



Whitefish Bay Garden Club

Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin

Growing a Greener Village ... One Garden at a Time

2025 - 2026

Directory

(updated 10-10-25)

www.whitefishbaygardenclub.com

www.facebook.com/whitefishbaygardenclub

Instagram: wfbgardenclub



The Garden Club is grateful to Diane Campion for generously gifting this painting to the organization. It has become the centerpiece of the Whitefish Bay Garden Club identity. It will be cherished by members for many years to come.

Whitefish Bay Garden Club

Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin

Central Region

2025 - 2026

59 Active Members

0 Inactive Member

31 Green Thumb Members

Founded 1958

Tax exempt 501c3 status granted March 9, 2015

Member:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Central Region

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

Milwaukee District Garden Clubs

About Our Club

Our Mission

To stimulate an interest in horticulture, develop gardens, protect our natural surroundings, and beautify civic grounds.

Our History

The Whitefish Bay Garden Club was formed in 1958. It was founded by Winnie Davis, and she owes her inspiration to another woman who lived in Whitefish Bay -- her dear friend Jesslyn Boughton Small. Jesslyn had wanted to belong to a garden club and went to join the best known club in existence in our area. When she was told that she couldn't join the club because she needed to be sponsored, Jesslyn was crestfallen. Winnie responded, "We will form our own garden club right here in Whitefish Bay." Jesslyn said, "But I don't know how to start a garden club." Winnie proclaimed, "I don't know either, but we will figure it out together!"

At their first meeting, they had a handful of people, and at the next meeting each one was encouraged to bring a friend. Initially, they met casually in homes. They joined the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation before their first flower show in 1961.

Some significant milestones:

- **Mid-1960s** - Led by Isabel Lillie, the Garden Club raised money and provided the initial capital to found Riveredge Nature Center. Today Riveredge encompasses 379 acres and serves over 13,000 students per year.
- **Late 1960s** - Mary Berry became the first Garden Club member to convert her turf to native plants at her home on Santa Monica Boulevard. Connie Arnosti (also a charter Garden Club member) transitioned her lawn to perennial gardens at 5537 North Hollywood.
- **Mid-1980s** - The Garden Club transitioned meetings from daytime to evening because there were more women in the workplace.
- **1989** - Polly Rabion received an award of distinction from Wisconsin Garden Club Federation for Creative Horticultural Achievement. Her *Fleur de Ilis Gardens* were at her home at 6350 North Santa Monica Boulevard.
- **1970s to 2000** - Members cared for the entire grounds at the century-old farmhouse on the corner of Henry Clay Street and Ardmore Avenue in the gardening style of the late 19th century. In 1992, the community held several WFB centennial events on the grounds. The plantings were indigenous to the time when the farmhouse was originally built. As change came to that corner, the Club sought to establish new avenues for promotion and appreciation of gardens and gardening.
- **2005** - Initiated by Marian Snyder, the Club began having joint meetings with the Fox Point Garden Club in October.
- **2008** - Participated in the first Art-in-Bloom event at the Milwaukee Art Museum.
- **2009** - Pat Santilli proposed that the Garden Club begin doing weedouts at Klode Park. These initial efforts have evolved into our Sustainable Land Management Practices Project.
- **2011** - Led by Nancy Sturino, the Garden Club adopted the motto, "Growing a Greener Village -- One Garden at a Time." The motto was Laura Nankin's idea. It serves to reconnect the club to its charter members and the original environmental activities of the Club.

About Our Club

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Our History (continued)

- **2012** - In January, the club helped the Village of Whitefish Bay achieve its official Bird City designation. Also, at that time, the Garden Club rescued and restored the Butterfly Garden at Cahill Square. That year it also began hosting teas in members' homes as an annual fundraiser. Mary Beth Mahoney hosted the first one on Berkeley Boulevard. Anne O'Connor the following year on the historic Pipkorn Alley, and Laura Shipley in her Eschweiler home. In the summer of 2012, the Garden Club hosted its first Summer Soiree to invite new members. It was held at the home of Laura Nankin and highlighted her beautiful gardens. The evening was topped off with Laura's homemade orangerello.
- **2014** - Diane Campion created the lovely painting that is the cornerstone of the Garden Club's identity.
- **2014-2015** - The entire Leadership Team restructured the Garden Club to incorporate and create a firm foundation to pursue official 501c3 nonprofit status. These two actions paved the way for pursuing substantial grants and for hosting larger fundraisers. (Mary Beth Mahoney, President; Nancy Sturino, past President; Carolyn Haight and Judy Bittner, Vice Presidents; Laura Nankin, Secretary; Jenni Garcia, Treasurer; Marlene Jaglinski and Marian Snyder, Membership; Diane Campion, Fundraising; Anne O'Connor, Publicity).
- **2015** - Completed the restoration of the butterfly garden at Cahill Park, installing permanent signs describing butterfly habitat and a diorama of the life cycle of a butterfly. Diane Campion contributed artwork for the signs, Jenni Garcia's family designed and built the diorama structure, and Laura Shipley's family completed the artful interior of the diorama. A concrete bench was installed with a memorial engraving to honor long time residents, Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich. The Fundraising Committee introduced engraved Celebration Stones. Stones were donated to commemorate Winnie Davis, our Club's founder; her friend Jesslyn Boughton Small; and Isabel Lillie, the primary force behind the drive to establish Riveredge Nature.
- **2016** - The Garden Club joined Karlene Fox in her efforts to maintain the gardens at Lydell Community Center.
- **2017** - The Club hosted "Quilts in the Garden," a garden walk highlighting ten unique private gardens and three community gardens. The garden walk featured 90 artisanal quilts which were beautifully displayed among the various gardens to accent the colors of the gardens. The mixing of the quilts and gardens created fabulous displays together.
- **2018** - The Club celebrated 60 years with a field trip to Riveredge Nature Center, which the Club helped found in 1968. In honor of our Club's 60th anniversary and Riveredge's 50th anniversary, the Club made donations to Riveredge and to the Isabel Lillie Scholarship. The scholarship was created by the three founding families. In 2019, the Lillie family joined to make a significant donation. Curt Lillie (Isabel's son) awarded the first scholarship to Beatrix Walter, graduate of WFBHS.
- **2019** - Under the leadership of Nancy Sturino and Marlene Jaglinski, the Club completed the first phase of a renovation to Silver Spring Park creating a bioswale and rain garden with native and pollinator-friendly plants. Together Nancy and Marlene obtained funding from these sources: Fund for Lake Michigan, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, and Sweet Water Fund. Nancy served as project liaison with the Village. A public ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the project with Club members, Village, and major funder representatives in attendance.
- **2020** - Lane Kistler spearheaded the Pollinator Pocket Project to create a pathway of small patches of pollinator plants throughout the Village. He oversaw the creation of a native prairie in the retaining wall at Cahill Park, and he watered the plants all summer to keep them alive. Lane also was responsible for getting permission and then installing two rain barrels at the Cahill Warming House.
- **2021** - This year the Garden Club went virtual due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We had every meeting on Zoom with Jill Griffie Ross, our president, engaging us through visual presentations, virtual speakers and fun breakout sessions to get to know each other. We had to cancel our "Artisans in the Garden" Garden Walk scheduled for July 2021 after postponing it from 2020. It was an unusual year!

About Our Club

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Our History (continued)

- **2024** - In this year we held our much anticipated Garden Walk with the theme *Small Spaces/ Grand Places*, which was a great success! Well over 775 avid gardeners from southeast Wisconsin and beyond attended the event. The club raised over \$13,500 in gross profits. It literally took a village to make the walk a success. Club member and Co-VP, Laura Nankin, orchestrated the project from selecting gardens to planning for great weather with the help of 20 committee members and nearly 100 volunteers. There were seven private gardens and five public spaces that were available to view.

2025 - 2026 Programming



Meetings and other Important Events

The general structure of our meetings with speakers will be as follows (and we are going to try hard to follow these guidelines):

6:15-6:30 Arrive and Socialize

6:30-7:00 Garden Club Business

7:00-8:00 Presentation/Speaker

September 9, 2025

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm

Location: WFB Library, 2nd floor

Speakers: Cara Raymond & Laura Nankin, Co-Presidents

Topic: Business Meeting to kick off the new year!

October 14, 2025

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm Open to the Public

Location: Whitefish Bay Public Library, 2nd Floor

Speaker: Josh Mahlik from Fork Farms

Topic: Fork Farms provides the latest flex tech in indoor hydroponic farming to drive fast growing progress and make a meaningful impact in communities.

November 11, 2025

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm Open to the public

Location: Whitefish Bay Public Library, 2nd Floor

Speakers: Representatives from Eco Clubs at WFB elementary, middle and high schools and Miriam Gerretts from the Recreation Department

Topic: They will speak on local projects and goals of young people in our community regarding nature and the environment.

December 9, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Pandl's Restaurant in Whitefish Bay

Topic: Holiday Party

January 13, 2026

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm Open to the Public

Location: Whitefish Bay Public Library, 2nd Floor

Speakers: County Supervisor Anne O'Connor, Representative Deb Andraca, & Senator Jodi Habush Sinykin

Topic: They will speak on government and the environment, focusing on local concerns and initiatives.

February 10, 2026

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm Open to the Public

Location: Whitefish Bay Public Library, 2nd Floor

Speaker: Carrie Hennessy from Johnson's Nursery

Topic: Carrie will speak on selecting native plants for Whitefish Bay and the plant selection process for Silver Spring and Klode Park.

March 10, 2026

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm

Location: Whitefish Bay Public Library, 2nd Floor

No speaker

Topic: Annual Business and Budget Meeting. Attendance is critical as we need a quorum to vote!

April 14, 2026

Time: 6:15-8:00 pm Open to the public

Location: Whitefish Bay Public Library, 2nd Floor

Speakers: Dominique Swangstu from the Wisconsin DNR

Topic: She will discuss the planning process for the regional master plan of the Southern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape.

May 2026

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Topic: Annual President's Dinner and Awards, Members & Green Thumbs only

Our Leadership

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents

Laura Nankin

414-405-8714

ljnankin@gmail.com

Cara Raymond

847-321-5731

cara.raymond3@gmail.com

Vice Presidents (Programming)

Liz Christiansen

414-510-2812

lizrchristiansen@gmail.com

Stephanie Hacker

414-469-9151

stephanie-hacker@outlook.com

Secretary

Demaris Kenwood

414-477-7695 / 414-967-5966

pandimai@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Liz Forman

414-232-9422

ejforman9@gmail.com

Membership

Diane Berndt

414-659-9542

dberndt20@gmail.com

Active Members

Alphabetically by first name



Anne O'Connor (Sept 27)

5838 N Shore Dr
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-967-8703
anneoc07@yahoo.com



Cara Raymond (April 17)

6251 N Berkeley Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

847-321-5731
cara.raymond3@gmail.com



Barb Mann McGinnis (Sept 23)

1630 W Eastbrook Court
Mequon, WI 53092

414-828-9008
bannemann@yahoo.com



Carolyn Haight (Aug 25)

5929 N Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-687-2356
haightc5929@gmail.com



Barb Weiss (Dec 4)

2321 E Glendale Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53211

414-962-3743
weissbsue@gmail.com



Carrie Buccowich (Sept 19)

4652 N Wildwood Ave
Whitefish Bay WI 53211

414-231-9142
484-885-6100
cswanbucco@gmail.com



Bridget Ciurlik

4728 N Diversey Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-488-1354
jbdciurlik@gmail.com



Cheryl Mayer

5600 N Lake Dr. #301
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-719-0062
cherylmayer9999@gmail.com



Bruce Kruger (June 29)

5561 N Kent Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-963-9323
bbkruger629@gmail.com



Connie Blair (Oct 7)

4621 N Bartlett Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53211

414-332-7186
cjblair37@yahoo.com

**Darcie Warren** (Mar 26)

5331 N Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

608-216-6181
darciekgwarren@gmail.com

**Elizabeth (Liz) Jaros** (Nov 19)

5524 N Santa Monica Blvd
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

248-974-0934
jarosfive@gmail.com

**Demaris Kenwood** (June 22)

5720 N Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-477-7695
414-967-5966
pandimai@yahoo.com

**Emily Byrnes** (Oct 8)

5573 N Santa Monica Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

571-233-5267
mleq@aol.com

**Diane Berndt** (March 20)

5452 N. Kent Ave.
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-659-9542
dberndt20@gmail.com

**Jane Moore**

5052 N Diversey Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-559-9504
jmoore5633@gmail.com

**Dottie Dorsch**

4864 N Woodburn Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-964-8798
ddorsch4@gmail.com

**Janet Schirtzinger**

5546 N Lydell Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-403-5780
jschirtz@att.net

**Doug Brown** (Feb 11)

828 E Lake Forest Ave.
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-313-3121
dbrown9@wi.rr.com

**Janette Orchard** (Oct 21)

622 E Carlisle Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-731-9340
jorchard3@gmail.com

**Elizabeth Christensen** (Jan 18)

5007 N Berkeley Blvd
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-510-2812
lizrchristiansen@gmail.com

**Janice Van Male**

5850 N Shoreland Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

262-422-3216
jvanmale1@gmail.com

**Jeanne Fleagle** (July 5)

5000 N Sheffield Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

720-934-2778
jeannefleagle@aol.com

**Josephine Dolan** (July 13)

5001 N Diversey Blvd.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

262-825-3285
dolanjom@gmail.com

**Jennifer Trimble**

5137 N Cumberland Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

847-951-3599
jennifer.trimble@gmail.com

**Judy Bittner** (Dec 9)

5918 N Bay Ridge Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-963-0791

414-719-7910 (cell)
bittnerjudy@att.net

**Jessie Banaszak** (March 6)

5353 N Hollywood Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-332-9786
jibanaszak@aol.com

**Judi Mucklin** (May 27)

4917 N Woodruff Ave
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-791-9722
omarandalli@yahoo.com

**Jill Griffie Ross** (Feb 21)

5335 N Diversey Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

319-594-2865
jgriffieross@gmail.com

**Karlene Fox** (April 22)

4865 N Hollywood Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-961-0086 home
414-429-0081 cell

ksfox59@gmail.com

**John Laundrie**

5825 N Santa Monica Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

262-707-5519
laundrie5@icloud.com

**Kay Antonelli** (Nov 2)

5600 N Lake Drive, #403
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

765-650-8516 cell
artteacher531@gmail.com

**Lane Kistler**

4865 N Elkhart Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-333-0089
lanekistler@aol.com

**Laura Nankin** (Nov 26)

5048 N Idlewild Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-405-8714
ljnankin@gmail.com

**Marlene Jaglinski** (July 28)

863 E Birch Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-963-9643 (home)
414-731-9643 (cell)
marlene728@gmail.com
WI Master Gardener

**Lisa Kropp**

181 E Belle Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-238-8495
lkropp614@gmail.com

**Mary Middleton**

5960 N Shore Dr
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-803-7102
mmiddy6@gmail.com
WI Master Gardener

**Lisa Lauren**

5132 N Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-906-0640
lisacharmax@gmail.com

**Mary Beth Mahoney** (Aug 12)

2934 Garfield Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

414-208-6802
mb.mahoneykumar@gmail.com
WI & IL Master Composter

**Liz Forman** (June 28)

6241 N Lake Drive
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-232-9422
ejforman9@gmail.com

**Mary Caye Smith** (April 17)

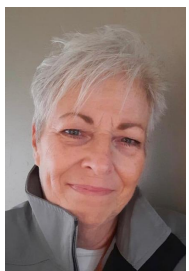
4517 N Murray Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53211

414-234-8814
marycayesmith@gmail.com
WI Master Gardener

**Lucy Korbitz**

5449 N Diversey Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-630-0979
korbitz@sbcglobal.net

**Lynda Hill**

5015 N Diversey Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-640-9778
lyndah1228@gmail.com

**Mercedes Fisher**

5600 N Lake Dr. #204
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

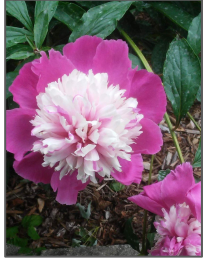
414-530-2105
Mercedes.fisher@gmail.com



Michelle Hill (Sept 8)

5145 N Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-313-6233
michelle.lindeman@gmail.com



Mimi Herrick (Mar 11)

5561 N Kent Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-234-0012
mherrick9@wi.rr.com



Missy Cookson (June 22)

4937 N Larkin Street
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-305-7012 (cell)
missy.cookson@live.com



Nancy Kelley (July 5)

5141 N Diversey Ave
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-241-1616
gardeninwfb@gmail.com



Nancy Sturino (Nov 22)

531 E Carlisle Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-962-1651
nmsturino@gmail.com



Nikki DeGuire

6054 N Kent Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-803-8492
nsdeguire@gmail.com



Pam Nooyen (May 6)

4763 N Idlewild Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

503-381-1292
pamnooyen@gmail.com



Pat Santilli (Sept 13)

710 E Carlisle Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-964-5929
ptsan@wi.rr.com



Sally Fisher (Jan 19)

6073 N Shoreland Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-870-1645
sefisher777@yahoo.com



Sandy Kattman (Oct 26)

5400 N Diversey Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-617-8987
rkattman@yahoo.com



Sarah Mann

5748 N Shoreland Ave
Whitefish Bay WI 53217

414-332-9008
sarah@mannstudio.com



Sarah Hatch

5640 N Lydell Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-630-8303
knitty.natter@gmail.com



Stephanie Hacker (Aug 25)

1728 E Hampton Rd.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-469-9151
stephanie-hacker@outlook.com



Suzie Van Cleave (June 18)

5353 N Berkeley Blvd
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

847-778-1625
suzie@vancleavearchitecture.com



Vicky Dargis (Aug 10)

5525 N Diversey Blvd.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

414-962-7651 (home)
414-788-7164 (cell)
dargis@sbcglobal.net

Membership Types

Active Members *stay engaged with club activities, committees or project work.*

- *Active members are encouraged to serve on two committees.*
- *Active members are asked to inform a meeting host when they will miss a meeting or when they plan to bring a guest.*
- *Members pay annual dues of \$50 by May 1st; couples may join for \$75; new members are accepted upon submitting their enrollment form and pay a reduced membership rate of \$30 for the first year*

Inactive Members *are those who choose to take a temporary leave of absence from membership duties.*

- *A desire to initiate inactive status is submitted to Membership in writing.*
- *Inactive members have no meeting committee responsibilities, nor do they have voting privileges. They opt to stay in touch with the Garden Club at their discretion and are welcome to join activities as they are able.*
- *Inactive members pay their annual membership dues and can reactivate their active membership status at their own discretion.*

2024-25 Green Thumb Members

Brenda Anguil (1983 - 2021)

869 East Birch Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.962-3716
brendamanguil@gmail.com

Sue Baumann

8981 Whitemarsh Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34238
414.698-4465

Diane Campion

1447 N Mohawk Street
Chicago, IL 60610
312.929-3393 (home)
414.333-9566 (cell)
53camels@gmail.com

Janice Collins

728 East Pleasant Street, No. 1302
Milwaukee, WI 53202
303.625-3303
jaco7070@yahoo.com

Winnie Davis

Founder, First President
7400 Clarewood Drive
No. 1028
Houston, TX 77036
832.671-5866
winnie.davis.email@gmail.com

Gloria Day

5684 North Shore Drive
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.964-4983
asburyday@gmail.com

Reggie Dirksen

7706 North Port Washington Road
No. 109A
Fox Point, WI 53217
262.240-1191 (home)
414.339-3002 (cell)
RnRdirksen@aol.com

Irene Haliday

1427 Baytowne Circle East
Miramar Beach, FL 32550-4890
850.267-3302 (home)
850.974-7444 (cell)
ich@cox.net

Margarete Harvey

1470 East Bay Point Road
Bayside, WI 53217
414.352-5005 (home)
414.350-7595 (cell)
margareteharvey@wi.rr.com

Missie Hawley

3800 North Lake Drive
Shorewood, WI 53211
414.559-7836 (cell)
mfb143@gmail.com

Penny Hirsch

933 East Lexington Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI
414.305-7962 (cell)
Text is best!

Betsy Hoke

9008 North Bayside Drive
Bayside, WI 53217
414.351-9008 (home)
egbroke@aol.com

Grace Johnson

Previously Grace McBain
Haydon
St. John's on the Lake
1840 North Prospect Avenue
No. 819
Milwaukee, WI 53202
gracemcbain@aol.com

Betsy Johnston

6151 N Berkeley Boulevard
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.332-7665 (home)
elizgleaston@gmail.com

Jan Lathrop

6216 North 47th Place
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
602.840-3841 (home)
602.695-4409 (cell)
tjlathrop57@gmail.com

Rochelle Layde

7716 North Boyd Way
Fox Point, WI 53217
414.797-0427
rochelle@wi.rr.com

Judy Marchese

5555 North Berkeley Boulevard
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.964-5263 (home)
juudym.5555@gmail.com

Renee McCutcheon

4615 North Newhall
Whitefish Bay, WI 53211
414.962-8120 (home)
rmommy0808@gmail.com

2024-25 Green Thumb Members (cont'd)

Mary Lou Mooney

2505 E Bradford Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414.791-0011
mlkm1974@aol.com

Mary Kae (Chrisafis) Nelson

3123 East Hampshire Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414.964-9988 (home)
414.378-9391 (cell)
marykae2@gmail.com

Chris Partleton

629 Spanish Way East
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
414.305-0204 (cell)
christenpartleton@gmail.com

Elly Poland

14541 Grand Cay Circle
No. 3108
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239.464-2723 (cell)
ellypoland@yahoo.com

LaVonne Rau

5708 North Bay Ridge Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.962-1046 (home)
lmnrau@yahoo.com

Pat Rieselbach

1800 North Prospect Avenue
No. 6E
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414.332-5173
ariesel11@gmail.com

Barb Schneck

809 East Glen Avenue
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.964-0998
pbschneck@sbcglobal.net

Anne Scrimenti

10727 North Essex Court, #74W
Mequon, WI 53092-8531
262.242-3901
scrimenti@att.net

Betty Sills

43180 North Andyville Lane
Antioch, IL 60002-0606
847.838-4711

Marian Snyder

909 East Chateau Place
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.704-6127
mariansnyder4@gmail.com

Joanne Turk

5006 North Diversey Boulevard
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414.962-6622 (home)
414.418-6622 (cell)
turkjoanne@yahoo.com

Pritz Tuschen

5926 North Lake Drive
West Bend, WI 53095
414.899-6253 (cell)
Winters in Florida
ptuschen@aol.com

Barbara Weir

2313 East Sienna Way
Appleton, WI 54913
414.303-9709 (cell)
barbweir2@yahoo.com

Green Thumb Members

*have an honored lifetime
emeritus status. Green Thumb
status may be requested by either
Active or Inactive Members after
fulfilling the following
requirements:*

- *Eight years of membership*
- *Request in writing*
- *Pay a one time payment of
50% more than current
annual dues*

*Green Thumb members may
participate in all Garden Club
activities. They have no
attendance requirements and no
voting privileges.*

Garden Club Standing Committees

Fundraising...aka FUN-raising *(not the Garden Walk)*

Chair: TBD

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for planning and executing fundraisers to support the Club's projects. Our ongoing fundraiser is our presence at the Farmers' Market in Whitefish Bay where we sell various items and assist with gardening questions to the public. For the last couple of years, our most active fundraiser has been making fairy/jurassic gardens made at Lydell Rec Center and a yard sale .

Members: *Diane Berndt, Judy Bittner, Cheryl Mayer, Laura Nankin, Janette Orchard, Kay Antonelli, Lucy Korbitz, Suzie Van Cleave*

Hospitality

Chairs:	Jeanne Fleagle	720-934-2778	jeannefleagle@aol.com
	Kay Antonelli	765-650-8516	artteacher531@gmail.com

This committee organizes refreshments at all our meetings and any special meetings such as the Holiday Party.

Members: *Liz Christiansen, Sally Fisher, Sandy Kattman, Barbara Mann McGinnis, Cheryl Mayer, Judi Mucklin, Laura Nankin, Janette Orchard, Darcie Warren, Karlene Fox, Pat Santilli, Jennifer Trimble, Bridget Ciurlik, Nancy Kelley*

Philanthropy

Chair:	Jill Griffie Ross	319-594-2865	jgriffieeross@gmail.com
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The club allocates 10% of its net fundraising proceeds (after club dues to Milwaukee District and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation). During the budgeting process in the spring, the club votes on how to allocate these discretionary funds.

Members: *Anne O'Connor, Nancy Sturino, Demaris Kenwood*

Garden Club Standing Committees (cont'd)

Publicity / Webmaster

Chair: Michelle Hill 414-313-6233 *michelle.lindeman@gmail.com*

This committee publicizes the Club's meetings, events, and fundraisers to the Village and surrounding area as well as to the garden clubs of the Milwaukee District, Milwaukee Art Museum, and the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. Maintenance of the Club's website, Facebook page, and Instagram and other social media also fall under the responsibilities of this committee.

Members: *Jill Griffie Ross, John Laundrie, Janice Van Male, Darcie Warren, Marlene Jaglinski*

Sunshine

Chair: Jeanne Fleagle 720-934-2778 *jeannefleagle@aol.com*

The **Sunshine Committee** remembers fellow Whitefish Bay Garden Club members who may be facing hardships (e.g., a health issue, loss of a loved one). A flowering plant along with a handwritten card are delivered to the member from the Club as a whole. Anyone may submit names of deserving recipients.

Members: *John Laundrie*

Forget-Me-Nots

Chair: Missy Cookson 414-962-3757/414-305-7012 *missy.cookson@live.com*

The **Forget-Me-Not** is a way to remember fellow Whitefish Bay residents who may be facing hardships (e.g., a health issue, loss of a loved one). A flowering plant, along with a handwritten card and seed packet, are delivered anonymously. Garden Club members may submit names of deserving recipients ; however, recipients cannot be Garden Club members.

Members: *Barb Weiss*

Garden Club Standing Committees (cont'd)

Village Gardens Maintenance Teams

Cahill Park Butterfly Garden - Maintenance Team

Chair: Laura Nankin 414-405-8714 ljnankin@gmail.com

Members: *Diane Berndt, Missy Cookson, Jo Dolan, Jeanne Fleagle, Sandy Kattman, Anne O'Connor, Bridget Ciurlik, Demaris Kenwood, Liz Christiansen, Pam Noonyen*

Klode Park Pollinator Garden - Maintenance Team

Chairs: Cara Raymond 847-321-5731 cara.raymond3@gmail.com

Members: *Liz Forman, Demaris Kenwood, John Laundrie, Anne O'Connor, Janet Schirtzinger, Janice Van Male*

Silver Spring Park Overlook - Maintenance Team

Chairs: Marlene Jaglinski 414-963-9643/414-731-9643 (cell) marlene728@gmail.com
Nancy Sturino 414-962-1651 nmsturino@gmail.com

Members: *All Garden Club members are considered to be a part of this committee. Each member is asked to volunteer at least once during the year at this garden*

Cahill Park Prairie

Chair: Lane Kistler 414-333-0089 lanekistler@aol.com

Members: *Jo Dolan, Demaris Kenwood, Anne O'Connor*

Bartlett Avenue - Maintenance Team

Chair: Stephanie Hacker 414-469-9151 stephanie-hacker@outlook.com

Members: *Anne O'Connor, Barbara Weiss, Demaris Kenwood, Liz Christiansen*

Garden Club Standing Committees (cont'd)

Directory

Chair: Suzie Van Cleave 847-778-1625 *suzie@vancleavearchitecture.com*

This position is responsible for updating & publishing the Directory as needed or at least once a year

Celebration Stones

Chair: Missy Cookson 414-962-3757/414-305-7012 *missy.cookson@live.com*

Bay Day / Green Day / Bird City / Monarch City (date TBD)

Chair: Jessie Banaszak 414-332-9786 *jibanaszak@aol.com*

***Members:** Jo Dolan, Janice Van Male, Emily Byrnes, Janet Schirtzinger, Laura Nankin, Sarah Hatch, Carolyn Haight, Lisa Kropp*

EAC - Environmental Awareness Committee

Chair: Cara Raymond 847-321-5731 *cara.raymond3@gmail.com*

New committee formed in 2024 to develop environmental & sustainability goals and projects that the Garden Club can lead. First meeting was held January 18, 2025 at 9:30 am at the Whitefish Bay Library.

***Members:** Diane Berndt, Liz Christiansen, Michelle Hill, John Laundrie, Sarah Mann, Pan Nooyen, Sarah Hatch, Anne O'Connor, Lucy Korbitz, Demaris Kenwood, Lisa Kropp*

Garden Club Standing Committees (cont'd)

Art in Bloom *(Date to be determined)*

Chair: Mary Middleton 414-803-7102 *mmiddy6@gmail.com*

This annual event, sponsored by the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM), provides an opportunity to share our love of beauty, showcase innovative use of plant material, and demonstrate design principles. Each year this committee takes on a new design challenge as the members create a stunning floral arrangement inspired by a particular art piece from the Milwaukee Art Museum Collection. The Garden Club has been awarded the People's Choice Award for multiple years in a row.

Members: *Diane Berndt, Liz Christiansen, Missy Cookson, Jeanne Fleagle, Liz Forman, Marlene Jaglinski, Barb Mann McGinnis, Laura Nankin, Barb Weiss*

Membership

Chair: Diane Berndt 414-659-9542 *dberndt20@gmail.com*

Members: *Barb Mann McGinnis, Jeanne Fleagle, John Laundrie, Judi Mucklin, Judy Bittner, Lisa Lauren, Laura Nankin*

Garden Club Special Projects

New Website Development

Chair: **Cara Raymond** **847-321-5731** *cara.raymond3@gmail.com*

This is a special committee to facilitate the development of our new website that will be coming in the next year. We hope to provide a more interactive website for our members as well as a source for information for fellow Villagers.

Members: *Jill Griffie Ross, Karlene Fox, Laura Nankin*