



# GARDEN DELIGHTS

## ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB

“Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.”

By May Sarton, (Eleanore Marie Sarton), 1912-1995, born in Belgium, she was “a prolific American poet, novelist and memoirist.”

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### May, 2020

This is a month of mixed news: some disappointments and some pleasant happenings.

It won't come as a surprise to many that our meeting of **May 13 has been cancelled**, due to ongoing restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We're hoping that programs that couldn't take place this spring might be postponed to later dates.

For the same reason, the General Membership Meeting of the East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs, (ELWD), planned for **May 20**, has also been cancelled.

**For the news, some good and some less so, please see the following pages.**

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Since we cannot give food contributions to the Issaquah Food Bank, currently, please consider making monetary contributions either to the Food Bank or to the Issaquah Community Services.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Embrace Nature**

This is my last message as the 2018-2020 president of Issaquah Garden Club. Unfortunately, our March, April and May meetings and activities needed to be canceled due to the pandemic so I was unable to say goodbye and thank you in person for all the support and encouragement you have given me during the last two years. These are trying times and I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe. I have found joy out in my garden this beautiful Spring and have planted lettuce, sugar snap peas, carrots and strawberries.

We have a great team of in-coming officers: Georgann Lennon as President, Fay Cawley as Vice-president, Joan Harris as Secretary and Sandra Roberts continuing as Treasurer. This coming year will be a challenging time of figuring out when we can safely meet and also where, with the closing of Tibbett's Creek Manor.

Please send your membership dues to Sandra so we can keep our membership going during this unusual time. Issaquah Garden Club was formed in 1928 and survived the Great Depression and the Second World War. We can survive this pandemic too.

Thank you,

**Debbie DeFilipps**

## **ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021**

We are happy to report that for nominated slate of officers for the coming year,

**President - Georgann Lennon**

**Vice-President - Fay Cawley**

**Secretary - Joan Harris**

**Treasurer - Sandra Roberts,**

has been accepted unanimously by a majority of our members. We thank our nominating committee, Jean Pass and Gloria Woo, for their hard work.

We will need to do a virtual installation since we won't be able to meet.

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### **GOOD NEWS FROM JOAN HARRIS**

Issaquah Garden Club has received a \$250 grant from the WSFGC "Garden house" funds for our Garden Therapy project.

Thank you to Joan Harris for applying for the grant. and Gale Baullinger for giving information and encouragement about the grant.

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### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Payment of dues to the Issaquah Garden Club for 2020-2021 are due by June 1. Please send your check in payment of \$25, made out to "Issaquah Garden Club," to our Treasurer, **Sandra Roberts: 4623 194th Ave. SE, Issaquah WA. 98027-13657.** Please include any changes to your contact information.

## SUMMER TOURS

Georgann Lennon, our current Vice-President, and incoming President, has been hard at work organizing our tours for this summer. She has planned four tours, of which three have thus-far been confirmed.

**May 27, we'll go to Lake Wilderness Arboretum.** The address is 22520 SE 248th St, Maple Valley, WA 98038. "Lake Wilderness Arboretum is a 42-acre oasis of native forest, cultivated gardens and botanical collections situated in the heart of the bustling city... " For more information, including COVID-19 changes, see their website at:

**[www.lakewildernessarboretum.org](http://www.lakewildernessarboretum.org)**  
**Please let Georgann know if you want to go, ASAP!**

**June 17, Highline Botanical Gardens –This has not yet been confirmed.** The address is 13735 24th Ave S, Seatac, WA 98168. Docent tours are offered for 10 or more, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., per person, for a donation. "Welcome to one of the world's most unique and beautiful gardens. The Highline SeaTac Botanical Garden is a one-of-a-kind heritage location that was created to preserve some of the area's most treasured gardens."

[The website URL for this garden is too long to print, but you'll be able to find it. There is a Facebook page, as well.]

**July 15, Elandan Gardens, at 3050 State Highway 16 W, Bremerton, WA 98312.** "Elandan Gardens is also the

home of Elandan Interiors and the studio of sculptor, Will Robinson. "Our gift shop and gallery are filled with antiques and treasures from Asia, Europe and North America...The bonsai museum is set among ponds, waterfalls, sculptures and lush gardens on the shores of Puget Sound... The tree collection, which includes trees more than 1000 years old, represents Dan's 50+ years of dedication to the art of bonsai."

Elandan is open 8-5, Tuesday through Sunday. There is an \$8 entry for museum and grounds. On Wednesday, July 15, at 11:00, the owner will meet us and talk about the grounds, museum, and store. The store /museum is 4,000 square feet, the property is 2.5 acres. We can bring a sack lunch, if we want. Folks can organize carpools if they are ok with being in a car with others; if not they could drive themselves.

**<http://www.elandangardens.com/>**

**August 14, Farm. Fare, & Floral,** Jon Robert Throne's newest venture, at 17233 SE 228th Street, Kent, WA 98042. We'll tour the gardens and see Jon's animals at 10:00 a.m., and have a gourmet lunch, for \$30, afterwards. Sammamish garden club will be joining us for this.

We can arrange car pools as well but if we are still distancing some may wish to drive themselves. Since these are outdoors, we think it would be ok. thoughts? **Please let Georgann know your thoughts about this.**



## **Tibbetts Creek Manor**

We've had sad news from Cynthia Wright, Manager of Tibbetts Creek Manor. As you read her email below you will see that the city of Issaquah is laying her off and closing the Manor, so we will need a new place to meet whenever it is safe to do so.

**From:** Cynthia Wright:

Hi, Debbie (and all of Garden Club),

"...As a recap of our conversation, City Council voted Monday night to close the Manor, so they are honoring events through October 2020, then closing the doors. This decision was part of Administration and Council's way to help with the huge budget shortfall this year due to Covid-19. Along with it, they have reorganized some positions, frozen new hires, and laid off 22 staff positions in our city, and sadly mine was one of them. So, after 10 years here with the City, April 30<sup>th</sup> is my last day. I am truly very sad to not be working with you ladies anymore, and have enjoyed our time together. "

[Cynthia continued with information about the payments IGC has already made for September and October, and reimbursement forthcoming for the November payment, and our new contact as of May 1.]

"I am sorry for this news. I do hope that your group will continue on and maybe meet at Gibson Hall or Blakely

Hall or the Fish Hatchery or somewhere else in Issaquah instead, starting in November 2020.

"I will not be here to tell you all goodbye in person, and so please know that I am sending you virtual hugs! I have really enjoyed working with all of you over the last 10 years. Please tell the rest of the group goodbye for me also.

" Please take care of yourselves and stay well!

"I hope our paths cross again in the future."

**Cynthia Wright**

City of Issaquah / Parks & Recreation

Tibbetts Manor: 425.837.3367

Debbie DeFilipps has written the IGC Board: "After watching all the news the past month or so, I'm not sure if it will be safe for our group to meet before there is a COVID-19 vaccine. A vaccine for the general public looks like it might be 12-18 months away, so what is the best way forward for the 2020-21 Garden Club year?"

[The answer at this point seems to be that we'll collect dues and book speakers for 2020-2021 as usual, and face the ramifications of the pandemic and results as they appear.]

Hoping for the best situation, at which we might maintain social distancing, if necessary, Georgann is already looking for a place for us to meet, later this fall.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The last Spring frost date in Issaquah is April 29, and the first Fall frost is October 17? The frost dates have a 30% probability. The growing season is 170 days?

This information has a 30% probability. It was calculated by using 1981-2010 Climate Normals.

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## GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY FOR ISSAQUAH, WA

- Fertilize your rhododendrons and azaleas with an acid-based fertilizer if needed.
- If soil temperature is above 70 degrees, you can now plant eggplants, melons, tomatoes, squash, and peppers.
- Watch out for pests in the garden. Trap moles and gophers as new mounds appear.
- Check your plants for any insects, such as aphids, cabbageworms, black beetles, and root maggots and control as needed.
- When the soil is warm, apply a layer of mulch around your plants as long as there are no weeds. Mulch discourages weeds and helps to conserve moisture.
- Continue to mow your lawn regularly. If you use any lawn food, be sure to keep it away from your plants.
- Lay soaker hoses or drip lines on garden beds to conserve water.
- Plant bedding flowers in moist soil and remember to keep them well watered.

- Prune your flower shrubs after they have finished blooming—azaleas, forsythia, lilacs, and rhododendrons. You can also prune evergreens once new growth appears.
- Fertilize your roses and check for diseases; treat if needed.
- Cut back spring-blooming perennials to about 3 inches in height after they finish blooming. Sow more perennial seeds and set out new perennial plants.
- Plant dahlias, gladioli, and tuberous begonias.
- You can sow hardy annual seeds now, such as calendula, cosmos, and sweet peas.

[Both the above information and the article— on gardening tips were extracted from The Old Farmers' Almanac e-newsletter of May 2, 2020.]

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## TOO MANY PLANTS! HELP!

Your editor has a serious problem. Not only does she have all the left-over potted plants from last May's annual plant sale, but some of the perennials planted in her garden have grown and multiplied at an overwhelming rate!

If you're in need of plants, Cate Mueller would be overjoyed to have you come and "shop." There are pots you can take, and there are plants that could be dug for you to take. You're definitely welcome, within reason.

When I suggested "shoppers" make a small donation to IGC, our new President suggested a donation to the Issaquah Food Bank, instead.

I'm sure we can manage this by "social distancing" and/or by wearing masks, if need be. Let me know when you'd come.

## **GARDEN TIP: FEELING OVERWHELMED?**

Sometimes the gardening chores seem endless and weeds seem to encroach from every direction. At these moments, focus on the area where you most commonly enter your home.

Weed, plant, and add an element of art at the location you view most often. Use this success to inspire you each time you enter and exit to propel you deeper into the garden to tackle the next section. Bed by bed you will create a positive cycle of becoming inspired, proud, and energized as you move to areas that are further from this door and onto bigger gardening projects.

By Kirsten Lints, C.P.H., founder and owner of **Gardens ALIVE Design**, in her e-newsletter, May I, 2020



### **GARDEN DELIGHTS**

c/o Cate V. Mueller, Editor  
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I love spring any-  
where, but if I  
could choose, I  
would always greet  
it in a garden.

Ruth Stout