

# GARDENER'S CHIT CHAT BETHLEHEM GARDEN CLUB

Editor Cathleen Bannon

Volume 44 #5 District II/III

Sept/Oct 2025

## President's Message

**"Butterflies pollinate over 75% of wild plants in North America. Every time they disappear, the landscape gets a little quieter."**

Hello Everyone,

Fall is upon us and it's my favorite time of the year. Hopefully we will have better weather than we had over the Summer.

We presented our scholarship to Nathaniel Yoder from Bethlehem Catholic HS who is planning to study Environmental Sustainability at Ithaca College. His family attended our July "Ice Cream Social" with him and were delighted to be part of the fun.

September 9<sup>th</sup> is our District II/III annual meeting which will be held at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. Wendy-Webber Welsh did a great job selling raffle tickets. Hopefully one of our members will win a prize.

Our new yearbook will be handed out at our September meeting. I'm sure Sharon Donchez has done another great job. Can't wait to see our new books.

The Holiday Lunch will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at Blue Restaurant. Fran Favretto will be announcing more information at our meetings.

Our Flower Show 2026 will be July 31 and August 1. The theme will be A Midsummer Night's Dream Garden. Please volunteer, we need all hands on deck. We cannot enjoy these events without your help. There will be more information to follow at our general meetings.

We are starting a second bus to Place and Pumpkins on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is in the Hudson Valley. Please contact Jacqueline Adams for more information.

Happy Fall,

Rosanne



## DUES CHANGES

Because of the following numbers, it has been voted and approved by the Board that we no longer can give a discount for members that are 80 years old or second in household. Effective March, 2026, all members will pay \$50 each.

Church	\$3,500.00
Custodian (George)	750.00
Board Meetings	250.00
GCFP	1,080.00
NGC	108.00
P.O. Box	192.00
Speakers	2,000.00
Yearbooks	1,080.00
Hospitality	300.00
Total	\$9,260.00 per year

\$9,260.00 divided by 108 members = \$85.74 per member

This is what it costs per member to have a meeting every year. We are still not meeting our yearly costs at \$50 per member but this will get us a little closer.

Thanks for your understanding.  
Bethlehem Garden Club Board



# BGC General Meeting

## July 17, 2025

First meeting chaired by our new President, Rosanne Cilente. Looking forward to more good times!!!



Our Ice Cream Social was so much fun. Frank and Birdie Makary picked up the ice cream, set up the ice cream bar and served Vanilla, Chocolate and Cherry Vanilla ice cream from "The Cup" a Bethlehem Dairy Store.



l to r: Rosanne Cilente, President, Nathaniel Yoder, Scholarship Recipient, Kathie Klein Scholarship Chair



Nancy Wilkins, New Membership Chair and new member, Felix Rodriguez



Our Jackie Bold, Hospitality Chair...what would we do without her!!! Thanks for all your hard work.



Ruthann Grieshammer, Birdie Makary and new members making centerpieces for the ice cream social.



Leftover wreaths made by the members for the Garden Tour were for sale.



New Members making centerpieces for Ice Cream Social at Fran Favretto's home. (Above and right)





## Jayne Shinko's President's Luncheon at Prime July 31, 2025



l to r 1st row: Martin Romeril, Kay Marsh, Sharon Coe, Sharon Donchez, Fran Favretto, Susan Brown, Sharon Smith  
l to r 2nd row: Mary-Frances Stone, Wendy-Webber Welsh, Nancy Caldwell, Rosanne Cilente, Judy Keretz, Ruthann Grieshammer, Keith Lentz, Jayne Shinko, Jacqueline Adams, Jane Griffing, Sandy Gass, Birdie Makary, Sharon Schultz, Ruth MacKenzie, Liz Lorenz, Cathleen Bannon, Phoebe Cubberly



Liz Lorenz giving a kudos to our President,  
Jayne Shinko

Dear Jayne,

As BGC members, we have a common interest or calling. We all have a love of plants, flowers and nature in general. To continue the missions of this club, we need commitment, team work and a strong leader. You had all the talent and skills to take on the responsibility of our president.

During your two year reign, you have helped us grow and accomplish our many goals and objectives. You have steered us through some choppy waters (like taking on the City of Bethlehem single handedly!) and enjoyed some "smooth sailing" too. We blossomed under your guidance and dedication. Your calm demeanor and positive attitude made all committees work well together and under your tutelage we even tried new and different things...like using Zettle by Pay Pal!!! Imagine...the BGC finally entered the 21st century!

Even though we are sad to see you leave your position, we certainly know that you are leaving it in good hands with Rosanne! She will certainly carry on your hard work and dedication while being President!

We thank you again, Jayne, for your service as president of the BGC and we know, fully well, that your work will continue in other ways in our club. In appreciation, please know that our members will be contributing \$300.00 for children's books in your name to the library of your choice.

Finally, we want to wish you many days of relaxation, time to enjoy your own garden and many new travel adventures!

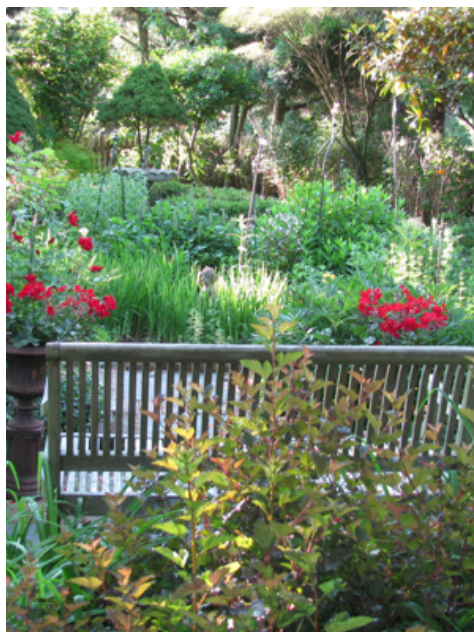
Sincerely,  
Your Bethlehem Garden Club Members



## From our members



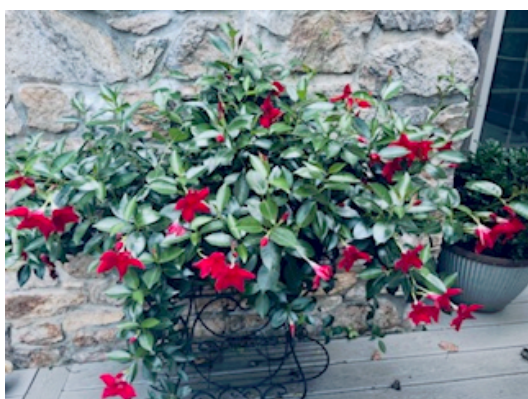
Sandy Gass's Hibiscus Bush, a stunner!!!



Back Garden from Sharon Donchez



An immature Coopers Hawk was looking for lunch in Jacqueline Adams' yard.



Sharon Donchez gave me two Mandarins last Fall to Winter over in my greenhouse...check them out now!!!

Cathleen Bannon



Sandy Bigatel's beautiful "Sun King"



Our Bartlett pear tree usually doesn't have any pears but this year it's loaded with fruit, most of which I'll make into pear sauce.

Susan Brown



## From our members



Anyone who wants Hydrangeas for drying, decorating, come and cut... Kathie Klein's home! Pull up in the alley ... need not call me!



Grapes made by covering nickels with the fabric, starching and taking out the nickel after ironing them!!! Kathie Klein



BGC Members....ARE YOU AN ANYBODY?

A little story with a great moral!!

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have!

The story may be confusing but the message is clear:

no one took responsibility so nothing got accomplished.

It's easy to make excuses why we don't help. But there is only one reason why we should.

Because it's the right thing to do and our club needs YOU!!!



## From our members

### Recipe for Mexican Street Corn Salad

A box of cooked elbow noodles (standard 16-oz box)  
About 8-12 ears of corn cut off the cob, roasted or steamed  
About 2 fresh red bell peppers, diced

20 ounces of Rojo's Mexican Street corn dip

#### OR MIX

8 OZ of plain yogurt  
8 oz of cojita cheese/cheddar cheese mix  
4 OZ of sour cream or mayonnaise  
1/3 chopped onion  
1 seeded, diced green chili pepper  
Add Salt, vinegar, cilantro, chili powder, pepper to taste  
Blend to make dressing of your own. You can mess with the dressing ingredients to your own taste.

Mix the corn and peppers with the dressing – use either the pre-made dip or make your own by blending the ingredients directly above Add a little water if needed for smooth consistency). Fold the dressing slowly into the noodles mixing evenly to coat.

Squeeze a couple of limes over the top for additional zesty flavor.

Other vegetables can be added—diced roma tomatoes, carrots, whatever...

You all probably had this delicious Mexican Street Corn Salad at the meeting. I asked Sharon Coe to send it along so we could all enjoy it whenever we want...

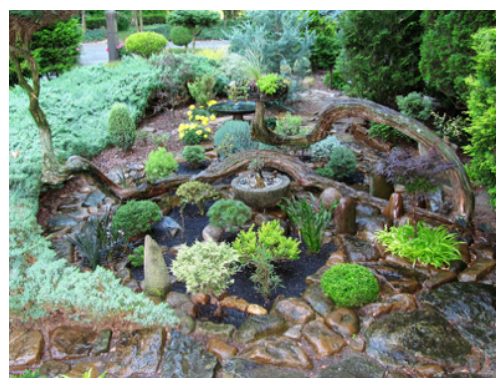
Thanks for sharing, Sharon



Cathleen Bannon's Garden Gate is covered in Sweet Autumn Clamatis.



Sharon Donchez certainly has a talent for creating beautiful gardens.

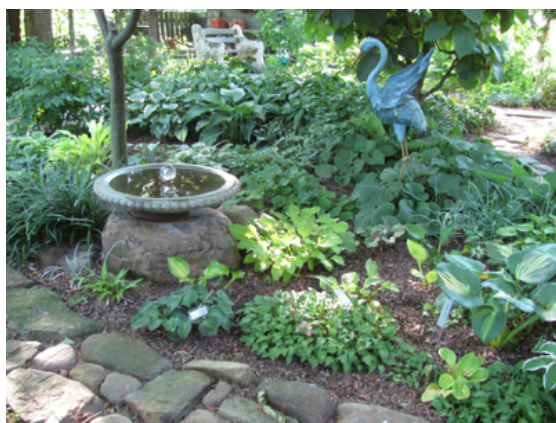




## From our members



Front entrance of Sharon Donchez's house



Hosta Garden from Sharon Donchez



We've had a red fox and her 3 babies living in our neighborhood this summer. They are Absolutely beautiful!

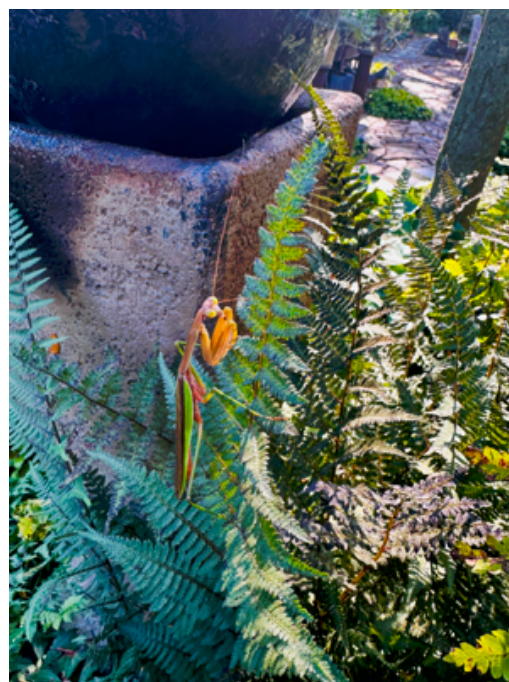
Liz Lorenz



This rose is from a bush over 100 years old.

It was raised by my grandmother on the south side of Bethlehem and moved 3 times over the years. It is still gorgeous and has the most fragrant smell.

Liz Lorenz



Praying Mantis from Sharon Donchez



Rosie Ebersole won "Best in Show" at the Allentown Fair for her Artistic Floral Design...Congratulations, Rosie!!!



## Emmaus Garden Club Flower Show

The Emmaus Garden Club warmly invites all members of your garden club to participate in the 2025 Emmaus Garden Club Flower Show, themed "Bounty 'n Blooms," to be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at the Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus. There will be three exhibition divisions: Horticulture, Floral Design, and Botanical Arts: Photography.

Please find the attached schedule for the show, which includes all the important details and contact information for those interested in participating in any of the divisions. The entry period for the show will remain open until Monday, September 1, 2025.

The categories that are still available are:

- Class 1 Floral Design - Miniature Design
- Class 2 Floral Design - Parallel Design
- Photography Class 2 - "Nature's Lens" - landscape photo
- Photography Class 3 - "Harvest Bounty" - fruits and vegetables
- Photography Class 4 - "Seasons" - depicting a season

We are excited to share this opportunity for local clubs to express their love of gardening, floral design, and capturing the beauty of nature through photography.

All the best,

Chris Rader

Emmaus Garden Club President 2024-2025



### Place and Pumpkins With the Bethlehem Garden Club Thursday, October 23, 2025

Autumn is a wonderful time to visit Hudson Valley. Leaves will be colorful, and Tarrytown decorated for Halloween; what else would you expect from the area of Washington Irving, Sleepy Hall, and the Headless Horseman? We will first tour Sunnyside, home of Washington Irving, the first American author to be recognized by Europeans as a man of letters. Main Street in Tarrytown has many restaurants for you to have an early dinner. There will be a list of the restaurants provided later. Then what we all have been waiting for "The Great Jack o' Lantern Blaze. Spot iconic New York landmarks carved in pumpkins, dinosaurs, Pumpkin Planetarium and a working carousel. Treat yourself to fall-themed sweets and snacks at Café Blaze and browse the Blaze Boo-tique to find exclusive souvenirs and local finds.

The bus will leave Advent Moravian Church, 3730 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, at 10:00 a.m. and arrive at Sunnyside around 12:30. Bring lunch or snacks for the bus ride, as our tour begins at 1:00 p.m. We will leave for an early dinner on Main Street at 3:15 p.m. Then we depart Main Street no later than 6:00 p.m. for the Blaze, our tour starts at 7:00 p.m. We leave the Blaze for home around 8:30. Return to Advent by 11:00 p.m. The price of \$100.00 for members and \$105.00 for non-members per person includes tour of Sunnyside, Blaze, and round-trip bus transportation, and driver gratuity. Complete the form below and send your check payable to Bethlehem Garden Club. Send the form to Jacqueline Adams, 3517 Skyline Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18020. NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2025. Don't delay. Remember that seats are assigned in order of checks received. If you have any questions, please call Jacqueline on 610-867-7463.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 for member

Phone:(required) \_\_\_\_\_ \$105.00 non-member

CELL PHONE (used on 10/23 only) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount include

**We are starting a second bus.**

## 2025 Christmas Decorating at HBMS

The Bethlehem Garden Club has been decorating Christmas trees for Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites since 2013. This year, we'll be decorating 20 trees at 3 different sites. The trees will be located at the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, the Moravian Museum, and the Single Sisters' House. Every year the trees are decorated with a different theme. This year's theme is 'Trees of our Past'. A **NEW** look at some of the themes we've done in the past. Decorating will take place November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 12<sup>th</sup>, with two volunteers assigned to each tree. We'll use decorations from the vast array available in the attic of the Kemerer Museum. After the holiday season, we'll remove the decorations from January 12<sup>th</sup> through January 20<sup>th</sup> and each team will return their decorations to the attic.

Planning Meeting: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am, Kemerer Museum  
Meet the new Director of Collections & Programming – Mark Steigman

Adding to the fun, visitors to the sites are asked to cast a vote for their favorite tree. It's expected that over 5,000 visitors will view the trees over the holiday season!

This annual community service project is a hands-on way for our committee to share the Christmas spirit with other garden club members and with the community.



## Bethlehem Garden Club Holiday Luncheon

Save the Date: Thursday, December 11th

Location: Blue Grill House

Cost: \$45.00 (same as last year)

Celebrate the season with us at our annual luncheon filled with warmth, friendship, and holiday spirit.

Guests are welcome to join in the festivities!

Contributions of raffle items and table centerpieces are appreciated and add to the charm of the event.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Fran Favretto



Please let us know if anyone needs a ride to the Christmas luncheon. We can try to help with rides. I will have a sheet for rides when I have the sign-up sheets.

Fran Favretto



# Horticulture Tournament

September 18, 2025  
Division I - Horticulture

## Section A: Rosa (Rose)

Minimum two sets of leaves      Thorns above top of vial to remain

- Class 1: Climbing
- Class 2: Miniature
- Class 3: Shrub



## Section B: Dahlia

- Class 1: Ball/pompon
- Class 2: Cactus
- Class 3: Decorative
- Class 4: Laciniated
- Class 5: Any other, named

## Section C: Cut Foliage - one specimen per vial

- Class 1: Begonia
- Class 2: Caladium
- Class 3: Coleus
- Class 4: Heuchera (Coral Bells)
- Class 5: Ipomoea (Sweet Potato Vine)
- Class 6: Any other, named

## Section D: Cut Flowering - one specimen per vial

- Class 1: Perennial
  - 1a. Asters
  - 1b. Rudbeckia
  - 1c. Anemone
  - 1d. Any Other, named
- Class 2: Annual
  - 2a. Tagetes (Marigold)
  - 2b. Zinnia
  - 2c. Tropaeolum (Nasturtium)
  - 2d. Any other, named

## Section E: Vegetables

Displayed on a plate of your choosing

- Class 1: Solanum (Tomato, Cherry)      1 cluster per plate
- Class 2: Solanum (Tomato, Large)      3 per plate
- Class 3: Solanum (Tomato, Plum)      3 per plate
- Class 4: Any Small vegetable, named      3 per plate
- Class 5: Any Large vegetable, named      1 per plate

## Section F: Planters - Combination Plantings

Minimum of three different specimens in your container, named & numbered in your planter and on your entry card, maximum outside width 20 inches. Must have been growing together for at least six (6) weeks.

- Class 1: Annuals
- Class 2: Perennials
- Class 3: Herbs
- Class 4: Succulents/Cacti
- Class 5: Mixed

Committee reserves the right to subdivide classes by genus, species, cultivar, type, size or color.



# Horticulture Tournament

October 16, 2025  
Division I - Horticulture

- Section A: Chrysanthemum  
 Class 1: Double  
 Class 2: Pompon  
 Class 3: Single  
 Class 4: Spider  
 Class 5: Spoon  
 Class 6: Any other
- Section B: Collection of Three (3) different Leaves  
 In a Container of your Choice  
 Class 1: Trees, named  
 Class 2: Perennials, named  
 Class 3: Grasses, named  
 Class 4: Vegetables, named
- Section C: Your Favorite October Flower  
 Chrysanthemum excluded  
 Class 1: Annual, named  
 Class 2: Perennial, named  
Only one entry per exhibitor per class!  
 Class 3: Dahlia, named  
 Class 4: Rosa, named
- Section D: Fruits, Vegetables  
 Fruits & Vegetables are to be displayed on your own plate  
 Class 1: Capsicum (Pepper) 3 per plate  
 Class 2: Solanum (Tomato, Cherry) 1 cluster per plate  
 Class 3: Solanum (Tomato, Large) 3 per plate  
 Class 4: Solanum (Tomato, Plum) 3 per plate  
 Class 5: Any other, named 3 per plate
- Section E: Herbs - Must be named and numbered on entry card and stand  
 Class 1: 5 different herbs displayed in individual test tubes in the stand provided by the committee.
- Section F: Harvest Basket  
 Class 1: Harvest Basket. Five or more different specimens of berries, fruits, vegetables, flowers, or herbs from your garden, named.  
 Display in a basket of your choice. Maximum 24" diameter each way
- Section G: Container Grown Houseplants, one named plant per pot  
 Class 1: Flowering  
 Class 2: Foliage

Committee reserves the right to subdivide classes by genus, species, cultivar, type, size or color.





## Design Tournament

September 18, 2025

### Division II – Design: Celebrating the Months

*Eligible for Best-in-Show Award*

#### Section A: The School Bell Rings

##### **Class I: New Box of Crayons** *Novice Designers Only*

Design Style: Creative

Design Type: Creative Vertical Line

Plant Material: Fresh and/or Dried Plant Material Only

Allotted Space: 30" high x 20" wide x 30" deep



##### **Class II: An Apple for the Teacher** *Intermedia Designers*

Design Style: Creative

Design Type: Creative Vertical Line

Plant Material: Fresh and/or Dried Plant Material Only

Allotted Space: 30" high x 20" wide x 30" deep

##### **Class III: Autumnal Equinox** *Advanced Designers*

Design Style: Creative

Design Type: Creative Vertical Line

Plant Material: Fresh and/or Dried Plant Material Only

Allotted Space: 30" high x 20" wide x 30" deep

*All entries must supply backboard and underlay.*

*All entries must include a 3"X 5" index card with title, inspiration and plant material used.*



## Design Tournament

October 16, 2025

### Division II – Design: Celebrating the Months

*Eligible for Best-In-Show Award*

#### Section A: Fall Time

##### **Class I: Changing Leaves** *Novice Designers Only*

Design Style: Creative

Design Type: Creative Illuminary

Plant Material: Fresh and/or Dried Plant Material Only

Allotted Space: 30" high x 20" wide x 30" deep

##### **Class II: Ghosts and Goblins** *Intermediate Designers*

Design Style: Creative

Design Type: Creative Illuminary

Plant Material: Fresh and/or Dried Plant Material Only

Allotted Space: 30" high x 20" wide x 30" deep

##### **Class III: Pumpkin Patch** *Advanced Designers*

Design Style: Creative

Design Type: Creative Illuminary

Plant Material: Fresh and/or Dried Plant Material Only

Allotted Space: 30" high x 20" wide x 30" deep

*All entries must supply backboard and underlay.*

*All entries must include a 3"X 5" index card with title, inspiration  
and plant material used*



## BGC General Meeting Advent Moravian Church August 21, 2025



Wandy Principe-Buss from Dragonfly Hill Farm and Kitchen gave us an overview of all the hard manual labor it takes to grow seven unique gourmet heirloom hardneck garlies to create small-batch products which are processed on the farm.

She also brought some of her products for us to purchase.



Pretty hard to top two Best In Show Ribbons...congratulations Judy Keretz!!!



Ruthann Grieshammer and her team put out a beautiful buffet for all of us to enjoy.

Thanks to Jackie and Jordan Bold for all the hard "behind the scenes" work to make a lovely meeting with FOOD.



Another beautiful centerpiece compliments of Wendy-Webber Welsh

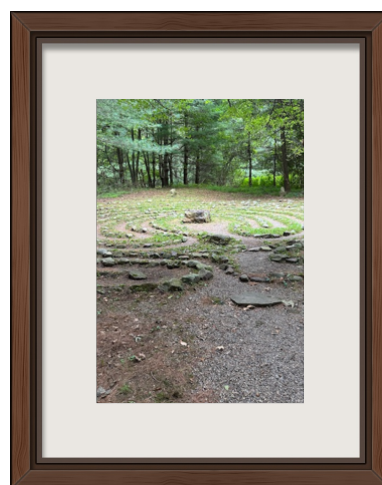


And yet another Best in Show for Kay Marsh!!! So much talent...and willing to share her Design skills.



## Trip to Columcille

On August 24, a group of us visited Columcille and joined Tom Egan's tour. During the tour he told many Celtic myths. Columcille was started by a dream that came to Bill Cohea Jr., and it was he that began the journey on the slope of Blue Mountain. Fred Lindkvist, his partner and co-conspirator for over three decades became the beating heart of Bill's dream. Together, these two wonderful gentlemen founded Columcille Megalith Park, nurtured its nascent community, and created the rich landscape which has touched so many who have stepped through the infinity gate into the "Land of Myth and Mystery." Columcille Megalith Park, located on twenty-one acres of land in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Pennsylvania, including the trails and stonework. The purpose was to preserve and maintain the land's natural resources, to provide sanctuary and educational resources to the public, and to celebrate seasonal observances in the Celtic and other spiritual and cultural traditions. You do not have to take the tour, you can just wonder on your own and read the website.



## Bethlehem Garden Club "Midsummer Night's Garden" Flower Show July 30, 31, August 1

Save the date of July 30,31, Aug. 1, 2026 for the BGC flower show "A Midsummer Night's Garden."

Kay Marsh



The Bethlehem Garden Club is set up to have  
a Fundraiser at Pat's on  
Thursday, Sept 11, from 11 am until 9 pm.

## PAT'S PIZZA & BISTRO

1426 W BROAD ST, BETHLEHEM 18018

DINE-IN, TAKE-OUT, or DELIVERY NO  
DELIVERY FROM OUTSIDE SOURCE

DONATING 20% - "MUST" MENTION  
BETHLEHEM GARDEN CLUB WHEN  
ORDERING

NO OTHER COUPONS USED AT SAME  
TIME







## September 2025

- Sept. 2** *Gardener's Chit Chat – Deadline*  
Email Cathy Bannon
- Sept. 2** Miller's House Garden workday 9:00am
- Sept. 2** Design Meeting, Kay Marsh, Sharon Coe  
4015 Devonshire Road, Bethlehem 10:00 am
- Sept. 9** Annual District II/III Meeting, Shawnee Inn, Poconos  
Hosted by the Monroe Garden Club
- Sept. 9** Miller's House Garden workday 9:00 am
- Sept. 15** BGC Board Meeting  
9:30 am - Luckenbach Mill, Old York Road
- Sept. 16** Miller's House Garden optional workday 9:00 am
- Sept. 18** BGC General Meeting - Advent Moravian Church  
**Program: Native Plants for Four Seasons** Tournament Set-Up: 9:30 am - 10:45 am; Doors Open: 12:30 pm; Meeting: 1:00 pm; Program: 1:30 pm; Refreshments
- Sept.22** Horticulture Enrichment  
Fountain Hill, Cedarbrook Nursing Home, 724 Delaware Avenue, Fountain Hill 2:30 pm
- Sept. 23.** Miller's House Garden - Workday: 9:00 am
- Sept. 23** Horticulture Enrichment  
Moravian Kings Daughters 61 W. Market Street, Bethlehem - 2:00 pm
- Sept. 25** **Bonsai Horticulture Workshop – Make & Maintain**  
Cathy Bannon, 1904 Church View Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036 Cost \$35.00
- Sept. 29** Design Meeting, Kay Marsh, Sharon Coe  
4015 Devonshire Road, Bethlehem 10:00 am
- Sept. 30** Miller's House Garden workday 9:00 am



## October 2025

- Oct. 7** Miller's House Garden - Fall Cleanup 19:00 am
- Oct. 13** BGC Board Meeting,  
9:30 am - Luckenbach Mill, Old York Road
- Oct. 14** Miller's House Garden – Fall Cleanup 9:00 am  
Optional workday
- Oct. 16** BGC General Meeting  
**Program: Bulbs in the Garden** Presented by: Jenny Rose Carey  
Advent Moravian Church  
Tournament Set-Up: 9:30 am – 10:45am;  
Doors Open: 12:30 pm; Meeting: 1:00 pm; Program: 1:30 pm
- Oct. 19-21** CAR-SGC Conference Cambridge, MD
- Oct. 20-22** GCFP Flower Show School, Course II  
Gettysburg Fire Dept. Social Hall, Gettysburg. PA
- Oct. 21** Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites  
Planning Meeting for Christmas Decorating  
Kemerer Museum 9:00 am
- Oct. 21** Miller's House Garden – Fall Cleanup: 9:00 am
- Oct. 23** Morningstar Memory Café 10:00 am Halloween Theme
- Oct. 23** **Bus Trip – The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze,  
Croton-on-the Hudson and Kukuity, the Rockefeller Estate**  
[hudsonvalley.org/events/blaze](http://hudsonvalley.org/events/blaze)
- Oct. 28** Gardener's Chit Chat Deadline - Email Cathy Bannon
- Oct. 28** Miller's House Garden – Fall Cleanup: 9:00 am
- TBD** Horticulture Enrichment – Allentown Cedarbrook Nursing  
Home, 350 South Cedarbrook Road, Allentown; 2:30 pm