

**Minutes of The West Hartford Garden Club Board Meeting –
June 4, 2012**

President Ellen Clarke called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at her home. She thanked Irene Clark for coordinating the luncheon and Joan Martin for offering to host the meeting this month. Present were Linda Berry, Jane Brady, Irene Clark, Tina Collias, Shirley DeLong, Rachael Desmond, Patricia Duncan, Paige Falasco, Lila Ferrari, Anita Herbst, Madeleine Hexter, Lynn B. Horne, Joan Larkins, Jo-Ann Libro, Susan Lindberg, Joan Martin, Judy Nellen, Ann Painter, Susan Petty-Bailer, Louise Pruyne, Margaret Pulito and Janet Ward. Ellen also welcomed new Board members to today's meeting. The minutes of the April 30, 2012 Board Meeting were distributed in advance of today's meeting and were accepted as written.

Corresponding Secretary: Susan Lindberg reported that she will be donating a book ("Language of Flowers") to the West Hartford Public Library in memory of Dee Fay and Betty Wuerthner. She then read a note from Claudie Blozy advising that she is resigning from the Club. Susan received a thank you note from the family of Betty Wuerthner. Shirley Tolley sent a thank you note for the card and book sent to her following her fall.

Treasurer: Linda Berry reported on the proceeds of the 2012 Garden Tour (\$11,115.00 in ticket sales, \$1,905.00 from sponsors and \$1,715.00 from the sale of plants). There are still some outstanding bills but expenses should be approximately \$3,000.00, giving the Club a profit of approximately \$11,700.00. Linda noted that the total funds raised are lower than the 2010 Tour, primarily due to the Club's lower membership and the inclement weather on Tour day. Top ticket sellers were Helen Bridburg (19), Irene Clark (20), Joan Larkins (21) and Susan Petty-Bailer (22). Linda then reported that the balance on hand as of June, 4, 2012 was \$42,299.00, of which \$6,645.00 is restricted. (A copy of the Financial Report was filed with the records of this meeting.)

President's Comments: Ellen asked the current Club Officers to introduce their successors.

Vice President: Margaret Pulito circulated to the new Board members a sign-up sheet for hosting a Board Meeting during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. She then handed out officer job descriptions to the new officers. Margaret circulated a note from the daughters of Evelyn Smith about their plans to recognize Evelyn's upcoming 80th birthday. The daughters hope to collect 80 birthday cards and notes from Evelyn's friends and acquaintances.

2012 Garden Tour: Ellen stated that attendance at each of the Garden Tour homes averaged approximately 400 individuals. She then thanked Patricia Duncan for arranging and managing the Garden Hat workshops. Ellen reminded the members to return the Garden Tour lawn signs to Jeanne Grandy. A Garden Tour wrap-up meeting will be held at Irene Clark's home on June 15, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. Ellen noted that the 2014 Garden Tour Co-Chair positions remain open. She reminded Board members to be on the

lookout for potential gardens to include in the 2014 Tour since this is the seasonal time to identify potential gardens.

President's Comments: Ellen then:

- circulated the Club's Spring Newsletter;
- noted that June Newsletter of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. ("Federated") circulated in late May; and
- advised that August 15, 2012 is the deadline for inclusion of articles or other information in the Club's Summer Newsletter.

Communications: Ann Painter reported that she has started working on the 2012-2013 Yearbook with the goal of completing the new Yearbook in early July so that she can then get it to the printer. Updates and information for the new Yearbook should be submitted to her by June 15, 2012. Ann asked current Committee Chairs to begin working with their respective successors to review information that needs to be updated. She also asked new Committee Chairs to provide Committee meeting dates, garden maintenance dates, workshop dates, etc. to her during the Summer for the 2012-2013 Club calendar. [*Note: Committee Chairs should check the Club calendar before scheduling any meetings.*]

President's Comments: Ellen stated that she has not received all of the Committee reports due to her. She asked those Committee Chairs to get their reports to her as soon as possible. Ellen noted that three items will be submitted to Club members for approval at the Annual Meeting on Thursday: the 2012-2013 budget, the 2012-2013 program schedule and the officers for the 2012-2014 term. She asked Board members to bring scrapbooks, photographs and other Club memorabilia to the Annual Meeting for viewing at that Meeting.

Program: **Rachael Desmond** reported on arrangements for the Club's Annual Meeting and luncheon at The Pond House on June 7, 2012. Sixty-nine members are expected to attend. Of the floral arrangements for the luncheon, one will be presented to Ellen as President and one to Margaret Pulito as Vice President. The remaining floral arrangements will be awarded to one Club member at each table. In the absence of Marjorie Johnson, Rachael then presented the proposed programs for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. **Upon motion** duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the 2012-2013 program schedule as presented. The 2012-2013 program schedule will be presented to Club members for approval at the Club's Annual Meeting. Westminster Presbyterian Church will be contacted again to finalize the Club's 2012-2013 meeting schedule.

Flower Arrangements: Pat Duncan circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteering to provide a floral arrangement at one of the General Meetings during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. She also discussed a suggestion that she received for the floral arrangements the Club will be making for Federated's Annual Awards Meeting and luncheon in October.

Membership: Janet Ward proposed that Rosemarie Robinson be approved for Club membership. Rosemarie is sponsored by Ellen Clarke and Jeanne Grandy. Rosemarie lives at 74 West Ridge Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117. Telephone: 860-232-2686; e-mail: rmrobinson@comcast.net. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Rosemarie Robinson was unanimously approved as an active member. Janet stated that Mary Ann Souza is moving to 36 Pebble Beach Drive, Bloomfield, CT 06002 (Cell Phone: 860-985-0179). She next reported that all but one member has met the Club's attendance requirements. The member is not able to attend meetings due to long term health issues. Janet will send a letter to her about the status of her Club membership. She next stated that all Committee preference sheets have been returned to her. Janet recommended that new Committee Chairs contact each of their Committee members to confirm that each such member wants to serve on the Committee she designated. She then reported that 14 Club members are moving to associate member status effective at the end of the current fiscal year. She also reported that the Club added five new members, one of whom is a professional member, and received seven resignations during the year.

Awards: Louise Pruyne stated that the Club will be honoring three 25th Club Membership Anniversaries at the Annual Meeting (Didi Deans, Ann Schoeninger and Glenda Thomas). The Club is paying for their lunches. Louise advised that the Club's Awards applications were submitted to Federated prior to the deadline.

Flower Arranging Study Group: Anita Herbst reported that a total of 13 workshops were held over the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 fiscal years. She commented that the Club has a number of talented floral arrangers.

Horticulture Study Group: Joan Martin reported on arrangements for a guided tour of the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden. The tour will be held on June 18, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a picnic. Attendees should bring their own lunch.

Civic Projects: In the absence of Judy Carrithers, Ellen reported that the landscaping project for the triangle junction of Fern Street and Mountain Road was completed. Ellen read a note from a commuter complimenting the Club for the new landscaping and thanked the Club for contribution to the community. She also received a note from the Connecticut Horticultural Society thanking the Club for its donation to the organization's scholarship program. Ellen then stated that two trees at Conard High School were damaged during the October 2011 storm. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously authorized \$500.00 for the purchase of two Thundercloud Plums for installation at Conard High School.

Butler-McCook Gardens: In the absence of Paula Mooney, Ellen reported that the overall garden areas look good. There have been some irrigation issues which CT Landmarks is addressing. Also, the water fountain is still in disrepair. Ellen stated that the four member leadership team is working well. Ann Painter has volunteered to send a biweekly list of what is blooming in the Gardens to Cindy Cormier at CT Landmarks.

Conservation: Tina Collias reminded Board members to continue to observe all aspects of conservation. She recommended that Board members use native plants when replanting their gardens or landscaping.

Hospitality: Susan Petty-Bailer reminded the Board that the size of the Hospitality Committee was increased to eight members plus the two Co-Chairs. One Committee member will be assigned to work with one of the Co-Chairs at each open General Meeting. She noted that there is one remaining opening on the Hospitality Committee.

Junior Gardeners: Judy Nellen stated that Committee members planted annual flowers at the Hill Crest Avenue Neighborhood Outreach Center's garden in May.

Garden Therapy: Jane Brady reported that the Committee has taken on additional commitments during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The Committee is assessing how best to manage its support of the Club's activities at Elmgrove Apartments, West Hartford Health and Rehabilitation and the Alfred E. Plant housing complex. She noted that the Committee plants flowers in the plant containers at the Elmgrove Apartments in the Spring and again in the Summer. The Elmgrove plant containers are decorated with winter greens for the holidays. The Committee also added two garden therapy workshops at Elm grove during the year and took on two new garden therapy workshops at the Plant housing complex. The Committee plans to institute monthly garden therapy workshops at the Alfred E. Plant housing complex. At West Hartford Health and Rehabilitation, the Committee holds monthly garden therapy workshops during the Club's fiscal year and plants summer flowers and tomato and basil plants in the facility's plant containers.

2013 Flower Show: Susan Petty-Bailer stated that the Flower Show is scheduled to be held on June 1, 2012 at the Butler-McCook House and Gardens. She then reported on the discussions held at the first organizational meeting for the Flower Show. Susan noted that the Committee will need to fill several Committee positions to handle a variety of tasks associated with organizing the Flower Show. The Committee's next meeting will be held at Marjorie Johnson's home on September 12, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

President's Comments: Ellen then read the President's Message written by Tina Collias as Club President in 1976. Ellen stated that the Message elegantly describes the Club's purpose even today. Ellen then commented that she had started African violet plants and asked Board members to take one home as a gift from her.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Paige Falasco
Recording Secretary

Note to new Board members: Please try to provide to the Recording Secretary a written copy of your Board reports at or prior to the Board Meetings. This will assist her in preparing the minutes of each meeting.