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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating 79 years of service to our community

VOLUME 79 NO. 1

(First Chartered 1936)

January, 2016

DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 28th @ 6:30 pm

Ladies and the public are cordially invited

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Pasta Gianna
Stuffed Pork Chop
Broiled Trout

DESSERT: Included **Price:** \$ 25.00

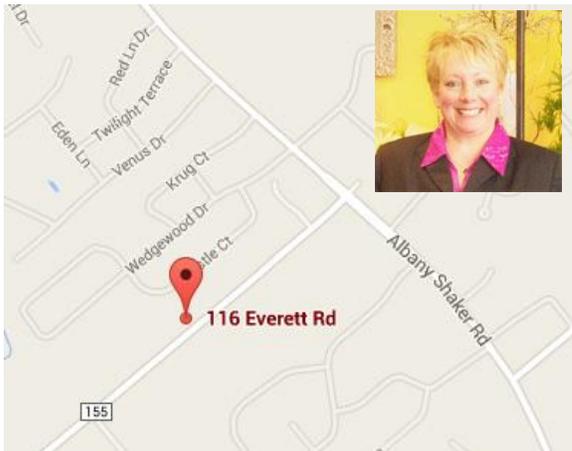
PROGRAM: GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms) - Presented by our very own President / Master Gardener - Mr. Paul Zimmermann

The presentation will delve into the controversies surrounding GMOs in our food supply. Should you be worried or does the FDA have your back? Why does the government balk on labeling requirements for GMOs? Are GMOs needed to feed the world's growing population?

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 (**one week prior to the meeting**) by **Thursday, 21st**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - 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 Florals and Events** made eight different arrangements that were given away to the first eight lucky ladies.



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!!!

In addition to the professionally made flower arrangements, all of the ladies were asked to take home a large Poinsettia plant. We want to thank all of those in attendance as well as the **Shaker Shed** and **Becker's Farm** for the beautiful Poinsettia plants.

\$500 Scholarship Winner

2015 Scholarship Recipient

At last month's dinner meeting we welcomed guest **Matt Gade**, who was awarded our annual scholarship in 2015. After **Matt** was introduced by **Greg Goutos**, our Scholarship Committee Chair, **Matt** thanked the club members for their support. Also in attendance was **Matt's father, Jim Gade**.

Matt is a freshman who attends SUNY Cobleskill, where he is studying agricultural engineering and power machinery. After graduation, **Matt** plans on becoming a partner in his family's long-standing farm and garden center business, **Gade Farm**, on Western Avenue in Guilderland. In doing so, he will become the fifth generation to operate the farm! **Matt** is the grandson of long-time club member and supporter, **Jack Gade**, who passed away this past April.

Congratulations, **Matt**, and good luck with your college studies at Cobleskill.

Greg Goutos
Scholarship Committee Chair

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

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

Membership

2016 Officers installed by Mr. Joe Raggio



Tom Baker wins award

Tom Baker is someone that really deserves a lot of recognition. **Tom Baker** joined the MGCA back in 1982 and by 1984 he was working with **Al Miller** and the folks at the Center For Disability Services to start the Gardening From The Heart program. By 1985 they were teaching classes every Wednesday at both of the Center's locations. Since then, **Tom Baker** has been at almost every session for the past 30 years.

Additionally, **Tom Baker** has been the Secretary for the Men's Garden Club of Albany for the past 30 years. When **Tom** does something, he does it right and takes his responsibilities seriously. That is why he has ALL of the minutes documented for all of our Director's meetings for the past 30 years.

If that's not enough, **Tom Baker** is very dedicated to and involved with his church, teaches swimming classes every week, volunteers at a local nursing home every week, and always finds time to support the many activities that the MGCA is involved in.

As a small token of our appreciation, **Tom Baker** was presented with a large canvas photo of some of the people whose lives have been improved by the actions of **Tom Baker**. These include MGCA members along with staff and consumers at the Center For Disability Services.



Thanks **Tom Baker** for all you do!

Dues are past due

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.

Harris Memorial Centerpiece

Thanks to the **Harris kids!**

Each month, the **Harris family, Phil, Dave** and their sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents. Since **Phil** is in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 he is no longer able to attend our meetings. Every month one of their masterpieces has been raffled off since 1980 - **YES, That's 36 Years!!!** and the money goes into our Memorial fund. The more I think about it, the more amazed I am at how much time, talent and money goes into each one of the centerpieces that **Phil and Dave** have been bringing, to every meeting, for more years than I can remember. What talent and generosity that family has. We can't begin to thank all of you for all you have done for us over the years.

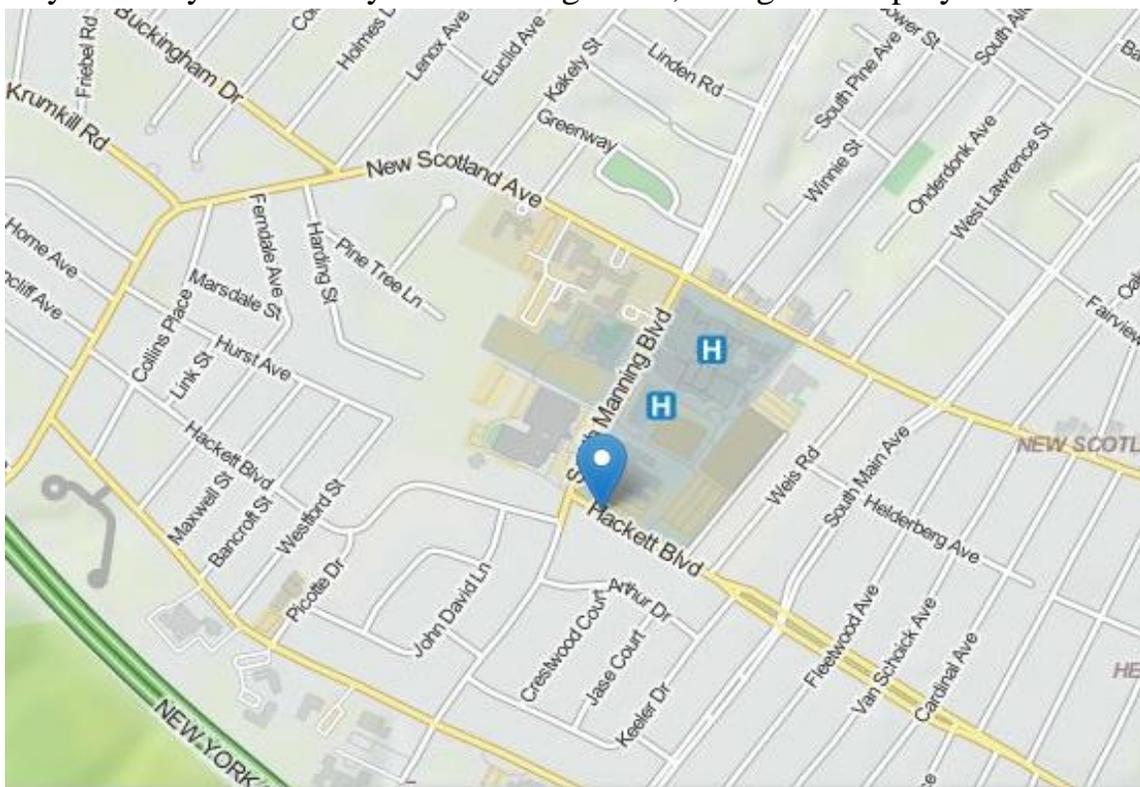
Thanks again to the Harris kids!



**Harris Memorial Centerpiece
Made and donated by the Harris
family**

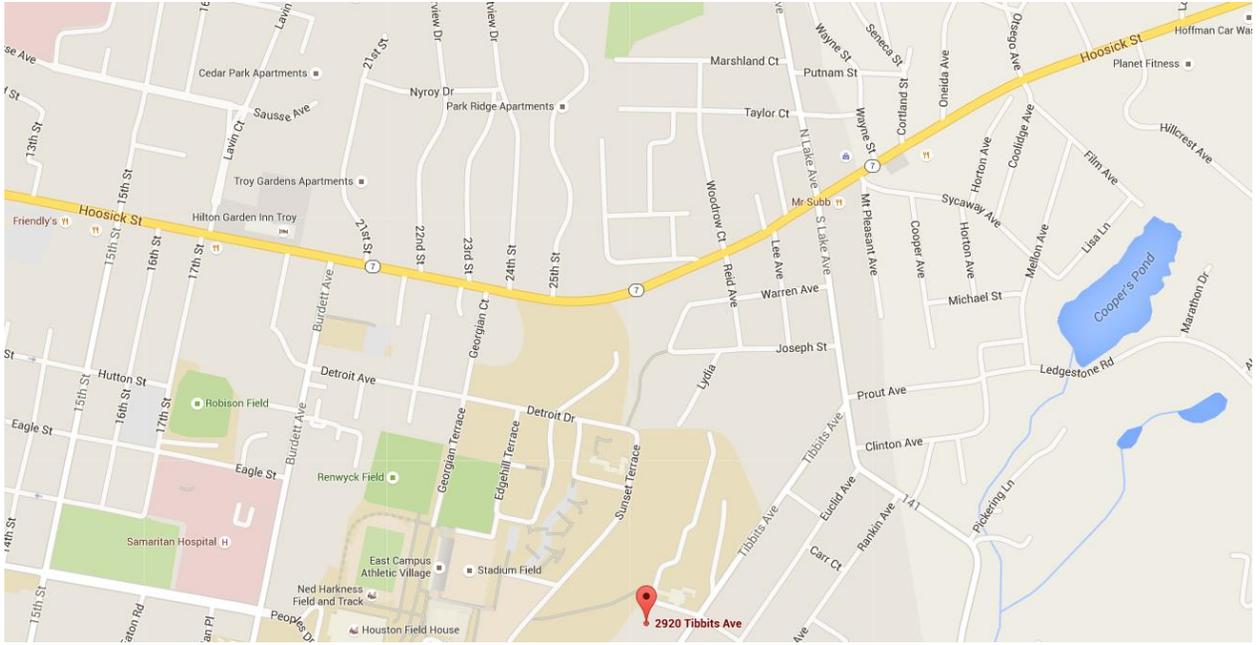
Ed Brohm and Sal Schiavo are in the Villa Mary Immaculate Nursing Home
301 Hackett Boulevard, Albany, NY 12208

I'm sure **Ed** and **Sal** would appreciate a visit as it can get lonely being away from home and unable to drive. They certainly could use your encouragement, thoughts and prayers.



Phil Harris is not as well as he has been and could really use some encouragement from his many friends. Please swing by the Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, [2920 Tibbits Avenue](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2920+Tibbits+Ave,+Troy,+NY+12180), Troy,

NY 12180 and visit Phil in room in room 315. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend. There is a good chance that you will also get to see **Dave** and learn something interesting that he has been



involved in. With his work for the Lions Club he has had an opportunity to do many things... including the opportunity for **Dave** and **Phil** to visit a site where dogs are trained to work with the blind. The team (dog and blind person) are trained together and not all dogs are cut out for this type of work.

Starting Seeds

Written by our very own **Joe Huth**

There was a time when our members grew most of the plants sold at our Mother's Day plant sale. This could happen again but it's necessary to plan ahead. It's not too early to select a few kinds of plants, flowers or vegetables and prepare for their needs. Some of these are—prepare starting soil, seeds or cuttings, a warm place and a brightly lit area. Since light is usually a limiting factor, a relatively inexpensive plant stand is an asset.

Some seeds such as impatiens, geraniums and others can be started now, others like broccoli and cauliflower and peppers and many flowers can be started in February and March. The Master Gardeners at Cornell Cooperative Extension (phone 765-3500) have excellent fact sheets on starting seeds.

Planning ahead is the key to a successful planting starting season.

Submitted by **Joe Huth**

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>

History - 25 years ago – JANUARY 3, 1991

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, January 3, 1991 in the Cerebral Palsy Center.

President **Joe Raggio** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the November 29, 1990 meeting (in lieu of the December meeting) were approved as read by **Tom Baker**, Secretary.

The Treasurer's Report as presented by the Treasurer **Al Miller** was approved. The balance in the General Fund was \$5,913.48, in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$742.29 and, \$5,965.57 in the Endowment and Investment Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: **Don Otterness** reporting. Three people originally applied and two dropped out. The third candidate, **Thomas Cupp** of Clifton Park was deemed worthy by **Don** and **Wally Dillenbeck**. **Mr. Cupp** is a student of Environmental Science and Forestry at State University, Syracuse. His Major is Landscape Architecture and is a transfer student from Cobleskill.

* DIRT AD COMMITTEE: **Ferd Johnson** reported that all the ads have been completed.

* CALENDAR COMMITTEE: **Charlie Schade** reported that 25 are left that can be used for guest speakers and new members. 300 will be ordered for next year.

* FALL BULB SALE: We received a \$50.00 credit for bad bulbs of last year and the bill for the complete bulb order has been paid. **A check for \$750.00 will be sent to the Berkshire Gardens for our annual contribution to the Gardens.**

* BUDGET COMMITTEE: The budget was presented and was approved by the Board.

* AWARDS COMMITTEE: Because of job commitments **Glenn Witecki** has had to give up the chairmanship. His replacement will be filled soon.

* COMMITTEE JOB DESCRIPTION: **Joe Raggio** asked that all committee chairmen present a job description of his committee and have picked a co-chairman, by the next Board meeting which will be February 7, 1991.

* CALLING COMMITTEE: **Al Miller**, chairman, proposed that members who regularly do not attend our dinner meetings, not be called time after time. They will have to call in their own reservations. If and when they become regular attendees, their names will be back on the calling list.

* PROGRAM COMMITTEE: **Herm Mau**, Chairman:

February 28: Meeting will be held at Veeder's Restaurant. The program will be **Warren Able** and the topic will be Photography.

OLD BUSINESS: * Club Size: Was discussed again and the consensus was that an organization which has slow growth, its members are more likely to stay in than one which has fast growth. **Bob Ireland** said that statics show that a growth of 15% is the most desirable.

* **Ferd Johnson** and **Charlie Schade** audited the books and found them in good order.

* **Al Miller** said that the 1991 directory will be out in February with no change in the format.

* It has been requested that the directory be expanded. Volunteers are needed. President **Raggio** has indicated that a proposal and mock-up must be presented by the February meeting. The Board will act on the findings of these volunteers.

* **Andy Cytrynak** and **Ken York** are the co-chairmen of the Year Book Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by, **Tom Baker**, Secretary

** 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!!!**



Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers this December included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, Don Wrieden** and current President – **Mr. Paul Zimmermann.**

During December we took cuttings from a large Coleus plant and started several dozen new plants. The consumers also made bird treats by putting a wire on a large pine cone, smothering them with peanut butter and rolling them in black oil sunflower seeds. Each consumer got to take at least one of these home. We also made snowmen? from bottle caps and popsicle sticks.

Note: We're looking for prizes to give out to the Bingo winners (everyone).

Please consider joining us - we have a blast! Our consumers are amazing and they really help us to have a better attitude toward life.



Tom Baker helping a consumer





**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 borrowed this - please ask them to return it. Someone with big boy toys on site?
Thanks!!!



Memorial Garden

**At the Albany County Cooperative Extension
Joe Huth / Chuck Scott Memorial Garden Chairmen**



**Memorial
Garden cleanup
days**

In an effort to help our members plan ahead, we



have set the following work days to work on the Memorial Garden. We picked the 2nd Monday of each of the following months - **March 14th** (prune), **April 11th** (prune and mulch), **May 9th** and **July 11th** to prepare for our annual Memorial service and picnic.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Thursday, January 28th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA Dinner Meeting (everyone invited)
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St.
January 7th @ 7:30 pm February 4th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Thursday, February 25th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA dinner meeting (everyone invited)

Editor: Russ Greenman

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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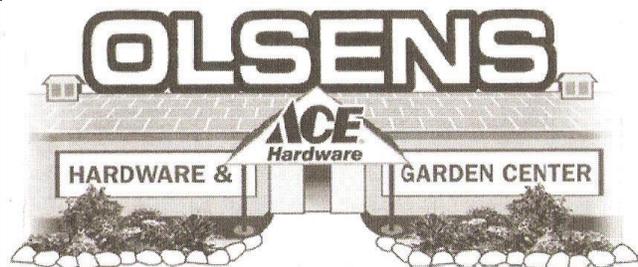
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In Memory of



Grandpa & Great Grandpa

Carroll W. Greenman

Russ, Maria, and Carl

The following growers donated to our 2015 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