

# The Ivy Anchor

## The Hampton Roads Garden Club Newsletter

### December 2023

As we move into December I know how busy each of you are as we all prepare for another holiday with our family and friends.

Decorating our homes gives us a chance to put our garden club skills to use. Arranging our mantles with freshly cut greens, making beautiful bows to adorn the wreaths on our doors, using our pretty Anderson's poinsettias to add a splash of color to a room and arranging our centerpiece for our dining room tables gives us the opportunity to try new things that we may have just learned through a workshop, a speaker, or one of GCV's Cultivating Conversations. Our club has some of the most talented and creative members in the entire state and I know each of you will decorate in your own unique way. I'd love for you to send me some of your holiday creations that I can share with the membership in next month's newsletter. It's so nice when members share their knowledge and talent with other members, that's what makes our club so fun!



I look forward to seeing all of you as we celebrate the season together at our Holiday Luncheon. I hope each of you take a moment during this busy month to enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of the season. Happy Holidays!

Mary



### December Membership Meeting & Holiday Luncheon

**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023

**Time:** 10:30 Business Meeting; Luncheon to Follow

**Location:** The Home of Amine Morgan, 14 Gary Rd., Newport News, VA 23601

**Parking:** Please try to carpool to this meeting if possible as parking is limited. Please to not park on the grass in front of the houses on Gary Rd. and Douglas Drive. You may park on the park side of the street on the grass edge next to the road.

**Hostesses:** Susan Armfield (Captain), Mindy Beasley, Donna Herbert, & Linda Smith

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## Meet Our New Members



### Maryann Ayer

Maryann is originally from Long Island, NY but VA has been her home most of her life, living first in Hampton and now in Newport News. She grew up in a large family of 6 brothers and 2 sisters. She has 2 sons and 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. She is a retired educator having taught all levels from pre-K up to W&M grad students as an adjunct professor. Maryanne loves online learning, podcasts, both indoor and outdoor gardening, traveling and playing with her grandchildren. Her travels took her to one of her favorite spots, Bruges, Belgium which she describes as a "dreamland". Her favorite flower is the Red Spider Lily and her favorite bird is the Dowitcher because they dance! When asked for a fun fact about herself Maryann said, " My first deep sea dive was on the Great Barrier Reef, it was all downstream from there!



### Julianne Kiedinger

Julianne and her husband David have two children, Lauren and Preston, a one-year old grandchild and one on the way, as well as a dog and a cat. In addition to living on the Peninsula, Julianne has lived in New York and Green Bay Wisconsin. Julianne and her husband own Big Top Entertainment and she does voice over work for television and radio. In her spare time she sings with a couple of bands and loves to play tennis. Her favorite vacation spot is the Florida Keys, favorite flower is the Lilly of the Valley and her favorite bird is the Eagle. A fun fact about Julianne is that she was Miss Virginia in 1986 and placed first runner up to Miss America that year! She has traveled the world as a singer and dancer entertaining the Armed Forces on a USO Tour.

### Pam Patterson

Pam was born in South Carolina but was raised in Newport News. After graduating from UVA she moved to Atlanta for 5 years and then McLean VA for 10 years before moving back to Newport News. She and her husband Steve have two daughters Elyse and Nicole. She recently retired but first had a career as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Her second career was as Director of Procurement and Materials for Engineering Development Laboratory, Inc., a family business. In her spare time she likes to garden, paint, play the piano and is a novice golfer. Her favorite vacation



spot is Paris but loves the Charleston and Savannah area also. Her favorite flower is the Rubrum Lily and her favorite birds are the Heron, Eagle and the Hummingbird.



## HRGC Member Directory Additions

If you have not already done so, please update your HRGC directory with our New Members' contact information.

Maryann Duffy Ayer  
1416 Riversedge Rd., Newport News, VA 23606  
Cell: 757-660-5510  
Home: 757-596-2199  
Email: [maryannda@aol.com](mailto:maryannda@aol.com)

Julianne Kiedinger (Mrs. David)  
102 Austins Point, Yorktown, VA 23692  
Cell: 757-696-0557  
Email: [jskvo@cox.net](mailto:jskvo@cox.net)

Pam Goble Patterson (Mrs. Stephen)  
26 Amy Brooks Drive, Newport News, VA 23606  
Cell: 757-897-8854  
Email: [pam@edli.com](mailto:pam@edli.com)



## Nominating Committee

For those members who have not turned in their completed Placement Interest Survey for 2024-2026, please turn them in at the December meeting. If you have not received a survey, I will have a form for you to complete. Thank you, Donna Herbert, HRGC Nominating Chariman

## Poinsettia Pick Up Day!



Poinsettia Pick Up Day was fabulous and went super smoothly! Thank you to all the members who ordered poinsettias, Christmas Cacti, and Ferns for yourselves, your family, your friends, businesses and churches. A huge thank you to the Poinsettia Committee for all of their hard work, Jane Quinn, Rita Quinn, Kristin Barnes, Trish Lively, Bobbie Cooke, and Molly Trant. The picture above is of Jane and Rita with a car full of poinsettias that are headed to The Chamberlin in Hampton.



### Bloom & Grow

On Monday November 6, 2023, our first Bloom & Grow Event with Huntington Garden Club was held at First Presbyterian Church in Hampton. There were 48 ladies in attendance that included members from both clubs as well as invited friends. Our speaker

Katie Thomas-Wright, President of the Gabriella GC in Danville and owner of Katiedid Florals, had everyone mesmerized with her tips and tricks, her beautiful arrangements, and her fun stories. It

was a great day enjoyed by all. Becky Tench, Martha Sides and Val Bowen got to go home with arrangements in their unique containers that they brought to the event.



Becky Fitchett HGC President, Katie Thomas-Wright Guest Speaker, & HRGC President Mary Johnson at our first Bloom & Grow event.



Katie Thomas-Wright explains some of her techniques of arranging to the attendees.



One of Katie's arrangements in a unique vase.



Another beautiful arrangement using flowers and greenery from our gardens.



A unique arrangement using a bark container.



Val Bowen got to take home an arrangement in the fun vase she brought to the event.



## Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs

On Friday November 10th, the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs held their November meeting featuring HRGC member Allison Clock as the guest speaker. Allison with the assistance of her daughter Madeline demonstrated fall arrangements using pumpkins. In addition HRGC members provided refreshments for the reception after the meeting. A big thank you to Martha Sides for coordinating the refreshments for our club. In addition, thank you to HRGC members who attended the meeting to support

Allison and Martha: Ann Fisher, Donna Herbert, Kathy Hutcheson, Mary Johnson, Ann Moir, Jane Quinn, and Becky Tench. All of the PCGC ladies in attendance enjoyed the food provided by our club members. Thank you to all of you who made a dish for the event, it was very much appreciated.



Allison Clock speaks to the members of the PCGC on tablescapes for the fall.



Allison begins her arrangement on top of a pumpkin.



Martha Sides displayed the first arrangement for the members to see and take pictures of it.



Allison's daughter Madeline displays the second beautiful arrangement that Allison created.



The table centerpiece that Martha Sides provided.



Members of the PCGC enjoy the reception and the food provided by the HRGC members.



## Boys and Girls Club

On November 16th HRGC Community Project Chair Birgit Kingsbury organized a fun event for 16 children and 2 counselors at the Boys and Girls Club in Newport News. Members from both Hampton Roads and Huntington Garden Clubs came together to

help the children create beautiful fall themed arrangements to take home to their families. They organized the workshop into two 30 minute sessions of 8 children each in order to be able to give more individual time to the children. Everyone had a great time creating beautiful arrangements. Thanks to Becky Fitchett and Wanda Blalock from HGC and HRGC members Amanda Graham and Sherry Maynard who joined Birgit at this event. Special thanks to HGC member Pam Henifin for sending flowers and supplies, and HRGC member Page Kremp and Jeff's Flowers for donating bubble vases. (*Thank you to Sherry Maynard for submitting this article.*)



Sherry Maynard, Wanda Blalock, Becky Fitchett,



An arrangement made by a child at the Boys and Girls



Wanda Blalock prepares the flowers and the greenery!

Amanda Graham and Birgit Kingsbury get ready for a flower arranging workshop at the Boys & Girls Club in Newport News.

Club.



Another creative arrangement by a young participant.



Sherry Maynard poses among the flowers!



The Boys & Girls Club participants have a lot of talent!



## Conservation and Beautification

As the movement to reduce water-guzzling manicured lawns and nurture more sustainable, native landscaping is gaining momentum around the country, a Virginia agency is now offering a better way to help you find the right plant for the right place. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is encouraging home gardeners and large land developers alike to use its improved Virginia Native Plant Finder to search for the most appropriate species for a specific location.

The link can be used for projects of any scale, from backyard gardens to large solar sites, and park management to landscape architectural design, it said, noting that choosing native plants is a critical part of designing a high-quality habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder>

(Article submitted by Julie LoCicero, Conservation and Beautification Chairman)

*Save The Date For Our Next Fundraising Event!*

SAVE THE DATE

# Galentine's

## Sip n Shop

FEBRUARY 8TH  
6PM-9PM  
WINE AND CHEESE

SISTERS CITIES OFFICE  
11820 MERCHANTS WALK,  
SUITE 100  
NEWPORT NEWS

# Happy Birthday



## Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to these HRGC Members who will be celebrating upcoming Birthdays!

### **December:**

2-Mary Ann Ayer  
8-Diane Koun (Associate)  
13-Jennifer Dick  
14-Ann Fisher  
24-Marsha Amory (Associate)  
30-Anne Sweetman

### **January:**

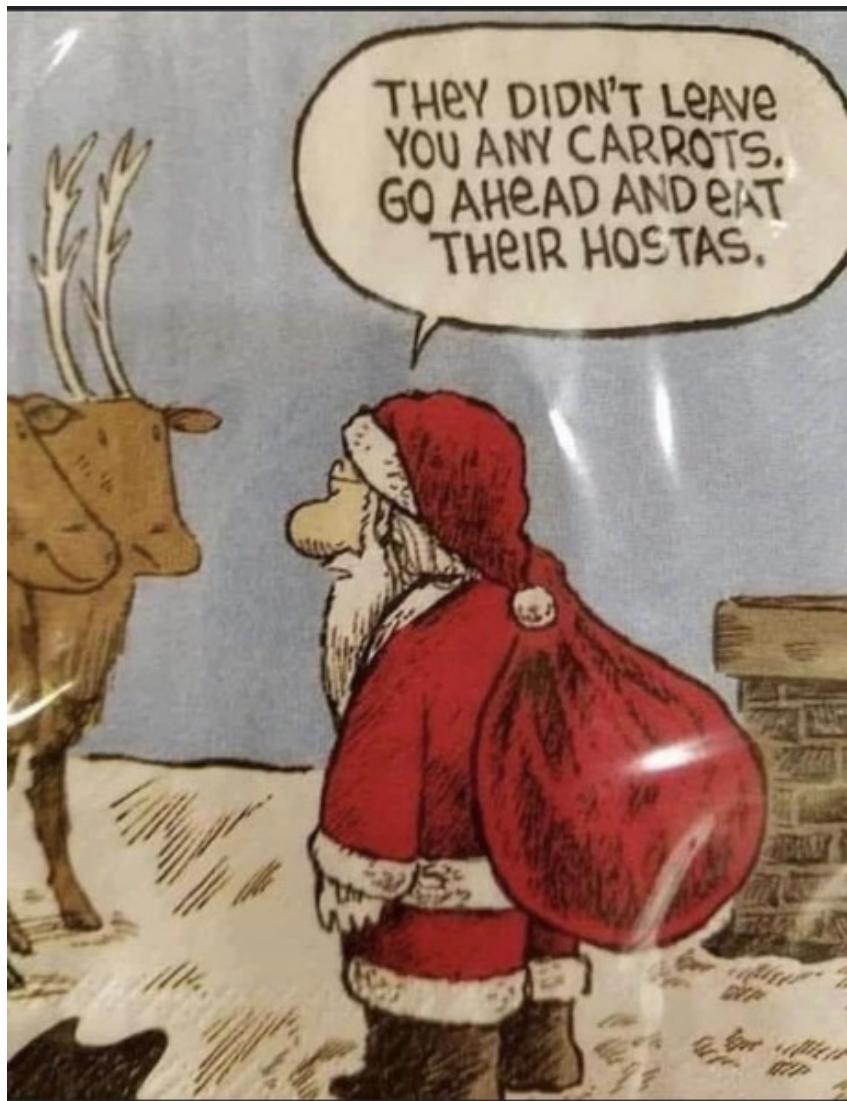
4-Anne Harrison Harris  
13-Kathy Hutcheson  
18-Sarah Huddleston  
19-Gay Huffman  
23-Trish Lively  
26-Merriel Bowditch (Associate)

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# WINTER SEED SOWING IN JUGS



*Just For Fun!*



## Mary Johnson

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters