

The Bedford Garden Club  
 Executive Meeting  
 Wednesday, January 5, 2000  
 9:30 A.M.

The January Executive meeting of the BGC was held at the home of Libby Mossman. Present were Mesdames Babcock, Baker, Borner, Coveny, Cunningham, Edgar, Ehrlich, Espy, Ferguson, Johnson, Kendrick, Kennedy, Maybank, Mitchell, Morris, Mossman, Niemczyk, Pierce, Perry, Reynders, Rice, Swank, Talbot, Trotta, Vincent, Weisser and Witmer.

Mary Kendrick opened the meeting by asking Mary Ellen Weisser to highlight some of the December Executive meeting minutes.

TREASURER

Liddy Baker read her report.

Regular	\$24,440.54
Civic & Education	2,795.27
John Jay	<u>4,108.40</u>
Balance	\$31,344.21

Mary Kendrick thanked Libby Mossman for hosting today's meeting in her lovely home.

Mary next mentioned how saddened we all were by the sudden deaths of two very dear and long time members of the BGC. Mrs Ruth Sharp had been a very special member for almost fifty years and Mrs. Mary Claus, also special, and a member for almost twenty years.

Mrs. Daphne Root gave a very moving and beautiful tribute to Mrs. Sharp. She thanked Liddy Baker for helping her to describe her very lovely and long time friend. A copy of the tribute will be put in Clippings and several members requested copies.

Mrs. Joyce Espy read the tribute to her good friend Mrs. Claus. This was also a very moving tribute, as Mary was a young woman, who still had many things to accomplish in her life. This will also appear in Clippings and a copy given to her children.

The Clipboard was passed around and Mary highlighted the New York Committee meeting at the GCA headquarters which will be held on January 4th., at 10 A.M. She also highlighted some GCA trips that will take place this summer.

Mary Helen Kennedy brought up the Adopt a Road Project and how we need to reinvigorate membership interest in it. This then lead to various other committee people saying they also have projects that need to be jump started for the membership.

Mary Kendrick suggested having the Policy Committee make up a survey and we can send it to the membership to hopefully interest them into volunteering for certain projects that they may not like, but are important to the BGC and our surrounding communities.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### EXHIBITIONS

Linda Coveny asked if we liked the way she and Louise did Greens Day this year. A long discussion followed and we all agreed that the Westmorland Sanctuary seemed to be a more appropriate place to hold it. It will be held there this year and Linda and Louise will reconsider the day and try to have all bring greens and have instructions for those that need it and jobs for those that want to be creative and do their own wreaths.

#### HORTICULTURE

Dee Edgar spoke and said the seeds are in Varner's refrigerator and they will call us when they need to be put in flats.

There is a workshop on "Growing in Flats" in Rye on Tuesday, January 11th., and all are welcome. Please let Dee know after the meeting today if you are interested.

There will be a trip to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden on June 14th., when the roses are at their best.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Nonie Reynders advised us that the blue slips are out and the proposers are aware of who they are proposing. She then went over the exact procedure to be followed to become a member.

#### PROGRAMS

Virginia Maybank spoke about Gary Barnum, who is going to be the speaker at the January 19th. meeting. The meeting is being co-hosted with The Ridgefield Garden Club and will be held at St. Matthews.

Bill Noble will speak on February 23rd., at St. Matthews and Steve Scanniello, on April 19th. will speak about the roses at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. It will be held at the Bedford G & T and lunch will follow.

Virginia asked the members for new ideas on great Spcakers and new places to visit for next year. Several suggestions were made.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ALICE ANDERSON TEA

Because of Mrs. Ruth Sharp's death, Bonnie Trotta suggested we add this project to the list for the survey. Maybe we can reconsider what we can do for the hospital. It seems the Tea has not been well attended by the employees, so Bonnie suggested that we do something in the spirit of what was originally intended. She would like to speak with the President of the hospital and the head of Development to determine what that would be. There were several suggestions made by the membership.

It was Joyce Espy's suggestion that we go along with the Tea this year in honor of Mrs. Sharp, but that Bonnie and the Hospital would come up with a proposal and Project Review Committee would look at it and decide.

CLIPPINGS

The deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> for anything we want printed.

Libby Mossman asked if anyone had any good photographs of Greens Day because we would like to send some to the GCA for their bulletin

PROJECTS

Kim Morris thanked all for their participation. She thinks we made about \$1,500 so far. We may do something for Planting Day, perhaps more gardner orientated with a small used book and basket sale.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Jeannie Witmer announced that we will be giving \$2,200 to the Bedford Village Historic Committee for tubs. This is only for the historic part of Bedford Village and they should be receiving them by Planting Day. We will be giving \$2,000 to the Katonah Chamber of Commerce for new tubs, but we will not be planting or maintaining them. Anita Stockbridge will be advising them.

No new tubs have been ordered for Bedford Hills and Horticulture will decide if we have the manpower to plant the existing tubs on Planting Day.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Margie Pierce wanted to thank Nancy Vincent and Betty Wamsley for filling in for her while she was ill. We received publicity two weeks in a row from the Record Review.

#### SWEEPSTAKES

Carol Rice said we will have Sweepstakes at the January 19th. meeting and also in February. The schedule is on the Clipboard and will also appear in Clippings.

#### TRIPS AND VISITING GARDENS

Kirk Ferguson said our winter trip will be to the Duke Gardens in Somerville, New Jersey. We will be going on February 9th. and it should be a two hour trip each way.

#### WAYS AND MEANS

Phoebe Perry spoke about the House Tour fund-raiser she and Cynthia Mas are co-chairing which is coming up in October of this year.

There was a very lengthy discussion among members as to whether this event should be only homes of BGC members and only other garden clubs invited to the event. Most members seemed to feel this was a good idea, but since the letters had already gone out and two potential homes were non members, it was decided that this year would be an exception. In the future, our Policy Committee will meet prior to planning the event and will determine the guidelines for that particular year and fund-raiser.

Cindy Swank, as our BGC representative, will be donating a plant to the meditation room at the Northern Westchester Hospital for the month of January.

The February Executive meeting of the BGC will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd., at 9:30 at St. Matthews Church

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Ellen Weisser  
Recording Secretary

RUTH'S GARDEN

Recently The Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester was the recipient of a generous gift from The Bedford Garden Club for the purpose of developing a vegetable garden to be used by our kids for instruction and pleasure. I am very grateful for the continued, substantial support of The Bedford Garden Club as we open the doors of our beautiful new facility on the new century.

I have taken the Executive privilege of naming this garden in memory of my dear friend Mrs. George C. Sharp. True to her nature it will be seated in the rear of our property and will be somewhat scruffy at times, but always lovingly tended. I am going to transplant divisions of perennials that she has shared with me; most notably the peonies that always bloomed in time to be lovingly displayed at The Alice Anderson Tea across the street at the hospital

Hopefully, I can also convince her caretaker Juan to share some of his famous seedlings with me in the spring especially the small, sweet green peppers and leeks that I've been privileged to receive. Maybe I'll even flip a few Bedford Oak Acorns in there and with her blessing who knows what could happen.

This garden will be precious to me and I will watch over it as I do my own. Every trampled plant and over-watered flower will make me smile as we try to teach our kids about the care and beauty of the earth. The garden will eventually have a nice bronze plaque dedicated to The Bedford Garden Club. But somewhere on an old barn board or dilapidated bird house will be the small tribute "Ruth's Garden".

with deepest gratitude,

Bonnie Trotta



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

1/5/00

Dear Mary,

I am so grateful to the Garden Club for the continued support of this club. The recent gift will allow us to build a garden at our new facility. Outdoor activities are important in our increasingly urban environment. I know this will add significantly to our ecology and nature studies.

I am calling it "Ruth's Garden" and will personally keep it well cared for.

Thank you

Bonnie

## A Tribute to Ruth Baldwin Sharp

Mrs. George C. Sharp was a member of the Bedford Garden Club for almost 50 years. She could always be found in the back row of a meeting. Her report on the Alice Anderson Memorial Tea was always the same - invariably a bad case of laryngitis would set in just as she was about to deliver her report and her good friend, Bonnie Trotta would fill in.

Ruth Baldwin Sharp was truly loyal to her friends. When Mrs. Arthur Anderson had left a gift to the Northern Westchester Hospital Center, she asked Ruth to oversee its use. Thus the terrace and the memorial tea were created. Mrs. Anderson was not only a friend but the grandmother of Lucy Sharp, the wife of Ruth's son, George B. Sharp.

As a young girl, Ruth's family rented a house in Bedford all year long, coming out from New York for weekends and the summer. Ruth was proud to tell about her antics with her pony. (Even at 95 years of age, Ruth still enjoyed making playful jokes and naughty mischief.) Her pony was preferred to jewelry, which she sold to her sister Lelia in order to feed her pony.

Ruth was a kaleidoscope of charm, mystery, mischief and endearment and held deep religious convictions and opinions. A loving mother with a devoted daughter, Anne, with whom there were endless good humor, pranks and surprising conversation that kept their guests off balance at the table. After Anne's death, Ruth spoke to me about her love, trust and gratitude to God for her own wonderful life and the beauty of nature that surrounded her. She believed firmly that the church and its liturgy should be the focus of family life and morals. She spoke of the devotion of Anne's friends to her which kept her spirits high and how appreciative she was of their attentions. Each one was shown high esteem by being presented with a dozen of her brown eggs. As the lady she was, she was stoic but always conducted herself with warmth and cheer and affection.

*Spanish or Basque*  
Mrs. George C. Sharp was a lady and the world recognized her position. Farmer Sharp protected her beloved land, her cattle, her barnyard friends and her dogs. She mastered all of them. With Juan, her Galician farm manger, there were endless differences. However when Juan was on holiday in Spain, Mrs. Sharp would become morose and even unwilling to lunch. (Lunching was her preferred past-time.) She even waited for Juan and his wife Fina to return from their pre-Christmas holiday in Spain to sink into a coma. She knew that now the farm was in strong hands once again.

This past year she fretted because she could not buy any caponized chicks. She told me that her friends count on her Christmas capon and that she did not want to disappoint them. Betty Wamsley (another member of the Bedford Garden Club) came to Ruth's rescue. She not only found the chicks at a farm in Pennsylvania but she and her husband, Fred, went and fetched the chicks and brought them to Cantitoe Corners Farm. Ruth watched with interest the chicks development into fat Christmas Capons.

We can thank Mrs. Sharp for raising funds and the endowment to buy 2 acres of land to protect the pre-Columbian Bedford Oak. Among her other involvements there is Caramoor, the historic John Jay Homestead, the Farmers Club and Saint Matthews Church. From the back pew she

IN MEMORIAM

A Tribute to

MARY DANN CLAUS

The Bedford Garden Club has lost a valued member and a wonderful friend. Mary became a member of The Bedford Garden Club in 1980. She served on the executive committee as treasurer from 1982 to 1984; on the nominating committee for 1984-1985; member-at-large 1985-1986; and, treasurer for the Carmoor benefit in 1986 and the house tour in 1990. In 1991, Mary chose to become a sustaining member of The Bedford Garden Club; however, this change of status in membership did not change her interest and devotion to the garden club.

Mary was a loving and devoted Mother to two wonderful and successful children; a devoted daughter, taking care of her mother during a lengthy illness; a true friend with an enormous amount of energy and interest in comforting others, advising or simply just being there time of need; a caring member of her community; an active member of St. Matthew's Church; and a supporter and volunteer for the Pegasus Program.

Mary had just recently added a swimming pool to her property (she was an avid swimmer) and was planning the new gardens around her pool and terraces. She was so excited about the planting to be done in the Spring.

As a realtor, Mary was respected by her peers as well as by her clients and she was known for her outstanding professionalism.

Mary was a unique woman with many interests and one who enjoyed life, her friends,



The Bedford Garden Club: Project 2000

Restoration of Potting Sheds at the John Jay Homestead

The Bedford Garden Club has been involved in the restoration of the gardens at the John Jay Homestead in Katonah, N.Y., since the 1960's. The efforts of five area garden clubs and organizations make upkeep of the landscape and gardens at the home of the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice possible. The Homestead, currently comprised of 64 acres, with the main house dating from 1801, is owned by the N.Y. State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Gardens date from the early 19th century. The potting sheds that are under restoration originally served the gardens and the greenhouses which made the thriving floriculture business of 'Bedford House' possible for over seventy years. The northern shed was dismantled and stored in 1992 due to extreme deterioration.

Our present project is to complete restoration of the existing southern shed, and restore/rebuild the northern shed and adjacent stone wall. Both structures stand on the northeast corner of the superb herb garden maintained by the N.Y. Unit of the Herb Society of America, and are adjacent to the formal garden which has been restored and maintained by the Bedford Garden Club since 1972. This complex is the first thing that visitors to the Homestead see upon driving up the recently restored Farm Lane entrance, and has a tremendous visual impact on the property as a whole. When Bedford and Rusticus Garden Clubs host the Zone III Annual Meeting in the fall of 2001, many of our functions will be held at the Homestead. Over \$55,000 has been raised in the past year: \$22,000 from our club and individual club members; the balance from generous donations from Friends of the John Jay Homestead and other area garden clubs and organizations. Plans for this exciting project have been approved by N.Y. State, and work is expected to begin in the Spring of this year.

The Bedford Garden Club  
Bedford, N.Y.  
January 2000

PROJECT 2000: JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD POTTING SHED RESTORATION

At the January Executive meeting, the board selected the restoration of the potting sheds at the John Jay Homestead as our official GCA 'Project 2000'. The Marsh Sanctuary had been chosen previously as a candidate, but due to unavoidable delays in construction, and uncertainty as to the total scope of the renovation, it was felt that it would be better to have something more concrete for display purposes at the Zone III and GCA Annual meetings this spring, and for inclusion with all 'Projects 2000' listed in the GCA *Bulletin*.

The Homestead will be very much in use during our hosting of the annual Zone III Meeting with Rusticus in the Fall of 2001. As mentioned in our last *Clippings*, both part of the proceeds of our Spring Garden Party, as well as generous donations from individual Bedford club members have been contributed to this exciting project. Contractors' bids are due in mid-January, with work expected to begin in April of this year. The combined estimated funding of \$55,000 has been raised, with half coming from our club, and the balance generously donated through Friends of the John Jay Homestead and other area garden clubs and organizations. The restoration of this site is important to the appearance of the recently restored Farm Lane entrance, and is central to the Homestead gardens that Bedford has been involved with since the 1960's. We will keep you posted on progress!