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<http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>



(Serving the greater capital region)
Celebrating 78 years of service to our community
(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 77 NO. 10

January, 2014

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 22nd @ 6:30 pm -
Ladies - please join us - we need you**

PLACE: Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Chicken Parmigiana
Baked Tilapia
Meatloaf

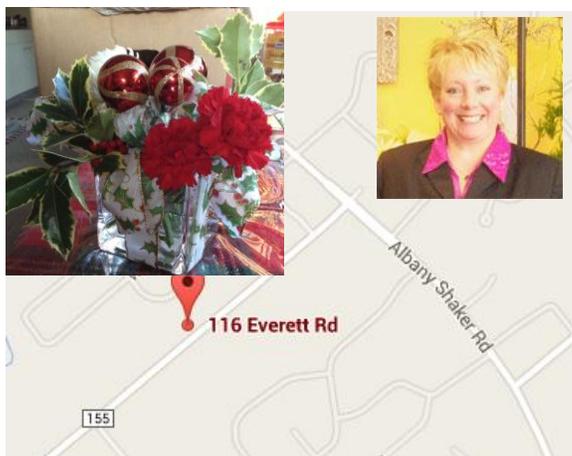
DESSERT: Apple Pie **Price: \$ 22.00**

PROGRAM: **Hydrangeas** - presented by: Master Gardener **Keith Austin**
Keith is a very knowledgeable and dynamic speaker that were very fortunate to have as our guest speaker this month. **Keith Austin** is also the Greenkeeper and Horticulturist at Wolferts Roost Country Club

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL:

A caller should reach you prior to the meeting for your dinner reservation and your choice of entree. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return their call. If a caller does not reach you by **Thursday, January 15th**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - Note: Callers – Please call **Russ Greenman** with your group's reservations or email the dinner info to MGCA1@verizon.net (note: the character after MGCA in the email address is a Number "1"). You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

December's Program - Thank You!



Wow! What a great evening we had and our program was fantastic! **Michele Peters** – owner of **Ambiance** - made eight different arrangements that were given away to the first eight lucky ladies. **Michele** donated gift certificates for **Michele Peter's** shop on Everett Road in Albany, NY., to the ladies that didn't receive an arrangement. This way, all of the ladies went home with something from **Michele Peters** and **Ambiance Florals and Events**.

Michele Peters knew Christmas was only a week away so, she taught us how to make beautiful arrangements with things that we may already have laying around the house and things we could find in our yard - or our neighbors yard at night. Various evergreens - with Michele's advice - can really brighten up any room. I heard so many good comments and you're in for a real treat if you visit her shop on **116 Everett Road**.

Ph: (518)-446-9900 Email: Ambiance116@aol.com

Thanks so much, Michele Peters, for another Great program!!!

Membership

Dues are due in small unmarked bills (25 of them) – mailed to **Russ Greenman** \$15 pays for your national membership in the MGCA/TGOA, \$.50 pays for the regional dues, and the remaining \$9.50 pays your local dues. A large percentage of our members are Life members and can ignore this notice.

Hey **Ed Brohm** - We miss seeing you at our meetings and occasionally out for breakfast. Many of us know **Ed Brohm** from the garden club as well as the **Albany Society of Engineers**. Folks from both organizations are thinking of you. **Ed Brohm** we hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

Phil Harris is now in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, [2920 Tibbits Avenue](#), Troy, NY 12180. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend. **Don and Gail Wrieden** picked up some Very nice Poinsettia plants from **Shaker Shed** (MGCA advertiser) for our Christmas / Ladies night dinner and also brought one to **Phil Harris**. It is a busy time of year - but, please try to make time to visit **Phil** in the near future. Without **Phil**, this club wouldn't have grown as large as it has. I can't begin to really state all he has done, but it seems like he is at every event we hold including his work at the State Fair and at the NYS Museum with the annual NY In Bloom show. **Tom Bakers** minutes that were in the November DIRT stated that we had 120 members - and I'm sure **Phil Harris** had a lot to do with that. A visit to see **Phil Harris** could teach us how to be a better gardener and person.

Membership continued

Ruth Abele is now in an assisted living facility; the address is Atria Guilderland, [300 Mill Rose Court, Slingerlands, NY 12159](#) -. **Joe Herman, Tom Baker** and **Russ Greenman** brought a Poinsettia plant and had a great visit with Ruth Abele. We were treated to drinks, photos taken by **Warren Abele**, and some great stories by the new Great Grandmother, **Ruth Abele**. We went after Church, but she was still singing in the Choir at 2:00pm - I guess she is the choir for that later 1:30pm Sunday service. Stop by or call to say thanks and perhaps you will get to hear some interesting stories also.



Bill Barr – Just a shout-out to say we're thinking of you in [San Clemente, CA](#)

Henry Fox - Just a shout-out to say we're thinking of you in [Milford, NH](#)

Jim Preston – **Joe Herman, Tom Baker** and **Russ Greenman** brought a Poinsettia plant to **Jim Preston** and he seems to be doing very well also. He hopes to attend our meetings when the days get longer - driving at night isn't fun for any of us.

JAMES O. PRESTON

[40 AUTUMN DR.](#) APT. 135

SLINGERLANDS, NY 12159

269-4997

As a cool side note: The 6 foot plant on the right was taken from one of the **Harris Memorial Centerpieces** over 20 years ago.



Some of **Jim Preston's** plants



Part of a **Harris Memorial Centerpiece** that **Jim Preston** won over 20 years

Ed Brohm is home and unable to get out to meetings - please keep him in your prayers.

Ok, last one - I'm beginning to think I'm reading an old geezer magazine - perhaps we are...

Bob Pratt - his home phone is disconnected and I think he may have switched over to a phone system that also provides Internet. He recently purchased a computer - but, I'm not sure how far he got with it.

If you have his phone #, email address, or any information please let a board member know. Thanks!

Advertisements



Becker's Farm



Faddegon's Nursery &



Olsen's

were the first to renew their adds for 2015. We thank them and encourage you to support the businesses that help support us.

The 2015 Advertising campaign has started. Earlier in November, The Club sent letters to about 20 businesses requesting their support by purchasing an ad in our DIRT and on our website. The typical cost for a business for the year is \$60. Last year we had 6 businesses buy advertisements that were mailed and emailed each month, and placed on every page of the Men's Garden Club of Albany's website.

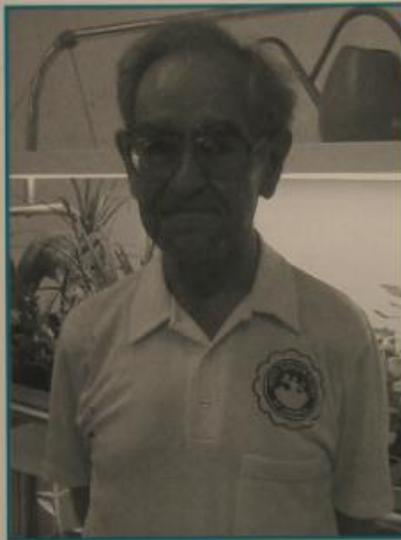
We also had about 10 businesses that donated plants for our plant sale but they did not all agree to purchase an ad. Perhaps we will do better this year with ads.

If any member knows a business that may want to advertise in the DIRT, please let me know or let one of the officers know and I will send a request to the business.

Jack Meagher my email: jack12047@nycap.rr.com

From the "Gardening from the Heart" Archives

Jerry Flax



Graduate Siena College Degree in English
Veteran of US Army - 1940-1945
Program Chairman of Men's Garden Club
Publicity Chairman of Men's Garden Club

Jerry has been a member of the Men's Garden Club of Albany for 15 years.

He has been volunteering at the Center for 10 years. Jerry is married to his wife Jessie for 45 years. Thomas Fletcher is his 17-year-old cat. While working as a supervisor for the State Education Department, Jerry created the English Competency Test and helped with the development of the Regents Exams. Jerry enjoys traveling and working on crossword puzzles. Jerry's favorite flower is the Lilac.

"When you finally get to know people as people and no other identifying characteristic you've reached Nirvana."

History - 25 years ago
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 4, 1990

Neither the Secretary nor the Assistant Secretary were present at this meeting, However, **Don Otterness** volunteered to supply some notes for the record.

The Treasurer's Report was approved after some minor corrections were made. Cash available was \$1,696.02, in the Memorial Fund there was \$603.27 and the Certificate of Deposit amounted to \$5,267.45. The balance in all accounts was \$7,567.24.

A motion was made and carried to return \$100.00 to the General Account which was earmarked for the Scholarship Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gardening From the Heart: **Al Miller** Chairman, reported that there is \$288.00 in the Kitty. The Plant Sale at the Center went well. Over \$500.00 were taken in. This will be used to support the Clients Garden Club.

Budget and Finance: Given by **Herm Mau** was moved and approved.

Scholarship: Given by **Don Otterness**. Money has been sent to Cobleskill college to cover our Scholarship Award.

Endowment and Investment: Given by **Al Miller**. Handouts were given to the members for a discussion at the next meeting.

Committee Chairmen: President **Wally Dillenbeck** Announced the Committee Chairmen for the coming year.

Program Committee: January 25 - At Tom Sawyer on Route 20 in Guilderland. The price is set at \$15.00. The guest speaker will be **Paul Winkeller**, Coordinator for New York State Community Gardens. Full details will be found in the Dirt.

We are still having a problem of some people who don't show up for dinner after they have made reservations. These people will be charged in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. A motion was made and carried to order 20 National Brochures on The Introduction of new members to the activities of Men's Garden Clubs of America.

2. The Regional Meeting will be once again hosted by our local club. The date has not been formalized as yet. Always read your Dirt for all pertinent information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted by

Tom Baker for Don Otterness

Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 years ago" **Thanks, Tom Baker!!!**

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY CLUB ACTIVITIES

Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman



Adopt-a-Highway



Ken Abele during construction of our second raised bed on I-90 at Exit 7 Westbound. Built to last with lots of steel, many yards of concrete, some fancy filter material that **Ken Abele** found to keep the soil from washing out between the blocks, 2" foam insulation (allows us to plant tulip bulbs closer to the edges), many blocks hauled by **Ken Abele** and many yards of nice soil from **Osborne Mills Nursery** on Everett Road in Albany. And most importantly, this was build as a Memorial to an outstanding member - **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**. This project took years to get State and Federal approvals and lots of hard work from members of the Men's Garden Club of Albany.
ps. If you know who stole this - please ask them to return it
Thanks!!!

Gardening from the Heart

At the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers during December included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox** and our past President – **Mr. Don Wrieden.**



During the month of December we worked on indoor projects. The consumers also made some wooden book marks that can also be hung as a decoration. **Joe Herman** brought his ukulele and had the consumers singing at the top of their lungs... **Joe Herman** is such a good singer, with a real deep voice, and it is always a treat to hear him sing. I think we need to think about growing gourds that we can dry and make musical instruments so each consumer can also contribute to the orchestra.

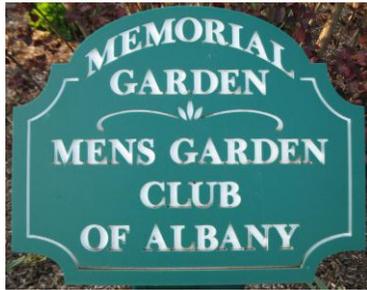


Bird treats
Book marks
Ornaments
Joe Herman with his ukulele and the Fantastic Consumer Choir

Memorial Garden

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension

Joe Huth / Chuck Scott Memorial Garden Chairmen



Ken Able – Hard at work
Or should I say, making hard work easy?

2015 Officers

President **Paul Zimmermann**
 1st V.P. **Greg Shields**
 Rec. Sec'y **Thomas Baker**
 Treasurer **Russ Greenman**

DIRECTORS
 2017 - **Bruce Wilcox - Don Wrieden**
 2016 - **Joseph Huth - Greg Goutos**
 2015 - **Jack Meagher**

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Thomas Baker
Robert Ireland

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
January 22 nd @ 6:30pm	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany
February 26 th , March 26 th	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany
January 8 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited

Editor: Russ Greenman

Please support research for ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Lou Gehrig's disease) in memory of one of our most active members - Mr. Bill Town
 Click on this link to read his story: <http://community.als.net/teamtown>

Special thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for our terrific website

<http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>

Go ahead - click on it - you'll be glad you did.

Below is purposely in small print so you will go on-line and read it

The screenshot shows the website for the Men's Garden Club of Albany. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, OUR CLUB, THE DIRT, FEATURES, and LINKS. Below this is a large green banner with the text "Men's Garden Club of Albany".

The main content area is divided into several columns:

- Notum Asparagus**: A section titled "Varieties" listing several types of asparagus: Jersey Supreme (F1) all male, Purple Passion (F1) nearly all male, Jersey Knight (F1) all male available as seed, and Jersey Supreme (F1) all male reputed to be earlier than other varieties.
- Asparagus Nutrition**: A section discussing the nutritional benefits of asparagus, mentioning it is a good source of protein and contains vitamins A, C, E, K, B6, Thiamin, Riboflavin, Iron, Phosphorus, and Potassium.
- Asparagus Beetle**: A small section with a link to an article on the asparagus beetle.
- Asparagus\$ – The Dream Investment**: A large article with a photo of asparagus spears. It discusses the financial benefits of growing asparagus, comparing it to a stock market investment. It states that a \$25 investment in a well-tended bed can last 15+ years and produce hundreds of dollars worth of spears.
- MGCA Sponsors**: A vertical list of logos for sponsors including Baker's Farm, Emerald Valley Forest, OLSSENS, and The Gade Farm.

In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Young
Bruce Wilcox



In Memory of
Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus



In Memory of
Al & Barbara
Miller
Christian and Mildred
Lebrecht
Ed Tompkins
Avrom Koblenz
Jerry Flax



In Memory of my parents
John and Carrie Meagher
They both loved Plants and Flowers
Jack Meagher



In Memory of
Wally Dillenbeck
and
Don Otterness
By Tom Baker



In Memory of

Bill Town
Joe Herman



In Memory of
my Dad

Carroll W. Greenman
Bob





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In Memory of



Grandpa & Great Grandpa

Carroll W. Greenman

Russ, Maria, and Carl

The following growers donated to our 2014 Plant Sale
Please help support them with your purchases

- Faddegon's Nursery**
- Constantine Farm**
- Shaker Shed Farm Market**
- George's Market and Nursery**
- Valoze's Greenhouses**
- Troys Landscape Supply**
- The Gade Farm**
- Pigliaventos Greenhouses**
- Krug Farms**