

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

November 2019

TONIGHT, WE DECIDE:

Besides the possibility of voting for our 2020 club executive (if we get a nomination from the floor), we will be voting on who will be the recipient of our Christmas Party Draw money and which entry we like best in the Container Contest. Lots of decision making.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This should be quick with the only business on the agenda being the election of the NWHS 2020 Executive Committee.

At the time of printing, the nominees for the open positions are:

- President (2 year term):
Lorna Cloutier
- Treasurer (2 year term):
Terry Koziel
- 1 Member-at-Large (1 year term):
Ingrid Milne
- 3 Members-at-Large (2 year term):
Terri Clark-Kveton, Monica Mowat,
Marilyn Aldworth

Nominations for any of these positions are welcome from the floor tonight.

Ballots will be distributed if needed for a vote.

The newly elected executive members will be joining the following, all of whom have one year left on their terms:

- Vice-President: Diane Perry
- Secretary: Heather Corbett
- Members at Large: Trudy Findlay,
Lea McDonald

WE THANK THE EXECUTIVE FOR THEIR DILIGENCE IN STEERING OUR CLUB.

CHRISTMAS DRAW CHARITY SELECTION:

Last month, we asked for nominations for a group to receive half of the proceeds from our Christmas Party Draw. We received 6 nominations. They are described in the next column.

To vote, use the ballot marked "charity". Just write the name of your choice on it and deposit it in the bucket at the head table. Voting ends at the end of the refreshment break.

THE 2019 CHARITY NOMINEES:

The Elizabeth Fry Society (of Greater Vancouver): This organization aims to break the cycle of poverty, addiction, mental illness, homelessness and crime for women, girls and children at risk. Their mandate: every life has value; all people are entitled to dignity and respect; everyone has a right to belong.

Last Door Addiction Treatment Centre for Youth, Adults & Families: For 35 years, they have provided addiction treatment services in a homelike setting for youth, emerging adults and adult men. Family enhancement programs are provided for partners, parents, grandparents and siblings.

Technology for Living: This charity provides Environmental Control Systems (ECS) that assist people with high level physical disabilities to control devices in their homes and on the go. They work with clients who have respiratory conditions, such as those with ALS, to live as independently as possible with technological solutions and supports.

Neighbours Helping Neighbours: This Burnaby/New West based group is part of a Canada-wide organization, L'Arche, which runs programs for people with developmental disabilities. "Neighbours Helping Neighbours" puts some of these people to work, helping seniors with physical disabilities. They perform gardening light repair chores, thus helping seniors remain in their homes and communities.

Aunt Leah's Place: When many teens in foster care "age out" of government care at 19, they find themselves completely alone. Aunt Leah's Place fills that gap through providing guidance, housing, job training and coaching in essential skills. Aunt Leah's is New West based.

Honour House: Located in New West, Honour House provides a free-of-charge, temporary home for members of our Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans and Emergency Services Personnel and their families while they receive medical care and treatment in the Vancouver Area.

Tonight's Meeting

Tues, Nov 12, 7:30

Speaker: Kathryn Friesen on "How Do I Leave My Garden?/Finding Your Quiet Centre in a New Space"

AGM: Executive Vote
Container Contest vote
Christmas Charity vote
Christmas tickets on sale

Mark Your Calendar

NWHS Christmas Crafting:

Mon, Nov 11 to Sun, Dec 8
9:00-9:30pm by appointment
Basement, 117 Seventh Ave
(see article)

NATURE Larger than Life:

Nov 16-Jan 4
Queensborough Community Centre,
920 Ewen Ave
A presentation by the Garden Gals

VanDusen Garden Festival of Lights:

Dec 1-Jan 7 (closed Dec 25)
Hours vary
Save & avoid the line by buying your tickets on-line
www.vandusenfestivaloflights.ca

Northwest Flower & Garden Festival (aka NWF&G Show):

Cyber Monday, Dec 2
If they follow their recent tradition, on this one day only, the show will be offering an additional \$5US off the regular early bird admission price. That brings a regular one-day price down to \$15US. (At-door admission is \$25US). The 2020 show runs from Feb 26 to Mar 1. We are not sure if the Cyber Monday deal is advertised on their website, www.gardenshow.com, but Audrey gets notification via her in-box on Cyber Monday. If you tell her you are interested, she will gladly forward the email.

NWHS Christmas Party:

Tues, Dec 10, 6-9pm
Centennial Lodge
Tickets must be pre-purchased
Members \$20, guest \$25
(see article)
A good time will be had by all!

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CONTAINER CONTEST VOTE:

Tonight you get to vote for your favorite container from amongst the entries submitted. 2019 seemed to be a year in which people did not take many photos. Very strange—a widespread phenomena—even our photo judge commented that his photography was lax this year. The purpose of the contest is to get club members to share their experiments in creating containers. When we try something new, share it, even if the outcome was not what you expected. Having the contest is just a way to try to boost participation.

Use your pink ballot to vote. The container entries are posted on the wall near the fireplace. Check them out, evaluate (some guidelines below). Put only one number (that of your favorite) on the ballot and put your ballot in the bucket at the fireplace table. Voting ends at the end of refreshments.

Some criteria to guide your decision:

- How well do the plants go together (form, scale, colours)?
- Are the plants appropriate for the container?
- Is the overall effect unique?
- Did the container satisfy the challenges, location and otherwise?
- Do you think you would “borrow” the container suggestions?

There are monetary prizes (\$15 for first, \$10 for second, \$5 for third). Winners will be announced and displayed at the Christmas Party along with those of the Photo Contest.

BROWN IS THE COLOUR:

Our Photo Contest 2020 Colour in the Garden is BROWN! Any photos taken since Oct 1, 2019 are eligible to enter in the 2020 contest. The photo must be of vegetative material.

CONTACTS:

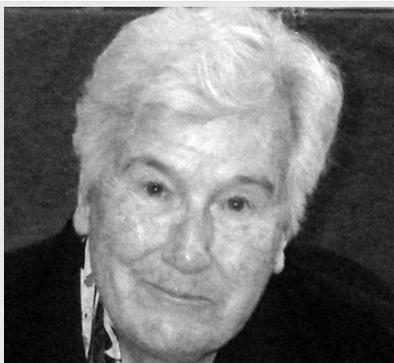
Lorna Cloutier: President
604-524-1942 or
lorna@newwesthortsociety.org

Diane Perry: Vice-President,
Refreshments
diane@newwesthortsociety.org

Ellen Berg: Treasurer, Christmas Dinner
Tickets
604-525-7827 or
ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes: Christmas Crafts,
Garden Brooms
604-526-8284 (before 8pm) or
audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Merril Hall: Sketch Club
604-790-1321 or
merril@newwesthortsociety.org



DOROTHY (DOT) PEGLER:

January 8, 1933 - October 30, 2019
Sadly Dorothy recently passed away. Dorothy and her husband, Roy, joined the NWHS in 1993 and quickly became involved in the club. Both were on executive for many years. Dorothy was a Member-at-Large and Parlor Show Chair. They could always be counted on to help with club events. They cultivated three very productive plots at BARAGA for decades. Even after Roy's death (Oct 21, 2010), Dorothy continued gardening there on her own until recently. As well Dorothy had great personal style and was an amazing cook. How many remember her pavlova? She had a dry sense of humor and a sharp wit, which she never lost even in her last days. She will be greatly missed by her garden club friends. Celebration of Life arrangements have not yet been made.

SILENT AUCTION:

Well, it is over! Will it re-emerge? Audrey has stepped down from involvement in the auction. At present, the plan is “no plan”. The club will probably take a hiatus from a fall Silent Auction in 2020 and then see what happens.

Last month was a great evening with many going home with treasures (a few with “a lot” of treasures!). Ellen will announce the club's financial gain tonight. Hint: it was very successful! Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who helped put it on!

Where the left-overs went:

- Royal Columbian Auxiliary (2 boxes of books to sell)
- St Michael's Centre/Hospice Store (select items)
- Royal Columbian Thrift Store on Columbia (good stuff)
- Bases Thrift Store on Edmonds (good stuff)
- Salvation Army Thrift Store (stuff that the smaller stores can't handle + semi-good stuff)
- Century House Thrift Sale (books)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Lorna:

We had a wonderful entertaining speaker at the BC Council of Garden Clubs Meeting on Oct 25th—Dr. Richard Hebda, retired curator of the Royal BC Museum. He gave a very informative and enlightening talk on Creating Climate Change Gardens thru garden adaption and drought tolerance. He gave us some scary climate facts and lots to think about. Worldwide July 2019 was warmer than normal. Global surface temp was up 1.2°C (2.2°F). CO₂ exceeded 415ppm in 2019 for the first time in 3-4 million years and more than 30% of the rise has been in the past 14 years. In reality, gardens are managed ecosystems. We are going to see different gardens and plants, in the near future, from what we have now. Did you know the hardiness zones have shifted 1-2 zones warmer in the past decade? Dr. Hebda repeatedly stressed we need to practice conservation and grow native and drought tolerant plants as water supply will be an issue. We need to mulch our gardens to retain the moisture we have. Putting organics back into the soil enhances carbon conservation, adds nutrients and improves the texture and porosity. Use drip or soaker irrigation if you need to water. We must stop paving so water/rain can go directly into the ground. Keep your water on your property by creating rain gardens. Above all, you need to map your property and plant appropriate plants in appropriate spots and don't forget to pay attention to where the sun and shade are and, even to the slope of your land.

FLOWER ARRANGING COURSE IS ON!!

We have had great response. 11 people have registered to take the course. You have until Nov 30 (5pm) to join the group. This is the type of activity where the more, the better. There is a synergy between participants that increases with the numbers. Also, the cost per person decreases with more people. Contact Cindy Tatyryn (of the BC Council of Garden Clubs): ctataryn@telus.net or 604-585-6786 to register or to ask questions. The emphasis will be Table Centerpieces with each session concentrating on a specific form: vertical, triangle, asymmetrical, crescent, inverted crescent and Hogarth's curve (“S” shaped). The estimated cost with 10 people is \$110 per person with non-NWHS members adding a slight surcharge. Supplies are extra but a bulk purchase at United Floral is possible. Sounds like fun.

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NWHS CHRISTMAS PARTY:

In one month, we party! Enjoy your friendships within the club with a night of good will and camaraderie. Because the evening starts with a catered meal, a ticket must be purchased to attend.

Need a party ticket?

Getting one may be tricky as, by now, all of the 100 tickets available may have been sold. Keep your fingers crossed. Ellen, our treasurer, is the ticket seller. Assuming some are left, they are \$20 for NWHS members and \$25 for a guest. After tonight, contact Ellen at her home.

- All seating is reserved. When you purchase your ticket(s), tell Ellen your seating preferences.
- If all 100 are sold, Ellen will compile a waiting list for people wanting to attend.
- Up to Dec 1st, we offer a ticket refund if your plans change.
- After Dec 1st, if you cannot attend, please consult Ellen regarding the waiting list before you privately broker your ticket. It seems only right that NWHS members should have first chance to attend the party.

How the day & evening unfolds:

- 9am-11:30am: Prizes and other party paraphernalia are loaded into vehicles at Audrey's
- Noon: Prizes are delivered to the lodge and room set-up commences
- 5pm: Hopefully set-up will be complete
- 6pm: The Party Starts! Upon your arrival, you will be given two beverage tickets. These are to be presented to the bartender for wine. Find your table. Our liquor license stipulates no other alcoholic beverages are allowed. Help yourself to the non-alcoholic punch. Browse the room. Check out the photo contest entries. Be wowed by the contest winners. Pre-select your prize(s) for when you are lucky. Buy draw tickets. Mingle with friends.
- 6:30pm: Buffet starts
- 7:30pm: Buffet closes
- 7:30pm: Last call for purchase of draw tickets. Door prize draw.
- 7:30-9pm: The draw is interspersed with the photo/container contest awards and the trivia quiz
- 9pm: The party wraps up with "We wish you a Merry Christmas"
- Tear-down

Help needed:

As with any club event, the evening's success is dependent upon members pitching in and helping. Even though it is the magical season, some things just don't happen by magic. Can you...

- Help transfer the prizes? Covered vehicles of large capacity are needed. The prizes will be packed in large boxes. The prizes are picked up in the morning and then held in the vehicle until noon when they are unloaded at the lodge.
- Help make the room festive (from noon or 1pm to 5pm)? Posters are hung, tables re-arranged, trellis erected, tablecloths spread, prizes unpacked and displayed.
- Help with an organized tear-down after the event? A couple of vehicles will be needed to move stuff back to Audrey's.

If your answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, please see Audrey. There is space on the crafting calendar for your name and phone number and how you would like to help. Thanks.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS:

In keeping with the theme of "good will unto others", we will be collecting donations for the Food Bank at our party. The bins will be in the foyer. Drop off your non-perishable item(s) when you check-in. Thank you for sharing your good fortune of having plenty to eat.

SANTA LARRY TOY-DRIVE:

Larry Tamkin, in his 45 year Santa role at the uptown Royal City Centre Mall, awed thousands of kids. He was renowned as the best Santa around. People from all over the lower mainland made an annual trek to bring their kids to sit on his knee. He loved the "job". Last year a Toy Drive, in his memory, was started. A great success!

So...it's back! The kick-off is on Nov 30 at 11:45 to coincide with the arrival of the current Santa. The location is Santa's enclosure at Royal City Centre. Toys should be dropped off by Dec 13th to facilitate distribution via schools. Please drop off your toys or other Christmas gifts, unwrapped, during the times scheduled for Santa's photo shoots. Toys collected will be given to appreciative kids through the New Westminster Fire Fighters Charitable Society. Of course, cash donations are welcome. Cheques should be made out to the NW Firefighters Charitable Soc in Santa Larry's name.

Sadly, Larry, a NWHS member, passed away in 2018.

NWHS SKETCHING GROUP REPORT: by Merrill Hall

Our NWHS Sketch Group continues to meet for Tea and Topic at the Arts Council Gallery (in Centennial Lodge) on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm to sketch botanical still life. Bring a sketchbook and a toonie for the drop-in fee. If you are interested in our group, please come and chat with Merrill Hall or any of the Sketch Group members at a NWHS meeting. Our group members are:

Merril Hall
Silvana McNulty
Susan Tamkin
Carolyn McLaughlin
Terry Tammell
Brenda Fairfax
Marjorie Knutson
Karl Winters
Suzanne Biehl
Gillian Wright
Brigitte Stermann

Some of this enthusiastic group have formed a painting group we call "The Garden Gals". As Garden Gals, it is our pleasure to participate in public art projects and art shows. As an example of one public art projects, this year we painted a large mural which spanned three walls of a rehab centre. We have an upcoming Art Show in a lovely space called "Art in the Atrium", located in the Queensborough Community Centre. We are also busy supporting the Brunette River conservation groups with paintings and illustrations around the Lower Hume Park area. Garden Gals continue to show their Art at the Senior Service Society office on Carnarvon Street.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPPING AT NWHS:

Besides the Silent Auction jewelry blow-out tonight (all bags 25c), we also are selling:

Caran D'ache Infinite 888 pens:

These Swiss-made pens are great. Smooth writing. Fantastic colours. Audrey's neighbour, Patrick Clark, gave NWHS the pens. We're selling them at \$5 each. Compare to \$10 on Amazon. ca. See Audrey at the fireplace table or contact her at home.

Original Garden Brooms:

We are selling these great brooms on behalf of the Kwantlen Park School (Surrey) dry grad fundraising crew. \$20 each. Audrey will take orders up to Dec 1st (5pm). This should ensure you get your broom(s) in time for gift-giving. www.theoriginalgardenbroom.com includes some great videos.

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CHRISTMAS CRAFTING:

Are the Christmas Crafting sessions dates marked on your calendar? They should be! You won't want to miss out on the socializing and fun. It is so nice to take a break from the hectic festive season and sit down at the crafting table. Why should you not miss the chance? Let us enumerate the reasons:

- You can really get to know other members. Catch up on the news. Meetings are OK but they don't really offer the chance to meet other members one-on-one. Come and make new friends.
- You can "wing it" and be really creative—and not have to keep what you make!
- You can learn more about NWHS and offer suggestions. Often there are lots of discussions about things the club could do.
- You can come just to drool over all the materials and the prizes already created.
- Basically, because it is FUN.

What do we create?

At our Christmas Party we have a draw. All prizes are hand-made. We make them at the crafting sessions. The aim is for 80 prizes. Because it is the Christmas season and most of our materials lean that way, the prizes usually have a seasonal theme. We emphasize that all prizes are one-of-a-kind. For many, the inspiration comes from the materials on-hand. Some consult books, magazines or the internet for ideas. Often a prize is the result of a group effort: one person making it with others tossing in material or technique ideas. Lots of interaction.

The Crafting Materials:

We do have a lot of materials. That's an understatement. What we don't use one year, gets packed away for the next. It is definitely a "must see it to believe it" scene. To those of you who have donated Christmassy and crafting "stuff", Thank You. Your donations make up the core. Then there are finds at thrift stores (=great stuff cheap, or we don't buy it!). Probably the only thing we pay full retail for are the glue sticks. Of course, if you arrive with a specific idea in mind and the materials to create it, that is fine. Otherwise, there is sure to be something in the stash to inspire you. You might want to check out our ideas library.

We have a lot to play with: Wreath forms: wire, grapevine, Styrofoam; Baskets & containers; Oasis & Sahara; Styrofoam forms in many shapes; Trays

and boards for bases; Ribbon, ribbon, ribbon: an amazingly fantastic collection; Candles & candleholders; A multitude of Christmas decorations & picks; Glass balls in many sizes & colours; Beads; Strings of lights; Small fake trees; Fake evergreen branches & garlands; A huge selection of cones, many types & sizes; Interesting seeds & seed heads; Stalks of dried vegetation; Stalks of imitation vegetation; Silk flowers & greenery; Glue guns & sticks; Florist wire & tape; Scissors, pliers & wire cutters. Whew...that's a lot of stuff!

Christmassy Donations Welcome:

As stated previously, most of the materials have been donated...and the need for donations is on-going. It is great to have something unexpected turn up at the kitchen door. If you have Christmas items that are tired, or you're just tired of, leave them at Audrey's sheltered kitchen door. Please include your name. Past draw prizes are welcome. You may see it on the draw table just tweaked a bit...or not. It may be completely dismantled for delectable parts. There are only two caveats regarding donations: They must not have fragrance (Utmost importance! Fragrance makes Audrey sick.) and they must not shed glitter (Our contract with the city does not permit glitter-shedding items at the lodge. "Devil's Dandruff").

Fresh Materials:

We will be working with fresh materials only during the daylight hours of the final weekend (Dec 7 & 8). The bulk of the fresh materials will be outside and brought into the basement as needed. Audrey will not be in attendance due to the fragrance. The room is purged of fragrance overnight.

Donations of Fresh Materials:

Do you have nicely berried holly? Colourful branches? Evergreen or coniferous prunings? Yes! Excellent! We could definitely use them. Please tell Audrey. Thanks. Delivery to her yard during the last week of crafting would be appreciated.

Crafting Times:

Although it was earlier stated that the basement would be available for the 3 weeks starting Nov 18th, one day Thurs Nov 21 is blocked out. Sorry. Otherwise, it is potentially open 7 days a week, 9am to 9pm. It is not expected that we will be crafting full-out the whole time. You tell Audrey (via the sign-up calendar) when to expect you. It is strongly suggested, if your schedule permits, that you come during daytime

hours as Audrey tends to burn out by evening. Sign-up for when you can make it. When using artificial materials, the basement can accommodate 5 people around the crafting table. This is reduced to 3 when using fresh materials. Most people find 2-3 hours works well.

How to Sign-Up:

The Crafting Calendar awaits your name, phone number and the hours you want to craft—just put that on the date(s) of your choosing. First on the calendar gets priority. After tonight, contact Audrey at audrey@newwesthortsociety.org or 604-526-8284 to get on the calendar. She will not expect you if you are not on the calendar—she might not even be home! Once your name is on the calendar, Audrey will phone (or email, if you prefer) you the evening before to confirm your attendance. If your plans change, tell her ASAP as it will open up the spot for others.

Who Can Come:

Anybody who is not fragrant! No kidding. Attendance is not limited to NWHS members. If you have creative friends, bring them along. If you know someone who might be interested in NWHS, the crafting is a great venue to find out about the club. Definitely a casual, non-intimidating place to ask questions.

The Location:

Audrey's basement, 117 Seventh Ave, NW. (The Santa House if the lights are up). Park on 7th Ave, follow the sidewalk around the house (the other side is mud!) and around the wood deck to the basement door. Please do not try to cross the slippery wood deck—vicious in winter!

What About Other Prizes?

Of course, we would love to make room on the draw table for your one-of-a-kind prize(s). Not everyone can make it to the crafting sessions. In the past, members have donated baking, knitting, quilting and Christmas decorations made at home. It is important that you tell Audrey of your plans so we can display your prize in its utmost glory. Thanks.

Transport Vehicles?

TREASURER'S REPORT - OCT 2019

Total revenue: \$2,948.40
(Ticket Sales, Silent Auction, Florissa)
Total expenses: \$227.87
See the bulletin board for details.