

313 Bery Way, Watervliet, NY 12189 * (518) 785-7496

DonCWrieden@gmail.com

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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **81** years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 80 NO. 1

January, 2017

MGCA January dinner meeting

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, January 26th @ 6:30 pm**
Ladies and the public are cordially invited

PLACE: [Prime at the Beltrone Living Center](#) 6 Winners Circle Albany

ENTRÉE CHOICES: **Price: \$ 25.00**

Braised Short Ribs of Beef
Maryland Crab Ravioli in Sherry Cream Sauce
Chicken and Vegetable Stew in a Bread Bowl

PROGRAM: **Perennials by: Amy Castillo from The Gade Farm**

If you are new to growing perennials, or already have an established perennial garden, you need to check out our January dinner meeting speaker. **Amy Castillo**, from **The Gade Farm** on Western Avenue in Guilderland, will be talking about her passion for plants, and perennials in particular. **Amy** has worked at **The Gade Farm** on and off for over 24 years, and is currently the manager and head buyer for the Garden Shop & Nursery. Since perennials are in high demand and there are so many new varieties coming out every year, it is difficult to know which ones would be a great addition to your gardens. **Amy** will be previewing some of the 25,000 perennials that will be growing at **The Gade Farm** for 2017—from the good, hardy favorites, to the brand new hot ones. She will also be sharing some of her growing tips and tricks to help you keep all your perennial beds looking fabulous!

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return the call. If a caller does not reach you by Saturday, January 21st, please call **Russ Greenman** at 477-8321 – Note: Our intent is to call every member that is interested in our dinner meetings to get their reservation(s). If you are not getting called, and would like to be called prior to each dinner, please let Russ know.

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. Please let **Russ Greenman** know if there are any changes (from your last directory) that need to be made for the 2017 membership directory. That includes: Name, Address, Phone #, significant other's name, email address.

Sal Schiavo is in the Villa Mary Immaculate Nursing Home
301 Hackett Boulevard, Albany, NY 12208

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

2017 Inaugurated Slate of Officers			
President	Don Wreiden	2019 Directors	Bill Stoneman and Bill Danish
Vice Presidents	Greg Goutos and Joe Herman	2018 Directors	Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott
Recording Secretary	Tom Baker	2017 Directors	Joe Huth and Bruce Wilcox
Treasurer	Russ Greenman	Regional Directors	Tom Baker and Bob Ireland

December Program - Thank You!

Floral Arrangements



I think by now **Michele Peters** is part of our MGCA family and we are so grateful to have such a nice and knowledgeable person that is willing to put up with us. **Michele** is the owner of **Ambiance Florals** <http://www.ambianceflorals.com/> at 116 Everett Rd. in Albany, NY and, for years, she has been taking time out of her busiest season to show us how to make some fantastic floral arrangements that were given away to the first nine lucky ladies attending our Christmas dinner meeting.

Heavens to Murgatroid! **Michele Peters** has been awarded the coveted **Certified Floral Designer** designation after competing in the **Professional Floral Design Evaluation** and going through a vigorous peer evaluation conducted by an international panel of design experts. **Michele Peters** is one of very few in the world that have this designation.

Although she tries hard to use local and NYS items, she does get many items from around the world to use in her arrangements. She will design fantastic looking arrangements for you or give you world-class advice so you can make your own arrangements. If you want to make your own arrangements, she has more goodies than you can imagine and you can get them in quantities as small as one. Stop by to see her, you'll be glad you did.

We owe **Michele Peters** a very big thank you for another very enjoyable and educational Christmas program. **Thank You!!!!**

Featured Article Ten Resolutions for the Vegetable Garden in the New Year

By our immediate past President - Mr. Paul Zimmermann

Have I fallen into a rut when it comes to our vegetable garden? I think yes. Here are ten things I plan to do differently in 2017.

1. Try some new vegetables.

It's easy to get into a rut, planting the same vegetables year after year. This year I'm going to try my hand at kohlrabi, arugula and cauliflower. I may not be pleased with the results, but it's worth a try.

2. Try some new varieties

I've been growing Fortex pole beans for as long as I can remember. It's time to try some other varieties even though I very much like the Fortex. How about Marvel of Venice (flat pod) or Gita (Yard Long)?

3. Use row covers more often

Row covers are, frankly, a pain to deploy and they're forever ripping if not handled gently. But they really help certain vegetables by shielding them from chewing insects and protecting them from early spring breezes.

4. In the spring warm the soil with plastic

Placing clear plastic on your planting beds really accelerates the warming of the soil. I need to more of my planting beds in the spring.

5. Measure the soil temperature before planting and transplanting

I own a soil thermometer. How about using it? Rushing to put vegetables in the ground can be terribly self-defeating if the soil hasn't reached the proper temperature.

6. Properly space plants

I have a big garden. Then why am I perpetually crowding plants? I need to bring along a ruler when transplanting and get the spacing correct. And when thinning I also need to bring discipline to the chore.

7. Keep a log

Every year this resolution falls by the wayside. I really need to discipline myself and keep a record of major events.

8. Mulch, mulch, mulch!

I mulch early in the season, but by mid-summer I begin to slack off. Mulch is a gardener's best friend. And in late summer the soil can get too warm, so adding additional layers of mulch will help keep the soil temperatures in check.

9. Make more compost

Putting together a mulch pile really isn't that big a task – maybe a couple of hours. And it's really satisfying to build a hot compost heap.

10. Plant a cover crop

In the fall it's not that big a deal to spread some winter rye and then dig it in the spring. Adding organic matter to your soil should be priority number one, and the use of compost, mulch and cover crops all contribute to better soil and healthier crops.

History – 25 years ago
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 3, 1991

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

Built to last
Destroyed in hours

This was our Memorial to **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**





Gardening from the Heart at the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers this December included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox,**

and **Don Wrieden.**



December was a short but productive month for us. We used the clay pots that we painted last month and added coleus plants that we started from cuttings. We added soil, some decorations and a plastic tray from our **Phil Harris** collection of trays, and they were ready to take



home to their families.

The following week was even better as we decorated nice baskets with colorful decorations and some succulent plants, making a fantastic centerpiece that they also took home to their families.

We want to thank the family of one of our individuals for their generous donation to our **Gardening From the Heart** program. More important than the money is the opportunity to meet these individuals each week and let them



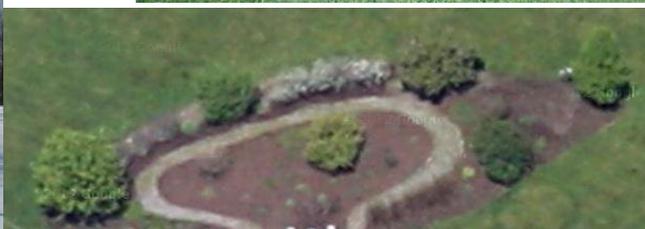
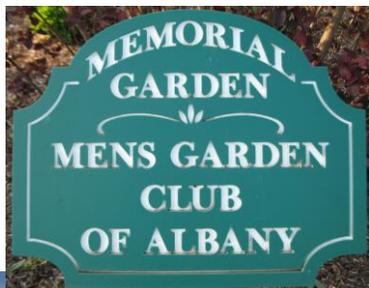
light up our life. What a great feeling it is to work with the whole gang down at the Center for Disability Services.

We always welcome any ideas for hands on projects that we can do inside during the Winter months. Or, better yet, we could use your help to lead an indoor gardening project.

If you have free time on Wednesday mornings – you could consider helping us out – I bet it will do as much good for you as it does for the individuals. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.



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



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

Harris Memorial Centerpiece

Thanks to the **Harris kids!**

Each month, the **Harris family, Dave** and his sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents and their brother **Phil**. Every month one of their masterpieces has been raffled off since 1980 - **YES, That's 37 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 **Harris** centerpieces that **Phil** and now **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**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards	
January 26 th @ 6:30pm	February 23 rd @ 6:30pm	Dinner meeting - @ the Beltrone Center – 6 Winners Circle Albany, NY
January 5 th @ 7:30 pm	February 2 nd @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany	

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.

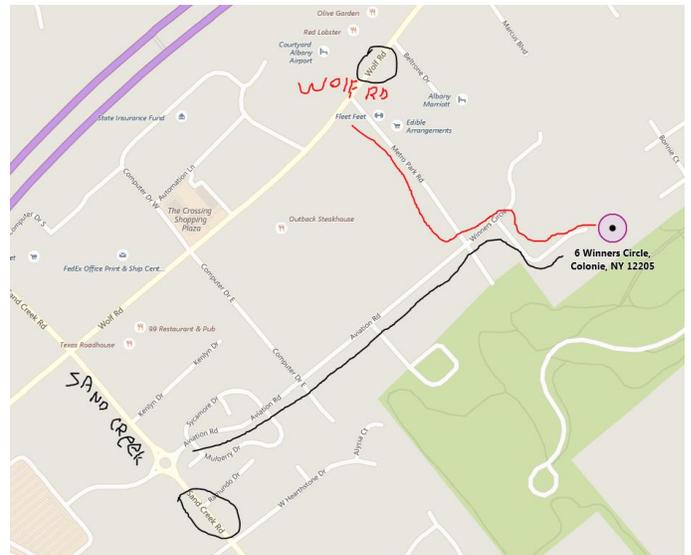
Don't forget!

Dues (\$25) and advertisement payments were due by January 1st 2017

[Prime at the Beltrone Living Center](#) 6 Winners Circle Albany

The votes are in and we unanimously agreed that the [Prime at the Beltrone Living Center](#), atmosphere, food quality (by Prime catering), and the efficient and friendly staff have made our meetings very enjoyable. We look forward to many more meetings at the **Beltrone Living Center**.

From Wolf Road turn East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Speed Way Gas Station that is on the West side of Wolf Rd.) **Take a LEFT onto Winners Circle**. At stop sign take a **RIGHT** continuing on Winners Circle and **Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center**. **Enter the building at the #1 South entrance**.



*In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Young
Bruce Wilcox*

*In Memory of
Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of
Al & Barbara Miller
Phil Harris
Bill Barr
Christian & Mildred Lebrecht
Ed Tompkins
Avrom Koblenz*

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

*In Memory of
Grandpa & Great Grandpa
Carroll W. Greenman
Russ, Maria, and Carl*

*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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The following growers donated to
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