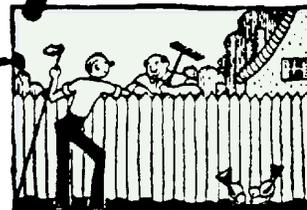




# The Garden Spray



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
October 2002, Volume 60, Number 10



## This Month at MGCM

Tuesday, November 12 Dinner Meeting

See Page 11 for details and dinner reservations

### An Armchair Tour Through Minnesota Gardens

The presenter is Susan Davis Price

The program will include, the lush perennial borders of English-born Judy Oakes Wehrwein, to the restored log cabin and landscape of Karla Kihiri, from Finland, to the beautiful and productive community garden of the Koreans in Minneapolis. You will see slides and hear stories of some of Minnesota's best gardeners. Each of the 20 folks included is "growing their home." That is, they are growing plants that remind them of Germany, Switzerland, and Cuba, just as many of us raise plants that remind of our heritage—our parents and grandparents.

Susan Davis Price writes for numerous local and national gardening magazines. Her two books, *Minnesota Gardens*, an illustrated history, and *Growing Home*, stories of ethnic gardening have won several awards, including the American Horticultural Society's Book Award. She also had an article in the September/ October issue of the Northern Gardener, titled *Rural Renaissance*.

All are encouraged to come and hear our speaker even if you don't come for dinner. Members Lloyd Weber, Mary Maynard and Bob Voigt are three who recommended this speaker.

Friday, November 22

Making Holiday Decorations

**Klier's Garden Center**  
**5001 Nicollet Ave. South**  
**Come anytime 5:30 PM till closing.**  
**No reservations, just come.**  
**Make a wreath, a swag**  
**or a centerpiece.**



It is a party with treats supplied by the Kliers. Come and bring your friends and enjoy. Bring your own wire cutters and pruners. Everything else including greens are available for purchase from Klier's. Wreath making machines are available or you can wire wrap the boughs yourself. Come and have a little fun. Instructions are available. If you don't want to make anything, come anyway and visit with the rest of us.

## Coming Club Opportunities

December 3  
Holiday Party- dinner  
entertainment, awards  
silent auction

January 7, 2003  
Dinner meeting  
Program by Andy Marlow on Africa  
Vote on budget

## Club News

Remember to cancel those dinner reservations if you can't come. An unused dinner can cost you.

The photo directory was passed out to those who attended the 60th luncheon. They will be available to other members at the November dinner meeting.

Happy news... Delores Johnson is back after her surgery. She attended the luncheon and was standing erect again. Good to have you back.

Sad News...Eleanor Peterson (Phil's wife) fell and broke her hip. She is probably now at a nursing home receiving therapy. We wish her a speedy recovery.

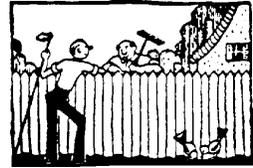
**More sad news...**Russ and Janet Smith's daughter-in-law had brain surgery and radiation for a brain tumor. We wish her well and we send our best to Russ and Janet. We are thinking about you.

**More good News**—Fred Glasoe had a knee operation. He has been home taking therapy. If things go well he will be at the next dinner meeting.



## Misc. News

A design process for the Longfellow House Gardens have begun. A committee has met twice but other dates are scheduled on November 7 and 25 plus January 2 and 23. Meetings are held at Hiawatha Park School at 6:30 PM. All meetings are opened to the public to share their insights. These gardens are part of the Minneapolis park system



## October Program

By Chuck Carlson



The October 8 program by Roberta Sladky, provided us with an interesting insight of the past, a look at the present and a glance at the future plans for the Como Conservatory and new buildings. Her delivery of some interesting history which was augmented by slides presented us with a fine program.

It all started in the 1800s when it was in vogue for cities to have gardens and some of them quite large. In 1865 the Como area and Lake Como was a place to get away from the city. This seems kind of strange since it is now part of the city. In 1874 the city of St. Paul showed a bit of wisdom when it bought the land and started the garden craze.

In 1915 the conservatory was open to the public. The cost for this in 1915 was \$58,000.

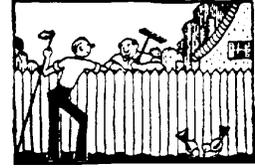
In the 1960s fiberglass replaced the falling glass caused by aging and a storm. By the 70s the fiberglass was so clouded that not enough light was transmitted to sustain the plants.

Thus in the 70s & 80s a restoration was completed at a price of about 14 and a half million.

There are five seasons of various displays. Spring with its spring bulbs and hydrangeas, summer with its display of annuals, fall with mums and sunflowers, the holidays with poinsettias and the winter featuring azaleas and cyclamen and of course, the winter carnival orchid show.

We also got a glimpse into the future plans of the whole zoo and garden complex. Great things are in store for the park when at last the area has a composite plan for the whole area.





# President's Column

*MGCM President Warren Nordley*

## **The Luncheon**

A glorious day it was indeed. The sun came out, the fall colors were magnificent and the setting perfect. Thus was the setting for the dedication of Beren's cabin and the follow-up program in the Arboretum auditorium for our 60th anniversary celebration. From my view, our speaker, Susan Allen Toth, was charming, witty and refreshing, the room was ideal, the food was terrific, we were pleased with the attendance and Duane Reynolds captured the spirit as only Duane can do. Congratulations and thank you go to Lynda Carlson and her committee for a job well organized and executed. Thanks also to Peter Olin who not only gave us the opportunity for Beren's cabin but supported us so much for the whole anniversary event. A huge, huge thanks to Eldon Hugelen who spent countless hours doing the landscape design, soliciting plants from our local vendors, scouring the nation for those hard-to-find plant specimens and leading three planting sessions at the site. We also appreciate the special support from Bachman's and Ambergate on this endeavor. The plaque looked classy and I'm convinced this project will give our club members a real sense of pride for years and years to come.

## **The Holiday Party**

The holiday party is fast-approaching and I understand a little competition has developed between a few of our members on innovative silent-auction items. Should be fun. Please don't let the lack of an item to donate discourage you from joining us however. By all means, maximum attendance is absolutely the most important factor and it sounds like Anne Buchanan and her committee have put together a very enjoyable event. Even a surprise slide show. Hmm-m!

## **Next Years Programs**

If anybody has suggestions or preferences on our forthcoming programs for next year, we'd love to have your input. Just contact a board member at the next meeting or send any one of us an email or note.

## **Calendars**

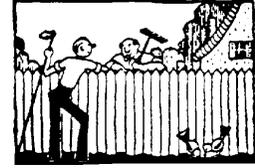
And don't forget to buy your supply of calendars. They're beautiful, a great bargain and the profit goes to the club.

Thanks and see you at the November meeting.



*Peter Olin, Eldon Hugelen & Warren Nordley  
at the Berens' cabin garden dedication  
Below a view at the 60th Anniversary luncheon  
Photos by Lloyd Wittstock*





# The 60th Anniversary Party

## The Dedication

By Chuck Carlson

The weather report was for cold and rain but, the morning broke with a cool sunny start. By 11 AM the cool was warmed by the autumn sun and gold colored leaves made a fitting entry to the Berens cabin. There a crowd of happy MGCM gardeners and friends gathered to dedicate the garden planted by our club. Peter Olin, Warren Nordley and Eldon Hugelen provided remarks about the occasion. This was followed by a ceremonial planting, a plaque unveiling and a ribbon cutting. A fitting festivity for another step in the clubs relationship with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. It will be a special place where our members can stop, reminisce and see this woodland garden around the cabin. It is a fitting gesture since the cabin is the only structure remaining from the past and as a museum, it will symbolize our club's efforts as a driving source in starting the arboretum. Plus in years to come it will tell all about the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis contribution to one of the nation's fine arbore-tums.



The dedication Rock & Plaque  
at the Bernes' cabin garden.  
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

## The Program

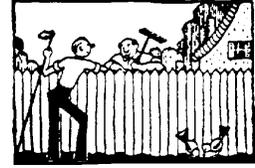
By Kay Wolfe

Insightful, entertaining and poetic all at the same time-the nationally renowned author Susan Allen Toth entertained us at our 60th anniversary luncheon with her thoughtful views about gardening and life.

I was ecstatic when I learned that the speaker for our event was to be Susan Allen Toth. I had read *My Love Affair with England*, Susan's first in a series of three books on travel in England, and read numerous articles she has written about her gardening adventures at her weekend home in Wisconsin.

For our anniversary celebration, Susan shared with us from her latest and soon to be published book, *Leaning into the Wind*. She read from the chapter, on "Garden Weather," filled with the familiar gardener's struggles that related storms of weather being metaphors for the storms of life. She views winter as a gift-when we have a chance to rest and rejuvenate and dream. When she is asked why she doesn't leave the Midwest and move to England, her answer is "corn on the cob and ripe tomatoes"! Susan also shared 'adventures' with her non-gardening spouse, James Stageberg. He had a smile on his face as she told how he weeded out favorite plants, how now he just appreciates prized specimens (and no longer weeds), and subtly suggests she not expand her garden more. As her stories unfolded, I also noticed understanding smiles on faces of many at my table. Her poetic descriptions of gardening struggles and passions elevated the familiar to literary heights! We can't wait for this new book-due out in the fall of 2003. Someone at my table had already thought of six people to give a copy! More on the speaker, Susan Allen Toth, see page 5





# Board Meeting Summary



*Summarized from  
Ellyn Hosch's Secretarys Report Recorded by  
board member David McKeen*

Members Present:: Carole Ann Breke, Jackie Overom, David McKeen, and Nancy Bjerke.

Because those in attendance were not a majority of the of the board only the minutes of the last meeting and the treasures report were read and approved.

A new member, Nancy Devine, was approved for membership.

Discussion of donations to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and to the University Research Center but no decision was made.



**Happy  
Thanksgiving**

# The Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on December 10 and is the last meeting of the present board. The new board members are invited to attend to assure a good transition occurs. The meeting is at the Nordley's home at 7 PM.

# New Member

Welcome to the latest new member,  
Nancy Devine.

Her address is  
11615 40th Ave  
Plymouth MN 55441

Ph 763-519-0754  
Email njdevine@msn.com

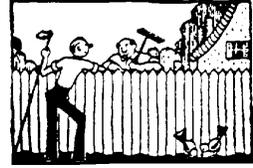
# The Luncheon Speaker

*From Lynda Carlson's Introduction*

## **Susan Allen Toth**

She grew up in Ames, Iowa and from there made her way out East to Smith College where she earned her undergraduate degree. Both of these locales were the substance for two separate memoirs, *Blooming*;, *A Small Town Girlhood & Ivy Days*. From subsequent books, *My Love Affair with England*, *England As You Like It*, and *England for All Seasons*, her readers learn that Susan is an Anglophile, and a seasoned traveler with a penchant for travel off the beaten path. Among those treasures are, of course, the gardens for which the English are notorious. Susan tends her own impressive gardens at her summer home near Maiden Rock Wisconsin overlooking beautiful Lake Pepin.

After her childhood days in Iowa and college out East, Susan earned her Masters from the U of Calif, Berkley, and went on to earn her PhD from the U of Minnesota. She taught for nearly 30 years at Macalester College. She is the author of 8 books, and scads of essays, reviews, and articles which appear in in such venerable publications as the NY Times, the Washington Post, LA Times, San Francisco Examiner, Harpers and many, many more.



# Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Last year, we started a butterfly garden in our neighborhood park. "Butterfly Garden" just sounds cool, doesn't it? And things have turned out pretty well, with a few lessons learned, which will be listed at the end.

When planning our little butterfly garden, I consulted several sources.

There are a couple of good articles in back issues of *The Northern Gardener*, and I think *Fine Gardening* had a nice spread a few years ago. Also, there's a really helpful article on the U of M Extension website

(<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/components/DG6711e.html>).

After we got approval from the park superintendent for St. Louis Park, we looked for a good site in our little park. Ideally, a butterfly garden should be in a sunny spot with some shelter from the winds so butterflies don't get blown around too much. However, when looking for a site in a multiuse public area, we often must make compromises that we wouldn't make at home. Garden locations must

- Not be too close to the playground area, to minimize kids' exposure to bees and to minimize the garden's exposure to kid traffic.
- \* Not be in an area used for baseball, soccer practice, basketball, sliding in winter, skating and hockey, etc.
- \* Allow space for 6-ft mowers all the way around.
- \* Be out of the way of major foot traffic patterns to avoid trampling.
- \* Be readily accessible to the park crew's watering truck, and so forth.

In our particular situation, we didn't find a spot that provided much shelter from the wind, so our butterflies have had to be rugged individuals who laugh at the wind.

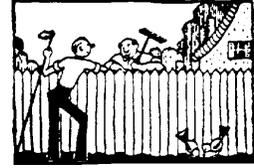
We looked for host plants for butterfly larvae and nectar plants for the actual butterflies. Host plants include things like milkweeds (for monarchs), Golden Alexanders (for swallowtails), dill, parsley and pussytoes. Since the park crew didn't have the area ready until late June last year, we probably didn't get the host plants planted in time for them to be useful, but there's always next year. Eldon provided some pussytoes that had already been enjoyed by larvae of some sort. They did not survive the transplantation, but we got more this year!

In general, butterflies like flowers that have a good "landing area" and, of course, a nectar supply. Zinnias, for example, are generally listed as favorites, and we always see a lot of butterflies around verbenas. Butterflies are also attracted to shallow water, so it's nice to be able to provide a shallow dish or a puddle in the garden. Also, a nice warm rock for butterflies to sun on is a good addition.

For our park garden, we decided that it was impractical to try to maintain a puddle (asking a lot of park's watering crew) or provide a shallow water container (subject to theft or vandalism), so our butterflies have had to do without a water source. Also, we didn't try to provide a warming rock (possible use as toy or weapon by neighborhood children if small, too heavy to handle by ourselves if large). Instead, we focused on the flowers.

After consulting as many lists as we could, we picked up the following perennials: Swamp milkweed, Joe-Pye weed, Boneset, Rough blazing star, Meadow blazing star, *Liatris spicata* 'Kobold', Fragrant hyssop, Hoary and Blue vervains, New England aster, Silk-leaved aster, Aster 'Purple Dome', Purple coneflowers, Rudbeckia, Goldenrods, New

(Continued on Page 9)



# 60th Anniversary Musings

*Clips from past newsletters selected by Howard Berg, Historian*



## 60 YEARS AGO -- NOVEMBER 1942

The first "The Garden Spray" was written by these men. F.A. Upsher Smith (Chairman) W.S. Block, C. E. Doell, H.E. Kahlert and George E. Luxton.

Secretary Willard C. Addy received our "Charter From the Men's Garden Club of America.

The members received the "Minnesota Horticulturist" for the sum of \$1.00 if 40 members sign up otherwise the price is \$2.00.

The Holiday Party is scheduled for members and their lady friends in the main dining room of the Minneapolis Athletic Club. You can order according to your fancy from 85 cents and up.

## 50 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1952

The November 11, 1952 meeting was held at Hasty Tasty Cafe, 5.45 P.M. cost \$1.50. The program will be by William S. Van Scoik, Agriculturist with the American Cyanamid Company of "What's New in Grass'.

We will have election of officers, report of awards and "Your own special gardening Interest" chairman Tony Koster.

The October meeting by Professor Cutkamp was enlightenment and clarified a lot of problems with eradicating slugs, bugs, mite and the like. Archie Flack with supplementary contributions by Fred Paul on "Propagating Under Fluorescent Lights".

## 25 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1977

Meeting at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, November 8, 1977 6 P.M. cost \$3.00. Program is discussion on pros and cons of

disaffiliation with MGCA.

The national organization has raised the dues to \$10.00 per year, and a sizeable number of delegates voted against the raise. There are many issues why the national has to raise dues.

Friday evening November 25th our club members and wives are invited to Klier's Nursery to make holiday decorations.

Master Gardener program established by the U of M Agricultural Extension Service, explained by Michael Zins and asked for volunteers. Everyone was put through an intensive 60 hour training program at the St. Paul Campus in March and then volunteer at least 50 hours of his time serving in shopping centers booths and lecturing at County Libraries. Archie Caple was one of 70 successful applicants..

## 15 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1987

MGCM met on November 10, 1987 at Pershing Fieldhouse at 6 P.M. cost \$6.00. Ms. Rebhorn, of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society will speak on "The Gardens of the East". She has just returned from an extensive tour of Eastern U. S. gardens,

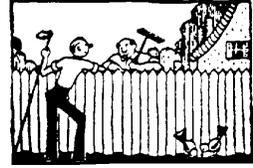
Klier's Nursery again invites the club to come and make Holiday Decorations on Friday November 27th at 6:30 P. M.

Last month, on September 26th - A beautiful day at the Fragrance Garden found 17 willing workers there to move 15 yards of compost. Len Brenny had his plow going before 8:15. By 10:40 we had the compost in place. Someone suggested the work session should be on TV so this writer gave our President, Dr. Olson, a quarter to call WCCO TV. We got 20 seconds on the news.

At our October meeting Lloyd J. Kraft told us the MGCA Gardening from The Heart program provides therapy through gardening for all types of and all ages of disabled persons.

For the 1988 convention we tried to find Corporate sponsorships for certain events.

*(Continued on page 10)*

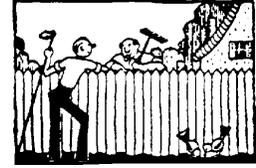


*Duane Reynolds  
our illustrious master of  
Ceremonies  
and the head table at the  
60th Anniversary Luncheon  
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*

*Members and Friends at the  
60th Anniversary Luncheon  
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*



*President Warren Nordley  
giving the presidents message  
at the 60th Anniversary  
Luncheon.  
Head table (CW) Patti and Duane  
Reynolds, Lynda Carlson, Susan  
Allen Toth, James Stageberg,  
Beverly Nordley, and Peter Olin  
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*



## Confessions Continued

*(Continued from page 6)*

Jersey Tea (shrub) and Clethra 'Hummingbird' (shrub).

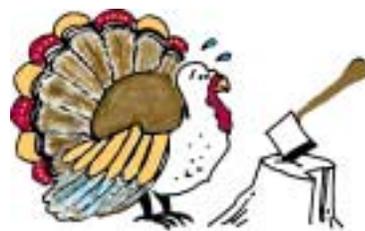
Then we filled in with recommended annuals, including; Zinnias, Calendulas, Dwarf marigolds, Petunias, Verbena rigida, Verbena bonariensis, Agastache cana 'Heather Queen', Dill, Parsley, Cosmos bipinnatus, Sunflowers and Salvias.

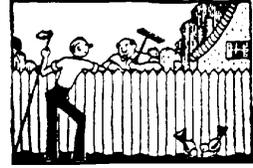
After two years, our butterfly garden looks pretty darn good, if we may say so ourselves. We're considering expanding next year, since we've found more things we'd like to plant. And we've learned a few things that we'd like to share. For instance,

1. Petunias look dumb in a garden that is predominantly tall wildflowers. And we haven't seen very many butterflies there.
2. Rabbits really like asters, especially early in the year. (No pinching back needed!) And they're quite fond of nice, fresh, tender parsley as well.
3. It is not necessary to plant dill twice. Just let it go to seed the first year.
4. It is not necessary to plant calendulas twice, either. They reseed enthusiastically.
5. A garden planted to attract butterflies is pretty boring in the spring. Golden Alexanders will bloom pretty early, but it's probably not a bad idea to include some spring bulbs or early season perennials for early interest.
6. Rabbits can be our friends. By trimming down one of the swamp milkweeds, they gave us an extended bloom time, which the butterflies appreciated.
7. Butterfly Gardens are also Bee Gardens. Bees have outnumbered butterflies by a wide margin, and people who are nervous about bees could be most uncomfortable near butterfly gardens.
8. The two most popular flowers this year

have been the Swamp Milkweed (*asclepias incarnata*) and Meadow Blazing Stars (*Liatris ligulistylis*). I counted 9 monarchs on three Meadow Blazing Stars one morning — and none on the Rough Blazing Stars (*Liatris aspera*), which look almost exactly the same to the non-butterfly.

9. Landscape Alternatives is a really good place to find native wildflowers.
10. Sunflowers in the garden were a flop. Didn't do anything aesthetically, and the butterflies didn't seem to care if they lived or died.
11. Zinnias, on the other hand, make a nice strong statement and add continuous color throughout the growing season. We even saw a butterfly on them once or twice.
12. With a little 10-10-10 fertilizer, a good thick leaf mulch and regular watering by the City, Meadow and Rough Blazing Stars will grow up to 6 feet tall. This is a good thing only if there are other tall plants for them to lean on, because they become very floppy.
13. There are a lot more kinds of Blazing Stars than we thought.
14. A garden made up of mostly tough natives holds up well under difficult weather conditions while other cultivated plants suffer from too much/not enough moisture/sunlight/heat.
15. Neighbors will go out of their way to thank you for making a permanent improvement to their park.





## 60th Musings Continued

(Continued from page 7)

Russ Smith and Bill Hull handled this project.

### 10 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1992

Meeting at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, on November 10, 1992, cost \$6.50. Program by Lee Gilligan on slide show by Minnesota State Horticultural Society illustrating recent winter hardy introduction of trees and shrubs.

Again Klier's Nursery has invited the club to come and make holiday decorations on Friday, November 27, 1992.

We received thank you notes from The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Minnesota 4-H, The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and People for Parks for donations sent them.

Vera Snyder wife of Dr. Leon Snyder died on October 23, 1992.

### 5 YEARS AGO - NOVEMBER 1997

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly, was the theme for the November meeting at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church. Sher Curry and Duane Reynolds shared their opinions on slides they have collected. This was a most opinionated and fun presentation. Topics were : garden accents, rocks and boulders in the landscape, containers and arrangements, design and movement, entryway, foliage, groupings, invasive plants, landscape and design, photography hints, structures, ideas to share and whimsical features.

Winners of the 1997 MGCM Giant Pumpkin and Sunflower Contests were selected at the October Dinner Meeting. Bob Voigt had the largest pumpkin, weighing more than twice as much as the third place fruit. Richard Coldren grew the second largest fruit, and Howard Berg finished third with a pumpkin weighing 33 pounds. Margaret Hibberd took the honors in the sunflower contest.

## Holiday Party

By Ann Buchanan

### Tuesday, December 3

The party will be held at Lake Harriet Methodist Church Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street.

6:00 PM. Conversation, Punch, & Silent Auction Viewing/bidding

6:30 PM. -Turkey Shenanigans  
- Catered Turkey Dinner  
- Strolling Musicians (Opus Ensembles)  
- Awards Ceremony  
- Silent Auction  
- Surprise Slide Show!

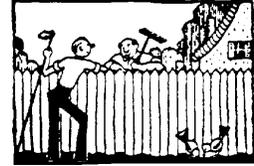


Besides turkey and all the trimmings plus our normal festivities, this year's party will feature a silent auction.

Be prepared for some really nice auction items. Word has it that Santa's helpers have been very busy...Renada Moenke offers to make a container garden for the spring, Ada Hegion brings us a Felco pruning shears, Walt Gustafson found us a handmade wooden angel, Jan Johnson will make a cross-stitched Santa, Lynda Carlson a garden statue, Kay Wolfe a hand-painted stepladder, The Photo committee will include some fine photos as part of their gift, Gary Geister has created a whimsical trellis, Eldon Hugelen offers up to 6 hours consultation in your garden, Carole Ann Brekke is quilting a holiday table runner.....and more surprises are on the way! Don't miss the fun, so send in your reservations by Nov. 27. See page 11 for the reservation form.

This will be a special party to end our 60th year celebrations. This is a don't miss it or you will be sorry event.

[Don't forget--Reservations due Wednesday Nov. 27. Go right now to page 11, fill it out and send it in today.](#)



## The November Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Permanent Reservations are in effect.

Dinner: 6:30 PM; Business: 7:00 PM; Program: 7:30 PM.

Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist; 49th and Chowen Avenue South

Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance, \$10.00 at the door if extra meals are available.

**Reservations are necessary by Friday, November 8.**

Call or email Carole Ann Brekke (phone 952-435-6029) **(E-mail not working)** for your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list or you need to cancel your permanent reservation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**For last minute cancellations on Monday or Tuesday call Dave Johnson  
Phone (763-571-2713). If he can sell it, you won't be billed.**

Remember to cancel those dinner reservations if you can't attend. An unused dinner can cost you.

## Come Celebrate the 60th Annual MGCM Holiday Party 1942 - 2002 Reservations due by November 27

Date: December 3  
Time: 6 PM  
Cost: \$19 per person  
Place:  
Lake Harriet United  
Methodist Church  
49th and Chowen Av S



Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places

For

\_\_\_\_\_

and

My Guest(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

-----Send Checks & Reservation Forms to-----  
Walter Gustafson  
3812 West 57th Street  
Edina, MN 55410-2333

# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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## THE SPRAY

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

Managing Editor & Production Manager-----Chuck Carlson

The committee: Fred Glasoe Mary Maynard Robert Olson Rich Van Sickle Lloyd Wittstock

Return to:

# The Garden Spray

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