



From the Garden Cozy Chair by the Woodstove...

January 2026

Forgive me, gardeners. It has been several weeks since the last newsletter. November and December were quite busy, and it felt like I was bombarding you with emails regarding the Pop-Up Market activities and holiday luncheon. So, I gave us all a break. My hope is that you were also embracing the opportunity for a winter's rest. While the January thaw was lovely, Jack Frost is slapping us back to reality with a white and chilly deep-freeze. But have you noticed that nature provided us a new layer of "insulation" snow before the single-digit temperatures rolling. Coincidence? I think not...

Here are some reminders of coming activities! Mark your calendars and bundle up!

- **FEBRUARY 11, 2026, 2 PM** Movie Time "Nature's Best Hope-Bring Back the Natives"
- **MARCH 11, 2026, 2 PM** Growing Dahlias & Annual Flowers, by Kathy Gulick of Kindred Farms Open to the public – INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
- **APRIL 7, 2026, 2:00 PM** Discovering New England Stone Walls, Co-Sponsored by SGC and OLLI. FREE to SGC/Olli members and their guests
- **MAY 6, 2026, 10:00 AM** annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon - Crown Point Country Club

HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKET REVIEW

We had another successful Pop-Up sale and continue to learn how to improve for the next year. Most of the foot traffic is finished by 1pm and we have decided to shorten the day by ending at 3pm. We will be adding more Boxwood trees (lighted) as those are sold out within an hour. Our total profit from donations and sales (after expenses) was \$5,335.10. We will be looking at ways to increase sales and income over our expenses. There will be a committee meeting sometime in early summer to review and plan for next year. If you are interested, or think you might be interested, watch for updates later in the spring.

Below are a few photos of the week's activities. We had new members join in the fun this year for the first time, with so much laughter and collaboration. Please remember that you do not have to commit to all day, nor every day. You are always welcome! There are more photos on the private Facebook group.



GENERAL NEWS

This year, the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont has arranged the Hudson Valley Garden Tour for June 16-17. I have included a link to their website below for more details.

<https://www.vermontfgcv.com/resources>

It is not too late for Winter Sowing!!! If you are on Facebook, Judy Martin recommends Winter Sowing – The Original. Judy Martin presented the program at last year's Christmas Luncheon, and several of our members are doing this, and Debbie Smith is even introducing it as part of the Junior Gardening program.

Speaking of the Christmas Luncheon, the recent luncheon at the Inn at Weathersfield was well-attended – in spite of the treacherous weather conditions. It was packed and as usual, the laughter and fellowship drenched us with well-being. Barb Riotte demonstrated how she cuts old t-shirts, rolls them on tubes to carry through the garden when you need to tie up your plants. (I wish I had taken photos!) Alicia Jenks shared a couple of beautiful poems with us. Fortunately, everyone made it home safely.

We had a very productive Board Meeting in January. Please note that this meeting is open to members who are interested in keeping abreast of what is going on with our group. But here are some highlights:

Plaza Garden Rebuild

We formally voted to move forward to explore plans to give the Plaza Garden a "face-lift". The existing garden was constructed in the mid-80s and is rapidly deteriorating. We will be talking to the appropriate people from the Town of Springfield and have found a contractor who is interested in the project. Be watching for future emails with more details!

Membership:

If you have not done so, please send in your dues to Cheryl!!!

Linda Jones and Cheryl Pierce will be developing an insert that can be included with billing from local businesses. This will help increase the visibility with the hope of encouraging new members.

We approved a couple of additions to Policies & Procedures which were included with recent Board Minutes, one of which will be added to by-laws. The By-Laws are under review and should be available for ratification by the annual meeting in May.

Barb Lacey is asking everyone to please let her know when you hear of any member who is feeling under the weather or has suffered a loss of a family member so she can send a card or flowers. Please call her at 802-591-0292.

Scholarships

Planning and requests for scholarship applications have begun. The committee is working with the local and regional high school guidance counselors, continuing college students as well as home-schooled students.

Due to lack of qualifying scholarship participants in the past, and upon Board approval, the Springfield Garden Club has presented the Adult Day Care Program of Springfield with a \$2,000 scholarship/donation to assist any qualifying applicant to participate in their daily programs. We identified the need based on the monthly work that is done by Ann Herrick on behalf of the Garden Club. Below are some of the clever projects and activities that seem to inspire and encourage the attendees.



Civic Beautification:

Garden clean-up and planting is always quite chilly which requires members to cover up the cheerful yellow t-shirts. We all agreed it would be nice to have a warm hoodie or sweatshirt with the Garden Club logo and colors. Linda Jones presented a process which will allow any member to directly place an online order for a sweatshirt or hoodie. There will be a future email with details and instructions on ordering.

The Programs Committee met last week and have great plans for 2026/2027. There will be an additional page in the yearbook listing recommended garden tours and other nature-related events throughout the year where you can go on your own, or gather a group of friends and make a day of it!

We are investigating how to participate in the Liberty Tree Program, celebrating the 250th anniversary of American independence. Karen Jarret introduced the idea, and it is especially appealing as the historic Crown Point Road runs through Springfield area.

I am sure there are many things I have overlooked, but I will try to get these newsletters out more frequently to keep everyone informed. In the meanwhile.....stay warm, hope the groundhog does not see his shadow, start planning your gardens and begin the countdown to Spring!!! It will be here before we know it!

Talk soon!!! *Adrienne*