September Board Meeting of The Plainfield Garden Club

September 20, 2004

President Kathy Andrews called the meeting to order at her home at 1030 Mayfair Way in Plainfield, New Jersey at 12:58 PM. Present at the meeting were Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Kroll, Mrs. Trimble, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Madsen, Mrs. Weil, Mrs. Busch, Mrs. Madsen, Mrs. Kasten, Mrs. Turner, and Mrs. Buehler.

Since there was no meeting of the Board in June no minutes were read.

Treasurer’s Report- Phyllis Alexander distributed a detailed report to Board members. The combined checking account balance as of today is $21,096.18 and the savings account balance is $2,607.50. The Finance Committee will meet to decide what amount will be transferred to the combined checking account from the savings account.

Corresponding Secretary- Susan Fraser received a “thank you” note from Barbara Sanford and a letter of tribute to Mrs. James R. Bird, President of the Plainfield Garden Club from 1968 to 1970, on the occasion of her passing sent by Evie Madsen.

Second Vice President- Tucker Trimble requested entries in class 1 for the Englewood Garden Club Flower Show to be held on October 22 and 23. The 2004 Scholarship recipient has yet to contact Mrs. Trimble.

Archives- Mrs. Trimble has transferred the archives of The Plainfield Garden Club to The Plainfield Public Library.

Civic Projects- Nina Weil has met with the Chairman of the Science Department to discuss student involvement in the atrium.

Flower Arranging- Jeanne Turner is developing plans for our flower show scheduled for January 19, 2005. Please see the newsletter for details concerning “Choreography,” the Englewood Garden Club flower show.

Garden History and Design- Chairman Darlene Kasten has made slides of the Japanese Garden on Leland Avenue in Plainfield, New Jersey.


Shakespeare Garden- Sally Booth reported that members have done great work this month in the Garden. She encourages greater participation.
Photography- The Englewood Garden Club show includes photography. Members should submit one photo per class by October 1st.

Conservation- Elva Busch will schedule a committee meeting after the general meeting. An Autumn Plant Symposium on invasive plants is scheduled for October 29th at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

Announcements- The next general meeting will be held at Plainfield Country Club on October 21st. The Zone IV Conservation Committee will meet on October 25th. President Andrews distributed sign-up sheets for committees and Zone meetings.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
September 24, 2004
General Meeting of The Plainfield Garden Club

President Kathy Andrews called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM in Conference Room 2 of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Mrs. Andrews welcomed new members Julie Shortridge, Lorraine Ciemniecki, Beverly Gorman, Sandy Lawrence and Janet Burchett. Sign-up sheets were distributed for the standing committees. Committee Chairmen will be attending a Zone IV meeting on November 4th at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Mrs. Andrews informed members of the death of Mrs. James Bird who was President of The Plainfield Garden Club from 1968 to 1970. A moment of silence was observed in honor of her passing.

Treasurer’s Report- Phyllis Alexander reported a balance of $21,096.18 in the Combined Checking Account and $2,607.50 in the Savings Account.

Corresponding Secretary- Susan Fraser read a thank you note from Barbara Sanford.

Civic Projects - Nina Weil reported that she is in contact with the Chairman of the Science Committee at Plainfield High School and that the Atrium looks wonderful with fresh mulch around the plantings.

Conservation- Elva Busch encouraged members to join her committee. Elva announced that the State legislature has passed the Highlands bill and will create a regional planning council. Please contact Elva for details. Check TV listings for NJPTV’s program “Highlands Rediscovered.” Every month Elva will spotlight an invasive plant and our Oct. 21st meeting at The Plainfield Country Club will address invasives.

Flower Arranging-Jeanne Turner asked members to participate in The Englewood Show and to be aware that our in-house flower show, Salute to Shakespeare, is scheduled for January 19, 2005.

Garden and History Design- Darlene Kasten is developing a recommendation for the inclusion of Leland Gardens in the Smithsonian Archives. She thanked members who donated plants for the New Jersey Committee Plant Sale and noted that a propagation workshop will be held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on October 5th from 10 AM to 12 noon. Please see page 10 of your yearbook for information on the Photography Show scheduled for February 16, 2005 and for the Horticulture Show on May 18, 2005.

Shakespeare Garden- Sally Booth reported that weeding continues to be a focus for members.

Visiting Gardens- Mrs. Booth is considering an outing to Wave Hill for interested members.

Newsletter- Susan Fraser requests that articles be submitted by month’s end.
Program- Carroll Keating announced that the program schedule is found on pages 9 and 10 in the yellow yearbook. Please note that the November 11th meeting is scheduled for a Thursday.

New Business- Mary Kent suggested that The Plainfield Garden Club might consider participating in a Show House Benefit planned for May 2005 in Plainfield. Darlene Kasten will attend an organizational meeting and inform us of developments next month.

Announcements- The Garden Club of Trenton will hold a fundraiser on October 16th. A preview party sponsored by the Englewood Garden Club is scheduled for Friday, October 22nd. Contact President Andrews for details. Propagation projects submitted for judging must include detailed information on the propagation process. Check with Mary Kent, Darlene Kasten, Tucker Trimble or Sally Booth for information on propagating plants.

There being no further business before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55AM. The members then attended a lecture and slide show on New Jersey Country Houses presented by John Turpin and W. Barry Thomson.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
10/21/04 The Plainfield Garden Club
October Board Meeting

Present were Mary Kent, Kathy Andrews, Phyllis Alexander, Susan Fraser, Sally Booth, Darlene Kasten, Tucker Trimble, Judy Buehler

President Kathy Andrews called the October Board meeting of the PGC to order at 8:40 AM at Plainfield Country Club.

Treasurer- Phyllis Alexander reported a balance of $22,571.68 as of 10/20/04.

Plainfield Show House- Darlene Kasten discussed our possible participation in a Show House planned for Spring 2005. President Kathy Andrews suggested that we advertise the Shakespeare Garden in the program book. Tucker Trimble proposed that The PGC participate in the show house as a Gold Member Group, which obligates our members to sell 100 tickets and allows our club a 1/2 page ad in the program book. The proposal was passed unanimously.

Flower Arranging- Tucker Trimble will lead a workshop on Wednesday, November 10th to create an arrangement in a pumpkin. We have not yet developed a schedule for our January flower show.

Fund raising- Sally Booth will be selling Amaryllis and Paper White bulbs via e-mail to PGC members.

Horticulture- Sally Booth has Daffodils for sale after the general meeting. A seed propagation workshop is scheduled for Nov. 18th at Darlene Kasten’s home. Drop off entries for the Englewood Show at Mary Kent’s home. Zone IV will present a GCA judging program and flower show at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on November 8 and 9, 2004.

Visiting Gardens- Sally Booth is considering a visit to Wave Hill on June 10, 2005.

Mrs. Andrews announced that all committee representatives attending the Zone IV meetings at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum arrive at 9:30 on November 2, 2004.

Newsletter- Susan Fraser requested that all materials be submitted by November 1st.

There being no further business before the Board, President Andrews adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

President Kathy Andrews called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM at Plainfield Country Club in Edison, New Jersey. Mrs. Andrews thanked October hostesses Barbara Peek, Bernice Swain and Peggy Tyler. Mrs. Andrews reminded members to sign up for committee placement.

September minutes were approved as revised and sent via e-mail.

Treasurer- Phyllis Alexander presented a hand out detailing treasury activity. The combined checking account balance as of 10/20/04 was $19,967.18, and the savings account balance was $2,607.50 as of the same date. The finance committee proposed that $16,000.00 be placed in a money market fund.

Second Vice President- Tucker Trimble asked Darlene Kasten to present information on “Plainfield Partners” proposed show, house in May to be held at 999 Hillside Avenue. The Plainfield Garden Club would participate by selling tickets and advertising in the program book. Mrs. Trimble recommended that we become “Gold Partners” in this project. A motion to participate was made and carried.

Horticulture- Sally Booth announced that she had daffodils for sale after the meeting at wholesale prices. These could be entered in the Daffodil Show in April or the Challenge class in the April Horticulture Show. A mini fundraiser will be conducted via e-mail. Mrs. Booth has Paper white and Amaryllis bulbs for sale.

Admissions- Diana Madsen thanked Bernadette Neill for meeting with new members at a morning orientation and for organizing several activities to better acquaint them with the PGC.

Conservation- Elva Busch announced the New Jersey Assembly’s designation of 5.5 million dollars to maintain open space in our state. Elva will detail the Zone IV Conservation meeting in the newsletter. Displays featuring invasive plants are on view at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Mrs. Busch showed photos of Japanese Stilt grass and discussed its characteristics. The New Jersey EPA has issued a directive banning the planting of non-indigenous species on state lands. A Conservation Committee meeting will be held on October 27th at the Plainfield library at 11:00 AM. An Autumn Plant Symposium entitled “Evict Invasives” is scheduled to be presented at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum on October 29th.

Flower Arranging- Tucker Trimble will conduct a workshop on November 10 for new members. Mandy Zachariades will critique Tucker’s arrangement for the
Englewood Show. The Plainfield Garden Club will hold a flower show in January.

Horticulture-Please correct your yearbook show schedule. Both the Daffodil Show and the Horticulture Show will take place in April. Mary Kent will be passing at the Englewood Show. All entries should be at her home on October 21st in the evening. Darlene Kasten will host a seed propagation workshop at her home at 11:00 AM on November 18th.


New Jersey Committee- Bernadette Houston asked all members to contribute to the “Growing Fund.”

Announcements- President Kathy Andrews thanked those members who will represent The Plainfield Garden Club at the Zone IV meetings on November 2nd. We will not have a Board meeting in November.

Mary Kent reminded members that work continues in the Shakespeare Garden. We are transplanting Hostas and preparing the Garden for winter.

Barbara Sanford discussed her activities on behalf of Scenic America. She recently attended a meeting in Newport.

Elva Busch introduced her guest, Carole Iuso.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Our speaker on invasive plants was Ms. Kathy Yvinskas.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
General Meeting - Plainfield Garden Club  
November 11, 2004

The November meeting of The Plainfield Garden Club was called to order at 9:30 AM by President Kathy Andrews at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown, New Jersey.

October minutes were accepted as e-mailed.

Treasurer’s report- Phyllis Alexander distributed her monthly report. Total cash on hand as of 10/31/04 is $22,437.88.

Flower Arranging- Jeanne Turner distributed a schedule for “Salute to Shakespeare,” an in-house flower show to take place on January 19, 2005. Jeanne explained the three classes and encouraged all members to participate.

Bulletin- Sally Kroll polled the members for their thoughts on continuing to print the bulletin issue that lists GCA officers and club presidents. Since this information is available on the GCA website, the membership thought that this issue of the bulletin was not necessary.

Conservation- Elva Busch reported on highlights of the recent Zone Conservation Meeting. She discussed the differences in the various pieces of legislation at the state and federal levels to protect the Highlands region. Elva informed the group that Gov. McGreevey has recently imposed a stay on the so-called Fast Track legislation passed on the heels of the state Highlands legislation. The environmental community is in opposition to this legislation, which would speed up the process of approving development in those areas where it is allowed. This stay, or moratorium, will be in place for seven months, allowing for public input and policy development.

Elva requested that garden club members lobby Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7th District) to vote for the federal Highlands Stewardship Act that has already passed in the House, but passed in a different version in the Senate. Slips of paper explaining how to do this were distributed to the members. Members were reminded that their legislators are listed with contacts in our yearbooks.

Elva discussed the invasive for the month of November which is the Multiflora Rose. She passed out photos of various parts of this plant and photos of it on her property. She discussed the problems with this plant. She also displayed the two-part newspaper article in the Star Ledger called “Alien Invaders!” A helpful booklet about invasives called “Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas” published by the National Park Service was discussed. Copies of this book at $3.50 were made available to members.
Recycling was encouraged. Barbara Sandford of the Conservation Committee reported on the problems created by purchasing and transporting firewood that has harmful insects in it. The Conservation Committee is scheduled to meet immediately following the speaker.

Horticulture- Darlene Kasten will host a plant propagation workshop in her conservatory at 11:00AM on November 18th.

New Jersey Committee- Bernadette Neill asked all members to contribute to The Growing Fund. We are hoping for 100% participation.

New Members- Mrs. Neill reported that Tucker Trimble lead a flower show workshop at her home on November 10th. The wonderful pumpkin bowl arrangements on display today are the products of that workshop. The new members recently visited Suburban Florist as a group and will visit Faris Brother’s Wholesale Florist next week.

Newsletter- Susan Fraser requested submissions for the newsletter by November 30th.

Fund raiser- Contact Sally Booth for information on the planting and care of your Amaryllis bulbs.

Program- Carroll Keating reminded the members that we would have a gift swap at the December 15th meeting. After the business meeting we will make small arrangements for Meals on Wheels. Please bring small tuna cans with ribbon glued to the exterior.

President Andrews thanked our hostesses for the joint meeting: Elva Busch, Anne Shepherd and Bernadette Neill.

There being no further business before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
December 15, 2004 Board Meeting of The Plainfield Garden Club

The Board meeting was called to order by President Kathy Andrews at 8:50AM in the Red Wender Room at Plainfield Country Club.

Mrs. Andrews called for Membership Information Forms and asked Board members to complete them and send them to her ASAP.

Recording Secretary- A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer's report- Mrs. Alexander presented a report on monthly transactions. Total cash on hand as of November 30th was $22,878.48.

Second Vice President- Tucker Trimble will pursue information about our time commitment to Plainfield Partners so that the membership can determine if we will have Shakespeare in Bloom in 2005 in addition to the Plainfield Partners show house. Mrs. Trimble reminded the Board that we would be hosting a Zone meeting in 2006. The Board discussed relating Shakespeare in Bloom to the New Jersey Curriculum and inviting school field trips to enjoy the garden.

Civic Projects- Nina Weil announced that her committee would meet after the general meeting to discuss future plans and on-going projects. Mrs. Hilal will have Juniors and Seniors work in the Plainfield High School Atrium to meet their public service requirement for graduation.

Mrs. Andrews led a discussion regarding programs in the Shakespeare Garden. These could involve The New Jersey Cooperative Extension, Union County Extension Service, Gardening Demonstrations and tips or an Open House for the community. The first weekend in June is optimum bloom time in the Garden. Are there any major conflicts in scheduling for that weekend?

"The Real Dirt" newsletter is available on line through the GCA website.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary
December 15, 2004
General Meeting

The December General Meeting of The Plainfield Garden Club was called to order by President Kathy Andrews at 10:15 AM at Plainfield Country Club.

Recording Secretary- the minutes of the November general meeting were accepted as e-mailed.

President Kathy Andrews introduced Tabby Cocken and Nancy Strong of The Garden Club of Somerset Hills who spoke on behalf of The New Jersey Committee. Since its inception in 1987 The New Jersey Committee has given $201,000.00 in grants, including two grants to The Plainfield Garden Club. Donations to The New Jersey Committee are voluntary. Nancy encouraged our participation and suggested that we apply for additional grant money to fund special needs.

Treasurer- Phyllis Alexander presented an accounting of monthly transactions. Total cash on hand as of November 30,2004 was $22,878.48.

Visiting Gardens- Sally Booth has information from the Junior League of Philadelphia regarding a Flower Show Package and VIP tour that is available to our members.

Second Vice President- Tucker Trimble confirmed that we would participate in The Plainfield Partners Show House. Details will follow.

Admissions- Diana Madsen encouraged members to sponsor interested persons for membership. Contact Diana for an application via e-mail or to discuss the application process.

Civic Projects- Nina Weil announced that her committee would meet for lunch after the general meeting to discuss future plans and on-going activities.

Conservation- Elva Busch announced that the Highlands legislation has passed in Congress and awaits the President’s signature. Elva discussed the importance of Federal appointments and legislation to the cause of Conservation. On December 2,2004 The New Jersey State Supreme Court stayed a controversial bear hunt. Elva passed on suggestions for conservation during the holidays, including using recycled cards as gift tags, LED lighting, and newsprint as wrapping paper. The Conservation Committee will meet while making centerpieces after the general meeting. Janet Burchett presented the Invasive of the Month, English Ivy.

Flower Arranging-Jeanne Turner distributed schedules and class descriptions for our flower arranging show, Salute to Shakespeare, on January 19,2005 to be held at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. Bernice Swain and Evie Madsen will direct a workshop on Tussie Mussies. Contact Jeanne to sign up for the flower show or the workshop.
Horticulture- Darlene Kasten will be ordering more seeds for cold frame germination.

Photography- Mrs. Kasten announced a photography show entitled "Greetings from the Garden State" scheduled for February. She will have a sign-up sheet available for interested members at the January meeting.

Shakespeare Garden- Mary Kent announced that her committee would meet to create a long-range plan for the Garden. The Shakespeare Garden has been put to bed for the season. Members may access “Real Dirt” on the GCA website. Directions will be in the Newsletter.

Newsletter- Susan Fraser would like all submissions by December 31, 2004.

Nominating Committee- Nina Weil announced that Darlene Kasten would represent The Plainfield Garden Club at the Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo. in April.

Mrs. Andrews thanked the December hostesses, Phyllis Alexander, Martie Samek, and Jeanne Turner.

There being no further business before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

The members then held their gift exchange and created holiday tray decorations for use by Meals on Wheels.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith C. Buehler
Recording Secretary