**The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania**

**November 8, 2023 Membership Meeting**

**The home of Liz Garnett - Wallingford, Pennsylvania**

President Holly Porter called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

**PRESENT:** Anderson, Brady, Conroy, DeSilva, D’Ignazio, Floyd, Fries, Frisch, Funk, Garnett, C. Hayden, Krogh, Kropac, Kucas, Leonard, Noto, Oetinger, Picher, Porter, Russell, Minnie Ullman, Wheeler, Ziegenfus.

**SECRETARY:**  Minutes from Oct 11, 2023 were approved.

**Communications and Letters:**

Two notes sent to the Garden Club were shared with members:

* A note from Delia Egan commending PGC for the quality of their recent photography show.
* A nate from Missy San Fillipo thanking the club for the photo show and for allowing her to speak to the club about the purpose of Garden History and Design as a GCA activity and role.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Beth highlighted the income (none this month) and expenses for the month of October. Her detailed report can be found on the PGC Website. As of September 2023, Club resources stand at $108,194.75. Beth also shared that she participated in a recent GCA roundtable for finance leads which she found extremely informative. Both Beth and Holly encourage club members to attend GCA roundtables if possible.

**Corresponding Secretary:**

* Jeanne had a last-minute conflict, so there was no report this month.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Holly Porter reported the following:

* PCGCA’s bi-annual joint meeting occured on 11/2/23 at Philadelphia Country Club. Tony Rocco, founder and lead of Photography Without Borders, was the speaker. In addition, there was a Photography show of pictures taken at Fertilzer Fund locations. Three members from each club participated in five classes, with 30 photos in total on display. Congratulations were extended to the three PGC exhibitors who all placed in their respective classes – Kelly Hafertepe took 1st place, Lin Floyd took 2nd place, and Anee DeVries was awarded 3rd place.
* A few PCGCA positions are currently unfilled, and club members are encouraged to consider serving: a Magnolia Tribute Garden representative, the Recording Secretary, and a 3rd Vice Chair (a position which calls for “Donor Perfect” software capabilities).
* The annual Elwyn workshop will take place on 11/20 at Holly’s home beginning at 9:30 am.
* The Leiper House holiday decorating is scheduled for 11/28 at 10 am, and a sign-up sheet was circulated.
* A reminder that the January meeting format will be “book club” style and will not include discussion of any club business matters. Please obtain a copy of The Last Garden in England to read prior to the gathering.
* Three note cards were circulated for members to sign: Kay Yost’s son-in-law passed away in June, and the family continues to cope; Dolores Thomas is doing well but has declined any further treatment and has both hearing and sight issues at this point; and Nancy Hayden continues to recover from her recent strokes.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:**

**Membership:**

* Two guests will join PGC for the program today, Donna Cresson and Gwen Kannapel. Linda Reed was not able to come today but will be at the Elwyn workshop.
* On 11/3, new and provisional members gathered at Minnie Ullmans house along with Membership Committee members. Holly demonstrated making bows for the Elwyn swags, and the group made 45 bows for the upcoming workshop. There was also a sharing of garden club experiences.
* Minnie provided a refresh on cork recycling. The current recipient of corks is the Cork Forest Conservation Alliance, a non-profit organization focused on restoring forests and educating the public. She explained that they do not accept corks marks with “DIAM”, champagne cords or plastic corks. Please sort accordingly before giving any corks to Minnie.

**Helen Kate Furness:**

* Beth Noto expressed thanks to the members who helped decorate the library for fall.

**Fertilizer Fund**

* Wendie Russell provided an overview on a 2023 grant recipient, the Cristo Rey school, which she and Susie Leonard recently toured. This particular grant sponsored raised beds that align with lessons in areas such as gardening, cooking, and composting. Wendie gave a glowing report about both the site and the program where all students participate in a work-study program with some of the top corporations in Philadelphia. She also noted that 100% of students at Cristo Rey go on to attend college.

**Leiper House**

* The next workday with take place on Tuesday 11/14 and will focus on removing ivy from the stone walls. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

**Horticulture:**

* Lin Floyd shared that the Delaware County Institute of Science will be hosting a lecture on Monday 11/13 at 7:30 pm with Dr. LeeAnn Hath speaking about coastal ghost forests. Lin encouraged members to attend, noting that refreshments start at 7 pm.

**Conservation/NAL:**

* Carolyn Hayden presented an overview of the GCA position paper on Climate Change.
* In a follow-up to last month’s photography show, she also shared information from a GCA presentation from photographer Eddie Soloway, specifically his “See Think Do” set of “cards” that give pointers on how to take better photographs. Examples include topics such as visualization, perspective, and use of light. More information can be found on the GCA site by keyword search “Eddie Soloway” to see his lecture. Information on the card deck is shared at approximately minute 37 of the presentation.

**Artistic Workshop:**

* Liz Garnett showed an example of the pumpkin decoration from the artistic workshop on 10/23.
* The next artistic workshop, to be held in the spring, will focus on “mixology” with herbs.

**Other:**

* Renee Kukas shared a newspaper article profiling member Linda Buttler as a “poster child” for Riddle Village.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

**Meeting Program:**

Today’s guest speaker was Leslie Purple who is a member of the Wissahickon Garden Club. She is also a member of the GCA Board of Associates, a GCA Floral Design Judge, a GCA Photography Judge, and a GCA Botanical Arts Judge. Leslie has won numerous floral design awards, including her exhibit “Where the Wild Things Are” at the GCA 2023 Annual Meeting which won Best in Show Education, Best in Show Botanical Arts, and Best in Show Botanical Arts Creativity Award. Her presentation was an introduction to botanical arts for which she also displayed and circulated some of her stunning creations. Botanical Arts is an optional division in a GCA flower show. Exhibits showcase craftsmanship, excellence in design, and are constructed of all dried plant material.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hayden

Recording Secretary