexico, where the surroundings provided far different subject matter.
- *Jimson Weed / White Flower # 1* was commissioned by cosmetics mogul Elizabeth Arden for her 5th Avenue salon in New York City.
- Later, the 40" x 48" painting is said to have hung for several years in a private dining room in the White House.
- In 2014, the painting was sold to the *Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art* in Bentonville, Arkansas for (drum roll) \$44.4 million – historically the highest price ever paid for a work of art created by a female artist!

Troy Garden Club Branch – Founded in 1971 Website: www.TroyGardenClubMI.com

Mailing address: 2844 Livernois #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

Troy Historic Village Gardens ~ Karol Carter



Hopes & Wishes for the New Year

Ann Britton, pictured left, joined the Troy Garden Club in 2004. Her interest in gardening was a major factor in her decision to become a member. She and former TGC member Rita Urbanski were co-chairs of our THV gardening project for several years. When Rita moved to Florida, I agreed to fill her role as co-chair with Ann. Ann's monthly responsibilities included providing a member sign-in sheet on gardening Wednesdays, recording the club's hours in the THV volunteer log, emailing necessary communications to garden captains, and writing a newsletter article when needed.

Each year, Ann gifted a pair of gardening gloves to every garden captain as a kind "thank you" gesture. She designed and maintained the THV's lovely Town Hall garden near the church. In addition, she helped with container watering duties. In mid-November 2023, Ann informed then-president Linda Forrester, as well as membership chairperson Bev Hydo and me, that she had decided not to continue her TGC membership in 2024 due to persistent and gradually worsening back problems.

Among Ann's generous past volunteer responsibilities were the following: Community Outreach projects, Perennial Plant Exchange, Trick or Treat at the THV, Hanging of the Greens, and the Troy Historic Village's recently renamed "Cocoa with Santa" event. In years past, Ann had been chairperson of the garden walk hostesses, TGC recording secretary and one of three Volunteers of the Year in 2012.

I will miss Ann and her dedication to our organization. And now, the Troy Garden Club needs to find someone willing to join me as co-chairperson of the THV gardens. Duties would be determined based upon the new co-chairperson's interests.

***Thank you, Ann, on behalf of the entire
Troy Garden Club!***



*Above: Morning shift at 2023 garden walk, **Garden Stories** – garden # 1*

L – R: Head home hostess Ann Britton, Nancy Wietchy, Cynthia Idyle & Kathy Martin

Right: Many thanks as well to Ann's husband Jim for his generous and cheerful help over many years, including as a garden walk garden guard.



Troy Garden Club Board of Directors

PresidentDave Becker
Vice PresidentPatrick Hardy
TreasurerJeanne Bolcer
Recording Secretary.....Onita Fitz
Corresponding Secretary Judi Milidrag

Additional Troy Garden Club Volunteers

Advisor

Linda Forrester

Community Outreach

Jo Ann Preston

2024 Garden Walk Steering Committee

Barb Lepri

Judi Milidrag, Mary Schwark

Greeters

Nancy Wietchy

Herb Study Group & Annual Directory

Kay Betke

Hospitality

Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil

Membership

Beverly Hydo

Newsletter Editor

Mary Schwark

Sunshine & Rainy Days

Cindi O'Neil

Troy Historic Village Gardens

Karol Carter

Troy Garden Club 2023 Scholarships – Recipients & Their Grateful Responses

Thanks to the proceeds from a highly successful 2023 garden walk, augmented by a private donation, in early December the Troy Garden Club awarded two scholarships of slightly different amounts totaling \$4,000.00. The recipients were two very worthy Oakland University students.

A committee of five – Jeanne Bolcer, Karol Carter, JoAnn Preston, Mary Schwark and Nancy Wietchy – evaluated the applications independently. Scores were combined and averaged. To paraphrase the post-evaluation comments of one of the five judges, “We are definitely in good hands with students of their caliber!”

The Troy Garden Club is very fortunate that Mary A. Jamieson, PhD, an associate professor of biological sciences at Oakland University, was able to recommend that two of her exceptional students apply for the TGC’s funding. We are grateful for her assistance. VP Patrick Hardy has also booked Dr. Jamieson as our May 2024 Troy Garden Club speaker.

The scholarship recipients, one of whom lives in Oakland County and one of whom lives in Macomb County, perfectly meet the requirements described in our scholarship application. **Katherine E.** is an undergraduate senior with plans to attend graduate school. Her principal area of study is environmental science with an emphasis on botany, along with a specialty in sustainability and resource management. **Julie S.** is a graduate student who is studying to complete a Master of Science degree in biology with emphasis on conservation ecology. She hopes to pursue a career in environmental education, ecology and conservation.

TGC Treasurer Jeanne Bolcer, mailed a \$4,000.00 check to Oakland University at the end of November 2023. The funds will be administered through OU’s Department of Biological Sciences.

The scholarship recipients accepted their awards with the statements which follow.

Katherine: “I’d like to express my deepest gratitude toward the Troy Garden Club for selecting me as a recipient of the Mary Schwark Horticulture Scholarship. It is a great privilege and honor to be chosen.”

Julie: “I want to thank the Troy Garden Club deeply for offering me the scholarship. The funds will be put to great use, and they will allow me to continue my research through the summer. Starting this program has been one of the most inspiring though challenging things that I have done, and I am happy to have support from a group involved in the same area.”

Installment Four:

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT THE WNF&GA

– Sue Vette



Happy 110th birthday to the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association!

The organization was established on January 12, 1914. The association’s horticultural goals were set forth in its constitution and bylaws.

At the beginning, members’ annual dues were \$1.00 (that’s right: ONE dollar!) or \$25.00 for a lifetime membership.

Founder’s Day – *VERSION 2024* – will follow just two days after the Troy Garden Club’s usual second-Wednesday-of-the-month meeting on January 10. Let’s recognize the organization’s milestone.

I hope that all TGC members will accept the challenge of keeping our organization vibrant.

Aunt Judi, Aunt Barb, Aunt Bev & Aunt Mary Want You !

Thanks to Judi Milidrag & Barb Lepri for their diligent garden search last fall. Follow-up garden visits included Bev Hydo & Mary Schwark and led to a full slate of 2024 gardens!

We four have been the garden walk “steering committee.” While we will continue to plan and help organize the 2024 event in various ways that meet our personal wants and needs, **we’re not all going to “steer” this year.**

After recently sharing our previous responsibilities in writing, we will soon meet to discuss the details. That way, going forward, the event can continue in 2024 and beyond with a good road map and with at least some new members in learning & leading roles.

The Troy Garden Club has many new and capable members. We hope that **all** members will think carefully about what they can and would like to do in 2024.

If you want to become involved, or MORE involved, in the TGC’s 50th garden walk, please email Mary Schwark: schwark@aol.com. At this point we’re not quite ready to discuss specific jobs, but please let us know about your interest in stepping up. We will refine our garden walk “puzzle” for the future, and we need some well-fitting “puzzle pieces.”

Happy January Birthdays!

“Sharks are as tough as those football fans who take their shirts off during games in Chicago in January, only more intelligent.”

- Dave Barry (born 1947)
(aka David McAlister Barry)
born in Armonk, New York
American humorist

~~~~~

“In seed-time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.”

- William Blake (1757 - 1827)  
born in Soho, London, England  
*Romantic Age* English poet,  
painter & printmaker

01/09 - Onita Fitz

01/12 - Barbara Rosko

01/12 - Barbara Stuecheli

01/16 - Irene Koziel

01/21 - Dave Becker

01/21 - Denise Karry

01/23 - Kelly Sprague



Birthdays submitted by **Beverly Hydo**,  
membership chairperson

## A Holiday to Remember – Patrick Hardy

Something special was in the air at last month's holiday celebration. The sense of camaraderie was palpable. In addition, there was certainly a sense of giving, as demonstrated by the record funds our members donated for Troy People Concerned! Festive bountiful tables, plus the Troy High School Concert Choir (photos below and on pp. 6 & 7) played a major role in marking the beginning of the season. Some of the choir members have been with us during their entire high school experiences. Sharing tables with them as they lunched after their performance was a bonus. However and whatever you celebrate, the event was a great way to usher in the season!



**TO KICK OFF 2024:** On January 10, world traveler Judy Garrett (photo on left) will present *The Ten Most Beautiful Gardens in the World*. I've heard that there may be prizes at play, so you may walk out figuratively richer than when you walked in! If you're not already in Florida, the Troy Garden Club's January 10 meeting is the place to be.

Finally, I would like to thank the Troy Garden Club for honoring me, along with Jackie Wilson, as 2023 Volunteers of the Year. I am living proof that volunteering doesn't kill you!



Right: Troy Garden Club  
2023 Volunteers of the Year  
are Jackie Wilson  
& Patrick Hardy.

Left: Troy High School  
Concert Choir Director  
Adrienne Covian & Five  
Handsome Farmhands  
on the fifth day of  
Christmas - 2023





# Troy Garden Club Calendar

## January 2024

January 1, Monday



Information provided by  
Corresponding Secretary  
Judi Milidrag

January 5, Friday, 10:00 am

**UN-HANGING of the Greens** at the Troy Historic Village

January 10, Wednesday, 12:00 noon

**General meeting with speaker;** information on p. 4

January 13, Saturday

**FIRST day** to submit February newsletter information:  
schwark@aol.com

**See photo submission story in box on p. 8.**

**NEW: Letters to the editor are welcome!**

January 23, Tuesday

**FINAL day** to submit February newsletter information

January 24, Wednesday, 11:00 am

TGC Board of Directors meeting  
Followed by garden walk meeting at 12:30 pm  
**Please confirm Niles Barnard location prior to meeting.**

### Hanging of the Greens ~ 2023

Cindi O'Neil

The 2023 holiday season arrived at the Troy Historic Village on November 29, when volunteers from the Troy Garden Club braved the cold to decorate the village with fresh garlands, hand-crafted fresh green swags and wreaths which were embellished with holly leaves, holly berries, pinecones and beautiful hand-made bows. The gazebo once again is home to the Christmas tree, and the gazebo railings are decorated with fresh garlands, pinecones and berries.

Co-chairs Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Jackie Wilson and Cindi O'Neil would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's *Hanging of the Greens* a success.

Special thanks to:

- ❖ Judy Cornellier, who helped us select the beautiful greens & wreaths from Telly's
- ❖ Jennifer Goldstein & Debe Hancock, whose talents helped the co-chairs create the beautiful handcrafted fresh green swags & hand-decorated wreaths
- ❖ Debe Hancock, Karol Carter & Judy Popyk, who designed & assembled the beautiful planters located at the church building and the THV's main office

*Hanging of the Greens ~ 2023 participants' photo on right.*



*All TGC members who helped during Hanging of the Greens at the THV in 2023: **Back row, L – R:** Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Barb Lepri, Cindi O'Neil, Tina Downen, Karol Carter, Dave Becker, Pat Dodge, Janet Henning, Bev Hydo, Debe Hancock **Front Row, L – R:** Judy Popyk (semi-standing), Jackie Wilson, Linda Forrester, Jennifer Goldstein, Denise Karry  
Missing from photo: Judy Cornellier*

*-photo by Patrick Hardy; special photo editing by Christian Whan*

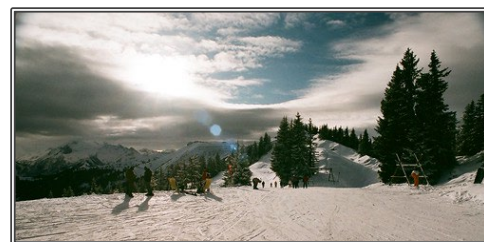
## Hospitality

**Jackie  
Wilson**

Thank you, members, for providing the delicious food including, of course, the many desserts we all enjoyed at the Troy Garden Club's December meeting and Christmas party.

Our January meeting will feature a club-sponsored lunch which will NOT be pizza. I thought it would be fun to try something new to kick start the New Year, and I hope all will enjoy!

The following members signed up to bring desserts: **Pat Hauer, Darcel Connors, Janet Henning, Debe Hancock and Anna Zimmerman.**



## Sunshine & Snowy Days

**Cindi O'Neil**

This month Judy Cornellier could use a little sunshine from her Troy Garden Club friends. Please remember her with a cheerful note or a card.

If any other members you know are experiencing "snowy" days and are in need of a little sunshine from their garden club friends, let me know by sending an email to me:

**tcjoneil@comcast.net.**

Please indicate whether or not they would like me to include the reasons they need some sunshine; i.e., illness, surgery, accident, death of a family member, etc.



## Scenes from the Holiday-Themed TGC Meeting on December 6

**Left:** A very festive Linda Forrester, bids an emotional farewell to Troy Garden Club members after three years of dedicated & productive service as president.  
– photo on left by Kimberlee Urwiller  
– additional photos right, below, and on page 7, by Mary Schwark

**Right, L – R:**  
Bev Hydo,  
Kimberlee  
Urwiller,  
Karen Gray,  
Kathy Martin  
(back to camera)



**Below:** Onita Fitz, on right, with 2023 VOY awardees Patrick Hardy & Jackie Wilson



**Below:** Troy High School Concert Choir singers with TGC members, L – R, Pat Brown, Dave Becker, Mary Becker, Jackie Wilson, Cindi O'Neil, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Pat Dodge, Vicki Guntenaar, Thea Lockard







-Troy High School Concert Choir led by Adrienne Covian, director  
Enjoying the nearly 30 students' performance are, L – R, seated TGC members: Karen Cox, Barb Lepri, Kay Betke, Pat Guibord & Margy Truza

## Herb Study Group News – 2023

Kay Betke

The Herb Study Group will meet at Kay Betke's house on Wednesday, January 17, at 10:00 am. HSG members will paint more stones for the identification of plants at the Troy Historic Village, both in the herb garden surrounding the Log Cabin, and in the ABC garden. We began the project last year, and now we need to finish stones for the remaining plants in the two locations.

For additional information, contact Kay Betke. Find her contact information in the 2023 directory or in the new 2024 directory which will be available to members at the January meeting. (*See below left.*)

## 2024 Yearbook &

### Directory

Kay Betke

*The 2024 Yearbook and Directory will be available at the January meeting. Be sure to stop at the membership sign-in table and pick up your copy.*

Each member's yearbook will include the member's name, and the documents will be placed on the table in alphabetical order.

Please remember that each member has already been given a white binder in which to place the new yearbook pages.

A committee has been hard at work to update the Troy Garden Club's bylaws and standing rules. When a final copy is available, members will be asked to vote to approve them, after which copies will be printed and distributed to all members.

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MYSTERY PHOTO BELOW?



*Red & yellow & pink & green. Purple & orange & blue. I can sing a rainbow. Sing a rainbow. Sing a rainbow, too.*

Be the first Troy Garden Club member to correctly identify the photo on the left. Email your response to our new TGC president

Dave Becker:

dabeckerman65@gmail.com

You and everyone else seated at your table at the January 10 meeting will be first in line for lunch!

**How well do you know your community?**

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

for Those Who Submit Articles, Photos & Other News for the  
TGC Newsletter:

- (1) Email all information & photos to Mary Schwark, editor (schwark@aol.com).
- (2) Send information no earlier than the 13th of the month & no later than the 23rd of the month. **NOTE:** The TGC president may delay sending the president's message until the day after the TGC board meeting (usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month).
- (3) **SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL:**  
*Example: For February TGC Newsletter*
- (4) If possible, please send your information in the Times New Roman font.
- (5) Please attach **ONLY** information for the **NEXT** newsletter.
- (6) If circumstances will prevent you from following the schedule above, please contact me ASAP so we both know **what** you will send and **when**.
- (7) Send **ONLY** relatively hi-res photos (MINIMUM SIZE OF 900 KB PER PHOTO).
- (8) Identify ALL photo subjects, L - R. Identify & credit ALL photographers.

### A SAD-HAPPY STORY REGARDING PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

In the spring of my sophomore year of high school, the yearbook arrived. Like everyone else, I was excited to exchange autographs and messages and to view photo highlights of the past school year. The co-editors had published head shots of all students who were present on "picture day." Even mine!

I say "even mine" because my face had no eyes. I was devastated. If I had been yearbook editor (a job I shared with my best friend two years later during parts of our senior semesters), I would have done everything possible to acquire a better photo of a student who appeared to have missing parts.

Maybe that's when I became **SO** finicky about editing and accuracy in publishing.

Fast forward from high school to about 2019. One early morning, a very upset TGC member called me. "Why did you publish that terrible photo of me?" she demanded. I was dumbfounded! I had no idea what she was talking about, especially because I hadn't yet read the newsletter. Furthermore, at that point I had no duties regarding the club's publication beyond submitting the occasional article and/or image.

Long story short, the caller thought that I was the one who had taken and submitted her photo. Nope! I opened the newsletter as we spoke and found the offending image. I agreed with her. It was a terrible photo of a proud and lovely lady!

The moral of the story: If you submit a photo for the newsletter, and if I view it and think about how upset I'd be if it were published as-is, . . . . it won't be published. **PLEASE: Choose your photos wisely. This old editor will be very grateful!**

**HELPFUL HINT:** Taking photos? Take **MANY**. With at least ten from which to choose, you're bound to have one or more that are very good, if not spectacular! **Delete the rest.**

## PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND Letters to the Editor

Did you read VP Patrick Hardy's **Letter to the Editor** in the TGC's December publication?

As space allows, more letters – **kind ones, please!** – will be published with the writers' names. The same timing – see (2) in the ESSENTIAL INFORMATION box on the left – will be required for publishing in each upcoming newsletter.

### Lemon Cranberry Panettone Bread Pudding with Lemon Curd Whipped Cream

The recipe was requested by several members at the December meeting.

1 pound panettone bread  
1 10 – 12 oz. jar lemon curd  
8 oz. fresh or frozen cranberries  
4 large eggs  
3 cups heavy whipping cream  
4 TBSP. granulated sugar – divided  
1 tsp. vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In an 8"- 9" oven-proof casserole dish, layer slices of panettone to cover the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle 1/3 of the cranberries over the top. Continue with two more layers, finishing with the remaining 1/3 of the cranberries.
3. In a mixing bowl, add 4 eggs, 2 cups whipping cream, 2 TBSP. sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla extract, and 1 jar lemon curd, **reserving 3-4 TBSP. lemon curd**. Beat with a whisk until smooth.
4. Pour over the panettone layers in the baking dish and let sit for 10-15 minutes. If you wish, poke the layered panettone multiple times with a skewer to help the cream mixture sink in.
5. Sprinkle top with remaining 2 TBSP. sugar and bake until golden brown and slightly puffed around the edges.
6. With an electric mixer, beat the remaining **ONE** cup of whipping cream and the remaining 3-4 TBSP. lemon curd until light and fluffy with soft peaks.
7. Serve the whipped cream with warm or room temperature bread pudding.