

## **The Garden Club of Princeton**

### **President's Report 2022**

Last year at this time, we were beginning to plan for our club to begin its journey on its path back to normalcy and to finally be able to meet in-person again with excitement and enthusiasm. So many of the club's events and traditions are dependent on in-person interaction, including presenters, educational workshops, flower and horticulture shows, trips, fundraising and civic projects. Our desire for our club to move forward successfully was kept alive and we were ready to get back to business. And we did just that this past fall. We were visited by exceptional speakers and held floral design and horticulture shows. We raised funds for the NJ Committee at our co-hosted luncheon and for our own club with the amaryllis bulb kits.

We visited Greenwood Gardens, the NY Botanical Gardens and Longwood Gardens. We launched our Partners for Plants project at Mountain Lakes. C-change shared their new primer on the connections between climate change and health. Workshops for horticulture, floral design and photography were held, in-person and virtually. We exchanged plants and knowledge with one another. We cleaned up All Wars Memorial and Mercer Island to ensure its beauty for the Veterans Day celebration. Our provisionals hosted a fantastic Christmas workshop benefitting Meals on Wheels and we made wreaths to cause envy in our neighborhoods. And then sadly we needed to take a break from meeting in person

as Covid reared its ugly head once again for the winter. But this time we were ready. We were able to pivot quickly and move forward with our regularly scheduled programming virtually.

We were "visited" by program speakers. Our photography show went virtual and reaped the most entrants ever and had a virtual premiere. We met in smaller groups with great caution to continue our education and share our knowledge in horticulture. We viewed a documentary about Frederick Law Olmsted together virtually as another nod to the GCA's 2022 Olmsted initiative that was woven throughout our entire year. Then spring was finally starting to emerge...and we were ready to as well! We cleaned up All Wars and Mercer Island. Our committees began planning for next year.

Our April meeting was held in-person celebrating our species of the year, the Orchid, with a program speaker and featured a horticulture show. We got outside and hiked Rainbow Hill and toured the north end of Central Park. French Market opened its "doors" and stunning Mother's Day arrangements were created by Floral Design and our provisionals, who have become our 2 newest active members. We welcome 11 new provisionals for next year. We filed a letter of intent for a GCA Founders Fund. We supported Zone IV at the GCA Annual Meeting in Parsippany. And today, we gather here to celebrate this glorious year, tour our exquisite horticulture and floral design shows, and spend time together.

I would like to thank every member of The Garden Club of Princeton for your commitment to our organization. I appreciate your insights, guidance, help and time. You have the best ideas. You inspire me and have taught me so much. Our club is better because you are part of it. I would also like to personally thank the Executive Committee and our Committee Chairs for their contributions, support, and hard work these past two years. Through all the challenges we've faced together, you were there to help me every step of the way and it made our club resilient.

I can't wait for the wonderful things the future has in store for us and our new members. Our new President, Jane Murphy, welcomes your eager support. Her success is our club's success. Our future lies ahead of us and nothing can stop us.

Joining The Garden Club of Princeton 6 years ago has turned out to be one of the most rewarding activities in my personal life. Serving as president was a most gratifying and humbling experience. My deepest thanks for the opportunity to serve this great club.

With my gratitude, I'd like to share a recap of our year in images with you. It simply amazes me what our club has achieved this year, and it makes me believe our future has never been brighter.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer DelVecchio  
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