



Gardeners' Guild of Braintree

December Newsletter 2014

DECEMBER MEETING DETAILS

<http://www.gardenersguildofbraintree.com/>

Contact:

Regina Zahran
Corresponding Secretary
rmzahran@yahoo.com

WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION!

If you have events, news, stories or photos to share, please forward to rmzahran@yahoo.com.

Deadline for the next e-newsletter is December 15, 2014.

Program: **Christmas Greens Workshop** The purpose of this meeting is to put together centerpieces and wreaths to be sold at the Boutique. Bows, containers and oasis will be provided. All members are asked to come to this meeting and bring the following:

- (1) A bag of greens.
- (2) Clippers and green florist wire.
- (3) A glue gun if you have one.

This is such a great meeting. All Guild members gather and put their incredible talents to use creating wonderful fresh greens arrangements.

Date: December 1, 2014

Time: 6:00 pm Gardener's Guild Business
6:30 pm Program

Place: Braintree Town Hall
1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive
Braintree, MA 02184

Greeters: Sue Ghiloni and Lisa Reid

Hostesses: Lauren Crook – Sarah Sciascia

Bakers: Everyone ☺

**GARDNER'S GUILD OF
BRAINREE MEETING DATES**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2014

- October 6** *Floral Design*
- November 3** *Bow Making
Demonstration and
Workshop*
- December 1** *Christmas Greenery
Workshop*
- December 7** *Boutique and Holiday
House Tour*

2015

- January 5** *Potluck and Brown Bag
Grab Auction*
- February 2** *The Eyes See...The
Heart Anticipates*
- March 2** *Herbal Gardening for
Kitchen and Health*
- April 6** *Dividing and
Transplanting Perennials*
- May 4** *Annual Spring Banquet*

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone enjoyed our bow-making workshop at the November general meeting. No surprise here, you are all so creative – by the end of the meeting two full bags of beautiful bows were collected to be used at the Greens night, scheduled for Monday, December 1 at Town Hall. On behalf of our Greens Chairs, Linda (Barry) Cozzens and Lynda Mitchell, “a huge thank you to all of our master bow makers!!” Changing gears, a quick reminder for those who are attending the Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop at Studio One-Twenty-Three West with Janet and Rob Lawatch on Tuesday evening, November 25, 2014: Janet and Rob are amazing. Janet will provide the fresh flowers and greens and show us how to assemble and create beautiful centerpieces that we can take home for our Thanksgiving tables.

In related news, by the time this Newsletter reaches you, there will be scarcely 2 weeks before the 39th Annual Holiday House Tour and Boutique. Yikes – all very exciting, I can't believe it is only two weeks away!!!! Please be on the lookout for information that will be shared over the next many days with regard to the House Tour and Boutique, and the Greens night. Most of it will be sent to you via e-mail, and for those members without e-mail Carole Wilson and Regina Zahran will make sure those members are kept in the loop. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate Room Chair, Chris McIntyre or Maggi Johnson. And, if you are working on the Boutique and have questions, please e-mail Kerri Eck.

Important!! GREENS NIGHT – December 1, Town Hall – 6:00 PM - please make sure to bring: (1) Bag of cut greens – (2) snips and/or scissors; and (3) green florist wire. Everything else will be provided, e.g. containers, oasis, decorative pics, ribbon and bows. Please do your best to get to Town Hall no later than 6:00 and give Linda Cozzens or Lynda Mitchell a call (or send an e-mail) if you are able to assist with setup (can get to Town Hall between 4 – 6). All members are expected to help clean up town hall before leaving for the night (clearing tables, sweeping the floor, etc). Also, Hospitality Committee has asked if members could bring any leftover Thanksgiving goodies to Greens night for us to snack on that evening. Again, please be on the lookout for more information on Greens night.

Thanksgiving is just a few short days away, a perfect time to express my genuine thanks to my wonderful Executive Board and Standing Committee Chairs for their strong commitment to the Guild and the Town, for their continued efforts and enthusiasm and new and inspiring ideas that continue to keep the club fresh and vital. I also want to extend a very special thank you to ALL of our wonderful members who give countless numbers of hours of their own personal time, work so very hard to make our holiday house tour and boutique event a huge success, remain engaged and involved in all of our projects and endeavors. And, guess what? We have 5 new members this month, for which I am immensely thankful for! Yes!!!!

Thanksgiving Poem – an oldie but goody, one that most of us know but always glad to hear again! – like a favorite song.

Thanksgiving by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,
For song of bird, and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

and my favorite:

“Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes – This is not coincidence.” – Erma Bombeck. I love her! - GO PATS!

My best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy Thanksgiving holiday,

Go GGB!

Barbara

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Creative Potpourri (*Chris McIntyre and Maggi Johnson*)

The Gardeners’ Guild of Braintree is presenting “Christmas by the River”, its 39th annual house tour and boutique/craft fair, on December 7, 2014. This year’s House Tour, will feature the Hastings and Manganello homes, at 23 & 28 Vine St. Tour hours are from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Holiday Boutique will be held at Braintree Town Hall from 11:00 am - 4:00 p.m. The Boutique is open to the public for a \$2 entry fee or free with a house tour ticket.

Christmas by the River

23 Vine Street



28 Vine Street



Hospitality (*Lauren Crook and Sarah Sciascia*)

Reminder that everyone is expected to bake for the Boutique held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at Town Hall. The Board of Health requires that all food should be individually wrapped. Please wrap items ahead of time and

label them if they have nuts. No dairy based items can be served such as cream puffs, etc., which are difficult to keep cold.

The refreshment tables will be set up on Saturday for all to drop off your baked goods then or early Sunday morning before the Boutique opens to the public.

We need help at the Boutique from everyone who signed up as Hostess this year and who is not working at the House. I will have a sign-up sheet at the December 1, 2014 meeting for anyone who can help with the refreshments at the Boutique. Please sign up for a one hour time slot if you can. If you are not at this meeting, I will be calling all this year's Hostesses to sign you up for a time slot. Thank you!!!

House Tour Tickets (*Sue Ghiloni*)

House Tour tickets will be available at the Greens Workshop for those who wish to purchase or take tickets on consignment. As always, you may return unsold tickets. Please call me (781-848-7282) if you will not be at the meeting but would like tickets. Advance tickets are \$16 and are available at Braintree Town Hall, Braintree CO-OP Bank, The Potting Bench, Nails by Nancy, and Caruso's Jewelers. Tickets purchased on December 7 are \$20. Members will show their membership card for admittance.

When you return money to me, please place the cash or checks in an envelope titled "House Tour Tickets", include your name, the amount of money enclosed and any unsold tickets.

Please note: the Boutique opens at 11 am despite the 12 pm time on the tickets.

As always, thank you all so much for your sales efforts.

Publicity (*Karen Joyce, Steph McLaughlin and Tina O'Brien*)

We have been busy getting notices out regarding the activities of the GGB. We hope you have seen the articles featured in the Braintree Forum, Patriot Ledger and Braintree Patch. The Holiday House Tour and Boutique were recently featured in the holiday insert for the Braintree Forum. The October meeting was featured on BCAM: we hope you had a chance to see it or share it with others. BCAM informed us that they received a lot of positive comments from the airing of this show and they look forward to filming others in the future.

Ways & Means (*Kerri Eck, Karen Connelly, Diane Hanlon, Lisa Reid and Ginny Quinn*)

This year there are expected to be approximately 40 different vendors, stocked with beautiful and tasty hand crafted items for sale. Following is a list of the vendors we are expecting, along with links to their websites (where applicable):

Beachhouse Baking Company by Linda Bailey (<https://squareup.com/market/beachhouse-baking-company>)

Ethereal Gardens by Donna Camilliere (<http://www.etherealgardens.net/>)

Say Cheese by Joan E. Chipman (artisan cheeses, raw honey)

Baking with Joy by Linda Davis (<http://www.bakingwithjoy.com/>)

It's All About Paint by Pamela DeYoung (theorem painting)

Bellaluna Designs by Kerry Draicchio (scarves from recycled sweaters)

Matilde Duffy (photography)

Rosemarie Engel-Conn (recycled nature pictures and cards)

Coldbrooke Pottery by Abigail Fasanells (<http://www.coldbrookepottery.com/>)

Creative Inspirations by Sharon Grady-McCay (3D framed art)

A Women's Touch by Cindy Hastings (<http://www.cindyhastings.com/>)

Demoiselle Jewels by Lauren Hastings (<http://www.demoisellejewels.com/>)

My Animal Tee by Andrade Haughton (<http://myanimaltee.com/>)

Bare Metal Designs by Leslie Ishihara (<http://bare-metaldesigns.com/>)

Cathy Kane and Carol Reynolds (decorative glass blocks)

Green Koala by Paula Keif (<http://www.greenkoala.net/>)

Sitr It Up Cuisine by Patricia Kiernan (<http://www.stiritupcuisine.com/>)

Back to Basics Soap and Essentials by Hortense McCarthy (<http://backtobasicssoaps.com/>)

Nancie Mitchell (fashion accessories and home decor)
 Nancy Murphy (rugs, pillows, mittens and scarves from upcycled clothing and textiles)
 Wayne Opie (wood carvings)
 Omega Olive Oil by Felicia Pakalnis (<http://omegaoliveoil.com/>)
 Dave Patch from Friends of Mass Art (various artisans)
 Jerry Pallotta, children's author (<http://www.jerrypallotta.com/>)
 Ginny Quinn and Alicia Quinn (handpainted glass and jewelry)
 Creative Jewels by JR (Jean Ritchie) (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/CreativeJewelsbyJR>)
 Bluebird Designs by Monique Sansoucy (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/bluebirddesign>)
 Eileen Sopyla (seasonal wall hangings)
 Moon Lit Frog Creations by Debbie Sullivan (custom ornaments)
 Deborah's Kitchen by Deborah Taylor (<http://www.deborahskitchen.com/>)
 Patricia Tecu Handcrafted Jewelry (Patricia Tecu) (<http://patriciatecu.com/>)
 Ever Sweet Pastry Boutique by Tanya Thao (<http://eversweetpastryboutique.com/>)
 Jewelry Designs by Pat (Patricia Zupkofska) (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/jewelrydesignsbypatz>)

Birthday Wishes

A very "Happy Birthday" to our members who have special days in **December**:

Ruth Aucoin

Judy Caristi

Barbara Sullivan

Catherine Avellino

Claire Mulligan

Marie Welch

Plant Therapy

Special thanks to Carolyn Mahoney for this months Plant Therapy ...



Mistletoe is especially interesting botanically because it is a partial parasite (a "hemiparasite"). As a parasitic plant, it grows on the branches or trunk of a tree and actually sends out roots that penetrate into the tree and take up nutrients. But mistletoe is also capable for growing on its own; like other plants it can produce its own food by photosynthesis. Mistletoe, however, is more commonly found growing as a parasitic plant. There are two types of mistletoe. The mistletoe that is commonly used as a Christmas decoration (*Phoradendron flavescens*) is native to North America and grows as a parasite on trees in the west as also in those growing in a line down the east from

New Jersey to Florida. The other type of mistletoe, *Viscum album*, is of European origin. The European mistletoe is a green shrub with small, yellow flowers and white, sticky berries which are considered poisonous. It is commonly seen on apple but only rarely on oak trees. The rarer oak mistletoe was greatly venerated by the ancient Celts and Germans and used as a ceremonial plant by early Europeans. The Greeks and earlier peoples thought that it had mystical powers and down through the centuries it became associated with many folklore customs.

The Plant:

Mistletoe is especially interesting botanically because it is a partial parasite (a "hemiparasite"). As a parasitic plant, it grows on the branches or trunk of a tree and actually sends out roots that penetrate into the tree and take up nutrients. But mistletoe is also capable for growing on its own; like other plants it can produce its own food by photosynthesis. Mistletoe, however, is more commonly found growing as a parasitic plant. There are two types of mistletoe. The mistletoe that is commonly used as a Christmas decoration (*Phoradendron flavescens*) is native to North America and grows as a parasite on trees from New Jersey to Florida. The other type of mistletoe, *Viscum album*, is of European origin. The European mistletoe is a green shrub with small, yellow flowers and white,

sticky berries which are considered poisonous. It is commonly seen on apple but only rarely on oak trees. The rarer oak mistletoe was greatly venerated by the ancient Celts and Germans and used as a ceremonial plant by early Europeans. The Greeks and earlier peoples thought that it had mystical powers and down through the centuries it became associated with many folklore customs.

The Mistletoe Magic:

From the earliest times mistletoe has been one of the most magical, mysterious, and sacred plants of European folklore. It was considered to bestow life and fertility; a protection against poison; and an aphrodisiac. The mistletoe of the sacred oak was especially sacred to the ancient Celtic Druids. On the sixth night of the moon white-robed Druid priests would cut the oak mistletoe with a golden sickle. Two white bulls would be sacrificed amid prayers that the recipients of the mistletoe would prosper. Later, the ritual of cutting the mistletoe from the oak came to symbolize the emasculation of the old King by his successor. Mistletoe was long regarded as both a sexual symbol and the "soul" of the oak. It was gathered at both mid-summer and winter solstices, and the custom of using mistletoe to decorate houses at Christmas is a survival of the Druid and other pre-Christian traditions. The Greeks also thought that it had mystical powers and down through the centuries it became associated with many folklore customs. In the Middle Ages and later, branches of mistletoe were hung from ceilings to ward off evil spirits. In Europe they were placed over house and stable doors to prevent the entrance of witches. It was also believed that the oak mistletoe could extinguish fire. This was associated with an earlier belief that the mistletoe itself could come to the tree during a flash of lightning. The traditions which began with the European mistletoe were transferred to the similar American plant with the process of immigration and settlement.

Kissing under the mistletoe:

Kissing under the mistletoe is first found associated with the Greek festival of Saturnalia and later with primitive marriage rites. They probably originated from two beliefs. One belief was that it has power to bestow fertility. It was also believed that the dung from which the mistletoe would also possess "life-giving" power. In Scandinavia, mistletoe was considered a plant of peace, under which enemies could declare a truce or warring spouses kiss and make-up. Later, the eighteenth-century English credited with a certain magical appeal called a kissing ball. At Christmas time a young lady standing under a ball of mistletoe, brightly trimmed with evergreens, ribbons, and ornaments, cannot refuse to be kissed. Such a kiss could mean deep romance or lasting friendship and goodwill. If the girl remained unknissed, she cannot expect to marry the following year. In some parts of England the Christmas mistletoe is burned on the twelfth night lest all the boys and girls who have kissed under it never marry. Whether we believe it or not, it always makes for fun and frolic at Christmas celebrations. Even if the pagan significance has been long forgotten, the custom of exchanging a kiss under the mistletoe can still be found in many European countries as well as in the US and Canada. Thus if a couple in love exchanges a kiss under the mistletoe, it is interpreted as a promise to marry, as well as a prediction of happiness and long life. In France, the custom linked to mistletoe was reserved for New Year's Day: "Au gui l'An neuf" (Mistletoe for the New Year). Today, kisses can be exchanged under the mistletoe any time during the holiday season.

JANUARY MEETING: *Potluck and Brown Bag Grab Auction*

The January meeting will feature a Potluck and Brown Bag Grab Auction. In the past, this event has been emceed by the one and only, extremely talented Lucille Barton. Each GGB club member who attends the meeting will bring a gift (generally around \$5); all gifts are put into an individual brown bag; Lucille will use her wit and wonder to provide hints of what said object is. The bidding generally begins at a whopping .50¢ or slightly higher. GGB members then place bids to win said object, all eager to find out what it is. All proceeds will go to the GGB. Always an entertaining evening, don't let the cold January weather keep you away from attending this fun filled meeting.