West Chester Garden Club Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 4:00 PM - Business Meeting – "Petals Please"

Hosts: Lu Bonkowski, Corrine Prikockis, Aldus Wertz, Sue Keith

Location: St. Francis in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

Attendees:

Mary Letzkus	Karan Guyon	Marty du Pont
Nora Sadler	Troy Patterson	Lynd Meyer
Nancy Allard	Linda Craig	Hope Wood
Lu Bonkowski	Alice Waegel	Susie Allman
Corrine Prikockis	Meg Spurlin	John Weygandt
Jill Pirhalla	Josie Parman	Eva Kaufmann
Sue Keith	Anne DeMarco	Gail Warner-Lidondici
Aldus Wertz	Susan Nichols	

Visitor introduced by Alice Waegel – Patty Cunningham

Visitor introduced by Hope Wood – Mary Jo O'Rourke

Susan Nichols started the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing Beth Adams and Peggy Bolger from Petals Please. Petals Please, is a non-profit organization that repurposes flowers from funerals, weddings and corporate events and distributes them to nursing homes, food pantries, etc. Many of the remaining items from the original arrangements are recycled; clippings go to a goat and chicken farms, bows go to organizations for crafts, containers are recycled for other arrangements. etc. For more information, please visit their website Petals Please The presentation was followed by a hands-on workshop to make small arrangements that were donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard.

Troy, who volunteers at WCFC offered to take them directly from the meeting to the Cupboard for their neighbors to enjoy.

Beth's presentation can be viewed by clicking the highlighted link

1. Call to Order/President's Report – Susan Nichols
2. Welcome/Introduction of Visitors /Updates and announcements-Susan Nichols
    - The annual meeting for the GCA will be in Wilmington in April 2027. Wendy Russell, the President of the Wilmington Garden Club is the Chair for the event.
    - Several events will be planned and there will be many opportunities for WCGC to participate. More info to come!
    - PCGCA (Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America) Joint meeting, November 5 meeting. Susan Nichols will organize carpools

Approval of September Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve, Hope Wood seconded by Troy Patterson

3. Financial Report – Karan Guyon
    - Karan provided an update on the donations form to be use by members when requesting reimbursement or to provide costs for events.
    - Here is a link to the form: WCGC Reimbursement Request Form
    - Please forward all completed forms with receipts or photos of receipts to Karan for processing and her records
4. GH&D – Karan Guyon
    - The GH&D (Garden History and Design) virtual conference will be held on Thursday November 13th
    - Registration vial the GCA Website
    - Karan is the Zone V representative, so let's show our support! It looks to be a great conference.
5. Centennial – Eva Kaufmann
    - Eva gave a recap of the Centennial Luncheon, as well as a preview of the events planned for the rest of the year.
    - They include:
        - Trees to be planted at BRC, Oaklands Cemetery and The Brinton Run Preserve.
        - Plaques for each tree will be ordered to commemorate the donation by the club
        - 100 gifts for North Star or Family Services of Chester County -find out more at our next meeting
    - Read Eva's full report here Centennial Committee October Report Eva Kauffman
6. Visiting Gardens – Meg Spurlin

- Meg updated the members on the success of the recent trip to visit gardens in New York/Hudson River Valley areas. At great time was had by all!
- Upcoming plans for a pop-up tour of Chanticleer and potential plans for a garden tour of the South in Spring 2026. Stay tuned for more details!

7. Awards – Hope Wood
   - Hope presented the Parman medal for continuing enthusiasm to Aldus Wertz. Cheers to Aldus!
8. Fun with Flowers Workshop – Hope Wood
   - A workshop is planned for October 23rd, 10:00 A.M. at Meg Spurlin's home. Please bring a container (4" high x 8" long), a box for transport, clippers and a plan for where you will be placing your finished design.
   - Tips on design will be shared

9 Library Decorating Committee – Lu Bonkowski

- Reminder! December 4th, 9:00 A.M. will be decorating the West Chester Library
- Please plan to drop off any greens by 8:30 A.M. alternatively, arrangements can be made in advance for pick-up
- A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting for anyone who would like to participate

9. Fertilizer Fund – Gail Warner-Lidondici
   - Gail provided an update on the Fertilizer Fund and encouraged everyone to contribute.
   - Contributions can be made via check or online at PCGCA Fertilizer Fund
10. Revision of Operating Guidelines – John Weygandt
    - John, Nancy Allard and Ann DeMarco, have been working on the Operating Guidelines to be presented to the board at their next meeting
11. By Laws proposed revisions – Susan Nichols
    - Proposed revisions to the By Laws were presented and vote to accept was taken
    - Karan Guyon made the motion, and it was seconded by Lynd Meyer. The motion passed

12. Old Business –Susan Nichols – No old business was raised

13. New Business –- No new business was raised

14. Show and Tell –No one brought a show and tell

Meeting was adjourned and was followed by a delicious lunch!