

*Douglaston Garden Club, Inc.*

N E W S L E T T E R



## **DECEMBER 2017**

*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



**OUR NEXT MEETING** is our Holiday Christmas Potluck Buffet Luncheon., Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 1:00 PM at the Community Church of Douglaston, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Parlor. This is a members-only meeting.

Center pieces are prepared by Martha Gotz. All donations of buffet food items are to be brought to the Parlor Kitchen by 12:30pm. Use DISPOSABLE PLATES/TRAYS only. **All food needing to be hot, should be well wrapped so as to stay warmed until served.** If you have not signed up yet to bring a food item, please call our hospitality Chairperson, Jeri Lynett 516-570-0498

**PROGRAM:** Our Program chair person, Carolyn Brink has booked a wonderful couple of singers to entertain us: **Ed and Carol Nicodemi, a New York City folk -jazzy duo of vocal and guitar.** Born and raised in the Bronx and Brooklyn, they met in Queens and have been playing music even since. If you are interested to know more ahead of time, take a look at their wonderful website: <https://www.edandcarolnicodemimusic.com/home>

**CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION NEWS:** On November 30<sup>th</sup>, thanks to Ruth Harrigan our Vice President in charge of youth Department, arrangements were made with Mrs. Debbie Govier, School Coordinator of PS 98 School to ensure that over 300 bulbs are planted all around the school grounds including inside the 2 raise beds donated by our Club last year.

Each class came out and in a very orderly manner, each child got a chance to plant at least one bulb under the supervision of a group of Douglaston Garden Club volunteers, Parents and Teachers. All of this was accomplished in less than 3 hours. Patricia Yoon led a remarkable impromptu class on the surrounding trees and the best technique to plant bulbs. Patricia Yoon is an Ex Park Ranger, an arborist. I am pleased to announce that going forward Patricia has accepted to co-chair with me take our Beautification programs! Welcome aboard Patricia, we are lucky to have you as a member.

The experience was educational for all as well as enjoyable. Smart questions were asked, worms were found, and to our delight, many parents expressed their desire to develop a closer relationship with our Garden Club. Pictures are worth a thousand words:



## DOUGLASTON VILLAGE WINTER FESTIVAL

As I have previously announced, on Saturday December 9, the Douglaston Garden Club has been invited to participate to the Douglaston Village Winter Festival by the PS 98 PTA and by the Douglaston Local Development Corporation. A small committee composed by Patricia Yoon, Maura Wrynn, Lori Hinchey, Mary Taylor and Cindy McCann was formed to work on this project and I want to thank them warmly for their help and support. A special thanks to Maura who offered the use her professional offices located 40-26 235<sup>th</sup> street, right next to PS 98. In this manner, we were able to set up shop inside rather than outside which was a good thing since we had our first snow storm of the year on that very day!

In any case, we had many visitors and we sold out all our Amaryllis bulbs, poinsettias and Elwood mini trees while given a chance to introduce the Douglaston Garden Club and what we do for this community. Here Again, pictures are worth a thousand words:



**MEMBERSHIP.** We are happy to announce that 5 new members were voted in at our last November meeting: **Maureen Barrett, Barbara Buckley, Maria Falco and Marguerita Carmen Autz of Douglaston and Maria DiChiara of Whitestone.** This brings our total of members to 1-4. An update version of our roster is attached to this Newsletter. Please find attached to this Newsletter an updated version of our directory.

**OUTREACH.** Please continue to bring new small toiletries to Gloria Brehl for the Madonna Heights women's shelter.

***Catherine Touwsma, President***

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The Douglaston Garden Club is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code. Memberships and donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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## Horticulture tidbits for the month of December 2017

By Mary Tobacco

The Winter is upon us, let's try to nourish our gardens so that we can have beautiful gardens this spring. A few tips on preparing for this:

- ✓ Clean out annuals and vegetable plants.
- ✓ Dead Heading is referring to the removal of dead or spent flowers to encourage more flowering or to improve the appearance of the plant. This can be accomplished either with a pruner or a pair of scissor or simply by pinching the dead flower with your fingers.
- ✓ Remove dead or broken branches from trees and shrubs.
- ✓ Start a compost pile.
- ✓ Rake up and remove fallen leaves to reduce any potential insect and disease problems.
- ✓ Plant winter containers.
- ✓ Roll up and store garden hoses on a warm sunny day.
- ✓ Roses should be winterized after a heavy frost, place a 6" – 10" deep layer of mulch over each plant, top soil works best, prune sparingly (just enough to shorten overly long canes. Climbers should be pruned at this time also.
- ✓ Reduce or eliminate fertilizing from houseplants until spring and don't forget during the winter month, we should check our indoors plants and give them lots of tender love, check for dryness, insect and make sure your plants have plenty of moisture. They will love you for it and in return you will be rewarded by their beauty.
- ✓ Ways to protect the environment and help save our planet.
- ✓ Let's try to compost. Packing leaves in a brown bag or using the brown pail that was distributed by the City is not an easy task but let's try it! It's for the good of us all.

Helpful information: I visited the Westbury gardens recently. I found out that if you pay with a Bank of America Credit card, it's free!

Don't forget for gardening help, Call Cornell university 1 516 228 0467 ext.#7

Have a blessed Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year!

### AROUND TOWN:

<https://www.panynj.gov/wtcprogress/transportation-hub.html>