

# MLGC 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 1984 to 1994

*2/2/94*

## INTRODUCTION:

Some of the Club's' history during the late '80's is not different from when Ellen and Jeanne gave their presentation at the last meeting. The meeting dates and times, projects, trips and tours, installation of officers in June and the Christmas Luncheon etc., but it is that consistency and dedication of the members that brings us to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

So it is my pleasure to bring you 1984 to 1994:

What was happening in the '80's?

- Members driving to and from the meetings would spend \$.89 cents a gallon for gasoline. Until the early '90'S when there was an increase to \$1.34 per gallon.
- The Corresponding Secretary would send postcards to members each month as a reminder of the scheduled meetings, the cost \$.15 per post card. Postage stamps cost \$.22 each
- The first official ban on smoking was ordered on all public transportation, in 1985 Ash trays began to be removed from our meeting places and homes.
- As the nation was rebounding from a deep recession of the early '80's, love, dancing, and tickling were celebrated. Whitney Houston serenaded us with "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and Tina Turner's sang "What's Love Got to Do With it? Tickle Me Elmo was born along with Talking Barney.
- The economy rebounded and soon began a sustained period of economic growth.

What was happening in the garden club?

## PRESIDENTS

Six members volunteered to serve as President from the late '80's to the early '90's

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|-----------|---|
| 1983-1985 | Rose Mary Gittins   |
| 1985-1986 | Betty Greaney served as President from 1985 to 1986. Betty resigned in Dec of 1986 Vice President Carole Eckstut presided until June of 1987. |
| 1987-1988 | Ruth Reace  |
| 1988-1990 | Jo Drumheller   |
| 1990-1992 | Alberta Bozzano   |
| 1992-1994 | Jane Grabowski  |

## MEETINGS:

- Not all meetings were held in the library. Prior to the expansion of the library in 1992 when meetings were held they were held in the room now used as the "children's room" and by law had the capacity for only 50 people. With the addition, the meeting rooms the capacity was increased to 75 people.
- Combined or "open" meetings were held with the Marlton Garden Club usually at the Grace Bible Church, Church Street, Mount Laurel
- One meeting in May was conducted during a bus trip to Boehms Gallery, Trenton. Very creative use of time and space.
- At the first meeting in September of the 1988, plans were being formulated to celebrate the Club's 25th anniversary in 1989.

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- September 1991 – “Last Rose of Summer” – members were asked to come to the meeting in their best, or gardening clothes, and wear a hat that “sports” a rose.
- Luncheons were served at the meetings. Hostesses preparing recipes requiring eggs paid \$.65 cents per dozen
- One meeting, held in the library, was a progressive luncheon. The hostesses set up card tables to seat 4 members at each table. The hostesses served the members. After the members were served salads by the committee, and before dessert was served, two members from each table moved to the next table. Encouraged mingling among membership.
- Members were required to attend six meeting. A reminder was printed in the yearbook “All meetings are required meetings except those that necessitate the purchase of a ticket”
- Executive meetings aside from the regular member meetings were held the first Monday of the month, starting promptly at 9:30 AM. These meetings were assigned to be held at the home of different member each month and continued being held into the early ‘90’s

### MEMBERSHIP

- Only residents of Mount Laurel were eligible for membership in the Club, there was a waiting list. It was in 1989 the By-laws were changed to read: “individuals on the waiting list as of July 1, 1988 are exempt from residential requirements” which then allowed non-residents to be eligible for membership.
- Membership Teas and Drives were held twice. Anyone interested in joining the Club was asked to leave their name, address and telephone number at the Circulation Desk in the library.
- There was an increases in membership in 1985 - 30 Active; 1989 - 60 Active
- Membership dues were \$10.00 for Active members and \$15.00 for Inactive members. The first increase in dues came in 1992 when Active Members paid \$15.00 and Inactive or sometimes referred to as “Associates” paid \$22.50.

### PROJECTS:

#### LIBRARY DISPLAYS

- As an aid to promote the restoration of Smithville Mansion, Easthampton. Members, along with the Burlington County Cultural and Heritage Commission prepared a display in the library titled “Highlights of Christmas at Smithville,”. It featured all of the decorations used in decorating different areas of Smithville. It was a worthy civic event for the club
- A display in the library “Herbs, and a Multitude of Uses” along with the display of the herbs and their uses members prepared packages of herbs that were distributed to the public.

### SEASONAL PLANTINGS:

- Members planted and maintained the Burlington County Memorial Hospital Gallery Garden, Mount Holly and also along with the usual plantings planted in conjunction with the exhibits displayed in the gallery

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- June 24, a planting in conjunction with an exhibit at the Hospital Gallery Garden titled "Americana, The Flag". Red, white and blue flowers were planted. The club also donated an American flag that once flew over our nation's capital in Washington, D.C.
- Another planting in conjunction with the hospital's exhibit titled "A Living Art".

### TREE PLANTINGS:

- May - Arbor Day was celebrated at the Larchmont School. Teachers and students of grades 2, 4 and 5 presented an Arbor Day program about trees and their importance in our lives. A sign language segment was performed by a teacher. A Bradford Pear Tree was planted
- September 22, 1999 Another interesting planting: To commemorate Constitution Week (Sept 17-23) members along with the Mount Laurel Women's Club and the Boy Scouts, planted 100 trees in the Mill Run Park
- Another interesting project April 22, 1991. The club adopted a theme "Power of a Seedling" when members set up a table outside the municipal complex to distribute free Blue Spruce and White Pine seedlings to Mount Laurel residents only.

### WREATH MAKING:

- In 1987 delivered 16 wreaths and 8 swags were delivered to community buildings in Mount Laurel

### OTHER CLUB PROJECTS:

- Every week an arrangement, or a plant, was placed in the library at the circulation desk.
- Books and magazines were donated annually to the library.
- When requested, floral arrangements were made for groups
- Decorating Smithville. Continued.
- Decorating Farmers Hall for the Christmas Holidays began in 1989

### CELEBRATIONS & AWARDS: ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND AWARDS

- In July of 1988 the Club's the first Board of Trustees was formed after the Club receiving certification from the Secretary of the State of New Jersey to become a non-profit corporation known as "The Country Garden Club of Mount Laurel". The application was requested for tax purposes and to limit potential liability of members
- May 1989 the garden club was commended on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary when The Mayor of Mount Laurel Township presented a Proclamation to Vice President, Alberta Bozzano at the newly renovated Old Town Hall.
- On June 12, 1989 the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon was celebrated at Braddock's Tavern, Medford. Ham and Cheese Wellington and Marinated Chicken/Rice and English Trifle were on the menu. The cost \$10.00 per person...
- Members participated with the Mayor and members of the Township Council in a Phase 2 ribbon cutting ceremony at Laurel Acres Park for the opening of the service building

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ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS – picnic, usually held in the home of a member.

- One was scheduled to be held at Laurel Acres Park was rained out Betty Greaney held it at her summer home in Sweetwater
- 1987 Lorna's hosted one at her home. Hawaii was the theme that year. Hula dances were performed by members wearing traditional Hawaiian muumuus and leis
- May 1986 Lorna hosted "Mad Hatters" costumes were worn as well hats were decorated in the Hatters theme

Education in the United States in '80's became of great concern. SAT scores were on a downward spiral, reform was needed. The garden club, in good faith, continued their fund raising efforts and awarded scholarship monies to qualifying graduates of Lenape sent to other high schools attended by Mount Laurel senior high school residents. Scholarship Awards were usually \$300 in early late '80s; \$500 in early '90's and in 1994's, \$1000

### FUND RAISERS:

- CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND BAZAAR was held every November at the Ramblewood Country Club until 1991 the venue was changed to the Mount Laurel Hilton. Some baskets but mostly handmade items such as terrariums, bonsai, pine cone trees, dried flowers and topiaries were made at the workshops and then sold at the bazaars. Workshops preceded the luncheon.
- CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND BAZAAR. Professional Florist of NJ provided 3 floral arrangement designers. Tickets were \$14.00. Some of the donations collected from local merchants were; Larchmont Jewelers, donated a sterling silver chain; Captains Seafood, donated two \$5.00 gift certificates; Pet Supply, donated 10 pounds bird seed; Mount Laurel Paint & Glass, a jar of Oops fabric cleaner; Christian Book Store, donated a can of Scripture tea bags; Auto Parts Connection, a bottle of Simple Green and an Air Freshener.
- May 8 – GERANIUM SALE Second largest income for the Club behind the Holiday Luncheon and Bazaar ; \$500.00 profit

### GARDEN TOURS WERE HELD AS FUND RAISERS:

- May 1989 "Gardens of Mount Laurel" Eight gardens were included in the tour: held Wednesday June 7, 10am to 3pm. Tour began at Whitesells Twin Towers, 6000 Midlantic Drive. Cost \$5.00.
- May 1988 - Garden Walk. "A Walk in the Mount Laurel Gardens. Only 4-6 gardens

INTRA-CLUB SPRING FLOWERS SHOWS WERE HELD: featured floral arrangements and table settings. Eight shows held in ten years:

1. May 1984 "Potpourri" held in the library
2. May 1985 "Kaleidoscope" - library
3. May 1986 Spring Flower Show and Table Settings
4. May 1989 "Natures Pretty Pictures" - Grace Bible Church
5. May 1990 "Dazzle Your World" - Grace Bible Church
6. April 1992 "Entertaining With Elegance" - Grace Bible Church
7. May 1993 "The Art and Culture of the World – Guest Quarters Suite Hotel

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8. May 1994      The title "1964" – in honor of the 30th anniversary - Guest Quarters Suite Hotel

TRIP AND TOURS were scheduled in either October or spring/summer  
October:

- Triple Oaks, Franklinville, NJ
- Bartram's House and Garden in Philadelphia
- Wave Hill and Central Park Conservatory. Cost \$47.00.
- Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
- Odessa , Delaware

April, May June

- Philadelphia Flower Show
- Winterthur.
- Topiary Gardens
- Leaming Gardens, Cape May County, NJ. Lunch was served at the Townsends Yacht Club

Best Wishes to all of the members, past, present and future on this happy occasion  
And Happy 50 more years to the Mount Laurel Garden!