

DECEMBER MEETING, 2016

The Mt. Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club met at 6:30 p.m., December 15, 2016, at the home of Julie Harrison. There were 15 members present.

We began with a lovely pot luck dinner and conversation.

The meeting was opened with birthday wishes for Connie Dalpra, Pat Hall, Carol Ober, and Lucille Gwynn.

PROGRAM: Cards decorated with natural material. There were 3 cards.

Linda Milette: Best use of materials – bark cloth, birch bark, grass stem, pressed holly leaves and nandina berries.

Marilyn Berkut: Most beautiful – Pressed flowers.

Arminta Donovan: Most creative – boxwood, white chrysanthemums and a pine cone.

HISTORY:

Linda Millette did her monthly history presentation which mostly focused on past December activities of the club. In the minutes Linda discovered the following:

Julie Harrison and Marilyn Berkut has each hosted the most December meetings (5 each) for which Linda gave them each a "thank you" gift.

In 1977 a trip was made to Dr. Ferrell's Gardens for \$12 with a luncheon at a member's home where each member chipped in \$3.

From 1978 to 1980 club members visited the Christmas Greens Exhibit at the Botanical Gardens. For the next ten years, we participated by hostessing and creating various decorations or vignettes. Our last year mentioned (1990), for visits or participation, ended with us decorating a large alligator for whatever the theme was that year.

From 1986 – 1992 the club had craft and bake sales at the County Administration Building.

In 1982 and 1983 club members judged the various outdoor decorations of homes in the Robley Community in Upper Marlboro.

In 1990 Marilyn Berkut made a cornucopia for Bradford Oaks.

1983 club members decorated the Mary Surratt House for their candlelight tour.

2006 members toured Homestead Gardens and had lunch at Kilarney House.

2007 some members toured the lights in Brookside Gardens.

2010 Members had a lovely High Tea at the Royal Tea Room in La Plata.

We learned that the first 50/50 was held in 1992. This year's was won by Julie Harrison.

GIFTS AND GAMES:

Christmas fun: Linda Milette and Elaine Arnold hosted two games. "Name that Christmas Carol" – We were given a list of statements and had to figure out the carol it described. (example: clappered inverted cups, amalgamated = Silver Bells). The winner was Esther Neckere.

The gift exchange was enjoyed by all.

The second game was "The Wine Game." Elaine read "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Every time Elaine said the word "The" a wrapped bottle of wine was passed around the circle. The last person holding the bottle of wine at the end of the story wins the prize. The surprise here is that the person who hears the last "the" in the story thinks she is getting the bottle. But, then, after a slight pause, the reader says: "The end," and that person has to sadly pass it on. This year Iona Black won a bottle of "Trump" wine.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Bishop
Recording Secretary