

The Mt. Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met on 8 March 2012 at the Concordia Lutheran Church in Cheltenham, MD, with Carol Ober as the hostess. Fourteen members and two visitors were present. Pat Hall introduced Ms. Jessica Sherlock and Gilda Allen introduced Ms. Shelby Laubhan.

The **evening program** challenged each member to create an arrangement with only three flowers, following the elements of design information presented by Linda Millette at past meetings. The club provided a selection of flowers and greenery, and each member brought a container and a pinholder. The program guest, Charmaine Truesdale, a notable accredited flower show judge, commented positively on the arrangements and gave arranging tips: complete your arrangement on all sides, front and back; always cut final stems under water—take a bucket to the garden with you when you cut flowers. Ms. Turesdale also mentioned that the Judge's Council will offer a Harlan Turner Memorial award for the most innovative design in a flower show.

Business meeting:

Old Business

Diana Morse, acting as **corresponding secretary**, read three thank you notes for our club's financial support: from Vicki Godwin for our club's support of her rain garden project, from Rilla Crain, for our support of Fern Valley at the National Arboretum, and from Carol Cuose, Chairperson of the NCE Scholarship committee. Carol Ober, Treasurer, reported a total of \$644.27 in the bank. Diana Morse, **Conservation**, reported on the number of animals that are coming alive now in our wetlands: spring peepers, box turtles, snakes, and frogs provide food for other animals. Red-winged blackbirds, damsel flies, dragon flies are also present. She strongly cautioned against making pets out of box turtles. Linda Millette, **Design**, will send information on "light" element of design, noting that arrangements made in daylight may look different under artificial light. Arminta Donovan, **Sunshine**, reported on three birthday cards send to those with March birthdays and one get well card. Lenay O'quinn, **Ways and Means**, distributed order forms for perennials, to be picked up at the next meeting at Arminta Donovan's home. The forms were due to her by 30 March. She also mentioned that 5 May will be the club's plant sale to be held at Julie Harrison's carport.

New Business

Club Project: The club project is a gardening experience for children in the after school program at the Concordia Lutheran Church. The director of the children's program will poll those 4th, 5th and 6th graders who are interested in participating. All members are encouraged to participate.

Upcoming Meeting announcements: The next NCAGC meeting will be held 29 March at the city library in Fairfax, VA, The District I meeting will be held ¹³30 September.

Nominating committee: Linda Millette will chair the nominating committee for next year's officers, along with Sonia Johnson and Lenay O'Quinn.

The Capital Gardener has published its last hardcopy issue. Future issues will be sent out via e-mail and can be down loaded and printed.

District I awards given to the Mt. Airy Garden Club included the following:

- Outstanding Garden Club Achievement for clubs with 24 or fewer members
- Outstanding Garden Club Yearbook
- Arbor House Volunteer

- Community Project (beautification)
- Education and Youth Programs
- Financial Supporters Certificate
- Marion Moreland was nominated for a Perennial achievement award.

Carol Ober won the 50/50 raffle, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Esther Neckere". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Esther Neckere, Recording Secretary