Christmas decorations, maybe a picture of your garden; literally anything that may interest you, will be sure to interest us! Get together with your committee to plan a basket! Or, a vintage container would be great! Remember, friends are invited...the cost will be $75 per couple, which includes the brunch and two drink tickets. More tickets will be available at a reasonable cost (and the Fundraising Committee will be the first in line for those) Invitations will be sent out closer to the event. Please see one of us with any questions.

Tucker Tremble, Fundraising Chair
Committee members: Nancy, Darlene, Bernadette, Martie, Sally Booth, Betty, and Mandy.

December 17, 2003
Horticulture
Board meeting - 8:30
Plainfield Country Club
Mobile Meals Charity workshop
Hostesses: Jane Burner, Martie Samek & Elisabeth Loizeaux

January 21, 2004
Board meeting - 8:30
Horticulture
Crescent Avenue
Hostesses: Mandy Zachariades, Susan Fraser, Diana Madsen
"Beginning Orchid Care" Dennis Dayan

February 18, 2004
Board meeting - 8:30
Garden History and Design
"Woody Wonders: How to choose and Use Shrubs in the Landscape"
Crescent Avenue
Hostesses: Phyllis Alexander, Barbara Stern, Jeanne Turner and Nina Weil

March 17, 2004
Board meeting
Business meeting - planning for spring Board members bring home of Judy Buehler
Garden History and Design cookies or pastries
Archiving New Jersey's Gardens - Diane Clarke

April 21, 2004
Board meeting - 8:30 Shakespeare Garden
Opening of Shakespeare Garden - 10:00 Home of Barbara Sanford
Luncheon membership meeting
Hostesses: Kathy Smythe, Bernice Swain & Barbara Sanford

May 4-5, 2004
The Stony Brook Garden Club and Princeton Garden Club are hosting the Zone IV Meeting and Flower Show, "Restoration", May 4th and 5th, 2004. One of the horticulture classes is going to be a "Miniature Garden/Landscape Design". The planting must contain a minimum of three different species or cultivars in a shallow, open container. The Princeton clubs are planning a program with a speaker on miniature gardens at the Frelinghuysen and will let us know the date and details soon. Our Heirloom seeds, Ruta graveolens (Rue) pot not to exceed 8 inches will be included under Class A, propagated plants. We are expected to enter.

May 19, 2004
Horticulture Show
Photography show -
In-house flower show
Plainfield Country Club
Hostesses: Evie Madsen, Elva Busch & Carroll Keating
"Attracting wildlife to the garden"
Gabrielle Stitz, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Farm
Annual meeting

June 9, 2004
Board meeting - 9:00 Shakespeare Garden
Meeting - 10:00
"in-garden" propagation workshop
photograph the garden - bring your camera
Hostesses: Bernadette Neill, Judy Buehler, Darlene Kasten, Tucker Trimble & Nancy Plumeri
Luncheon in the Garden
Ladies,

Here are the minutes from the last meeting, please forward any changes to me.

Thanks so much,
Bernadette Neill
Plainfield Garden Club
Minutes of February 18, 2004 Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Mary Kent at 10:20 AM

President/Mary Kent
Mary Kent thanked hostesses Nina Weill, Jeanne Turner, and Phyllis Alexander. Mary Kent welcomed three new members to the Plainfield Garden Club; Lorraine Ciemniecki, Bev Gorman, and Julie Shortridge. Diana Madsen introduced the new members to the Plainfield Garden Club.

In memory of our recently deceased member, Anne Wigton, Evie Madsen kindly shared thoughts and memories of a wonderful life. Anne had been a member of the Garden Club since 1955, almost half a century.

The minutes of the January Membership Meeting were approved as distributed via e-mail.

Treasurer/Kathy Andrews
Treasurer Kathy Andrews presented the Proposed Budget for 5/1/04 to 4/30/05 and distributed copies for review. Kathy Andrews also distributed the January Treasurer's Report, which reflects a current Balance on Hand for the Operating Account of $8798.44 and a Balance on Hand for the Community Account of $13548.99.

Mary Kent announced that Photography would now be a separate entity, no longer falling under the Flower Arranging Budget. Flower Arranging Chair Tucker Trimble assured the members that she would be pleased to appropriate a portion of her budget to assist with Photography expenses.

Conservation/Elva Busch
Elva reported that there has been quite a bit of media regarding the New Jersey Highlands, most recently in the Sunday Star Ledger. The Governor's Task Force will be reporting their findings by March 19th. Elva will keep the members apprised of the 'Highland's Initiative'.

On the topic of Invasive's, we will continue to educate our members, invite speakers on this topic to address the membership, and provide information via e-mail and newsletter.

Elva shared sources of information regarding Invasives and passed around several plastic coated cards displaying 'Common Roadside Invasive' as well of 'Common Roadside Wildflowers'.

2/27/2004
Flower Arranging/Tucker Trimble
Tucker was pleased to announce that Darlene Kasten, Nancy Plumeri, and Mandy Zachariades will arrange the 2nd entry for the zone show. Tucker will also be entering; each Club is required to submit 2 entries.

Schedule for the Rumson show has been distributed.

Tucker will be setting a date for the Flower Arranging Committee.

Darlene Kasten provided an arrangement for discussion. This will be a monthly event, with different Club members providing an arrangement for discussion.

Fundraising Disbursement Committee will meet immediately following the monthly meeting.

Horticulture/ Phyllis Alexander
Phyllis announced a workshop to be held on March 5th in her home encouraging plants for the Plant Exchange. Sign up sheet was circulated.

Hort Show will be held on the opening day of Shakespeare Garden, we will have a mini show. In-house show to be held on May 19th, possibly using the same schedule as the Zone shows.

Phyllis has pots for the PX, please contact her if they are needed.

Bernice Swain/Scholarship

The GCA Scholarship Committee 2003 has raised $147,000 to be awarded to 48 students covering a variety of Graduate and Under-Graduate Courses.

Programs/ Nancy Plumeri & Carroll Keating
Next month's meeting will be held at Sally Kroll's home.

Founders Fund/Sally Booth
Sally asked members to check the GCA Bulletin for 3 project proposals, which will be up for vote. Please review them in the Bulletin or on-line at the GCA website. Available funding is $25,000 for First Place and $7500 for each runner up.

New Business
- Newark Conservancy will be holding a Spring Gala; all are encouraged to support this event in some way, either through donation or attendance.
- Madison GC arranges a bus to Philadelphia Flower Show with early entrance and a special tour, perhaps this should be considered by PGC for next year.
- Fliers available from Frelinghuysen Arboretum with list of upcoming events.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Speaker, Barbara Stern of the Oranges Garden Club provided an interesting and informative program on 'Shrubs'.

Respectfully submitted by
Bernadette Neill

2/27/2004
Plainfield Garden Club April Board Meeting
April 19, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Kent at 12:50 PM in her home in Westfield, New Jersey. Present were Jeanne Turner, Mary Kent, Joan Vivian, Darlene Kasten, Diana Madsen, Elva Busch, Tucker Trimble, Susan Fraser, Kathy Andrews, Phyllis Alexander, Ann Shepherd and Judy Buehler.

Treasurer’s Report- Mrs. Andrews reported a balance of $7,618.15 in the Operating Account as of March 31, 2004 and a balance of $13,552.40 in the Community Account as of March 31, 2004.

Reading of the minutes of the March Board minutes was deferred.

Corresponding Secretary- Susan Fraser read letters from Betty Hackman and Joan Vivian requesting affiliate status. The Board granted both requests with regret.

Second Vice President- Jeanne Turner led a discussion of Shakespeare in Bloom or other community programs that would showcase our magnificent Shakespeare Garden. Susan Fraser suggested developing a students’ program. Mrs. Turner will contact Nina Weil to discuss community involvement.

Conservation- Elva Busch distributed laminated yellow cards listing invasive species and native alternatives. The Highland Water Protection and Planning Act is being reported out of committee. Many groups protesting its passage, including builders and municipalities fearing lost revenues have attended public hearings on the act. Elva distributed fact sheets in support of the Act and names and addresses of local representatives. She is encouraging our members to write to their local lawmakers.

Archives- Tucker Trimble met with Jessica Meyers, Director of Special Collections at the Plainfield Public Library. The Library has agreed to accept the Archives of The Plainfield Garden Club. The PGC must sign a gift agreement with them. The Board approved a motion to develop a gift agreement with the Plainfield Public Library that will meet the needs of our membership once ownership of the archives is passed to the library.

Horticulture- Phyllis Alexander announced that she and Cathy Andrews would attend the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. as Plainfield Garden Club Representatives and Diana Madsen will attend as Zone IV Director. Mrs. Alexander expects at least six entries from our club for the Horticulture Show. The Zone IV show takes place in Princeton on May 4th and 5th. A Plainfield Garden Club in-house show is scheduled for May 19th.

Program- Carol Keating and her committee have developed the program schedule for 2004-2005.

Newsletter- Articles are due on May 1st.
Nominating- Joan Vivian will announce the slate at our meeting on Wednesday.

Garden History and Design- Darlene Kasten reported on Stillman Garden documentation. She recommends that the Stillman Garden be included in Garden History and Design Archives. Slides of the garden may go to the Smithsonian and photos may be sent to our archives. Mrs. Kasten will keep us informed of developments.

Bylaws Committee- The committee distributed a compilation of proposed changes to the bylaws. Mary Kent explained the rational for the changes. After a lengthy discussion the board decided to submit these changes to the membership for review at our monthly meeting. We hope to vote on these revisions at the June meeting.

The date of the June General meeting is now June 2, 2004.

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Kent adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
April 21, 2004 General Meeting  
Plainfield Garden Club

President Mary Kent called the meeting to order at 12:25 PM at the home of Barbara Sanford in Plainfield, New Jersey. She thanked our hostesses Bernice Swain, Elva Busch and Mrs. Sanford for a sumptuous lunch and introduced our newest member, Sandy Lawrence.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as e-mailed.

Treasurer-Cathy Andrews reported a balance of $7,618.15 in the Operating Account as of March 31, 2004 and a balance of $13,552.40 in the community account as of March 31, 2004.

Conservation- Elva Busch announced that a committee meeting would be held on May 15th after working in the Shakespeare Garden. Bring a bag lunch. The topic to be discussed is “dealing with nurseries and growers” as we continue our work on invasive plants. Mrs. Busch distributed laminated yellow cards listing invasive species and native alternatives and informed members of developments in the progress of the Highland Water Protection and Planning Act. Elva distributed fact sheets in support of the Act and a contact list of local representatives. Plainfield Garden Club members should write to their lawmakers in support of the Highland Water Protection and Planning Act. The latest GCA Bulletin contains information on invasive plants. See page 5.

Flower Arranging- Tucker Trimble reported that Nancy Plumeri, Mandy Zacharaiides and Darlene Kasten are entered in the Zone IV flower show.

Archives- Mrs. Trimble announced plans to donate our archives to the Plainfield Public Library, and asked that members consider the disposition of a collection of bronze medals. Barbara Sanford presented a short history of her efforts to contain billboard blight in New Jersey. She is a founding member of Scenic America.

Horticulture- Phyllis Alexander thanked members for submitting plants for the plant exchange along with Diana Madsen, Zone IV Director. Mrs. Alexander informed members of the expected cicada infestation in the Northeast. The Zone IV Show will be held in Princeton on May 4th and 5th and on May 19th. The Plainfield Garden Club will host an in-house flower show. The 29th Annual New Jersey and Regional Daffodil Show is scheduled for April 23 and 24, 2004.

Shakespeare Garden- Thursday will be the alternate workday in the garden. On Wednesday, May 26th The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs presents a program entitled “The Lasting Imprint of Olmsted.”
Photography- Darlene Kasten encouraged members to participate in the photography portion of our show on May 19th.

Nominating- Joan Vivian presented the slate of officers for 2004-2005.
President- Phyllis Alexander
1st VP- Mary Kent
2nd VP- Jeanne Turner
Corresponding Secretary- Susan Fraser
Recording Secretary- Judy Buehler
Treasurer- Kathy Andrews

Second VP- Jeanne Turner needs suggestions for an event to take place in the Shakespeare Garden next June. Do we wish to continue with Shakespeare in Bloom?

Announcements- Many newsletters of interest are available to members. Please contact Mary Kent. The general meeting to be held on June 9th has been rescheduled for June 2nd to avoid conflicts with GCA meetings and the Somerset Hills Garden Tour.

There being no further business before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
May Board Meeting PGC
May 10, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Kent at 1:10 PM at her home in Westfield, New Jersey.

Mrs. Kent announced that this was Barbara Sanford’s 50th year as a member of the Plainfield Garden Club.

Minutes of the April Board meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer’s Report- Kathy Andrews reported a balance of $7,044.05 in the Operating Account and a balance of $13,834.64 in the Community Account as of April 30, 2004.

Garden History and Design- Darlene Kasten announced a visit to Skillman Garden at 11:30 AM on May 12, 2004. Entry cards are available for the Rumson Garden Club Flower and Horticulture show on May 22nd and 23rd.


Conservation- Elva Busch displayed articles concerning the scheduled vote on the Highland Water Protection and Planning Act, and shared information on The Shakespeare Garden that she obtained from the Federated Garden Clubs of America.

Flower Arranging- Tucker Trimble thanked Jeanne Turner for her magnificent entry in the Daffodil Show.

Nominating- Joan Vivian presented the new slate of officers for 2004-2005.
President- Kathy Andrews
1st VP- Mary Kent
2nd VP- Tucker Trimble
Corresponding Secretary- Susan Fraser
Recording Secretary- Judy Buehler
Treasurer- Phyllis Alexander

A motion was made and carried to e-mail the proposed slate of officers to the membership for a vote on May 19, 2004.

By-laws- Darlene Kasten and Diana Madsen led a discussion of proposed by-law changes. The Board approved the by-law changes and voted to e-mail these to the membership so that these changes could be discussed at the May 19th meeting and voted upon in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler, Recording Secretary
Annual Meeting 2004

The annual meeting of The Plainfield Garden Club was called to order by Tucker Trimble at 9:51 AM on May 19, 2004 at Plainfield Country Club. Mrs. Trimble read the annual report written by President Mary Kent. There being no business before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 AM.

May General Meeting

The May General Meeting was called to order by Tucker Trimble immediately following the annual meeting at 10:00 AM. The minutes of our April meeting were approved as e-mailed. Mrs. Tucker dispensed with the reading of the Treasurer’s report.

By-Laws- Diana Madsen and Darlene Kasten presented and explained proposed changes in The Plainfield Garden Club By-Laws. Mrs. Kasten will e-mail changes to the membership.

Horticulture- Phyllis Alexander advised members that today’s show is presented as a critique. Mrs. Alexander thanked those who participated in the plant exchange in Washington, DC.

Conservation- Mrs. Busch’s comprehensive report was read by Tucker Trimble. At this time the vote on the Highland Water Protection and Planning Act has been postponed. Please contact Elva for more information.

Flower Arranging- Mrs. Trimble thanked Jeanne Turner for her beautiful entry in the Daffodil Show.

Visiting Gardens- Sally Booth informed members of the GCA tour of Paris to be held October 9th through the 20th. “Nicholas and Alexandra” is scheduled at the Newark Museum September 29th through January 9th.

Nominating- Joan Vivian presented a revised slate of officers.
President- Kathy Andrews
1st VP- Mary Kent
2nd VP- Tucker Trimble
Corresponding Sec.- Susan Fraser
Recording Sec.- Judy Buehler
Treasurer- Phyllis Alexander

Corresponding Secretary- The Plainfield Garden Club received thank you notes from The Pathway School and The Newark Conservancy for recent donations.

Scholarship- The Plainfield Garden Club will sponsor a $1000.00 scholarship at Plainfield High School this year.
Photography- Darlene Kasten thanked participants in today’s show.

Garden History and Design- We are invited to visit Greenwood Gardens in Short Hills on September 21, 2004 to view the restoration project planned for that site.

Civic Projects- Nina Weil reported on the spring clean up and planting in the High School Atrium. She displayed photos of PHS students hard at work planting spring flowers.

Second Vice President- Jeanne Turner displayed water colors of the Shakespeare Garden and offered them for sale to our members.

There being no further business before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
June 2004
Plainfield Garden Club General Meeting

The June General Meeting was called to order in the Shakespeare Garden in Plainfield, New Jersey by President Mary Kent at 10:25 AM on June 3, 2004.

Treasurer’s Report-Kathy Andrews reported no changes in the PGC accounts since the May General meeting. (Operating Account $7,044.05 and Community Account $13,834.64.)

Flower Arranging- Tucker Trimble took a First Place at the Rumson show with her arrangement entitled “You see the future through a glass, darkly.” There were three entries in the Zinnia Class from PGC at the show as well.

Horticulture- Darlene Kasten distributed seed packets of Swiss Chard for the Challenge Class at the Englewood Garden Club show in October.

Photography- Darlene Kasten won a Blue Ribbon at the Zone IV show. We have a new photography display system and Darlene encourages members to look for the Photography Schedule in our yellow books.

Garden History and Design- The Plainfield Garden Club will have a private tour of the restoration of the 22 acre Italian Renaissance Greenwood Gardens on September 21, 2004 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM.

Nominating-Joan Vivian presented the slate of officers for a vote. The new officers were unanimously voted into office, the slate having been published in the May minutes.

President-Kathy Andrews
1stVP-Mary Kent
2ndVP-Tucker Trimble
Corresponding Secretary-Susan Fraser
Recording Secretary-Judy Buehler
Treasurer-Phyllis Alexander

Conservation-Elva Busch reported that the Highland Water Protection and Planning Act are still in Committee in the Senate. She explained the politics of the vote and you may contact Elva for the details. Check the newsletter for information on Hybrid Automobiles. Barbara Sanford came to the meeting as “Auntie Litter,” a character she developed to educate children about conservation. Barbara informed the members of a plan to expand River Road. Scenic America will work against this expansion and billboard proliferation.

By Laws-Changes in PGC bylaws were passed unanimously. Please refer to your e-mail from Darlene Kasten that explained the changes. Any questions regarding the changes may be addressed to Darlene or Diana Madsen.

Visiting Gardens- Sally Booth noted that we might consider The River Keepers outing for our fall schedule. Joan Vivian graciously invited PGC members to remove plants from her garden on June 14th and 15th. Phyllis Alexander reported on the various gardens she visited and her activities while attending the annual meeting in Washington, DC. Barbara Sanford presented her thoughts on the Olmsted
meeting she recently attended. Please contact Barbara or Elva Busch for more information on Olmsted designed parks.

Announcements-President Mary Kent called for all job descriptions and annual committee reports to be submitted to her as soon as possible. She thanked the June hostesses Mrs. Kasten, Mrs. Plumeri, Mrs. Neill, Mrs. Trimble and Mrs. Buehler.

Mrs. Kent adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM and passed her gavel to Mrs. Laurence Andrews, incoming President of the Plainfield Garden Club. Mrs. Kent presented awards for outstanding service to Tucker Trimble, Kathy Andrew and Judy Buehler. Elva Busch presented the Barbara Sanford Award for conservation to Barbara Sanford. Phyllis Alexander presented the Evie Madsen Award for Horticulture to Mary Kent. Tucker Trimble presented the Betty Hackman Award for flower arranging to Jeanne Turner. Barbara Sanford was honored for her fifty years of dedicated service to The Plainfield Garden Club. Diana Madsen was honored for her service as Zone Director. Darlene Kasten received the President’s Award. Sally Booth presented a Flower Arranging Achievement Certificate from The Garden Club of America to Tucker Trimble, our 1st Vice Chairman of Zone IV. Mary Kent was presented with the Past President’s Award for her work in the Shakespeare Garden. All members expressed their gratitude to Mary for her wonderful tenure as President.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary