

1942-2017



MEN'S & WOMEN'S

**GARDEN CLUB**

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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June 2017

**The Garden Spray**

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## Coming Up: June Meeting Preview

Mary Barsness, Program Committee Chair

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13**

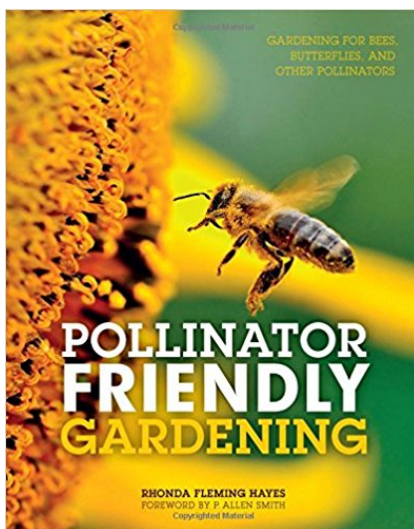
### **"POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDENING" WITH RHONDA FLEMING HAYES**

Rhonda Fleming Hayes is the author of *Pollinator Friendly Gardening: Gardening for Bees, Butterflies and Other Pollinators*.

Rhonda is an award-winning writer and photographer applying her passion for all things plant-related with wit and solid research-based advice. She is a columnist for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. She contributes unique feature stories to *Northern Gardener* magazine as well as her popular "Pollinators" column.



*Rhonda Fleming Hayes*



She is a native Californian with Southern roots now living in Minnesota, where she gardens in Minneapolis in an urban neighborhood surrounded by woods and water. The abundant quarter-acre is home to many bees, butterflies, birds and beneficial insects. She loves to share the fruits (and veggies, too) of her garden with friends, family and wildlife.

### **Menu**

6:00 Social Time  
6:15 Dinner  
7:00 Business Meeting  
7:30 Program

Chicken Salad with  
Wild Rice and Craisins  
Marinated Vegetables  
Tossed Salad  
Artisan Bread  
Ice Cream Sandwiches

## Meeting Location: Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

Permanent reservations are in effect.

- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, June 9.
- Email Sharla Aasang at [resmwgcm@juno.com](mailto:resmwgcm@juno.com), or call (612) 623-9341 and leave a clear message.
- For last-minute cancellations, call Alan Gallaher at (952) 933-1713. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

## MWGCM 75th Anniversary Garden Tea Party

### MWGCM 75TH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN TEA PARTY

**Saturday, June 24, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**In the Gardens of Jerry and Lee Shannon**  
**1847 Eleanor Avenue, St. Paul**

### Reservations are due by Tuesday, June 13.

Don't miss this significant milestone: our club's 75th anniversary! All current club members are invited to mark this momentous occasion Saturday, June 24, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at a Garden Tea Party in members Jerry and Lee Shannon's gardens, 1847 Eleanor Avenue, St. Paul.

Everyone is encouraged (but not required) to wear your best Garden Tea Party hat to make the event even more festive.

Stroll through and admire the Shannon's phenomenal gardens while enjoying a selection of savory tea sandwiches and tempting desserts provided by the Elite Epicurean caterer. Harpist Trudy Harper will provide music.

### Event Schedule

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. Registration

2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Stroll through the Shannons' gardens

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Toast and ceremony

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tea sandwiches and desserts served and garden tour continues



This celebration will be complimentary for current club Members. Each club member may bring one guest at a cost of \$20.

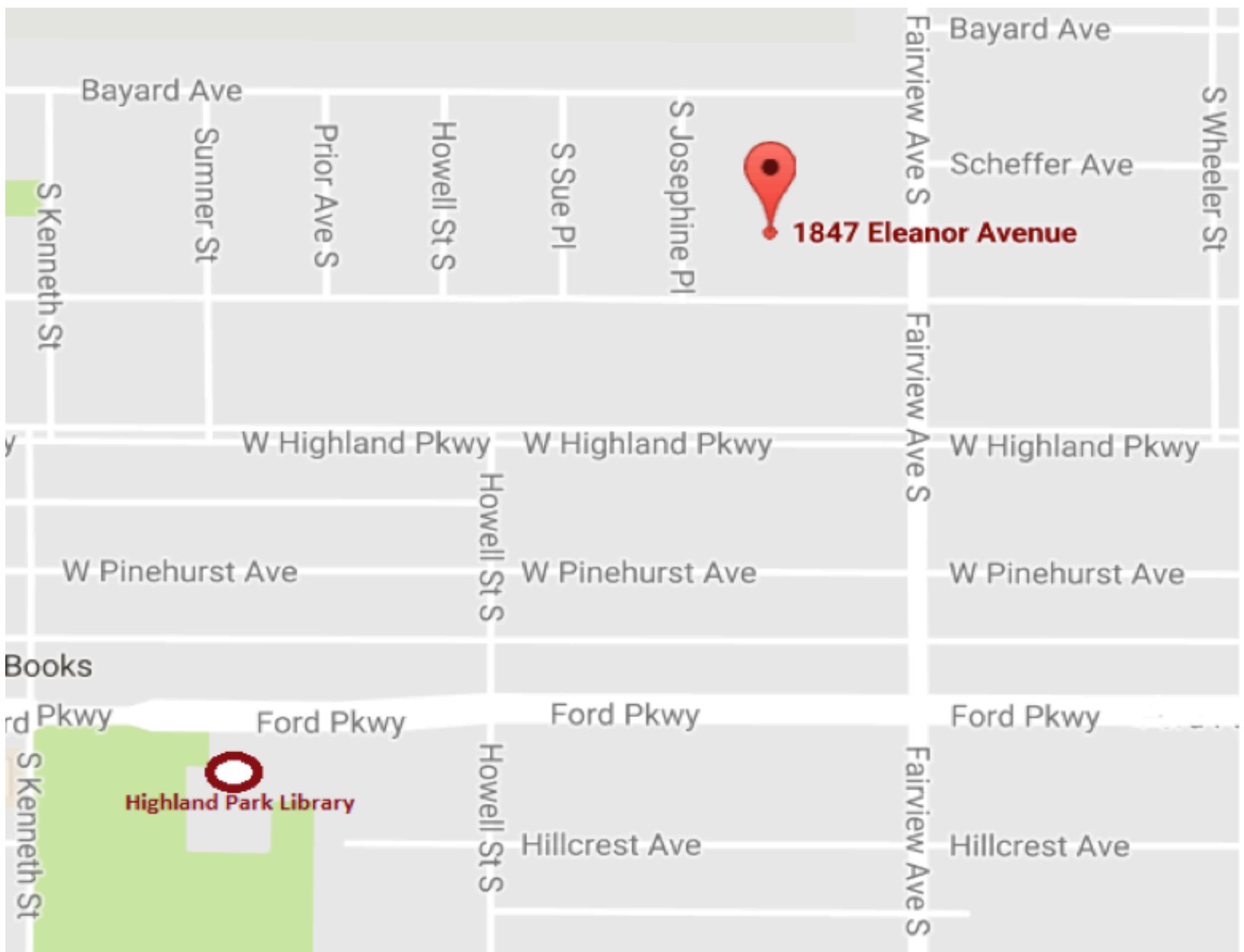
Although there is no charge for club members, Sharla Aaseng **MUST** receive reservations and guest fees **by Tuesday, June 13**.

Please fill out the [Reservation Form](#) and send along with guest fee to Sharla Aaseng, 1025 20th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-2511. (If you are **not** bringing a guest, you may simply give Sharla your reservation by email at [resmwgcm@juno.com](mailto:resmwgcm@juno.com) or call (612) 623-9341).

This event will be held rain or shine. Space is limited so submit your reservations early!

**A special note about parking:** Please consider carpooling, as parking space is limited. There is a parking lot at the Highland Park Library for carpoolers, but it could be crowded on a Saturday. On-street parking is available on Josephine Pl. (1/2 block west of Shannon's), Fairview Ave. S. (1/2 block east of Shannon's), as well as W. Highland Parkway (south of Shannon's).

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*





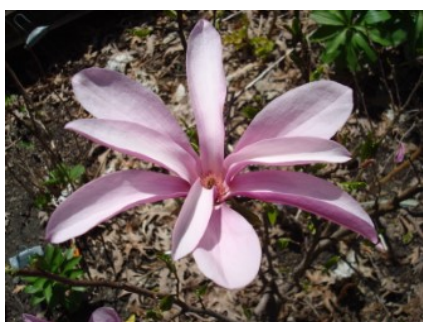
## From the President

Sandra Abraham

What a spring this has been in my garden! The flowering trees and shrubs have put on the most beautiful show. First to bloom was the pink 20' 'Leonard Messel' magnolia in the backyard followed by the white 'Royal Star' magnolia. In the front the deep yellow 'Butterflies' magnolia had more blooms than ever, and as its petals were falling to the ground the primrose yellow 'Elizabeth' magnolia blossomed out.



*'Butterflies' magnolia*



*'Leonard Messel' magnolia*

I am always fearful that the rains will come before my 'Red Splendor' crabapple is able to put on its show, but this year the rain held off and the heat we had before the monsoons hit encouraged the tree to shine in all its glory.

Now the lilacs are gracing us with a wonderful fragrance as well as the beauty of their blossoms.



*'Red Splendor' crabapple*

Today I noticed some spectacular deep-pink tree peonies had popped open and the small white clematis has also begun to open up. At this time of the year it seems every day has a new display of flowers to admire.

In the vegetable garden I have already harvested radishes and the cucumbers and kohlrabi plants are strong measuring 8-10 inches tall. I always take my grandmother's advice when it comes to planting the tomatoes, so they won't go into the ground until Memorial Day, though she called it Decoration Day.

On Decoration Day we always made sure we had red and white geranium pots with a spike in the center and vinca vine ready to take to the country cemetery. I remember promising both my grandmother and my mother I would continue that tradition. Each year I travel to southern Minnesota to do just that.

Speaking of traditions, I want to acknowledge Gary Geister and his committee for staging another successful plant sale and auction. This year the Marketing and

Publicity committee outdid themselves and when the doors to St. Mary's Hall opened at 2 p.m. a steady stream of people emerged with determination in their eyes.

We have much to look forward to besides gardening in our own yards. On June 13, our speaker Rhonda Fleming Hayes will emphasize how to create a pollinator friendly garden and on June 24, we will celebrate our club's 75th anniversary in one of the most pollinator-friendly gardens I know, Lee and Jerry Shannon's.

On July 15, the tour committee has planned a public garden tour featuring six outstanding gardens. Please encourage your friends and family to attend and help the committee by selling at least four tickets to the tour.

The last big event of our summer is the Flower, Food, and Foto Show at the Landscape Arboretum on August 19 and 20. This year please consider entering the fruits of your labor. The feature flower this year is the salvia and the vegetable is the carrot.

Celebrate with us at all of our planned activities this summer as we commemorate 75 years of gardening traditions.

*Photos: Sandra Abraham*

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## From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

Although it was only my third club plant sale, I could tell this one would be different. I think it was Becky DeLaCruz who remarked that when the doors opened it looked like Black Friday.

The throngs who poured in, and continued to come all afternoon, were rewarded with an impressive selection of plants. What they didn't see was the behind-the-scenes effort weeks in advance by volunteers at Gary Geister's home in Eagan.



Susan Tapp and I ventured out one day to see what we could do. Don Trocke was already hard at work. It was sort of like the assembly line at Gertens in a more confined space. Every inch, including several greenhouses, was filled with plants destined for the sale. Millions (seemed like) needed to be transplanted from flats to individual pots. Gary kept us supplied with plants, soil, water, and





encouragement (and Don brought cookies!). I was tired after a few hours. Gary never stopped moving, and I can't imagine how he carries on at this for weeks. As we left, Linda Carlson was just arriving, part of a steady stream of volunteers.

-- Nancy Felice

## Plant Sale Recap

Gary Geister, Chair

### A VERY SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE

The plant sale was over the top with people from outside the Garden club attending. It was wonderful to see. A special thanks to Becky DeLaCruz and the Marketing and Publicity Committee for the many yard signs posted throughout the neighborhood before the sale, the banners at the church and ads placed in the local newspapers and on the internet. It worked!



### A great big thanks:

To all the club members who spent hours transplanting and labeling plants for the sale at my house, sometimes in the rain and mud, ordering the great selection of hostas, and transporting plants to and from the sale.  
The cashiers.

To all who set up and arranged plants for the sale.

The auctioneer.

The computer and credit card guru.

The volunteers keeping the hall as clean as possible during and after the sale.

People on the floor helping the public with their plant purchases.

The Native Plant Committee -- a great addition to the sale.

The Membership Committee that made everyone feel welcome.

For all the donation of plants for the sale.

To all who came to the rescue to help with the pre-order sales.

To all who purchased plants from the pre-order sale, the plant sale and the auction.

And finally after a loooooong day, the cleanup and loading of the unsold plants at the end of the night. We closed up in record time.

It takes the whole garden club to put on a plant sale of this magnitude, and you all deserve a pat on the back.

## Looking ahead

If there are plants you would like to see at the sale for next year, it is never too early to let me know. As always there are bugs that may need to be worked out to make this sale even more successful, so your input is always appreciated.



I have reserved St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church for next year. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 8, 2018. They have also reserved the day before the sale for us to start setting up.

## Tour Committee: Public Tours

Dave Johnson & Denise Rust, Co-chairs

### GREETERS NEEDED FOR PUBLIC GARDEN TOUR, SATURDAY, JULY 15

We could still use one more greeter at each of the following gardens:

12:30 - 4:00	Bette Fenton	Hopkins
9:00 - 1:00	Pat Kessler	Minnetonka
9:00 - 1:00	Heidi Heiland	Plymouth
12:30 - 4:00	Elizabeth Hamilton	Bloomington
9:00 - 4:00	Don Trocke	Bloomington

Please contact [Dave Johnson](#) or [Judy Berglund](#) if you would like to fill one of these spots. It is a good experience, and you will be working with another club member. Instructions will be sent out prior to the tour.

-- Dave Johnson

## Marketing & Publicity Committee

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

The M & P Committee has quickly moved past advertising our Plant Sale and on to the internal promotion for our club's 75th Anniversary Garden Tea Party at Jerry and Lee Shannon's home on Saturday, June 24. We hope all current members take this



opportunity to celebrate an incredible milestone. (Please refer to the Garden Tea Party's detailed information elsewhere in the June Spray).

Concurrently, we have started to publicly advertise the July 15 MWGCM 75th Anniversary Garden Tour. This Garden Tour promises six remarkable gardens located in the South and West Minneapolis suburbs. The fact that you can "leave the driving to us" and saunter through some of the most glorious gardens in the Twin Cities is a real deal at \$30/person, which also includes lunch. Garden Tour attendees may opt to self-drive for only \$15/person. As with the Plant Sale, we will ask members to assist in the overall promotion of our Garden Tour: Garden Tour announcement emails with an attached Garden Tour Flyer will be sent out at a later date. We hope that you will share the information with your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors.

The 75th Anniversary Flower, Food, and Foto Show at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum is just around the corner, on August 19 and 20. We will publicly advertise this event to encourage non-members to submit entries and/or attend the Show.

As you can see, we have incorporated our 75th Anniversary into the titles for our 2017 events. Look for additional 75th Anniversary promotions throughout the remainder of the year. We hope this will help the Twin Cities area recognize the sustainability of our club and our community involvement, with the goal of attracting interested gardeners into our club membership.

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## 2017 Flower, Food & Foto Show

Judy Berglund, Chair

### **2017 FFF SHOW - Saturday, August 19 & Sunday, August 20 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

We hope all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to the show this year. I found some great salvia, our featured flower, at the May plant sale and have been looking over all the seed displays to find the tastiest carrots, our featured vegetable.

The general rules are all on the club website along with all of the entry classes. There is even an example of how to fill out your entry tags. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of the blue 2017 FFF Show booklets at our June club meeting.



Happy gardening and see you at the FFF Show.

-- *Judy Berglund*

Visit the MWGCM web site's Links page for complete information:

[2017 FFF Flower and Vegetable Schedule and Rules](#)  
[2017 Photo Contest Rules](#)

*Photo: Lloyd Wittstock*

## Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair

### SPRING PLANTING IS DONE!



*Steve Shubick, Kay Wolfe, and Sharla Aaseng study the design.*

The MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee has been hard at work. The Tuesday morning crew worked three Tuesdays in April, doing spring clean-up and pruning small trees and shrubs. After pruning, a few work sessions were devoted to moving shrubs and perennials. On May 16, we planted 14 new shrubs and 20 new perennials. On May 23, we planted our order of 324 annuals donated by the Minneapolis Parks. We are looking forward to seeing them grow and add color to

the mixed border garden.

Thanks go to the planting team: Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean, Judy Eiden. James Empson, Cece Keefe, Kay Harris, Kathy Lenarz, Kris Olson, Tim Rosener, Rodger Sefelt and Steve Shubick. This year Tim's carpet bed will feature the club initials MWGCM and a "75."

Stop at the garden and see the new blooms. The committee will be working every Tuesday morning in June except for club meeting day June 13.



*Mollie Dean and Judy Eiden planting their section.*





*Pagoda dogwood in bloom.*

*Photos: Kathy Lenarz*

## Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens

Kirky Otto, Carol Schreier, Co-chairs

### STRUCTURE IN THE GARDEN

When the Men's and Women's Garden Club native garden group started volunteering in Lyndale Park (between the mixed border garden and the Peace Garden), we were told that our section was 65' x 15.' At the east end of it there was a path that allowed people to walk between park property and the Lakewood Cemetery fence. That was it for structure.



May 2015

In the garden there were hundreds of tiny, unidentified plants and a couple of shrubs. The shrubs gave some height to the slightly sloping area. Then an Eagle Scout put up a "bee hotel," a sort of open-faced box on a post, its "rooms" or compartments filled with hollow sticks, pine cones, bark, and other natural materials for native bees to use as nurseries. Along with the path it provided a bit more structure. On the other side of it, Carol Schreier and Steve Shubick led several garden club members in developing 60' of garden between the mixed border garden and the native bed as a structured shade garden.

The design gave that area structure. Steve is a great pruner and he and Carol have improved the structure by adjusting the trees and shrubs in the shade garden, creating a better frame and background for the perennials.

The first year we identified plants and labeled them with yellow sticks. The second year we added a lot more plants (purchased by the Park Board) and asked for proper plant labels, so the public could find the name of the plants. When they appeared (thanks to park manager Andrew Gawboy) they also gave a



bit more structure. Each year we asked for edgers to match the ones in the formal garden so park visitors can see that it's one continuous garden with different themes.

This year not only will the edgers arrive -- soon, we're told -- but the money raised at the native/shade garden "garage sale" at the club's 2016 plant sale has now been spent on Chilton steppers like the ones in the mixed border garden. They make short, handsome paths into the garden for the workers, and they also add -- you guessed it, structure.



*July 2016.*



*September 2016*

As we utilize the height and structure of trees, shrubs, the bee hotel, the path and the walking trail, it's becoming easier to design areas of color and texture, rather than just putting plants in the ground a certain distance apart. As the tiny new plants grow into larger, more established ones, the garden itself is becoming more structured. It will always be a soft, flowing group of plants -- that's the nature of native plants. But at last it's starting to look intentional -- thanks to structure.

*-- Kirky Otto*

*Photos: Nancy Felice*

## Membership Corner

Judy Brooke, Chair

### **WELCOME DANNIKA NASH**

Dannika moved here about a year ago with her partner Julian. He's from Argentina and Dannika is originally from Iowa. They live in a condo in south Minneapolis and learned about MWGCM from signs for our plant sale. After attending the sale, Dannika decided to become a club member. She's enthused about gardening and wants to learn more, especially about growing vegetables from seed. She's been trying this year, growing herbs, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and peppers in pots. Dannika graduated from college in Sioux Falls, S.D. She currently works for Opportunity Partners in Minneapolis, which provides services for adults with special needs.

We also welcome new member Fiona Lennox. More about Fiona in the *July Garden*

*Spray.*

*Every member bring a member.*

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## Rideshare to MWGCM Meetings

### **NEED A RIDE?/GIVE A RIDE!**

Are you looking forward to the next MWGCM meeting, but can't drive there yourself? Maybe you just had knee surgery, no longer like driving at night or your car is in the shop. No matter the reason, we want to be sure you are able to attend. If you need a ride to a meeting for any reason, please let us know. We'll match you up with a member who lives near by.

On that note, are you willing to pick up a fellow member on your way to a club meeting? Who knows, one day you may be the one needing a ride and this is your chance to pay it forward. We'll match you up with someone who lives on your route to the meeting.

Please contact [Lynda Lundstrom](#) or call (612) 869-5501 if you need a ride or are willing to provide a ride when needed.

*-- Lynda Lundstrom*

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## Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

### **BOARD NOTES FROM MAY 2017**

Along with a routine review and update of club activities and events, the following motions were passed at the May Board meeting. These motions were passed to guarantee that club activities are appropriately funded during the fiscal year.

Action Item: A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the budget for the Marketing and Publicity Committee in the 2017-18 budget by \$405, with funds taken from the general fund.

Action Item: A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the budget for the Anniversary Celebration by \$2500, with funds taken from the Deane Fund.

Action Item: A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the office supply

item to \$300 for the current fiscal year.

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## Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

**AS OF MAY 25, 2017**

<b>Checking Balance</b>	\$30,171
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 2,456
Scholarship	\$ 2,946
Deane Fund at RCU	\$65,213
<b>Working Balance</b>	\$24,769
<b>Petty Cash</b>	\$ 100
<b>MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank</b>	\$ 5,323

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## Meeting & Event Calendar

### **June 13**

Pollinator Friendly Gardening  
Rhonda Fleming Hayes  
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

### **June 24**

75th Anniversary Celebration  
Gardens of Jerry and Lee Shannon

### **September 12**

Ask the Experts: Answers to All Your  
Gardening Questions  
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

### **October 10**

Using Dwarf and Miniature Conifers in the  
Garden  
Jeremy Moore



**July 15**  
Public Garden Tour  
Six locations

**August 19 & 20**  
Flower, Food and Foto Show U of M  
Landscape Arboretum

Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum  
**November 14**  
Behind the Scenes at the Friends School  
Plant Sale  
Henry Fieldseth  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

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## 2017 Officers & Directors

### Club Officers

**President**  
Sandra Abraham  
Eagan

**Vice President**  
Mary Barsness  
Prior Lake

**Membership Secretary**  
Judy Brooke  
St. Louis Park

**Recording Secretary**  
Laurie Levin  
Golden Valley

**Treasurer**  
Alan Gallaher  
Edina

**Past President**  
Judy Brooke

### Directors

Judy Berglund  
Minnetonka

Bonnie Haehn  
Minneapolis

Dave McKeen  
St. Louis Park

Steve Shubick  
St. Paul

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*The Garden Spray* is published monthly by the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

