

2006

Deck the Halls Chairperson Summary  
(What we think we learned from the experience!)

General Notes:

Publicity:

GCNJ Newsleaf deadlines are July 10 and Oct 10<sup>th</sup> for listing in the calendar. (Check current dates for 2010)

Flyers were printed and handed out at Fall Conference and available at several other locations.

Bookmarks were printed and put in area stores and the library.

Newspaper articles started the first week in November.

Consider listing the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Offerings.

Channel 36 will also list coming events.

Houses:

Look for houses that have not been on tours before and that are architecturally different as well as different in style and size.

Easy accessibility for guests as well as workers is extremely important as well as good parking and safety on streets. Remember that there will be leaves and possibly snow to contend with.

Look for homeowners that are easy to work with.

Consider club membership when deciding on the number of homes to decorate.

Boutique or no boutique?

Evaluate the amount of effort vs income.

Can you make a significant amount of money by having a different type of sale?

Flower arrangements ready for pick up? Wreaths, garlands, greens?

Tickets/Trifold:

Should be ready for Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ticket price was raised \$5 from previous house tour.

Tickets need to be replaced every week or 2 until the last 2 weeks then should be checked daily.

700 tickets were printed and we ran out.

We did not give any comp tickets to the tour to anyone not directly involved.

Trifold listed thank-yous, our non profit status and a marking for

Shadowlawn park. (Maybe a wreath that day on the bench or a marking?)

## Deck The Halls House Tour Boutique Report

2006

The Boutique committee was chaired by Linda Winter and Linda Parker and had four additional members, chosen for their experience in crafts, sales, and marketing. The committee was asked to provide a slightly different spin on the usual boutique by focusing on selling our expertise and experience in floral and horticulture design and crafts. We looked for ways to package components and provide direction for their use.

Our first planning sessions were focused on which components would be our focus, and what other items we would have for sale. We decided to make kits for sale of O'Daptors, and of MiniDecos, with directions included. We planned to also make arrangements in assorted candlesticks using the O'Daptors, not being certain about how successful sales of just the kits would be.

The committee developed two new ideas for the sale. The first was "Porch Pots" which were decorative pots of greens and accents ready to take home and decorate a porch. ( NOTE: As the day was very cold we brought some inside and found they were equally decorative in a corner or by the fire place.) We made the bows for these from weatherproof ribbons. An assortment of greens was delivered to the Reeve House by Craig Stock. Because we were using so many in the porch pots he made an additional delivery during the week. The other creation was "Banister Bows" which were conceived as large multi-material bows for accenting the newell posts of stair banisters as well as to hang on interior doors instead of a wreath, or to hang in windows. They were all made of several varieties of ribbons with focus pieces of gilded pods, leaves, pinecones, colored wires, decorative ornaments, bells, beads, feathers, glittery pieces, some ribbons made from paper and made from copies of sheet music. A gold cord was attached at the back to fit around the newell post. They became individual creations that were truly works of art.

During the fall the horticulture committee had made hypertufa containers and made about 10 extra for us. We bought and dug up hens-and-chickens plants and potted them up in the containers. They were decorated with ribbons and an accent ornament. We had a donation of four African Violet pots which we filled with new plants. A dozen or more planters had been made using pressed lamb's ears on green painted cans, and we filled those with small poinsettias and bows.

We had the new Well Seasoned cookbook for sale at the boutique and sold 70 books that day.

The final week we made and decorated 6 table top boxwood trees and four tea cup boxwood trees. We made about 30 arrangements in candlesticks using O'Daptors. We had 2 sets of red napkins with a snowball on one corner in snowflake napkin rings. Three of the houses donated a selection of hand made tree ornaments that they had used in their houses. The fourth house ended up needing all of their ornaments for their tree. We had eight plastic luminaries decorated with snowflakes. We had 12 each of kits of O'Daptors and Minidecos. There were additional small arrangements and gift items.

The Celebrate the Season Boutique was held at the Reeve House on Mountain Ave. this year. The Historic Society had just received their permits to open to the public and we were their first event. There was no furniture in the living room and the library so we set up 7-8 long tables and several card tables along with a coat rack and a coat

## Deck The Halls House Tour Boutique Report

stand to display the items for sale. In addition there was one table and the porch pots on the outside porch.

We decorated the house with roping on the outside railings and a large Banister Bow on the front door, and two porch pots (for sale) on either side of the front door. Inside we provided a few small greens and ribbon accents for the dining room and the kitchen for a festive accent. Outside on the grass we spread a drop cloth and made piles of different greens. Shoppers could buy a length of twine for \$3 and tie it around as many greens as they could fit. We ran out of twine and sold as many as they could get their arms around for the same price. That item was a big hit and only cost the twine.

Our gross sales were \$4254.50. Our expenses were \$908.13. Our net profit was \$3346.37.

### **Evaluation**

There were several factors that affected our sales. We had asked each house to feature arrangements using O'Daptors, to use MiniDecos, and to showcase the cookbooks. Every house had some kind of a porch pot outside the front or back door. By the time many of the tour reached the Boutique they were looking for the cookbooks and the O'Daptors kits. We sold out all of the kits halfway through the tour and there were some sales of arrangements to get the O'Daptors! Shoppers were interested in the ornaments that they had seen in the houses and they were priced to sell. We had to adjust the prices of the porch pots and banister bows during the morning as we had slightly overpriced them. As these were new items we had estimated our prices and adjusted them to improve sales. After that change the bows especially sold very well. The women working the floor were very enthusiastic and helpful to the shoppers.

In evaluating the Boutique we could have sold twice as many kits, boxwood trees and tea cup trees as we had, and we should have had only 12 porch pots. The candlestick arrangements were well received except shoppers were concerned about the fresh flowers lasting. For another sale we would recommend using fresh greens and non-floral accents like beads, ornaments, candy canes, ribbons so the arrangements would be festive and glitzy and would last the entire season.

Linda Parker

1990

RESULTS OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, 1990

- \* I. THIS WAS RECOMMENDED AS A POLICY TO BE FOLLOWED IN EACH SUCCEEDING HOUSE TOUR: *There should be uniformity in leaving decorations in the host home. What should stay:*
- a. *all garland*
  - b. *main tree*
  - c. *front door wreath (or swag or whatever treatment)*
  - d. *fresh flower arrangements*

(If hostess does not want these items, then they are to be removed).

Poinsettias, other wreaths, other trees, all other decorations ... can be purchased. The homeowner will have first choice for purchase (at cost); otherwise, the membership and touring public can purchase items.

\* (or something of equal value per house)

IDEAS THAT WORKED WELL - RECOMMENDED TO CONTINUE

1. Keep the boutique/refreshment area separate from the tour houses. There was so much more space to display items, to serve refreshments (without the worry of ruining someone's carpet) and more adequate parking spots. Additionally, people had a chance to see an exquisite church with beautiful decorations.
2. If possible, retain a church on the tour. It enhanced the holiday season tour.
3. In addition to Rorden's, retain Jeanette's store as an outlet for our ticket distribution. They sold so many tickets for us!!
4. The plastic runners for the houses were borrowed from the Symphony Guild. (The Garden Club offered us red carpet runners as well).  
Check with them again. However, if the plastic runners are used, remind house chairs that the runners, if not used on carpeting, must be turned upside down so as not to damage wood floors or vinyl linoleum with the little spiked protuberances.
5. Workshops were held not only for the boutique items, but also for preparing the "tea sandwiches" for the refreshments. It made the food preparation much easier.
6. Postcard notices were sent continuously to alert committees of meetings, and to remind the membership of their duties (workshops, which houses they had signed up to hostess for, the shift hours they were to work, etc.). This worked out well, but it may be a good idea to allocate some monies for this next time around.
7. At the Myers' house, we had Christmas music playing softly in the background all during the house tour. The public commented on how nice and festive this was. Perhaps all the houses on the tour could do this the next time. (It also made it nicer for the hostesses all day).

~~232-3686~~

1990

BOUTIQUE COMMITTEE REPORT L(())1990

The boutique seem to come to-gether like a puzzle:- sewing items, arrangements, food, wreath, crafts, ornaments and workers from everywhere.

Perhaps it would help to know who was on the committee, what was the experience of previous butiques. I should have had more workshops early especially ornaments as we could have many more of them.

The things that sold well were stuff animals and scrfs, gold sprayed deers, simply sprays, dry arrangements in a basket. As the day went on the things that were passed over were picked up. Other things may have sold better if they had been presented ~~into~~ into a Xmas look. Also grouping of them as the items sold.

The First day we set up and priced item. Pricing was hard since we were not experience in what things were worth. ...

The Second day was the sale. The crowd was heavy. Perhaps it could be a limit as to how many were allowed in. Left overs were Pine wreath, food, dry wreath (too summer and autumn looking).

Nite We cleaned up until 9 PM. We did not know what to do with the waste so we took many bags of them home.

CHAIRPERSON

Judith Kampe

## **FLOWER SHOW REPORT**

**April 28, 2017 "A Victorian Spring"**

**Chair Diana Kazazis**

The spring flower show was a success highlighting all the opulence of Victorian splendor. It was held in the Presbyterian Church Assembly hall again utilizing the Robinson room for a new idea from Diana K., the educational presentations and also used for the Judges' breakfast and luncheon, organized by Pat Wilson, Jeannie Pelikan and Carole Smillie. Alice Cowell's team staged the front door and entry with beautiful baby's breath wreaths and likewise adorned shrubs. Inside she borrowed an archway, which she fitted out with garlands and hydrangea with Victorian wicker planters with lilacs galore. Signage was at the door with the schedule of events.

Price was \$15 prior to and \$20 at the door. Being that it was in one location, I saw a need for "value added" and thought that bringing in guest speakers would provide that extra. There was a craft boutique and tea, which was an additional \$10 cost and provided tea, sandwiches and dessert. Again, it was staged with each part of the show in a separate alcove. This seems to work well for us.

Each member was to sell 3 tickets, made \$5330. Income from boutique was \$2469, tea sales \$1,425. Donations and patrons \$990. Total income of \$10,214. Minus expenses of \$4350, net profit actual was \$5863.18. Projected budget and actual expenses were very close, see budget. Subsequent to the show Joe DaRold and Diana Kazazis wrote the Book of Evidence to submit for a flower show award when the show received over 95 points from the evaluating judges.

### **STAGING**

Beth Siano was staging chair and did an unbelievable job considering the difficult circumstances of losing her husband. Diana came up with the idea of asking an antique dealer, Winterhill Antiques, to loan items to the show, which would enhance our Victorian theme. We obtained pedestals and silver candlebras, which showcased our "Wedding" class in design staged on a lace covered banquet table. Colored tablecloths designated specific areas of interest ie dark pink for boutique, green for horticulture. Williams Nursery and Union County College greenhouse provided planters of shrubs. Properties were borrowed from GCNJ and three new photo displays were constructed by Bob Partridge and John Kazazis. This was a system of railings so that pictures could be switched around into different groupings with ease. We used a gray, well-lit niche from GCNJ for the miniatures. Youth also participated and provided hort., design and artistic crafts.

### **POSTERS etc.**

Ing Bossert was responsible for creating the cover of the schedule, mainly written by Diana, which then translated into the same image used in her street signs, posters, tickets and bookmarks for the show. Thirty street signs were placed around town. Joe DaRold made a donation of printing for the bookmarks which were placed in 11 local libraries.

### **JUDGES HOSPITALITY**

Jeannie Pelikan prepared 14 box lunches with sandwich, water, green salad, health bar and cookies. Nine judges, RH president, Judges chair and vice chairs with one extra for total cost of \$150 for food. Gifts for the judges were extra.

### **ARTISTIC CRAFTS**

Nancy Smith was the consultant for the four classes, decorated fans, brooches, bracelets, hats and tussie mussies.

\* Note- The tussie mussies were not decorated but purchased and filled with flowers. This does not constitute an artistic craft as nothing was decorated. However, judges did not make mention of it.

### **FLOWER DESIGN**

Barbara Mullin was the design chair and provided direction and workshops for the designers. She guided our novice member on her miniature, which then won the overall Design of Excellence award, Nina Sylvester. All four entries for the wedding class were on one table. There was discussion that the ends would be more desirable for exhibitors but in the end, those who exhibited on the inside of the table did not mind. All table artistry entries were awarded 90plus as they were all so excellent. The candlebras were added AFTER judging for the public's delight.

### **HORTICULTURE**

Clare Minick and Barbara Spellmeyer chaired the hort. classes. They came up with an original idea of the using Wardian cases so popular during Victorian era, terrariums and cloches. There were many entries for these but cut plant material was lacking. We did not make entering hort. mandatory and we suffered for it having only 84 pieces in total, but all classes filled. The chairs provided great information at general meetings on how to prepare plants for entry and also wrote articles for the newsletter as well. They also wrote their portion of the schedule and provided unique class names and descriptions.

\*Note- Chairs do not recommend a mandatory requirement from each member but prefer quality over quantity. Unfortunately, that's not how the judges saw it and we were penalized for minimum entries. Also note that the past two flower shows have been in April and there was adequate plant material at this time of year.

### **VICTORIAN TEA**

Chaired by Gayle Lechner and Mary Smith, they provided teapot and flower centerpieces and food made by their committee members. The hostesses were attired in aprons. They borrowed some 90 glass dishes with teacups from Hetfield House and cleaned before returned. They had five 10 seat tables with tablecloths, a podium to direct customers and separate tickets which were sold at the entry door, not at the lectern.

\*Notes - \$10 seemed to high a cost for the amount of food supplied. The \$10 for tea cost should be revisited if we do this again. The show prior charged \$3 and that was too little because it was a buffet where customers could take as much as they wanted. This was a set amount for a larger price.

There also were leftovers, so maybe a control of amount situation? Tickets for the show did not indicate extra cost for luncheon, which caused problems. Tickets sold at entry instead at lectern also posed issues. Food supplied by committee was not uniform in size and this also

caused issues in customers comparing what they received. The chairs indicated that there needs to be more members for this committee although they did have at least nine.

### BOUTIQUE

Chaired by Tracy Criscitiello and Colleen Schmidt, and selected members Nancy Smith and Pat Badala. This was the core -working group and they opened up workshops to the membership to help make items on several occasions. Some of the craft products did not move well, such as the Steam punk boxes which were very labor intensive for the group to make and the beetles mounted to decorative plaques. Quickly moving items included plants hanging and in containers or boxes. These core four were able to man the boutique area for the entire time of selling. Leftover crafts were sold at general meetings to follow.

\*Note – Demographics of a flower show lean towards older women who in retirement, are not collecting crafts much. It seems that selling live plant material are better sellers and recommend that to the next boutique show. Some items that went fast may have been able to be priced higher and viceversa, those that sold slowly may have needed lower pricing.

### TUTORIALS

A new idea for our shows, Diana instituted these educational presentations. Joe DaRold and Plainfield library archivist provided 2 presentations on Victorian photography, Diana Kazazis provided two presentations on the Art of Quilling, Barbara Mullin provided 2 on floral designs, and we had an outside person, historian Laurie Gulke, provide customs from the Victorian era. Presentations started at 2:00 and ran til 6:00, half hour each with no breaks in between. Each presenter received a gift of tea and jam and each "show" offered a door prize, which served as impetus to get folks in the door and as an extension of the presentation ie. quilling items were given as door prizes for that show. Diana stayed exclusively with the presenters and Kris Luka went to the main room to announce each show every half hour and distributed door show tickets at the door. Some customers were there for all of the presentations!

\*Note - This schedule was grueling and left no time would there have been issues. Luckily all went smoothly, but for the future, I would put in 10 minutes at least between presentations. Since it was better attended than expected, be sure to have more chairs on hand to put up quickly as we had to do.

### TICKETS

Liz Dwyer, an associate! stepped up to handle tickets and sales. Diana provided wristbands for customers at the door so that customers could move around the church rooms from one to another with us knowing that they have paid. This worked out well but sometimes cumbersome if line was long.

\*Note- When using wrist bands, have a separate person attaching so line can move along. Get ticket and band, go to another person to attach. This committee agreed that the tea tickets should not have been sold at the door with the entry ticket, but should have been sold separately at the entrance to the tea.

### DOCENTS

Rich Pelikan was the chair and arranged a schedule, which provided adequate coverage for the show.

## JUDGES

Hosted by Kay Cross who contacted and entertained nine judges for the show. Bob Geremia was the judge for the photography section.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Very exciting exhibits by Barbara Mullin for tea, Diana Kazazis for pollinators, Joe DaRold for Victorian photography and the best, Diane Genco's display of Victorian ephemera complete with wedding dress on a mannequin. Beautiful and enhanced the show tremendously. Always have educational displays!

## YOUTH

Chaired by Alice Cowell, the girls provided a wonderful display of horticulture tussie mussies, floral designs from children's books and botanical art.

Others - Clerks chair Beth Hanscom, Publicity Paula Long, Photography chair Margot Partridge, Printing Barbara Murphy, Judges Breakfast Carole Smillie, Awards Diana Kazazis, Name tags from Maryann Pietruski were over the top gorgeous!!

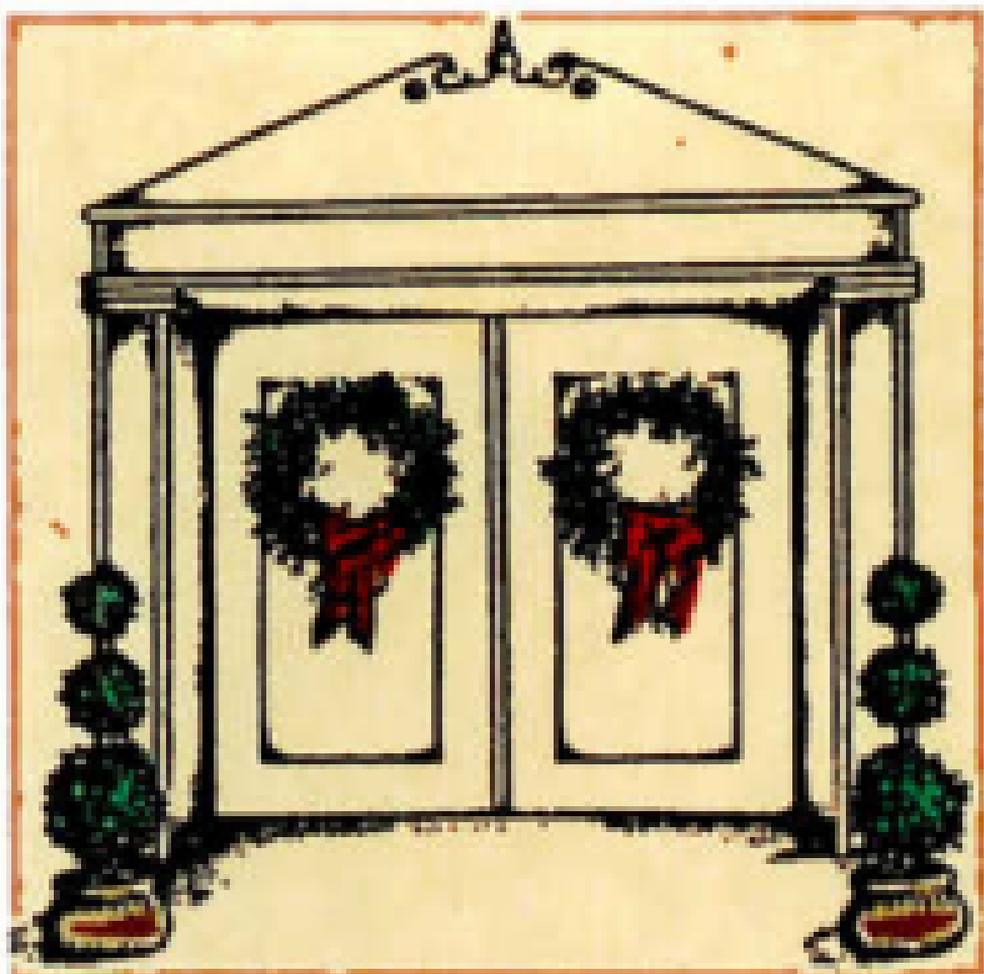
## FLOWER SHOW CHAIR COMMENTS

**Flower Show Evaluation** - The Book of Evidence is a meticulous, tedious, time consuming project as a wrap up to the show that essentially has to be done by the chair of the show as she has the most knowledge of all aspects. This chair questions the reason of actually having the show evaluated as when scoring 95, one must write up the BOE. Presenting a BOE does not necessarily result in winning awards for the Club either. It's very easy to "decide" to have the show evaluated if one is not actually doing the work of the BOE. Perhaps one could have the show evaluated and NOT have to submit a BOE? Perhaps GCNJ should consider this.

I do believe that the flower show is more labor intensive than is the Deck the Halls tour for each member. We did make over \$5000 this show but perhaps there is a different way to fundraise and make equivalent profit. Although, continuing some form of flower show is a necessity for the Club in my opinion.

# *Tutorial Schedule*

<i>Presentation and Door Prizes</i>	<i>Time</i>
<p><i>Floral Creations</i></p> <p><b>Barbara Mullin, past President of Garden Club of NJ</b> Traditional floral design using materials from the garden supplemented with inexpensive purchased flowers</p>	<p>2:00pm 4:30pm</p>
<p><i>Victorian Photography</i></p> <p><b>Sarah Hull, M.A., M.L.S., Archivist, Head of Local History, Genealogy and Special Collections, Plainfield Public Library</b></p> <p><b>Joe Da Rold, M.L.S., Executive Director, Retired, Plainfield Public Library</b> "From Victorian Lady to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Woman" Presentation about a Victorian photographer, Reina Lawrence, from Central Jersey who specialized in floral photography</p>	<p>2:30pm 5:00pm</p>
<p><i>Victorian Whimsie, Dress and Customs</i></p> <p><b>Laurie Gaulke, Historical actress, M.A. Cultural Anthropology</b> Explore the nuances of Victorian manners and fashion in a delightful, informative romp through Queen Victoria's England</p>	<p>3:00pm 4:00pm</p>
<p><i>The Art of Quilling</i></p> <p><b>Diana Kazazis, President of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club</b> Learn about the history of quilling and how to create your own designs</p>	<p>3:30pm 5:30pm</p>



The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield presents

## **"Deck the Halls" House Tour**

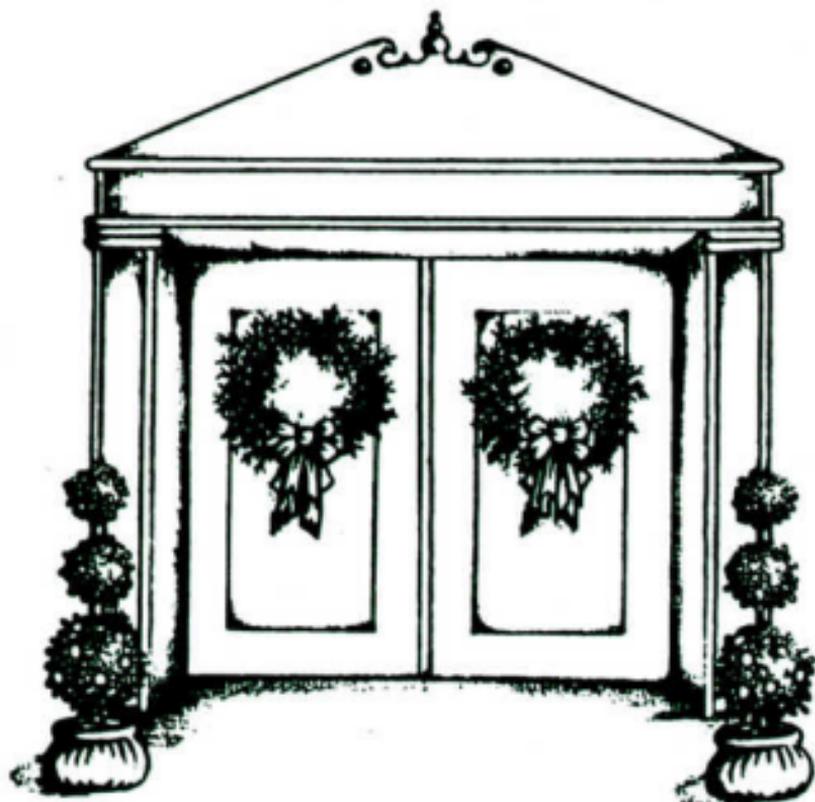
Five beautiful homes will be decorated by the garden club in holiday splendor!

**December 2, Saturday  
10:00am to 4:00pm**

Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased from a club member or at:  
**Christoffers Flowers  
Baron's Drug Store  
Williams Nursery**

Holiday Boutique and Refreshments

Contact Nancy Smith for information, (908)654-9477



THE RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB  
OF WESTFIELD

*presents*

## **"DECK THE HALLS"**

A HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 2, 2006  
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

5 HOMES DECORATED FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS

ONE FEATURING OUR

**"TIS' THE SEASON" BOUTIQUE**

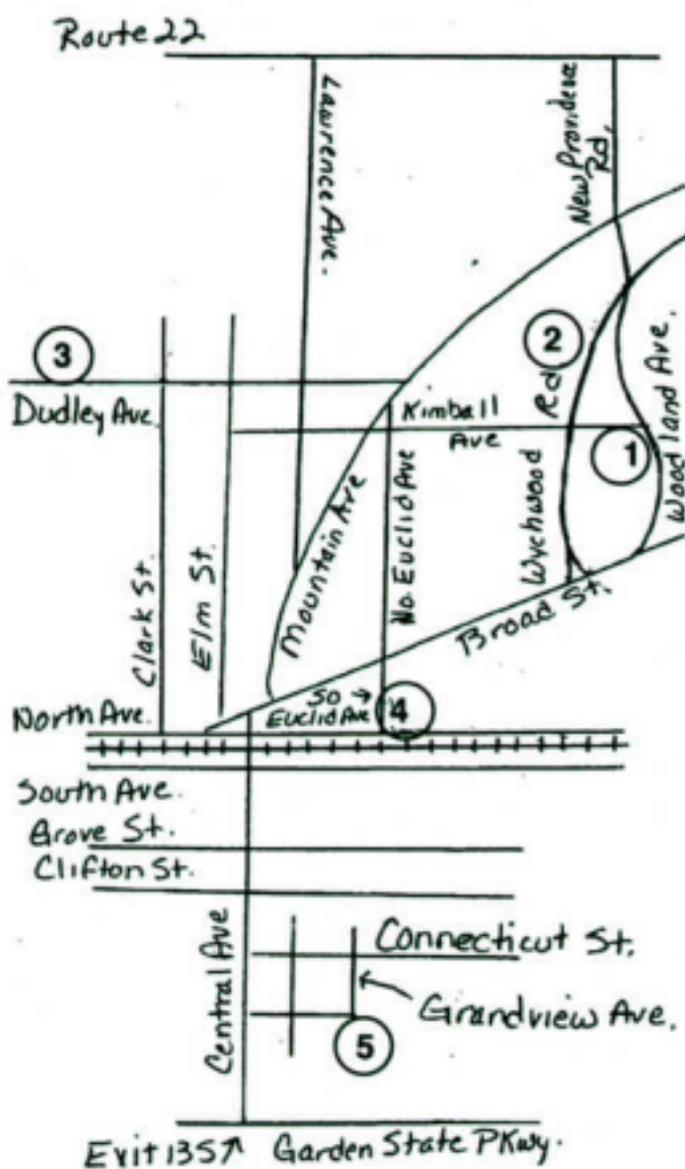
IN ADVANCE: \$30  
AT THE DOOR: \$35

*Thank you for sharing the holidays with us.*

NO CHILDREN UNDER 12 PLEASE  
NO CAMERAS PLEASE

FEATURED THIS YEAR:

1. 267 Woodland Avenue  
Westfield
2. 507 Wychwood Road  
Westfield
3. 248 Dudley Avenue, West  
Westfield
4. 403 South Euclid Avenue  
Westfield
5. "Tis' The Season Boutique"  
1715 Grandview Avenue  
Westfield



HOUSES MAY BE VISITED IN ANY ORDER.

PRINTING PROVIDED BY  
WEICHERT REALTORS  
FRAN BRADER  
(908) 654-7777

## **Rake & Hoe Garden Club Deck the Halls Report 2006**

<b>Income</b>		<b>\$23,844.05</b>
Ticket Sales	19,360.00	
Boutique Sales	2,528.50	
House Sales	1,665.75	
Contributions	220.00	
Reimbursements	69.80	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>\$5,768.84</b>
House Supplies	4,436.02	
Boutique Supplies	399.98	
Advertising	60.00	
Tickets	266.60	
Posters	57.25	
Tri-fold Brochure	250.00	
Photo & Recording Materials	33.99	
Protective Booties	265.00	
<b>Net Profit</b>		<b>\$18,075.21</b>

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield  
 "DECK THE HALLS" - December 2, 2006

	<u>Misc.</u>	<u>Grandview</u> <u>Walsh</u>	<u>Boutique</u>	<u>Woodland</u> <u>Allen</u>	<u>Dudley</u> <u>Kieczykowski</u>	<u>Euclid</u> <u>Laurenzi</u>	<u>Wychwood</u> <u>Francz</u>	<u>Tickets</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
EXPENSES	1,035.10	452.39	399.98	821.42	949.08	720.85	981.47	-	5,360.29
INCOME	250.00	252.00	2,518.50	278.79	412.00	224.21	492.73	19,350.00	23,778.23
NET	(785.10)	(200.39)	2,118.52	(542.63)	(537.08)	(496.64)	(488.74)	19,350.00	18,417.94 +30

Deck the Halls  
December 2, 2006

The Laurenzi House  
Financials

**Expenses**

Flower Order	326.25	(Pd to Cross)
Poinsettias	32.00	(Pd to Kazazis)
Materials (vegetables, fruits, mechanics)	331.56	
Replacement of orange lilies	13.50	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>703.31</b>	

**Sales**

Laurenzi	132.25
Hanscom	10.00
Guest	10.00
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>152.25</b>

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**Net Expenses** **551.06**

*Note - we still have candles for sale and may have some more income from those sales.*

December 4, 2006

# DECK THE HALLS CHAIRS

	2014	2010	2006	2002
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	Beth Siano	Kris Luka	Maryann Pietruszki	Linda Parker
	Pat Wilson	Liz Dwyer	Nancy Smith	Colleen Schmidt
<b>House Selection</b>	Beth Siano	Kay Cross		Anna Daurio
	Pat Wilson	Anna Daurio		Carol Schirm
	Kay Cross			
	Anna Daurio			
<b>House 1</b>	Colleen Schmidt	Nancy Smith	Colleen Schmidt	Jill Sitzer
	Maryann Pietruszki	Jill Sitzer	Karen Jolley-Gates	Nancy Smith
<b>House 2</b>	Alice Cowell	Diana Kazazis	Jill Sitzer	Karen Jolley-Gates
	Joan Barna	Karen Jolley-Gates	Helen Pasterczyk	Barbara Mullin
<b>House 3</b>	Tracy Crisitiello	Erica Fried	Tracy Crisitiello	Patty Kreider
	Pat Badala	Barbara Mullin	Gayle Lechner	Maryann Pietruszki
<b>House 4</b>	Nancy Smith	Helen Pasterczyk	Diana Kazazis	Alice Cowell
	Jill Sitzer	Beth Siano	Erica Fried	Elaine Walsh
	Barbara Spellmeyer			
<b>House 5</b>			Linda Parker	
			Marylyn Straight	
<b>Boutique</b>	Gayle Lechner	Linda Winter		
	Gail Kender	Linda Parker		
	Mary Foley Smith	Janet Gardner		
		Pam Kolb		
		Clare Minick		
		Carolyn Pulliam		
<b>Flowers</b>	Kay Cross	Kay Cross	Kay Cross	Kay Cross
	Anna Daurio			
<b>Tickets</b>	Carolyn Pulliam	Gail Kender	Linda Winter	Kay Cross
		Gayle Lechner (printing)		
<b>Program</b>	Danielle Walsh			Linda Winter
	Susan Dinan			
	Barbara Murphy			
<b>Publicity</b>	Irene Greenstein	Irene Greenstein	Diana Kazazis	Pat DeDuca
	Diana Kazazis - web			
	Pelikans - library/posters/signs			
<b>Newsletter</b>	Inge Bossert			
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Wilson	Carolyn Pulliam	Ellen Cuddy	Pam Kolb

## Month by Month "To Do List"

### January:

Break down responsibilities and begin recruiting members.

House Selection committee: 2-3 people that will finalize houses by end of Feb. *Key Cross, Anna Daverio*

Treasurer: we recommend club treasurer.

Tickets: -

Trifold: - *ticket printing, posters*

Publicity: -

House Chairs:

*Boudique - Linda Winter, Linda Parker*

Make a general announcement at January meeting that you are looking for homes.

*Joan Gardner*

Meet w/ previous house chairs to get input.

### February:

- \* Ask program committee to set aside 1 meeting for "How to make garlands, trees etc.) and an "Afterglow party date."

Sign off on finalized house list.

### March:

Select House Chairs ✓

Compose letter to homeowners outlining what to expect.

Decide on methods for assigning members to homes. (How many, new vs experienced members)

Make sign up posters showing pictures of homes. - *Maryann*

### April:

Member sign up for homes.

Hold first meeting for house chairs.

Set aside 15-30 before each general meeting from now on to meet with chairs as a group. (Idea exchange, updating)

### May:

Attend first walk through of each home. (*all house chairs go through list for all house chairs all the homes*)

Summer:

Order booties if using them (Reeve Reed Tour doesn't use booties, but notifies on tickets that you will be asked to remove your shoes. They give each person a bag)

*June - have house themes*

State Meeting - Bookmarks - Linda Parker

Send planning sheets to House Chairs for themes/ design plans to avoid duplication.

September: Tickets to be printed - Fran Barbara Mumpley

Publish member responsibilities in newsletter and remind members at each meeting until tour.

Decide on sign posts for front of houses. - Margaret

Collect design plan sheet for each house and check for duplication.

Contact Craig Stock for help with greens.

October:

Announce House Themes at General Meeting.

Contact Police Department and Leaf Department with house and street information. Me

Distribute tickets to all members and store outlets.

Have a member give a "ticket sale pep talk" - Sharon Tittle is a master at this!

Publicity should be in full swing

Decide on percentage mark ups for items on sale in homes. - Cost - club & homeowner markup for public

Sign up for Hostess duty shifts. - House chairs

November:

Writeups for trifold due from all houses. - House chairs

Collect flower orders 3 weeks in advance from house chairs, collate and order.

Make name tags for tour day.

Make cash boxes for each house to hold tickets, directory, name tags, pen, shift list and trifolds. Start up cash

Buy/collect baskets for booties and mats for each front door in case of bad weather.

Determine specifics for trees for each house. - Clare

Buy trees, oasis and wire for each house.

Give comp tickets to any homeowner that will not be attending the walk through on Friday night.

Have house chairs prepare a list of items for sale in their house.

Key-flowers

## Month by Month "To Do List"

### January:

Break down responsibilities and begin recruiting members.

House Selection committee: 2-3 people that will finalize houses by end of Feb.

Treasurer: we recommend club treasurer.

Tickets

Trifold

Publicity:

House Chairs:

Make a general announcement at January meeting that you are looking for homes.

Meet w/ previous house chairs to get input.

### February:

Ask program committee to set aside 1 meeting for "How to make garlands, trees etc.) and an "Afterglow party date. "

Sign off on finalized house list.

### March:

Select House Chairs

Compose letter to homeowners outlining what to expect.

Decide on methods for assigning members to homes. (How many, new vs experienced members)

Make sign up posters showing pictures of homes.

### April:

Member sign up for homes.

Hold first meeting for house chairs.

Set aside 15-30 before each general meeting from now on to meet with chairs as a group. (Idea exchange, updating)

### May:

Attend first walk through of each home.

### Summer:

Order booties if using them (Reeve Reed Tour doesn't use booties, but notifies on tickets that you will be asked to remove your shoes. They give each person a bag)

Send planning sheets to House Chairs for themes/ design plans to avoid duplication.

September:

Publish member responsibilities in newsletter and remind members at each meeting until tour.

Decide on sign posts for front of houses.

Collect design plan sheet for each house and check for duplication.

Contact Craig Stock for help with greens.

October:

Announce House Themes at General Meeting.

Contact Police Department and Leaf Department with house and street information.

Distribute tickets to all members and store outlets.

Have a member give a "ticket sale pep talk" - Sharon Tittle is a master at this!

Publicity should be in full swing

Decide on percentage mark ups for items on sale in homes.

Sign up for Hostess duty shifts.

November:

Writeups for trifold due from all houses.

Collect flower orders 3 weeks in advance from house chairs, collate and order.

Make name tags for tour day.

Make cash boxes for each house to hold tickets, directory, name tags, pen, shift list and trifolds.

Buy/collect baskets for booties and mats for each front door in case of bad weather.

Determine specifics for trees for each house.

Buy trees, oasis and wire for each house.

Give comp tickets to any homeowner that will not be attending the walk through on Friday night.

Have house chairs prepare a list of items for sale in their house.

## **DECK THE HALLS**

### **2006**

#### HOUSE CHAIR DUTIES

1. Keep running log of all meetings and information to be compiled into a final report.
2. Organize/schedule a committee walk-through of your house in Spring, Fall, and mid-November. Take photos with the permission of the homeowner. Make note of color schemes, flow etc.
3. Choose a theme for your house with your committee. Once you have done that, let the chairmen know so that we do not duplicate efforts.
4. You may want to assign specific duties to certain committee members such as: taking notes at your meetings, tracking expenses, compiling flower order etc.
5. Your budget is \$800. Monitor and record expenditures. All check requests for reimbursement must come through House Chair to Treasurer using proper check request forms with receipts attached.
6. Flowers will be ordered by Kay Cross. Work with other house chairs to purchase bulk items like roping, wreaths, boxwood etc.
7. Call periodic meetings for planning, workshops, and to check committee's progress.
8. Provide description of house/theme for program.
9. All chairs and committee member must be available ALL DAY on Friday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> for decorating, and Saturday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> for hosting in homes.
10. Arrange clean-up time with homeowner and assign committee specific clean-up tasks.
11. TALK AS A GROUP OFTEN. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO HAVE FUN AND WORK TOGETHER! YOU WILL FIND THAT YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL HAVE GOOD IDEAS AND BE INTERESTED IN TRYING SOMETHING NEW. ENCOURAGE THEIR CREATIVITY AND INCLUDE AS MANY IDEAS AS YOU CAN.

## **DECK THE HALLS**

**2006**

### WORKING WITH HOMEOWNERS

1. Keep in touch with your homeowner! You are the club's representative! Do your best to keep them comfortable with the process.
2. Ask homeowner if they will give their permission for you to take photos for design purposes.
3. Ask if the homeowner has a tree stand that could be used, lights for the tree etc. Do they have a special collection that could be incorporated into the décor?
4. Ask if they are planning to have a party following the tour that would involve a tent, etc that might be set up ahead of time.
5. Each homeowner will receive, front door treatment, one undecorated tree, any roping used in or out of the house, mantle decorations, and one arrangement. All other items will be available to them at cost.
6. Set up will be on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 3pm.
7. Club members and homeowners and their families may visit the homes from 7-9pm on Friday.
8. Assure homeowners that anytime there are guests in their homes, we will provide hostesses.
9. Booties will be use to protect the home's carpeting and flooring.
10. Decide on a convenient time with the homeowner to remove any items that are not purchased.

## **DECK THE HALLS**

**2006**

### **BUYING SUPPLIES AND ORDERING FLOWERS**

Buying Supplies - Items we buy for the fundraiser can be purchased without paying tax. Rake and Hoe has established accounts at some local stores. (Suburban, Union County Florist Supplies, Mueller Bros. AC Moore Watchung) You must have original receipts to be reimbursed. Receipts are to be attached to a House Tour Request for Reimbursement. All request go through the House Chairs and to the Treasurer. Keep your own record of purchases so that you know the cost each arrangement in order to price items for purchase by the homeowner if they so desire. Items that the homeowner does not purchase will be available to club members. All receipts are due in within one week of the show.

Ordering Flowers – Kay Cross will be coordinating the flower purchases for us. Exact prices will vary week to week but we will try to get a range. Flower orders will be due to Kay 2 weeks before the show. Be sure to have your orders ready to be given to the House Chairs 3 weeks before the show. If you must have a specific flower for an arrangement it will be best to order ahead of time from a local florist. Flowers are purchased by the bunch and greens by the box or bale. Try to use as many greens as you can from your yard, friends yards, neighbors yards, night pruning (only kidding!) this will save you a lot on your budget. Kay will combine orders to get the best price. Sharing ideas with other houses on flower ordering can be cost effective!

Deck the Halls  
December 2, 2006  
House Description for Brochure

The theme for the Laurenzi House on South Euclid Ave. is a Mediterranean Christmas. The Laurenzi family has lived for many years in Italy and has an impressive collection of art and sculpture from all over the Mediterranean region. This has served as the basis for our theme.

The stately front entrance sets the stage with lots of greens and fruits in the topiary arrangements and kissing balls.

Featured throughout the house are the colors and fruits of the Mediterranean area including pomegranates, lemons, limes, oranges, Kumquats all accented with Mediterranean herbs. The garland on the center stairway sets the tone for the entire house.

Each room has a different personality which we have highlighted with a variety of garlands from fresh and dried materials. The fruits and flowers are carried on into the various arrangements throughout the house. Some have been gilded for the holidays. Topiary arrangements complement the owner's own lemon decorations.

The Christmas tree features the owner's private collection of antique and modern elephant ornaments combined with original origami elephants designed by the Rake and Hoe decorators.

As you exit through the side porch door see the tree once again and the presents ready for Christmas morning.

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RAKE AND HOE TICKET NOTES

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**TO:** R & H FUTURE TICKET CHAIRMAN  
**FROM:** KAY CROSS  
**SUBJECT:** TICKET SALE MANAGEMENT HINTS  
**DATE:** 12/10/2002

1. Issue each member 10 tickets if the tickets are not of a limited number, with instructions ~~that they are responsible for selling at least xx and returning the unsold tickets.~~
2. Send attached letter to Associate Members with tickets (only send the required number to sell).
3. Ask Sharon Tittle to give her "How to sell your tickets" pep talk at time of ticket issuance.
4. Print a sheet with ticket numbers and members names.
5. ~~Have a Ticket Sales Committee with tickets available with all the Committee members throughout town.~~
- ? 6. Comp tickets to garden clubs in our District seemed to work in selling additional tickets.
7. Think it is a waste of time and effort to number tickets. More important to keep track of 'how many' tickets each person has and check to see they return all unsold ones.
8. Make tickets an easier size to fit into envelopes...cut down on postage.
9. Have small flyers available at the state GCNJ Fall Conference for garden club members to pick up. Add restaurants in town for a fun Christmas meeting/outing. (Got 7 people from Bridgewater that way.)
10. Give Barons and Lancasters more tickets at the onset. They do quite well. But do pick up the money often!

  
Kay Cross

**DECK THE HALLS**  
**2006**  
**RAKE AND HOE GARDEN CLUB**

Dear

On behalf of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club, we would like to thank you for offering your home to be a part of our 2006 Deck The Halls House Tour. We appreciate the opportunity to include your beautiful home and look forward to working with you.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will be co-chairing the design team that will be decorating your home. You should hear from them in the next month to arrange an initial walk-through. They will be able to answer many of the questions you may have regarding the tour.

Design teams typically walk through homes several times before the tour. With your permission, they may take photographs of rooms for planning purposes. Set up for the tour takes place on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>. You can expect that people will be working in your home the entire day. On Friday evening homes are open for our members to tour. You and your family are also invited to tour the homes at this time if you wish. The tour for the public will be on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 4 pm. At all times that your home is open, Rake and Hoe members will be there to greet and direct visitors.

All homeowners receive, as our gift, one undecorated tree, decorations on one mantle, the front door treatment and any roping used inside or out of the home. As a homeowner you will be given the opportunity to purchase any other decorations used in your home at cost. Many homeowners choose to have holiday parties on Saturday evening or Sunday while decorations are still in place. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will arrange a convenient time to remove any decorations that may remain.

Thank you for your willingness to take part in our house tour. Should you have any question or concerns you may contact us at 654-9477(Nancy) or 789-9254(Maryann).

Sincerely,

Nancy Smith  
Maryann Pietruszki

Deck The Halls House Tour Chairmen

## Rake and Hoe Holiday House Tour Publicity Report for December 2010

1. I wrote a generic article in September to highlight the year's activities for Rake and Hoe. It was published only in The Suburban News in October.
2. I wrote one article about the Holiday House Tour and resubmitted each week with a different house highlighted.
3. **The Westfield Leader** published one article on November 11<sup>th</sup> highlighting the Kimball Ave Tudor home, and a photo of the Tremont home with a caption was published on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact email is: [community@goleader.com](mailto:community@goleader.com)
4. **The Suburban News** ran the Tremont Ave house article twice, once in the regular weekly edition on November 17<sup>th</sup> and one in their " **SuburbanWestfield** " section on November 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Contact email is :[subnews@njnpublishing.com](mailto:subnews@njnpublishing.com)
5. The Holiday House Tour was listed in the Events section of the **Westfield Patch, Cranford Patch, Maplewood Patch, Summit Patch, the Scotch-Plains –Fanwood Patch, and the Springfield Patch, an online newspaper and also the Union County Events section of the Star Ledger on Sunday, November 28th**. I have tried several times to have an article printed in the Ledger, but everyone so far that has received it has been cut from the staff. However, they do put the Suburban News Union Co. edition into every Star Ledger delivered in the county.
6. Facebook had the tour listed somehow.  
[http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note\\_id=451443712185](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=451443712185)

### Suggestions:

1. Find a Star Ledger connection to insure more success with that newspaper and try to get a reporter to write the article.
2. Contact other newspapers in surrounding counties.
3. Check online under Rake and Hoe to see what has been published.
4. Get details from the house chairs about highlights of the house by October especially the histories of the homes and any outstanding qualities of the homes.
5. Many house tours are listed with websites to buy tickets and get more info. We should consider using our website for this. The ease of buying tickets online is desirable to many.
6. Can other Garden Clubs list the Holiday House Tour in their newsletters?
7. The Gardener News may be another publicity outlet.  
<http://www.gardenernews.com/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Greenstein  
Publicity Chair  
12/17/10



Liz Dwyer (left) and Kris Luka, chairpersons for Deck the Halls Holiday House Tour scheduled for Dec. 4, discuss ongoing plans for this exciting event.

## Gardening, decorating, service to highlight Rake and Hoe house tour

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has a long term reputation for their service to the community and their donations to worthy causes. Their Deck the Halls Holiday House Tour, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, has been in the planning stages for many months.

The club members are also continuing their service to the community by maintaining the gardens at the northside of the Westfield Train Station, the Miller Cory House Museum, and the Shadowlawn Pocket Park. They will also be taking care of the Clare Brownell Wildflower Garden at the Reeve House, home of the Westfield Historical Society.

Another Rake and Hoe service project for this fall will be the making of ornaments for the annual December tree decorating at the Jardine School. The ornaments and a simi-

larly themed holiday book will be given to the children for their library. Committee members will also be making bedside flower arrangements and donating gift bags filled with goodies for the veterans at Lyons Hospital.

The Rake & Hoe Junior Garden Club, which meets once a month, has members between first grade and eighth grade. They are having a busy fall by planting more daffodils around town, learning about Monarch butterfly migration, and helping to clean up the Westfield train station garden. They are also learning the basics of flower arranging, which will help them make flower arrangements for the teachers at the Jardine School of the Union County Cerebral Palsy League and the upcoming New Jersey Flower Show in February. There is still

room for new members; call Mrs. Siano at 233-4150 for more information.

Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club, who are good cooks as well as good gardeners, have just published their new cookbook, Well-Seasoned. This is a collection of recipes for the five seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter, and holiday. The books can be purchased at the boutique at the upcoming Deck the Halls Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 4. They will also be available from members of the club.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield's membership is diverse, spanning all ages, interests, and occupations. Federated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and the Garden Club of New Jersey, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ has between 50 and 70 members all of whom share one thing in common: a love of flowers and gardening. Contact Maryann Pietruszki, club president, at 908-789-9254 for information.

# Prime Time

Entertainment & Dining Guide of Suburban News

## Rake and Hoe Club 'Deck the Halls' Holiday House Tour set for Dec. 4

**WESTFIELD** — One of the homes in the upcoming Holiday House Tour, sponsored by The Rake and Hoe Club of Westfield, is the Huber home, mid-20th-century split colonial on Knollwood Terrace. This lovely home was renovated and converted to a contemporary home with open floor plan and with an Asiatic feel. The floral décor seen throughout this home on Saturday, Dec. 4 will be dramatic and eye-catching, and will enhance the clean lines of this home with a very modern background. A generous use of deep red will highlight each area in striking contrast to the neutral tones of the home's furnishings.

The tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Holiday House Tour is always an exciting event for Westfield and the surrounding communities. The garden club members decorate four lovely homes in Westfield for the holidays. Each home has a different theme and will include a variety of fresh floral arrangements. Other homes in this year's event comprise a stylish condominium on Cowperthwaite Place, a traditional central hall colonial on Tremont Avenue, a distinctive Tudor home on Kimball Avenue, as well as the Huber home.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 per person before the event from a club member, Christoffers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Caldwell Banker, or Williams Nursery, and at the door for \$35 per person. The entrance ticket is for all four houses as well as the boutique at the historic Reeve House of the Westfield Historical Society, which will include refreshments, holiday floral arrangements, small gift items, kits for making arrangements at home, topiaries for outdoor decorating and, new this year, our "Porch Pots," perfect to take right home and place next to your doormat.

Members of Rake and Hoe are good cooks as well as good gardeners and have just published their new cookbook, *Well-Seasoned*. This is a collection of recipes for five seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter, and holiday. The books will be dis-

played at the house tour, and will be on sale at the boutique, the Town Book Store, and from members of the club. Proceeds from the Holiday House Tour will fund the club's many community projects and the Claire Brownell Memorial Garden at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve house.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has a long term reputation for its service to the community and donations to worthy causes. Their membership is diverse, spanning all ages, interests, and occupations. Affiliated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and the Garden Club of New Jersey, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ has between 50 and 70 members all of whom share one thing in common: a love of flowers and gardening. Contact Maryann Pietruszki, club president, for information at 908-789-9254.



**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**—This lovely contemporary home on Knollwood Terrace in Westfield will be one of the homes on Rake and Hoe's Deck the Hall Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Preparing for 'Deck the Halls' holiday house

WESTFIELD—The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will present "Deck the Halls", a Holiday House Tour on Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five beautiful homes in Westfield will be decorated in holiday splendor. Unique decorations and floral designs are created in keeping with the theme of each home. Shop at the artisan craft boutique and enjoy some holiday refreshments at Darielle Walsh's home on Grandview Avenue.

Chairwomen Nancy Smith and Maryann Pietruszki of the club are jointly coordinating the many aspects of preparation for the tour. Monthly meetings leading up to the event are geared towards design creations. The Oct. 11 meeting, "The Always Beautiful Traditional Design" was pre-

sented by Betty Markendorf from Tinton Falls, a Master Judge in NJ. Betty is a designer who has presented numerous workshops for Rake and Hoe in the past. The Nov. 14 meeting is a joint meeting with the Garden Club of Westfield and host Cheryl Wilks who will be presenting "Dynamic Floral Designs for the Holidays".

Each home will be decorated by committees of garden club members who have developed the theme and decor for the house. Groups plan their own workshops to create tree ornaments, floral arrangements, wreaths and additional adornments for the home. Boutique has been busy all summer creating unique gifts for purchase. Pictured above is a workshop to create origami elephant ornaments which will



The Rake and Hoe Garden Club members create origami ornaments for the upcoming house tour event, Dec. 2.

be hand decorated by committee members and are

intended to reflect the homeowners own collection of ele-

phant tree ornaments.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is a non-profit organization. The funds raised by this event will benefit the club's many community projects which include the Lyons Veterans' Hospital, the Cerebral Palsy Center of Union County and Mobile Meals as well as the Miller-Cory Museum gardens, Shadowlawn garden and the Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden.

Come and get some ideas for your own holiday decorating! Members have put their imaginations to work to develop some very unique decorating ideas. Watch for ticket details coming soon!

Call Nancy Smith for additional information at (908)654-9477.

## Deborah BCM Chapter trips

Deborah Hospital Suburban BCM Chapter is sponsoring several beautiful trips. We cover Kenilworth, Union, Springfield, Cranford and Westfield.

A trip is scheduled to

games on the bus. The bus leaves from Union at 9 a.m. sharp and Westfield at 9:15 a.m. sharp.

On April 22-28, 2007, visit Amelia Island, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, FL. The cost

dinners), dinner show at the Alhambra Theatre, a cruise on the St. John's River, guided tour of Amelia Island, Augustine and Jacksonville, FL. Visit the Fountain of Youth and historic Kingsley Plantation. A \$75 double



# Holiday house tour



Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield prepare unique holiday decorations for the decorated house tour presented on Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five beautiful homes will be featured plus boutique and refreshments. For tickets call Linda Winter at (908) 232-0449.

To place classified  
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## 206 Prospect Avenue, Cranford, NJ

Immediately one can sense the quality of craftsmanship that this fine townhome has to offer, with its rich detail. This impressive and spacious home presents two large bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, private patio, fireplace and 1 car garage. Nestled just outside the heart of town and a short walking distance to NYC trains and park. Just Listed for \$489,900.

436 South Avenue, Westfield, NJ

908-454-6666

# Westfield holiday house tour 'Deck the Halls' begins Dec. 2

WESTFIELD — The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will present "Deck the Halls," a holiday house tour, on Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five beautiful homes in Westfield will be decorated in holiday splendor. Unique decorations and floral designs are created in keeping with the theme of each home. Shop at the artisan craft boutique and enjoy some holiday refreshments at Darielle Walsh's home on Grandview Avenue.

The ambience of a "Woodland Elegance" Christmas celebration envelops guests at the Allen home on Woodland Avenue.

This stately 1937 brick home is decorated for a lavish Christmas fete, featuring the lush bounty of fields and woods combined with the gleam of gold, silver and copper. The imposing entrance foyer is festooned with an elegant tree bedecked with lilies, orchids, pinecones and ribbons. Lilies, orchids and roses along with white Minton china grace the dining room. A children's tree is decorated with pinecones and sweet gum balls burnished with the gleam of gold and copper.

The tour will be self-guided with the addresses of the featured homes and a map



View this beautiful Woodland Avenue home decorated for the holidays in the Rake and Hoe holiday house tour on Dec. 2.

printed on the back of the tickets. Start the tour at any home and proceed to all at one's leisure. Tickets are available in advance for \$30 at Cristoffers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Williams Nursery or from any Rake and Hoe member. They will also be available at any home for \$35 the day of the show.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is a non-profit organization. The funds raised by this event will benefit the club's many community projects which include the Lyons Veterans' Hospital, the Cerebral Palsy Center of Union County and Mobile Meals as well as the Miller-Cory Museum gardens,

Shadowlawn garden and the Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden.

Get some ideas for holiday decorating. Members have put their imaginations to work to develop some unique decorating ideas. Call Linda Winter for tickets at (908) 232-0449.

## Country Folk Art show

EDISON — The Convention and Expo Center in Edison will host more than 150 top artisan-crafters from across the country Dec. 1-3 during Country Folk Art's holiday show. There will be seasonal accents and distinctive gifts. Show hours are Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission of \$7 is charged once per adult attendee and is valid for show re-admission all weekend.

Parking is free. For show information and directions visit CountryFolkArt.com.



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# Deck the Halls holiday house tour showcases the festive season



The Laurenzi home on South Euclid Avenue

WESTFIELD—The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will present Deck the Halls, a holiday house tour on Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five beautiful homes in Westfield will be decorated in holiday splendor. Unique decorations and floral designs are created in keeping with the theme of each home. Shop at the artisan craft boutique and enjoy some holiday refreshments at Darielle

Walsh's home on Grandview Avenue.

The Laurenzi home on South Euclid Avenue on the tour is a turn of the century craftsman-style house showcasing a beautiful central staircase and multiple fireplaces. The theme is a "Mediterranean Christmas," an idea developed from the fact that the family lived for many years in Italy. While there, the family amassed an

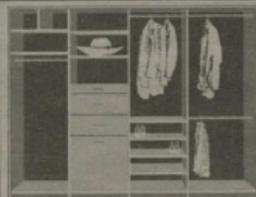
impressive collection of art and sculpture from the Mediterranean region.

The tour will be self-guided with the addresses of the featured homes and a map printed on the back of the tickets. Tickets are available in advance for \$30 in advance at Cristoffers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Williams Nursery or from any Rake and Hoe member. They will also be available at any home for \$35

the day of the show.

The funds raised will benefit the club's community projects, which include the Lyons Veterans' Hospital, the Cerebral Palsy Center of Union County and Mobile Meals as well as the Miller-Cory Museum gardens, Shadowlawn garden and the Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden.

Call Linda Winter for ticket information at (908) 232-0449.



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# FALL HOME & GARDEN



## Invitation to the holidays — Deck the Halls House Tour

WESTFIELD — The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will present Deck the Halls, a holiday house tour on Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five beautiful homes in Westfield will be decorated in holiday splendor. Unique decorations and floral designs are created in keeping with the theme of each home.

The Walsh home on Grandview Avenue is one of the featured houses on the tour. This lovely tutor-style house invites visitors to tour the home decorated with gilded natural plant materials and then refresh with cider and homemade cookies. Shop for the holidays in the delightful "Tis the Season" boutique here which features many handmade, one of a kind items. Among the featured gifts for purchase are: handmade holiday aprons and dish towels, bird feeders and houses, decorated grapevine wreaths, gilded topiaries,

boxwood trees, floral napkins and handmade crocheted snowflakes.

The tour will be self-guided with the addresses of the featured homes and a map printed on the back of the tickets. Start the tour at any home and proceed to all at your leisure. Tickets are available in advance for \$30

in advance at Cristoffers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Williams Nursery or from any Rake and Hoe member. They will also be available at any home for \$35 the day of the show.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club is a non-profit organization. The funds raised by this event will ben-

efit the club's many community projects which include the Lyons Veterans' Hospital, the Cerebral Palsy Center of Union County and mobile Meals as well as the Miller-Cory Museum gardens, Shadowlawn garden and the Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Gar-

den.

Get some ideas for your own holiday decorating. Members have put their imaginations to work to develop some very unique decorating ideas.

Call Linda Winter for ticket information at (908) 232-0449.

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