



# GARDEN DELIGHTS

## ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB

*“The color of springtime is flowers; the color of winter is in our imagination.”*

*Attributed to Terri Guillemets (pseudonym),  
“a quotation anthologist from Phoenix, Arizona  
who has collected quotes since age thirteen.”*

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**December, 2020**

Holiday Traditions

We'll meet on Zoom on December 9, at 10:00 A.M. The Zoom number is the same as that for last month's meeting, 5684998022. Joy Jackson will handle the Wait List.

Fay Cawley, our Vice-President, and chair of programs, has organized a special, holiday format for our meeting. Instead of our usual fun December table decorations and delicious lunch, we'll have virtual celebrations of all the holidays our members embrace. Fay asks that each of us takes a moment to share with the group something of personal interest that is present in our homes or lives at this time. It could be food, drink, table decoration, light displays, old family traditions, new ideas for this “at home time.” Or it could be cake, pie, cookies, holiday drinks—alcohol or not—cheeseballs, cheesecakes, ugly sweaters, tear types of gift wraps. Show us your special trays, plates, cups, grandma's figurines, songs, dreidels, games. Tell us your traditions or ... Create a share, which could be a poem, gift idea, phone calls, or wreaths. (Fay puts a wreath of apples and carrots on her husband's grave at the Tahoma National Cemetery, and moves the provided wreath to a grave with no decoration. The food on the wreath is for the deer that live in and about the cemetery. Her husband loved seeing deer in the forest, where they lived.)

**Continued on page two**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow IGC members,

Its that time again! It will be very different from other years, but we will do our best to make it memorable at least.

I have noticed holiday lights and decorations up much earlier this year than others. I believe everyone needs to feel as festive as the current situation will allow. My neighbors have been up in trees and on their roof putting up lights. I guess we will be cheered from a distance this year. BBG is doing their lovely garden lights virtually. Not quite the same, but I give them kudos from doing it.

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving!

I hope to see you on December 9. It is Fay's plan to have us sharing holiday traditions, food items, events, et c., that we have enjoyed over the years.

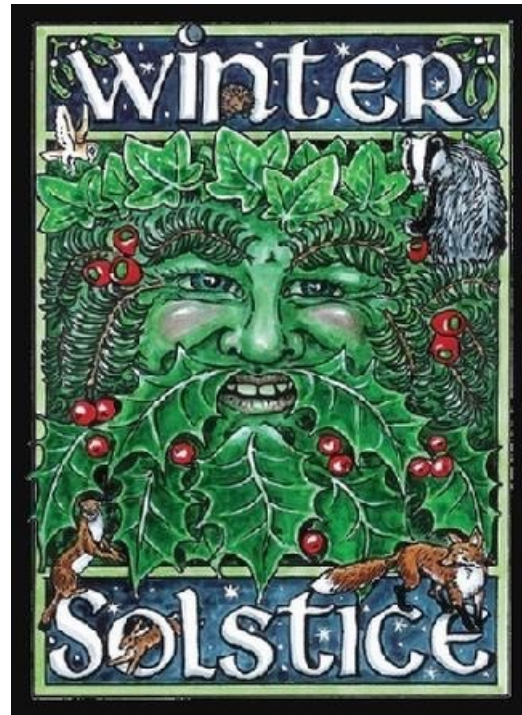
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### December Program, continued from page one

Share what enlightens you at this time - in the words of Tolstoy: "Just as one **candle** lights another and can light thousands of other **candles**, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts."

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.



Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year. In Seattle, Washington, this occurs on **Monday, December 21, 2020**, at 2:02 A.M. PST.

[The following is taken from [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#) website. The time appears differently in other sources.]

"At the winter solstice, the sun appears at its most southerly point. The sun is directly overhead at "high-noon" on the solstice at the latitude called the Tropic of Capricorn. The next day, the path will begin to advance northward.

"The word "solstice" comes from the Latin "*sol*" sun and "*sistere*" to stand still. So, loosely translated, it means "sun stand still." For a few days before and after the solstice, the Sun appears to stand still in the sky. The change in its noontime elevation is so slight that the Sun's path seems to stay the same or stand still."

## ROSE PEGGING

Our member, Debbie Lehrberger, informed me of an interesting article that appeared in a website, [ROSE-NOTES.COM](http://ROSE-NOTES.COM), written by Carolyn Parker, expert on roses, author and photographer, with over thirty years' of rose experience at three homes in California..

The article, on rose pegging or tying, [which really entails neither pegs nor ties] is found at [https://www.rosenotes.com/2009/02/pegging.html?fbclid=IwAR2B50w16vb8A\\_HzbmFRipaf1eA1mQ\\_0ivKkr-WdQYm-necnCF\\_BHHYke48](https://www.rosenotes.com/2009/02/pegging.html?fbclid=IwAR2B50w16vb8A_HzbmFRipaf1eA1mQ_0ivKkr-WdQYm-necnCF_BHHYke48)

She starts with a photograph of two rose stems:



And continues:

**“How would you like to increase blooming rose stems on one cane by ten?** With long pliable canes, and a little planning at pruning time it's

easy as can be.

“Look carefully at this image of two Gertrude Jekyll canes. The one on the right has thirteen times more flowers than the one on the left. How you ask?

“Well, I took the tip of an exuberant long cane and carefully bent and tied it to a lower cane. The stress on the forced curve of the cane encouraged bud eyes to develop bloom-bearing stems.

“I first saw this treatment in England at Sissinghurst – this shrub of Zepherine Drouhin, in Vita’s rose garden, is tied to 4 arcs made from branches inserted around the shrub. One of the arcs is somewhat visible in this picture — it looks like part of the shrub. I wouldn’t have been the wiser if there hadn’t been several other specimens that weren’t fully leafed out yet. The living armatures that the gardeners created looked like globes. I couldn’t wait to get home and try it myself.

“Certain David Austin roses are great contenders for pegging — many of you know the ones — they shoot up eight and ten-foot bloomless canes in late summer. I used to cut the gangly things down, but not any more.”

[From your editor: I thought this winter might be a good time for each of us to read this article, and perhaps consider this for a project, next year. You might wish to explore her website, seeing the beautiful roses she’s grown over the last three decades. Who knows, you might become a devotee.]

## BISHOP'S BREAD

[From your Editor: Since it's difficult to share a recipe at a virtual meeting, I thought I'd print one of my favorites.]

The lore in my family was that the Franciscan friars carried bishop's bread while they established the missions in California. In researching bishop's bread, I found that it's origin may predate the trek of the friars and may have occurred in Germany. Oh, well...

This is an easy bread to make. The only ingredient you may have difficulty in finding is the glaceed cherries. You end up with a heavy loaf that keeps and keeps—if you can refrain from eating it quickly. It is prettiest if sliced thinly, so that it resembles stained glass window.

### Ingredients:

1 1/2 cup flour  
 1 1/2 tsp baking power  
 1/4 tsp salt  
 2/3 cup (dark) chocolate chips  
 2 cups chopped walnuts  
 1 cup chopped dates  
 1 cup halved glaceed cherries  
 3 eggs  
 1 cup sugar

### Directions:

Grease wax paper and line a loaf pan (or spray baking spray in the pan.) Mix flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in separately chocolate chips, nuts, dates and cherries—they tend to stick together, otherwise, Stir until all are

well coated. In a separate bowl, beat eggs, blend in sugar. Fold in the flour mixture, and turn into a loaf pan.

Bake in a 325 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours or until done. Cool on a wire rack. When cool, remove bread from pan and wrap in aluminum foil.




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When gardeners garden, it is not the plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves.

Ken Druse

“Ken Druse is a celebrated lecturer, an award-winning photographer, and an author, who has been called “the guru of natural gardening” by the New York Times. He has contributed to just about every home and garden magazine, and is best known for his twenty garden books published over the last twenty-five years.” [You might explore his website, “kendruse.com”]

## PROJECT AT THE POST OFFICE

Issaquah Garden Club has agreed in conjunction with the Rotary Club, to revise and enhance plantings at the U.S. Post Office on Gilman Avenue. As a first step in this project, a large trough has been purchased and installed, near the entrance to the Post Office. For now, the trough is planted with ornamental cabbages and pansies,



### *Winter Garden in Poetry*

Reprinted from The Seedling, Falls Church Garden Club, December, 2008

"I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December  
A magical thing  
And sweet to remember.  
'We are nearer to Spring  
Than we were in September,'  
I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December."

Oliver Herford, *I Heard a Bird Sing*



"Just as a dancer, turning and turning,  
may fill the dusty light with the soft  
swirl of her flying skirts, our weeping  
willow ---  
now old and broken, creaking in the  
breeze ---  
turns slowly, slowly in the winter sun,  
sweeping the rusty roof of the barn  
with the pale blue lacework of her  
shadow."

Ted Kooser, *Winter Morning Walks*

## GARDENING IN DECEMBER (continued from page 6)

After several killing frosts have occurred, cut back dormant perennials to about three inches above ground. After the ground is frozen, plants can be mulched to guard against displacement due to soil heaving. These steps ensure a successful show of plant foliage and color next season.

A thorough garden clean-up is essential, especially if you've had problems with insects and diseases this year. If you have remnants of disease or infested plants in the garden, you could be setting the stage for a return of the same problems for next year's growing season. Good sanitation is critical!

The average family's needs and activities change in cycles of six or seven years. The smaller the property, the greater the landscape-planning challenge. Design outdoor areas and facilities to be modified easily with your changing needs.



## GARDENING IN DECEMBER

Finish fall cleanup and winter plant protection. After leaf fall, mulch perennials and other small plants with salt hay, straw, pine needles, leaves or branches of discarded Christmas trees to prevent heaving of the plants during periods of thawing and freezing. Tuck the greenery from decorations such as swags and wreaths under acid-loving shrubs like hollies, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Set tree guards to protect ornamental apples and cherries from rodents.

Sharpen, clean, and oil your lawn mower and cutting tools; clean and oil other garden tools. Don't store your lawn seeder/fertilizer. Use it to spread sand or sawdust on walkways

Continue to feed the birds. Watch for winter residents.

Snow is a mixed blessing in the garden. Fluffy and light, freshly fallen snow is an excellent insulator. Its millions of tiny air pockets hold warm in the soil around snow-covered plants. When frigid weather comes after a heavy snowfall, the snow cover may save many plants of borderline hardiness. On the aesthetic side, snow creates an attractive scene when it accumulates on and around evergreens. Nandina, holly, and other fruiting plants are especially colorful against a white background.

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