

# Winter 2022

## Gardening for All

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President's Corner

By Diana Morse

### Gardening for All

We greet each new year with thoughts of how we'd like to spend it.

We may want to make changes...or not. Pretty soon our gardens will be waking up—do we want to try new things, simplify, nourish, enjoy.

I started the year with an awakening through a class focused on 24 exercises for a mindful Christmas time.

One exercise was an Alphabet of Gratitude—writing for each letter of the alphabet one thing you are grateful for—people, pets, things...whatever gives you joy. I've had fun with it. There are so many things. The booklet noted we often tend to lose sight of the beautiful things in our lives and focus strongly on stressors and negative events. Another thought, maybe at the end of a day, to write three things you are grateful for. I'm exploring gratitude in other ways, including a class on a book entitled Grateful, with a focus on giving thanks.

# Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden Club Newsletter

## Gardening-To-Go

Seed catalogs arriving remind me of the many gardening opportunities to share our seeds, plants—and knowledge.

One of the benefits of our club is gaining hard-earned knowledge and sharing it. I'm more cautious planting rhizomes. It's taken years but my Solomon's seal is unstoppable. My right-plant-in-the-right-place glorious experience is the large bed of helleborus, greeting the morning sun.

We learn from each other, from experience, from speakers, from councils...from our love and enthusiasm for gardening. Let's continue to take the opportunities to share our surpluses...problems...and solutions.

I'd like to invite you to share your gardening expertise with my nephew Eric, his wife Leah, and their 5-year-old son Brody. They live in a row house near the stadium in Baltimore and saved so with the pandemic, they could have an outdoor space to enjoy and invite company.



It is an exciting opportunity—and challenge—to create their garden from scratch. (Pam has recently done this.) What plants and shrubs would you recommend—and warn against?

Here's some info from them:

- Where the planters are, we normally get full sun.
- We also want to buy large moveable planters that may be in areas that are full sun or part shade
- The inground planters are about 8 feet long and 2 feet wide with a depth of soil around 18 inches

Diana

## Julie Harrison – In Memoriam

It may be the times, but coming into a new year, with all the unknowns, it feels good to focus on the good. NCAGC continues to provide leadership and resources for all area clubs and councils as we seek to improve the earth in these new times.

So...all best wishes to you and yours as we begin 2022 together.

Diana Morse

Club President  
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On January 7, 2022, our garden club lost a long time and cherished member, and friend, Julie Harrison. Julie's history with Mount Airy Clay Breakers Garden began in 1983 when she joined upon an invitation from Anne DeBoeser, president of the club. She then succeeded Anne as president in 1984. She served again as president from 2008-2012. Over the years Julie, served in virtually every leadership position, most recently as budget committee chair.

Julie's lovely gardens and home in Upper Marlboro have served as a hub of club activities through the years. She has hosted monthly club meetings, enchanted members with tours of her garden, and provided her car port for club community plant sales.

In addition to arrangements, demonstrations, and workshops for the club, Julie made flower arrangements for special events. She provided arrangements for fundraisers (churches, Surratts Festivals, nursing homes and Vets Rehab Center), flower shows, district meetings, Southern House and Garden Tour, Christmas décor for His Lordship's Kindness, and the Botanical Gardens Galas. Among her memorable arrangements were those using hydrangeas from her garden.

Julie twice served as District I Director for NCAGC. She led quarterly meetings, usually at the National Arboretum or Cheverly, and attended club meetings at the thirteen clubs in the district, as well state meetings and district field trips. Julie also took NCAGC courses and was a member of the Gardening and Environmental Consultants' Council.

Julie always encouraged and supported members to take leadership roles and expand their knowledge in a wealth of gardening activities.

- Diana Morse



Julie was so much a part of our lives within the Garden Club and beyond. She was a very special and dear friend to many of us. Many of you have written messages about Julie. She was a wonderful, beautiful and talented woman.

- Mary

'I met Julie maybe ten years ago when I joined the club. She was among the loveliest, most welcoming ladies I've ever met

- Lucille Gwynn



District 1 President



Linda Millette writes:

...I mostly knew Julie as the very capable President of our garden club. She exhibited my style of leadership, running the meetings by “Robert’s Rules of Order.” As I’ve looked back, I see that she took me, knowing what the grief of losing a husband was, “under her wing.” In the club manner she encouraged and supported me (as she did others) in all the activities of the club, from holding various positions to attending District 1 and NCAGC meetings; taking trips; and learning to make small floral arrangements, which finally lead to entering a Flower Show.

Through the years a friendship grew. One of the first activities that brought Julie to my house was making Valentine’s cards. This continued through the years and others joined in. The child within us all was having fun, and to my pleasure everyone grew in their creativity. I offer here “Julie through time”- a few pictures of having fun.

Our years together leave me with many wonderful memories, most not written about here...Julie was my role model when it came to aging. For a long time no one knew how old she was. Then, one day I found out. WOW!!! REALLY?!! She always looked beautiful to me and I soon was buying a few Mary Kay products....She kept active, was young in spirit, touched many lives, accomplished much, gave and received love. But, she was also stubborn, which I think served her well in the last two years of her life. She wasn’t about to die without a fight.

In her last chapter, Julie was a model of grace and courage. She seldom complained during our very blessed companionship during the time of COVID. We helped each other.

If she can hear me I say “God Bless you, Julie. Thank you so very much for your friendship. I miss you !!!”

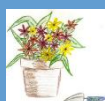


Volunteering at Children’s Garden





Fig tree photos from Internet



Mount Airy Clay Breakers  
Garden Club

Our Officers:

President – Diana Morse

Vice-President – Elaine Arnold

Treasurer – Dot Lower

Secretary – Iona Black

Editors – Mary Woodruff  
& Pam Smart

## My Fig Tree Story

Having always admired the huge Fig Tree that was planted at the side of the Parish Center by our former Pastor, Father Dixon, I was fortunate enough to get a small shoot seven years ago that was dug up by Ron Nosalik . . . one of our parishioners.

It was planted in a huge whiskey barrel filled with 5 loads of mulchy-dirt which I hauled in a very heavy wheel-barrow from the woods in back of our house. It was planted on the West side of the house where it would get the most sun, since it is a Mediterranean tree. Each winter I covered the lower part of the tree with burlap to keep it warm during the winter months. It grew and grew each year and I have always admired the long, beautiful shiny leaves. However, after four years, there were still NO figs. So, I went to several local Nurseries to find out some information on Fig trees, but to no avail. The FIFTH year, I saw a few Figs near the top of the tree in October . . . but they never ripened. Last year was the SIXTH year and I was very happy to pick about a half dozen figs in September.

This year is the SEVENTH year and since August, the tree is now about 12' high, has been LOADAD with Figs and I am SOO happy!!! I pick some each day and the next day, there are MORE and MORE. Last week, with the help of my neighbor Sonia, I made 7 jars of Fig-Raspberry Jam and this week 11 Jars of Fig-Strawberry Jam . . . using a Recipe given to me years ago by a church friend. . . using different kinds of packaged Jello! I also add a peach to each Recipe. Just put all the fruits in a Food Processor and chop up. . . then make Jam. Jam is beautiful and delicious!!!

Arminta G. Donovan  
Septembr 2, 2021

Mount Airy Clay Breakers is a proud member of the  
National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.

District 1



Photo by Pam Smart – Winter Garden

