



October 2026 Newsletter

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece" - Claude Monet

MEMBER PROFILE: Doreen Alpert

Member since April 2026.

"Gardening is something that has always been part of my life and of interest to me. From an early age I remember planting seeds in eggshells and waiting for them to germinate. I also spent time watching my grandmother tend to the tomato plants that she planted in her rose garden. The first house my husband and I bought came with a rose garden, and I was excited for grandma to help me grow beautiful roses. I soon became discouraged with black spot and the realization that the roses had been planted facing north. My retirement from teaching brought me the opportunity to be more involved in gardening by joining the Troy Garden Club. I've enjoyed gardening at the Troy Historical Village and being a host at a house during the garden walk. Additionally, I joined the Meadow Brook Garden Club where I garden weekly in the Rose Garden. I've already gained a vast amount of gardening knowledge from so many of the members I've gotten to meet. My interest in gardening has also developed into an interest in monarch butterflies. By planting pollinators and milkweed each summer, I've been fostering their caterpillars. It's fun watching their development, then releasing them after they emerge. My grandchildren can see that there really are "very hungry caterpillars"! I introduced several friends to fostering and now share plants and caterpillars. I've been married to Dan for 50 years and we have a daughter and a son who are each married with families of their own. Dan and I enjoy travelling, hiking and of course visiting gardens." *[Also a B.A. and M.A. from MSU!]*



Calendar/October 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 9:30 a.m. THV Garden Noon Budget Mtg.	8	9	10 Diane Iglesias 
11	12	13	14 11:30 a.m. General Meeting	15 Ann Britton 	16	17
18	19 Janet Peceny 	20 Suzanne Smith 	21 10:00 a.m. Seven Ponds Field Trip	22	23	24
25 Karen Gray 	26	27	28 11:00 a.m. Board Meeting	29	30 Tina Battle  Karen Cox 	31 Halloween 



President's Message *by Karol Carter*

The tone of our September 9th meeting was quite lively. Thank you to JoAnn Preston and Joan Burcar for leading a rendition, with props, of the "Twelve Days of Summer," which became a farewell to summer.

At the meeting, the membership approved the board's recommendation to raise the annual dues to \$40 beginning January 1, 2027. Please consider attending our October 7th budget meeting and learn about our operational costs. The November 4th donations meeting allows you the opportunity to help decide where our donation dollars will go. Both meetings begin at noon and are held at the Troy Historic Village in the church. Please, park in the smaller east lot or on Lange Street, directly behind the village. When inviting guests to our monthly meeting, please notify Bev Hydo at least a week prior to the meeting date. Because our meetings involve providing a light lunch, Bev passes the information to hospitality chair Jackie Wilson so she can plan accordingly. Guests are encouraged to register online: TGCspeakers@yahoo.com. Thanks to all who stayed to help with room cleanup. We turned off the lights and locked the church doors at 2:30 p.m., a record! **Finally, September 2026, marked Troy Garden Club's Emerald Anniversary, that's number 55!**



When mechanics go wrong it's always good to have a seasoned speaker like Mary Gerstenberger on hand! Mary didn't need PowerPoint photos as composting is a topic she's been teaching for decades and we were the lucky recipients of that knowledge. Composting is not only good for our gardens but good for the environment and Mary conveyed that with skill and humor. She was also thrilled with Jennifer's horticulture presentation!

Speaker Series



by
Rebecca Jaye



October 14th is the Tree Doctor! Dr. David Roberts. Be there with your questions!



Community Outreach

with JoAnn Preston

Trick or Treat at THV

Can you imagine being a seahorse or squid going Trick or Treating "Under the Sea"? Troy Garden Club members who volunteer for the Troy Historic Village Trick or Treat adventure will do just that. **Debe Hancock**, chairperson, is preparing seashells and other prizes to give out to the little trick or treaters and will be looking for volunteers to join the fun on **Friday, October 23: 3:15- 6:00 p.m. or 5:45-8:30 p.m. OR Saturday, October 24: 9:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m.** (takedown starts at 1:00 p.m. so maybe out earlier). **Costumes are optional but add to the fun on the Print Shop porch.** Check your calendar so you can sign up at the October General Meeting. Questions for Debe: **248-439-0087** or cell **248-739-1766**. THV is proud of its tradition of Trick-or-Treating that is friendly-not-scary. About 90 business-sponsored scarecrows will surround the outside of the village at Wattles and Livernois for the entire month of October so bring phones/cameras. We also need one person to take photos of volunteers at each shift to send to Patrick for the newsletter. Our parking will be on Lange Street and, as always, do not block mailboxes! If you want to contribute candy or trinkets for the little fishes, THV is always looking for donations (hours 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. weekdays).



Jackie Wilson

Hospitality

TGC members have signed up as indicated below. Please arrive **no later than 11:45 a.m.** with your food item and be sure to provide a serving utensil. **(Note: The meeting will begin promptly at 12:00) GO GREEN: Bring your own plate, cup and utensils. Let's save the planet.**

Finger Food: Patrick Hardy, Linda Forrester, Karol Carter, Gail Kobal, Yolanda Tenorio Thomas, Judy Popyk, Deborah DePorre, Carole Packla, Rosemary Kornacki, Nancy Cardon, Jan Bancroft, Joannie Ugelow

Green Salad: Kay Betke, Pat Guibord

Pasta Salad: Karen Cox, Tina Battle

Fruit Salad: Marianne Stout, Rozanna Oehring

Dessert: Jennie Gillespie, Nancy Zambaradi, Pat Dodge, Diane Iglesias, Suzanne Smith, Pat Hauer, Sara Perron

Centerpiece: Becky Crocker.

Cleanup: Cyndi Yosin

Finally, we are asking all members to police their table area and stick around to help with hospitality clean-up.

Keep Smiling!

A Garden's Last Delight: Giving Thanks for the Harvest

Across cultures and continents, the close of the growing season has long been a time to pause, give thanks, and celebrate the abundance of the harvest. For generations, communities have gathered for harvest festivals, turning the fruits of their labor into food, decorations, ceremonies, and celebration. Our family lived in Japan for eight and a half years, where we experienced autumn matsuri, or festivals, celebrating local traditions and seasonal abundance. Rice, one of Japan's most important agricultural products, has a long history of being honored at harvest, and sake, made from rice, is part of many traditional celebrations. They reminded us that agriculture is not simply about producing food; it is about community, gratitude, and delight. In Indiana, where I grew up, autumn meant persimmon festivals, complete with prize-winning pudding recipes, a parade with floats and a persimmon festival queen! In my Troy garden I grow American persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) trees, hardy to Zone 4. Because they are dioecious, I need both male and female trees to produce fruit—but four years later, I'm still waiting! After moving to Michigan, I discovered another beloved harvest tradition: the cider mill. Despite growing up with Johnny Appleseed lore, I had never imagined anything could taste better with a doughnut than milk or coffee—until I discovered warm Michigan apple cider. Thanksgiving is an American national holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November to give thanks for the harvest, family, and blessings of the past year. Our family also observes the Jewish calendar, and Sukkot, the Festival of Booths, typically takes place before the first frost in our zone. It is my favorite way to delight in the end of harvest. After the work of

spring and summer, we build a temporary outdoor shelter, or sukkah, and decorate it with fruits and vegetables, branches, flowers, garlands, and other garden treasures. For a week, we



[pictured right with husband David] live with the reminder of life's temporary nature and the One who provides for us through it all. What better way to decorate a garden-inspired celebration than with the garden itself? We adorn our sukkah with fruits and vegetables, branches and willows, floral

garlands, wreaths, and even whimsical garden tiaras. Before the first hard frost, look around with fresh eyes and celebrate one last time. Make something beautiful from what remains. Invite a friend to gather flowers and make wreaths. Create a harvest centerpiece. Crown a child—or yourself—with a garden tiara. Enjoy cider and doughnuts. Preserve a little abundance for winter and pause to give thanks for the seed, soil, rain, sunlight, and the remarkable mystery of growth. The garden may be going to sleep, but the best harvest is not what we store in the pantry, but the beauty, creativity, gratitude, and memories we carry into winter.





BOUNTIFUL BASKETS FUNDRAISER

Judi Milidrag and Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas



For October's general meeting fundraising, we have put together a great opportunity to get a jump on your Fall and Holiday decorating, shopping and gift wrapping! We are inviting members to build on the themes listed below... but with decor items/centerpieces and groupings rather than lots of loose little odds and ends! **Think Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter, Holidays!** Feel free to create your own themed basket or decorated box, by simply grouping a collection of lovely things from your china cabinet, or pulling out a table setting complete with runner, cloth napkins, salt/pepper shakers and the like! See how creative you can be while capturing and displaying a themed grouping, be it accessories with matching jewelry; a candle grouping around a table centerpiece; a snowman or Santa collection you are ready to part with—and the list goes on! **Arrive by 11:15** with your decor items or decorated themed baskets or even empty baskets to donate —**and prepare to have fun!**



Co-Chairs Kimberlee Urwiller, Lori Brubaker and Cyndi Yosin

Hanging of the Greens

Hello everyone!

It's that time of year again to start conversations regarding **"Hanging of the Greens"** at the Troy Historic Village. **Lori Brubaker, Cyndi Yosin** and I (**Kimberlee**) will be co-chairing the decorating event this holiday season. There's lots of things to be done like decorating wreaths, making bows, hanging garland and decorating the Christmas tree. Calling all talented bowmakers, we may decide to remake the bows as they are looking a little tired, this depends on getting volunteer bowmakers. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering to help with this project. The bow making project needs to be completed by the end of October/first week of November. Please call me if you are interested, I'm in the directory (Urwiller). We are looking for some Victorian tree and wreath ornaments. Plastic bulbs (medium to large), holly, berries, dried sliced oranges, dried apple slices, plastic whole pears, strands of plastic popcorn, small plastic candlestick ornaments, green floral wire 22 gauge. Everything must be artificial due to birds and little critters. If you have any of these products and are willing to part with them, please bring to the October general meeting. I will have a small table set up for you to place them on. Please provide your name on what you bring. I will look through them at the meeting and what we can't use I will give back to you to take home. Dates for hanging and unhangng of the greens TBD. Thank you!



Troy Historic Village Gardens

Patrick Hardy & Karol Carter

15 gardeners braved the early morning sweltering heat and humidity (including **Carla Vaughn** who isn't even a TGC member but shows up every month to work with **Marcia Mayer** in the Gazebo Garden!), cleaning up the gardens in advance of the Historic Village's big Fall fete. Due to that heat, there were mercifully fewer weeds to pull although there was some necessary cutting back, and even some transplanting. Not everyone lasted two hours...but, in truth, two hours was not even needed to spiff the place up. It was a gentle workout and everyone remained in good spirits as the late autumn temp soared to 90°. Two more sessions left this year: **October 7th** and **November 4th** which also coincides with the *Budget* and *Donations* meetings at noon. There is such tranquility to be found in the Village...taking a break and relaxing on one of the many benches...it's a great way to start the day.

Join us!



The TGC welcomes, as of the September meeting, new member **Diane Lund**. "I am a Master Gardener, trained by the University of Illinois Extension office. I started and ran a Garden Club when I retired and built gardens for the Village and Park District. I was a successful beekeeper for five years and learned to cook everything with honey added. I moved from the Chicago area to Sterling Heights in 2024. I became interested in the Troy Garden Club because I attended your *Garden Walk* in 2026, and I missed talking with plant people!" Say "hi" when you see her.

Table decorating is a relatively new occurrence at our monthly presentations. It began when I was Vice President in charge of booking speakers and wanted to make a good impression on them if they came to the luncheon. Needless to say, it took off from there! And while it can be quite labor intensive it is also great fun. I have heard recently that there have been inquiries regarding "reserving" a table to decorate. We don't really do that, but if you want to make a splash at the next meeting, talk to those at your table the month before and let them know your plans and **SHOW UP BY 11:30 A.M.** to begin working! It really is on a first come/first served basis, so the earlier the better. It's not a competition, merely a creative outlet! *[your Editor]*

Herb Study

with Kay Betke



On September 16th the Herb Study Group met on Jennifer Goldstein's porch. We toured Jennifer's garden, had a lesson in trimming dahlias and marveled at the array of plants. The dahlias are spectacular! When we meet at a member's house, we have a potluck lunch. We all enjoyed the array of salads, fruit and of course dessert. **Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas** gave a report on the folklore of many herbs. Next month we are going to **Seven Ponds Nature Center** and to the **White Horse Inn** for lunch.

Sign-up is now closed!



(From left: Kay Betke, Darcel Connors, Tina Downen, Judi Milidrag, Cindi O'Neil, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Jennifer Goldstein, Lisa Derderian, Cyndi Yosin, Karen Gray, Kimberlee Urwiller, Pat Guibord and Marietta Crabtree.)



Pantry Drive for *Troy People Concerned* at November 11th General Meeting

Community Outreach

with JoAnn Preston

Food Stamps are now called *SNAP Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program* which means they cannot be used for household supplies or personal grooming items. It is hard to imagine how we could keep a family healthy without soap, laundry detergent or toilet paper, but that is probably why these items top the wish list for the ***Troy People Concerned Pantry***. The pantry is housed at St. Anastasia church, but is **NOT** for St. Anastasia members (in fact St. Anastasia parishioners are regular providers of food, supplies and donations for the pantry – it receives **NO** government assistance). **Please bring your donations to the November meeting** and deposit in the boxes near the entrance door. **Greatest needs are:** toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, bar soap, laundry soap, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes; **or if you prefer to bring food items:** peanut butter, pasta, crackers, oatmeal, coffee and tea. Thank you for being generous to Troy residents young and old who are going through a rough time at the holidays. Cash, gift cards or checks will also be accepted (no receipts given) if you cannot get to the store. **Make checks out to St. Anastasia with *Troy People Concerned Pantry* in the memo line.**

Membership Corner



Bev Hydo, Chairperson

As I write this, October is still around the corner. It is warm and summery and I am not thinking about Autumn. However, October means it is time for **membership renewal** at Troy Garden Club. As you know, our membership is for one calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Your dues go to cover our expenses for the year. Our major expenses are our speaker fees (for our own education), hospitality, and room rent. After much discussion, our Board approved a dues increase to \$40.00 for 2027, and the membership approved this increase at the September meeting. As Karol explained in the September newsletter, inflation eats at our income, as it does yours. We try to budget carefully to keep expenses in check, but those speaker fees, food costs and room rent are not static budget items. This year, although the room rental fee is not increased, the Church will no longer set up tables for our meeting, starting in January. So we must do it ourselves, or pay someone to come and do it for us. Technically not a room rent increase, but we could have increased expenses related to room rental if we don't do it ourselves. If you would like to know more about how we budget, Jeanne Bolcer will hold our yearly budget meeting at noon on the first Wednesday of October at THV. All are welcome to attend. Please print the membership form attached to this newsletter, or from our website, complete it and bring it to an Autumn meeting (thereby saving postage) with your check. You may also mail it to our post office box. That information is on the membership form.

2026 Board of Directors/Committee Heads

President: Karol Carter
Vice President: Rebecca Jaye
Treasurer: Jeanne Bolcer
Recording Secretary: Darcel Connors
Corresponding Secretary: Judi Milidrag
Advisor: David Becker

Community Outreach: JoAnn Preston
Greeters: Nancy Wietchy
Herb Study Group & Directory: Kay Betke/Kyla Remus
Horticulture: Jennifer Goldstein
Hospitality: Jackie Wilson
Membership: Beverly Hydo
Newsletter: Patrick Hardy
Sunshine & Rainy Days: Pat Dodge
THV Gardens: Karol Carter/Patrick Hardy

Master Gardener Society of Oakland County 13th Annual Education Conference – Gardening and All That Jazz – Save the Date! *by Sally Bolle*

If you've attended the **MGSOC Annual Garden Conference** in the past, you'll know what all the buzz is about. This conference is for all levels of gardeners, you need not be a Master Gardener to attend. Details are still in the works but the date is **Saturday, April 24, 2027**, all day at the beautiful *Oakland Center, Oakland University* in Rochester. We will have four presentations by the following esteemed gardening experts: **Dr. Alan Armitage**, renown horticulturist and author; **Richard Hawke** of the *Chicago Botanic Garden Trial Gardens*; and **Leslie Needham Design**. In addition, we will have refreshments, lunch, shopping in our expanded marketplace, speaker book signings, and the **Dave Bennett Trio** at noon. **Watch for more details...**

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

TROY GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
("TGC")

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ BD (month/day): _____
(PRINT VERY CLEARLY)

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Are you a Master Gardener? _____ Date: _____ Advanced MG? _____ Date: _____

Your emergency contact information is for TGC officers only. It will not be published in the directory.

Emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

MEMBERS CONSENT TO THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION IN CLUB PUBLICATIONS

REQUIREMENTS OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Participate in the annual garden walk. Participation includes garden docent, providing refreshments as needed, or working the plant sale or other garden walk activities for the club at Troy Historic Village ("THV"). A \$20 non-participation fee will be assessed if you are unable to fulfill this requirement.
2. Participate in monthly meetings by providing finger foods/salads or desserts for at least two (2) meetings, plus December, per calendar year.

Make your \$40.00 membership check payable to the "Troy Garden Club"

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Troy Garden Club, 2844 Livernois, #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

OR

TURN IN THIS COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT IN PERSON AT A TGC MEETING.
MEMBERS RENEWING AFTER THE DECEMBER MEETING, PLEASE ADD A \$10.00 LATE FEE.

Memberships valid January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027

FOR TREASURER'S USE ONLY: DUES PAID \$ _____ DATE _____ CASH _____ OR CHECK# _____
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