



Troy Garden Club Newsletter

December 2025

ALERT: Remember, December's meeting is the **FIRST** Wednesday of the month, **December 3rd**!



The TGC will be well represented at this year's **Festival of Trees** benefiting the Children's Hospital of Michigan! Our designers were (from top left) organizer **Mary Becker**, **Sally Bolle**, **Goldstein** centerpiece, **Jacquelyn Cutright**, **Rebecca Hall** **Jaye**, (second row) **Jennifer Goldstein**, **Nancy Cardon**, **Norah Dougherty**, **Nancy Zambardi**, **Pat Dodge**, **Norma Frame**, and (right below) **Debe Hancock** Centerpiece.



President's Message by David Becker



As my two-year term as President of the Troy Garden Club comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated board and to all the chairpersons who made my job easy-and made me look good in the process. It has been a true pleasure to take part in our Garden Walks and Plant Sales, and to see the joy and beauty our club brings to the community. But what I have valued most are the wonderful members I've had the privilege to meet and the friendships that have grown along the way. Although my term as President is ending, I look forward to continuing as an active member: digging in, learning, laughing, and building even more friendships with both familiar and new faces. Thank you all for your support, enthusiasm, and shared love of gardening. It's been an honor to serve.



Congratulations to incoming President Karol Carter and Vice President Rebecca Jaye!

Calendar/December

December 3, Wednesday/11:30 a.m.: General Meeting/Holiday Luncheon

Newsletter articles may be submitted from the beginning of the month until the 26th.



Judy Popyk

12/10



Debe Hancock

12/11



Cathy Rohlman 12/14

Patricia Hauer

12/18



Nancy Zambardi

12/25



Happy Birthday!

Herb Study

with Kay Betke



Our group met at the Troy Public Library on 11/19. We did our planning for 2026 and then **Onita Fitz** gave a report on **Sorrel**. There are two kinds of sorrel commonly grown as herbs: the English and the French. The English has large long pointed bright green leaves. The French variety has smaller round leaves that are more flavorful. The *Buckler leaf sorrel* has a milder, lemony zest which is preferred by the French for sorrel soup. French sorrel grows easily from seed sown outdoors in mid Spring. Sun or a little shade and a moist, but well drained soil are preferable. Sorrel can grow 2 to 4 feet tall. Later, **Jennifer Goldstein** showed us how to make mittens out of wool that's been boiled and shrunk! *A full day!*



Hospitality

Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neill



It's that time of year to celebrate the Holiday Season! All attending members are required to bring a finger food, fruit and/or pasta salad, garden salad, or, of course, desserts. Bring your own serving utensils and arrive by 11:45 a.m.. **Reminder to members:** We want to make sure everyone gets a chance to enjoy the food. Please take a smaller amount on your first plate. Please bring your own plate, utensils and cup to our meetings as we try to be mindful of our environment and help to reduce waste. At the conclusion of the meeting, be sure to police your table and toss disposable items and arrange chairs at the table.

Keep Smiling!



Community Outreach

with JoAnn Preston

Troy People Concerned Pantry Update

The day after our last general meeting, I stopped by the St. Anastasia pantry to see how they were 'recovering' from the Troy Garden Club drop off. Pantry volunteers had already organized 12 double bags of food and supplies deliveries to families approved by **Troy People Concerned** and were planning for a larger group before Thanksgiving. Thank you so much for making that shopping trip for families in distress and sharing. Special thanks to **Karol Carter, Pat Dodge, Rebecca Jaye, Judi Milidrag, Sue Vette** and **Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas** who took lead positions in this labor-intensive project. Delivery to St. Anastasia was completed after the meeting and the new pantry head was overwhelmed by your generosity.





Troy Historic Village Gardens Update *with Karol Carter*

November 5th was our final gardening day for the 2025 season. Thirty-six members plus one master gardener trainee (**Carla Vaughn**) and one husband (**Walter Popyk**) volunteered **341 hours** of service this year. Thank you for your dedication to ensuring the gardens of the Troy Historic Village are attractive. I hope each of you learned one new gardening tip from your participation! Below is a list of all who gardened. If your name is missing, you most likely forgot to sign in! Garden captains are noted in bold.

Dave Becker

Kay Betke

Nancy Cardon

Karol Carter

Darcel Connors

Becky Crocker

Pat Dodge

Tina Downen

Elaine Faba-McLeod

Onita Fitz

Linda Forrester

Judy Francis

Marilyn Frey

Jennifer Goldstein

Pat Guibord

Debe Hancock

Patrick Hardy

Ken Heck

Jean Holoday

Rebecca Jaye

Lynda Karlis

Rick Karlis

Marcia Mayer

Judi Milidrag

Carole Packla

Judith Popyk

JoAnn Preston

Barbara Rosko

Mary Schwark

Suzanne Smith

Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas

Kimberlee Urwiller

Susan Vette

Jackie Wilson

Eileen Winkel

Michael Wilson



Carole Packla



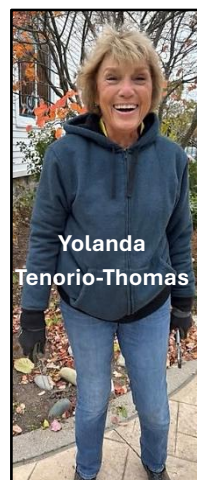
Jennifer Goldstein &
Jackie Wilson



JoAnn Preston



Pat Dodge



Yolanda
Tenorio-Thomas



Dave Becker



Many thanks to new member **Sara Perron** whose creative talents provided November's buffet arrangement. Her use of diverse dried materials and her vintage collection of turkeys (circling the base) stimulated us all.

VOLUNTEER...GET INVOLVED!

by Sue Vette



Trick or Treat Wrap-up

Troy Garden Club thrilled **632 guests** over the two days of "**Out of This World**" Halloween fun at Troy Historic Village. Thank you to **Debe Hancock** for chairing and the wonderful volunteers who assisted in the success.



Sunshine/Rain with Pat Dodge

For the most part, the sun has been shining on our members, but our dedicated Recording Secretary, **Darcel Connors**, did experience some rainy days with back surgery earlier in November. I'm happy to report a ray of sunshine though, as her recuperation is coming along nicely. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. On another note, I was so proud to be a member and represent TGC last month when I was part of the convoy of cars that dropped off your donations of food and necessities for **Troy People Concerned**. It was greatly appreciated, and YOUR generosity will bring sunshine to so many needy families. Thank You! And a special Thank You to **Karol Carter** and **Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas**, who covered for **JoAnn Preston** in coordinating the project. Many Thanks to all! **St. Anastasia Church**, located on John R, between Wattles and Long Lake, just north of our meeting place, is a distribution center for TPC. If you ever have excess, they accept food and other donations throughout the year, as well as giving tree items for this holiday season.



Community Outreach (con't.)

with JoAnn Preston

Thank you to **Nancy Zambardi** for announcing the upcoming **Cocoa and Crafts with Santa** event at Troy Historic Village on Saturday/Sunday, December 6th/7th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. **Debe Hancock** is chairing this family event with hot cocoa and a Troy Garden Club gift. **Karen Cox**, **Pat McDermitt**, **Cathy Rohlman**, **Carole Packla** and **Tina Battle** will be assisting in the fun. How good of you to step up for the last Community Outreach of 2025! **DON'T FORGET**, you have the opportunity to shape these *Community Outreach* events in 2026 either as a single or as a couple of friends volunteering together. Maybe one likes to write newsletter articles and the other prefers to speak at the mic. Add your talents to the Troy Garden Club pool of volunteers. I will be at December's meeting to answer your questions about participating in bringing notice and goodwill to the TGC through good works!

Speaker Series by Patrick Hardy



What a way to end a program season! **Julia Hofley** delighted and informed with "*Drama in the Shade*" as we closed out 2025. Who knew there were that many fern varieties? Could there be a field trip come Spring?



December 3rd: We will once again be seasonally serenaded by the young and talented **Troy High Concert Choir** led by **Adrienne Covian**. And while this is a "Member's Only" event,

if you would like to bring your 'significant other' please let Jackie Wilson know so we'll be prepared food-wise. **Happy Holidays!**

2025 Board of Directors/Committee Heads

President: David Becker

Vice President: Patrick Hardy

Treasurer: Jeanne Bolcer

Recording Secretary: Darcel Connors

Corresponding Secretary: Judi Milidrag

Advisor: Linda Forrester

Community Outreach: JoAnn Preston

Greeters: Nancy Wietchy

Herb Study Group & Directory: Kay Betke

Hospitality: Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil

Membership: Beverly Hydo

Sunshine & Rainy Days: Pat Dodge

Troy Historic Village Gardens: Karol Carter

Newsletter: Patrick Hardy

Troy Garden Club – Founded in 1971

Website: www.TroyGardenClubMI.com

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

Monthly meetings at Big Beaver United Methodist Church: 3753 John R, Troy, MI 48083

Second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

September through June