

# *The Perennial*



2016-2017  
Issue 8: April

[Website: ArlingtonGarden.org](http://ArlingtonGarden.org)

Walking this morning, I was delighted to see all the green and red buds on shrubs and trees, to hear the birds and smell the hyacinths and daffodils. After a long winter, we're finally able to get outside, dig in the dirt and delight in the results of our gardening efforts. Soon we'll be able to lend our skills and talents to the civic development programs throughout town and our annual plant sale which is coming up soon on May 20. Be sure to check out the articles to see where you can volunteer and lend your support.

*May Program: May 10 at 10:30*  
*St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St. Arlington, MA*

Chocolate: From Tree to Table – Betsy Grecoe will educate us on how chocolate is grown, harvested and made into our favorite treats. We will be taste testing chocolate treats and will receive a free recipe booklet to take home. This should be not only informative but delicious as well!



*Looking Ahead to June*

The date has been set: The Annual Garden Club catered dinner meeting will be held at Town Hall on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

## *Officers and Committee Chairs 2017 - 2018*

The new slate of officers and committee chairs was voted in at the April meeting. They will take office on June 1, 2017. Our sincere thanks to everyone who stepped up to serve.

President	Janet Pagliuca
VP Operations	Flo Dunlap
VP Programs	Emily Snyder
Treasurer	Mary Rogers
Recording Secy	Joan Robbio
Membership	Jackie Keshian
Hospitality	Nancy Pike & Donna McGowan
Publicity	Eliza Burden
Environment	Karen MacKinnon
Civic Development	Jane Foley
Garden Therapy	Barbara Neenan & Robin Watkins
Newsletter Editor	Janet Ford

### *Civic Development*



This committee under the leadership of Jane Foley works with several sites in the town. Volunteers are always welcomed and should contact the coordinators listed below. Contact information is available in the yearbook.

- \*Arlington Beautification: Traffic Islands and Planters – Fritz Galley
- \*Arlington Food Pantry Annex Window Boxes – Katherine Krister
- \*Arlington Heights Planters – Nancie Richardson
- \*Broadway Plaza – Stephan Miller
- \*Jason Russell House Garden and Plantings – Juliette Avots & Carol Nahigian
- \*Senior Center Island – Kathleen Morello
- \*Town Hall Gardens and Whittemore Robbins House – Patsy Kramer

### *Books in Bloom – Patsy Kramer and Sally Naish*

The committee was happy to announce that the Garden Club and the Friends of Robbins Library each received \$2,483.20 from the event. Many thanks to members who volunteered to provide food, work the night of the event, make flower arrangements, and buy tickets. Special kudos to the committee members who coordinated all this.



*Plant Sale Coming Soon! – Saturday, May 20*  
*Emily Snyder and Jessica Lane*



*Bake Sale:*

Start thinking about what you can donate to the Bake Sale Table. Any and all home baked goodies will be greatly appreciated. Muffins, cookies, scones, breads, candy, with or without nuts, gluten free, etc., are just a few examples of what has sold well in the past. Items must be in clear wrap and labeled. Note on the label if the item(s) contain nuts. Depending on what the treat is, the item(s) should be packaged in quantities of two, four, or six—no larger quantities unless the items are very small. A nice presentation increases sales.



☐ *Tag Sale:*

Starting this week, you can drop off Tag Sale items at Nancy Pike's house. where items will be stored in her basement. Donations will be accepted from April 15-May 15. Please call or email ahead to [nancypike44@verizon.net](mailto:nancypike44@verizon.net). See the Yearbook for Nancy's address and phone number.



☐ *Plant Sale:*

It's not too early to start thinking about donating surplus perennial and house plants! Things are beginning to stir in the garden. We have 1 gallon, 3 gallon and smaller pots available if you need them. Stephan is offering to help you with the digging and the separating if you need it. If help is needed, please contact him, at [steffmiller@mac.com](mailto:steffmiller@mac.com). You can also donate cash so that we can buy more annuals and herbs to sell.

On the day of the Plant Sale we will need help setting up, selling and cleaning up. You can sign up at the next Garden Club meeting. Members of the Plant Sale Committee will be available for consultation at regular Garden Club meetings.

Plant labels and guidelines for preparing plants for the sale are available at the end of the newsletter.

*Membership – Jackie Keshian*

It's time to renew your membership for next year. An application is available at the end of the newsletter, at the website or at the next meeting. Please return the renewal form and a check for \$40.00 made out to Arlington Garden Club (please see your year book for Jackie's address.) This should be done by June 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure that your information appears in next year's yearbook.

## *Garden Therapy –Barbara Neenan and Robin Watkins*



The Garden Therapy program at the Park Avenue Health Center had a spring theme in April, incorporating pussy willows from Carol Nahigian's garden. After a snack provided by Robin Watkins, Donna McGowan led a sing-along, accompanied by pianist Kathy Reeder. In honor of opening day, everyone joined in to sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Ten members of the Garden Therapy group brought the April program to the health center residents.

## *Environmental Corner*

Are you thinking about introducing more native plants into your garden? Are you curious to know if any of your existing plants are natives? Check out the Xerces Society [link](#) or the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service [link](#). Both these sites offer information on native plants and the pollinators that they benefit.

## *Programs of Interest*

Pollinate New England: New England Wild Flower Society has received a generous grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to develop "Pollinate New England," an educational outreach program that includes building a network of model pollinator gardens throughout New England.

Over the next two years, the Society will develop and deliver a suite of educational programs, including an online course, twelve pollinator garden workshops and installations across New England, manuals for garden installation and care, interpretive signs, and social media networks in which people can share observations and results. "The goal of Pollinate New England is to teach and encourage homeowners to plant diverse, systemic pesticide-free native plants that support a wide variety of pollinators throughout their life cycles. We hope that it will become a national model."

"Populations of native pollinators--including native bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, bats, and hummingbirds-- have plummeted across the United States in recent years," says Jessica Pederson, director of public programs at New England Wild Flower Society. Mark Richardson, NEWF's director of horticulture states that "Pollinate New England will equip homeowners with the knowledge, tools, resources, and encouragement they need to create beautiful gardens and landscapes that support a diversity of pollinators." For more info, click [here](#).

## *Buyer Bee-ware*

If you've bought a box of Cheerios lately, it may have come with a pack of mixed wildflower seeds intended to bolster declining bee populations. But the seeds include species that may be invasive. The advice from the Director of Conservation at the New England Wildflower Society is to not plant them to avoid any unintentional introduction of an invasive species.

## *Guidelines for Preparing Plants for the Sale*

- Plant categories: Donate well rooted perennials, small shrubs and house plants in individual pots. Young annuals, vegetables and herbs will also be accepted.
- When and where: Plants should be delivered to the lawn at the end of the driveway at the Jason-Russell House between Monday, May 15 and Thursday, May 18. The driveway is accessible from Jason Terrace.
- Labels: Label all plants you donate with plant's name, size, growth conditions and a brief description. Plant labels and pots will be available at the April daytime meeting or can be obtained by contacting Stephan Miller. I can also provide you with an electronic version of the plant labels in Word or PDF file formats.
- Pricing: The Plant Sale Team will price all plants
- Help/Questions; I'd be glad to help you if you have problems or questions about digging, dividing, labeling or transporting your plants. You can contact me at either [steffmiller@mac.com](mailto:steffmiller@mac.com) or leave a message at 781-641-2845.



*See links below for Membership Renewal Form and Plant Labels*