

# GARDENER'S CHIT CHAT BETHLEHEM GARDEN CLUB

Editor Cathleen Bannon

Volume 45 #1 District II/III

Jan/Feb 2026

## President's Message

Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays. Our Holiday Luncheon was a big success. I think everyone enjoyed their day. We had lots of raffle prizes and a silent auction. We made a profit of \$905.00 for our raffle and \$305.00 for the silent auction. Great job to Fran, Birdie and all those who helped with the raffle.

Our Flower Show 2026 will be held July 31 and August 1. More information will be available soon. Please consider volunteering. Our success is only as good as our volunteers.

Don't forget about our March soup and sandwich meeting. We will have a toad house centerpiece contest. Check your email that was sent out by Kay Marsh for information.

Dues will start to be collected at our March meeting. Hope to see all of you there. Stay warm and safe from all the snow we still have to get through. Waiting impatiently for Spring.

Rosanne



# BGC General Meeting Advent Moravian Church November 20, 2025

## Wreaths for the Holidays presented by Sarah Petryk

Sarah is the proprietor of Allium Floral Design and Event Styling in Bethlehem. Sarah and her team of artists create and fully style each wedding and event. They offer not just florals but access to vintage, heirloom, and custom pieces specific to one's needs.

Her events range widely in style from organic bohemian to elegant/classic.



New Members l to r: Cathy Heimsoth, Carol Dylewski, Liz Holland



Raffle winner, Liz Lorenz



Another wonderful table of goodies, thanks Shirley Messics Daluisio and her committee.



Laurel Award Winner, Liz Lorenz with Past President, Jayne Shinko

# BGC General Meeting Sept. 18, 2025

## Design Tournament

Class I - Novice  
Christmas

First Place - Jacqueline Adams - 8 pts.  
Second Place - Jill Sperandio - 6 pts.  
Third Place - Donna Sands - 4 pts.

Class II - Intermediate  
Thanksgiving

First Place - Nancy Schreefer - 8 pts.  
Second Place - Patty Ivans - 6 pts.

Class III - Advanced  
Veteran's Day

First Place - Sharon Coe - 17 pts.  
Second Place - Kay Marsh - 6 pts.  
Third Place - Wendy-Webber Welsh - 4pts

## Horticulture Tournament

First Place - Sharon Donchez - 122 pts.  
Second Place - Judy Keretz - 76 pts.  
Third Place - Susan Brown - 62 pts..



Best in Show for Horticulture, Susan Brown



Best in Show for Design, Sharon Coe



Several years ago, Liz Lorenz worked tirelessly to obtain a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker honoring our Veterans. The marker is located at the Bethlehem Rose Garden, 1001 W. Union Blvd., Bethlehem. This year for the Holidays, Ruthann Grieshammer donated a wreath to be placed at the marker.

# Trip to Glick's Nursery

There were Poinsettia galore! When we walked into the nursery, they offered us popcorn. Pictures will not do it justice. At the end of the tour, they provided hot dogs, sauerkraut and a drink. What a nice perk!!! There was also a piano player serenading us as we walked around. We are planning another trip in the spring. Can't wait.

Jacqueline Adams



l to r: Linda Bray, Rosanne Cilente, Jane Griffing, Birdie Makary, Nancy Schreefer



A sea of poinsettia



Linda Bray



l to r: Sharon Adams, Nancy Schreefer, Birdie Makary, Charlotte Kelley, Ruthann Grieshammer, Wendy-Webber Welsh, Rosanne Cilente, Linda Bray, Jacqueline Adams, Jane Griffing



More poinsettia



Nancy Schreefer

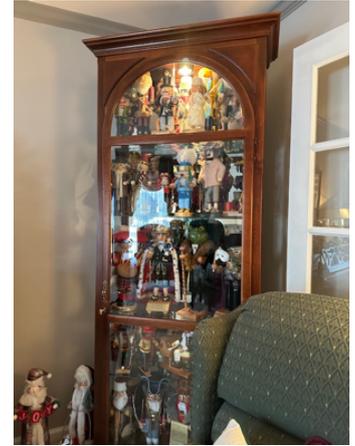


More poinsettia

# BGC House Tour

Three members homes were part of the House Tour. Keith Lentz's home had Christmas ornaments and many other unique decorations. No matter where you looked there was a Christmas item. He has been collecting these pieces for years. Our second home was Kathryn Klein's home, what beautiful decorations! She collects quilts, each one more beautiful than the next. The last, but not least home was Loretta De Walt's home. She has collected nutcracker ornaments and Santa's over the years. Loretta even had paper napkins with nutcrackers on them. I never saw so many nutcracker's. What a delightful day!

Jacqueline Adams



## Northside Library Decorating



The decorating committee:  
l to r: Sally Roe, Carolyn Raring, Sharon Donchez,  
Fran Favretto, Birdie Makary, Ruthann Grieshammer,  
Linda Bray, Jane Pauli



Volunteer of the Year, Sharon Donchez

# From our Members



Kathie Klein's Christmas Tablescape



Veggie Clause compliments of Bonnie Klein



House warming gift from Birdie Makary  
Kathie Klein



Cathleen Bannon's Greenhouse

## From our Members (cont)



Our own BGC Member, Janet Vibbert is a Floral Specialist and Creative Design Director. She was assigned to the Botanic Brilliance Tree at Longwood Gardens and she ran with it. Janet designed the Botanical Elements and the volunteers embellished some of them. There are over 250 hand made ornaments, 66 ' of garland and over 550 glass ornaments. The time spent making items was at least 150 hours.

In our Peirce-du Pont House, a 14-foot Fraser fir shines with handmade floral ornaments crafted from dried and preserved materials-including botanicals harvested right here at Longwood. Our Continuing Education floral team, led by our floral specialist and three graduates of the Floral Design Certificate Program, created a palette of purples, raspberries, and metallic golds and champagnes for a tree that truly glitters.



The Botanicals created by Janet



Botanical Brilliance all lit up!!!

## From our Members (cont)

### Twas The Day After Christmas (diet version)

Twass the day after Christmas, and all through the house

Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste

At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!

When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;

The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese

And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt

And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---

I said to myself, as I only can

"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,

Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished

"Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.

I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,

I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---

But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.

Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

# BGC Holiday Luncheon

A Picture is worth 1,000 words!!!



Sharon Adams



l to r: Susan Brown, Nancy Caldwell



l to r: Russell Shaffer, Olga Shaffer, Barbara Tracy, Laura Sommers, Kathie Klein, Nancy Thatcher



l to r: Nancy Wilken, Dianne Howlett, Linda Bray



Group photo with Louise Seidenberger on the left



l to r: Jill Sperandio, Paul Salgado, Eileen Hall, Donna Sands, Janet Yandrisevits, Joanne McCarthy, Georgia Traupman



l to r: Loretta DeWalt, Michele Ortiz



l to r: Mary-Frances Stone, Barbara Miller, Rosanne Cilente



l to r: Nancy Reilly, Phoebe Cubberly, Sharon Adams, Wendy-Webber Welsh, Barbara Campbell, Ann Chaidis



l to r: Barbara Campbell, Georgia Traupman



l to r: Jane Naus, Barbara Miller, Trish Wingerter, Liz Lorenz, Sarah Wills, Kathy Krafty, Sharon Schultz, Sandy Gass

Photos Compliments of Jayne Shinko

# BGC Christmas Luncheon (cont)



l to r: Geraldine Davies, Catherine Basile, Maryann Gibbons Keith Lentz, Jordan Bold, Jane Szep, Patrice Fedorak



l to r: Mary-Frances Stone, Kay Marsh, Rosanne Cilente, Sharon Coe, Jacqueline Adams, Nancy Schreefer, Susan Brown



l to r: Loretta DeWalt, Michele Ortiz, Felix Rodreguez, Birdie Makary, Fran Favretto, Judy Keretz, Ruthann Grieshammer, Patty Jo Ivenz



l to r: Suzanne Styers Boundy, Nancy Wilkin, Dianne Howlett, Linda Bray, David Moser, Shirlene Moser



l to r: Fran Favretto, Jane Griffing



l to r: Steve Fluharty, Martin Romeril, Sandy Bigatel's daughter, Allison, Sandy Bigatel, Sandy's other daughter Bridget



l to r: Jane Griffing, Lynn Bittner, Nancy Caldwell, Sharon Donchez, Gracie Ruth, Louis Seidenberger, Charlotte Kelly

## HISTORIC BETHLEHEM MUSEUMS & SITES

### Christmas Decorating 2025

One of the Bethlehem Garden Club's many community service projects, decorating the Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites for the Christmas Season, is finished! We asked for volunteers, and garden club members responded with their usual generosity, enthusiasm, and goodwill. We had a talented 'Christmas Decorating Committee' of 43!!! Trees were decorated at the Kemerer Museum (10), the Moravian Museum (6), and the Single Sisters' House (4). This year's theme was; Favorite Trees of the Past 20 Years; Members and friends of the Bethlehem Garden Club decorated 21 trees. Also adorned were the outside entrances of the Kemerer Museum. This was a BIG undertaking with some very creative ideas and challenges. If you were able to visit all the Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites during the Christmas Season, you would have seen the committee's fabulous work!

Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites closed their Christmas Season on Sunday, January 11, 2025.

Pictures of the trees in all their glorious Christmas splendor will be on display at the March 19th General Meeting. The votes are in. 608 votes were cast. The most admired trees decorated by the Bethlehem Garden Club this year were:

- #1 Grinch Who Stole Christmas Tree
- #2 Nutcracker Suite Tree
- #3 Dolce & Gabbana Tree
- #4 Baked Goods
- #5 Scotland Tree
- #6 Waterworks Tree
- #7 Bee Tree
- #8 Winter Wonderland Tree
- #9 Valentino Tree
- #10 Crystal Tree

THANK YOU DECORATING COMMITTEE!! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!

Sharon Donchez



The Grinch Who Stole Christmas Tree - 1st Place



Nutcracker Tree - 2nd Place



Dolce & Garbbana Tree - 3rd Place

# More Christmas Trees



Baked Goods Tree - 4th Place



Scotland Tree - 5th Place



Waterworks Tree - 6th Place



Bee Tree - 7th Place



Winter Wonderland Tree - 8th Place



Valentino Tree - 9th Place



Crystal Tree - 10th



## Calendar of Events January 2026

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Jan. 6     | Northside Library - Undecorating 10:00 am  |
| Jan. 6     | Southside Library - Undecorating 1:00 pm   |
| Jan. 12-20 | Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites<br>Decoration removal 9:30 am - 3:00 pm                                       |
| Jan. 19    | Horticulture Enrichment - Fountain Hill<br>Cedarbrook Nursing Home<br>274 Delaware Avenue, Fountain Hill - 2:30 pm |
| Jan. 20    | Horticulture Enrichment<br>Moravian King's Daughters<br>61 W. Market St., Bethlehem - 2:00 pm                      |



## Calendar of Events February 2026

Feb. TBD	Horticulture Enrichment - Allentown Cedarbrook Nursing Home, 350 S. Cedarbrook Road, Allentown - 10:00 am
Feb. TBD	Horticulture Workshop - Glick's Greenhouse 57 Fisher Mill Road, Oley, Pa Make a sedum pot
Feb. 12	Morning Star Memory Cafe - 10:00 am Valentine Theme
Feb. 23	Gardener's Chit Chat - Deadline Email Cathy Bannon