

The Express

Our Mission

The mission of the Olympus Garden Club is to promote and support the love of gardening, floral arranging, landscape design, horticulture, plant research and environmental improvement by providing education, resources, networking and leadership opportunities to our members and the community.

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Time Capsule Memorial

A Time Capsule Memorial Garden is now planted on the Prospect Heights Campus. Did you notice the banner hung on the Iron Gate at the corner of Prospect President Street and Classon Avenues during the planting? You couldn't miss it.

Why a time Capsule? Prospect Heights was no more.

Many teachers, friends and family attended PH and did not want to forget. So they left something to remember them by.

A time capsule was buried on June 26, 2006 by the last



By the Light

As the moon lends its light to shine upon us in the dark, we wonder how such light came to be. How it can affect our lives, the flow of the tides, and the birth of a seed. We, today, as our ancestors before us are still enthralled by this floating orb of silver white light. So enthralled, we down here on earth want to reproduce its existence in our gardens. Such gardens are called moon gardens and their presence in the night garden is mesmerizing.

No one knows for sure where and when the existence of moon gardens came to be. Some believed that moon gardens started with the ancients as they discovered the beauty and thrill of

graduating class of Prospect Heights High School. It will be dug up after a hundred years, 2106.

The street was closed for the occasion, and the Alumni of Girls Commercial and Prospect Heights sat in the VIP seats. This building was built in 1920-1921 and was called Girls Commercial. Look for the bronze plaque in the vestibule the next time you pass through the main entrance.

of the Silvery Moon

Part III

flowers. Others say that it started in the neat little Victorian gardens that craved the exotic and the unique. Many more believe that it is a new idea that came into being with the resurgence of pagan religions that worship the moon deities. Whatever its origins, the beauty of a moon garden has its appeal in the fact that it lightens up the dark or shady areas, as well as lending a magical feel to the garden as it illuminates the night.

There are many varieties of plants and flowers that add luminosity to the moon garden. Let us start with the obvious, Ipomoea alba, better known as moonflower. The

It is not a large monument; all the budget could afford was a flat slab of marble. This is why I suggested to the Olympus Garden Club that we work with the students at Prospect Heights Campus so that the memorial would be noticed when we pass by on the street.

The Olympus Garden Club and the students of Mr. Ariff Haje's Gardening Club @ International worked together to

moonflower is an annual, tender perennial in the South, which grows as a vigorous vine once you get them started. Its flowers are four to six inch white trumpets of fragrant delight, and open at dusk and last thru the night. They can grow to a height of ten to fifteen feet. Talk about reaching for the moon.



Another night-time beauty is Datura of which there are twelve to fifteen spe-

cies. The common names for Datura are Devil's Trumpet, Angel's Trumpet, and Jimsonweed just to name a few. They are annuals here in the north but can reseed vigor-

(Continued on page 3)

design and plant a garden to highlight the marble stone marking the time capsule location.

Citizens Committee for NYC has honored our efforts by awarding us with a plaque which will be hung on the gate, and passers by will now notice that there is a living legacy growing there at PHC.

A beautiful garden that will attract butterflies, and humming birds, a garden

(Continued on page 2)



Teaching & Planting

President's Message

The spring garden season was marked this year by a new project for the Olympus Garden Club. It was the construction of a garden surrounding a time capsule, which was buried in front of the Prospect Heights High School Building in 2006. We worked with teacher, Mr. Ariff Hajee and the students of the International High School @ Prospect Heights garden club to plan, design and install the garden.

Prospect Heights Librarian and club member Roberta Raysor proposed the project concept and we won a Citizens Committee for NYC Mollie Parnis Grant to help with expenses. We sent out press releases and got some local newspaper coverage. On a rainy after-



Planning the Garden

noon, Friday May 16, the Citizens folks stopped by to visit the site. We went ahead undaunted as students, OGC members, teachers and various dignitaries, including Citizens Committee bigwigs, a city commissioner and a deputy commissioner sought shelter under the Olympus tent in front of the school building. We explained the project to the attendees and managed to complete the day with a minimum amount of mud damage. The "wet press" event was definitely a first for me and I expect for most of the others present.

The club also completed the celebrated Quincy Senior Residence garden in

May. Last summer we gathered along with residents, employees, local politicians and special guests to dedicate this garden, which we planted in cooperation with a residents' garden club and a few sturdy teenage students. At this final event, we installed mainly perennial plants with some annuals and a few shrubs thrown in.

We were all pleased with the result and club members were invited back to see how the garden would look later in the season. We were thrilled just to hear residents praise their new garden, and talk about how they could now wake up to the sights and smells of the many spectacular flowers.

We were recently awarded several thousand dollars for the coming year thanks to our collective work and especially to the tireless efforts of our grant writing committee. Well done Roberta and Elba!



Robert Florin, President

Olympus Word Scramble - Roses

'American Beauty Rose' Climber	V C S N V V S X T Y T X P P S N M H H C
Cupcake	C D Z N N R L L Y L L X R P J R W T V T
Flower Carpet	C C T A C S S P E A C E L R J L B B N T
Floribunda	G T R C G Q T W S M L L K K C K R R J J
Grandiflora	H L P C N F L O W E R C A R P E T R C C
Hybrid teas	P J X L G Q L W W R P T C C R L K A S Z
Miniature	P P R I P Q F S Z I C P K P C C N S C U
Peace	Z L N M L V F L Z C X X L T P P P P Q Q
Shrub	S S N B P B L T L A Z D F T E Q Y Z L X
Ans. on pg. 4	Z Z N E R U T A I N I M D P D N A V T K
R. Murray	N X Z R L R R N I B C S X X D N R D N D
	N B B Z Z V C V V E Q G X T Z Z O D F S
	F U R R R V D D P A L Q G N T Z L B L P
	P R Q S E K A C P U C Q S N F N F B F T
	P H N L R Z Z N L T L G S K F G I P Q S
	T S A E T D I R B Y H Z L M L R D P G N
	T K L F H T Q Q N R N G L M B B N D D N
	X Z L H P H H F L O R I B U N D A D R G
	X L B R T H Q H J S V P L R T N R L G G
	J D Z Z Q K J J X E N N T R L H G D H P



(Time—Cont'd from page 1)
others will envy, but all will share.

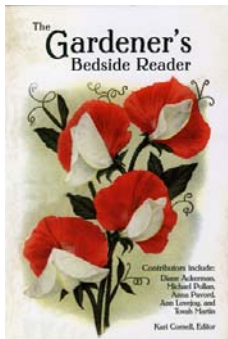
One afternoon while surveying our handiwork, a robin came to visit for the first time as we stood there. As we watched it collect worms from the newly turned beds, we realized that we had accomplished one of our goals. By including native plants that attracted birds and butterflies, we had created a new habitat for wildlife.

Look for the garden at the corner of President Street and Classon Avenue. Or better yet, come out and join us, as a garden needs up-keep. Come in and walk among the glories of nature, and lend a hand in keeping the legacy alive.

R. Raysor

Book Review

The Gardener's Bedside Reader is a survey of various garden writers' essays, selected chapters from their books and magazine articles. The book is generous in the use of early twentieth century garden catalogue covers and photos showing gardeners engaged in their labor as well as views of some inspiring gardens.



To the new gardener who is also new to this kind of writing, this book might well be a useful kind of exposure; since it represents many different takes on the subject. The editor divides the contributed pieces into six major categories ranging from the conceptual to the very practical, sometimes with specific essays on particular plants. Many of the pieces give a window into the writers' lives as well. There are mundane anecdotes about garden pests as well as touching personal vignettes.

Whether the reader is a practical sort, interested in beautiful landscapes or in a tasty tomato, there is something useful in one or another of the essays. The ways in which our gardens intertwine with personal experience is another kind of essay found here. One life experience about a daughter who was tending her dying mother's garden was a situation that resonated with me. The mother gave explicit instructions from a remote nursing home on how she wanted her garden cared for. The daughter dutifully complied but didn't weed for some reason. In spite of entangling encroachment the plants survived and thrived.

Although I didn't find enough continuity in this kind of book to please me entirely, there is enough here to satisfy many and perhaps encourage some to seek more from particular authors.

The Gardener's Bedside Reader
Kari Cornell, Editor
Voyageur Press

R. Florin

(Moon -Continued from page 1)

ously. The height varies with the species, anywhere from two to five feet depending on the quality of the soil. Their pendulous white trumpet flowers can be about 5" long and open at night as well. The fragrance that emits from its long elegant trumpet attracts moths as well as humans. However, take care not to get too close, for every part of *Datura* is poisonous.

An additional attraction to the moon garden is the *Polianthes tuberosa*, commonly known as tuberose. This is an annual that needs to be over-wintered indoors or in a heated greenhouse, as it is native to Mexico. The tuberose reaches a height of 18 to 36 inches. Its lovely white flowers are spikes of intensely fragrant fascination. It is little wonder that the tuberose is used extensively in French perfume. Oh-la-la.

One of my favorite little moon flowering plants is the Indian Pipe or Ghost Plant, *Monotropa uniflora*. It is an extraordinary little plant. At first glance,

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Tip Time



Remember, water the base of your plants and water deeply. This ensures deep roots and healthy, sturdy plants.

Don't worry too much if you see your leaves drooping in this heat, especially when you know that you watered well. Leaves exchange air and water (breathe) through pores on the underside of the leaf called stomata (plural) and in very high temperatures they stay closed. This causes the droop. If you have a healthy plant, the leaves return to normal when the temperature lowers.

Even though it may have rained, don't be fooled! Check the soil before you decide that you don't need to water. Unless it rained heavily or for several hours the roots won't get enough water and mature plants prevent the water

from getting to the roots.

If you forgot to water and you see your plants drooping in the middle of the day when the sun is scorching, I just know it, you will rush to water. This is not healthy for the plants. They can, go into shock. So, wait until it gets cooler to take care of your water starved plant.

'Don't be fooled'

I have some bare spots in the garden because I cut back the mint for drying. I am going to fill the space with moon flower, heavenly blue and red morning glory, some zinnias and sunflowers. This way I will have some additional color later in the season.



Moon Flower

Start preparing to plant the seeds for your fall crop—collards, winter squash, bunching onions, spinach. Bi-annuals like hollyhock and foxglove can be started now so that you can get blooms next year.

Don't forget maintenance—prune those trees and shrubs now; divide the irises; deadhead; last chance to cut back those mums; no fertilizing of trees, shrubs, roses, after August; add compost to the veggies.

Start thinking of extending the season—build cold frames, or hoop houses covered with at least 4 mil plastic, or get some floating row cover.

NOTHING better than home grown or farm fresh. Yuummy!

Harvest and be Happy!

Moon - (Cont'd from page 3)

you may think that this weird looking 4 to 10 inch plant is a fungus, but it is not. It comes from the Eri-caceae family, which includes blueberries, heaths, heathers, rhododendrons as well as many tropical plants. Stranger and stranger. This odd little



Ghost Plant

this plant is entirely white and it grows in little clusters like miniature ghosts hovering among the dead matter of the dense dark forest. This plant is rare outside of a temperate zone, for it needs to share its space with a nearby tree as it has a shared fungal root- relationship with the giants of the plant world. The conditions must be met before this little bit of moon glow decides to join your garden.

It is not only flowering

plants that can be used in the moon garden to brighten and delight the senses. Light or silvery white foliage can be used as well. You have Dusty Millers (Senecio cineraria) with its silver- grey foliage, Wormwood (Artemesia), which spreads forcefully thru out the garden, and Lamb's Ear (Stachys byzantina) which really feel like the ears of a lamb.

Moreover, if you have the space, think of the regal and noble beech tree with its elegant white bark as a backdrop for your moon garden. What better wood nymph to preside over the queens of the night as its stately branches reach to sweep the sky? In addition, as the autumn and winter approach and the leaves fall gracefully to the earth, the splendid beech stands ready to frame the moon in her arms. As we too stand ready to bask in the radiance that is the light of the silvery moon.

E. Cornier

Thank You

How wonderful it is that on certain holi- days you get to open up a package, called a gift, and how that gift puts a smile on your face every time



Elba & Ivanna

you see it. Well, it is the same when people and or- ganizations give the gift of helping us achieve our mis- sion of helping others. These kindhearted individu- als and generous organiza- tions made our Time Cap- sule Memorial Garden pro- ject feel like Christmas.

Betty, a language teacher at Prospect Heights Cam- pus helped us weed and prepare the soil. She worked all the while with a smile on her face. Irene Shen of Brooklyn Botanical Garden gave us beautiful tulips. One of Prospect Heights' alumni, class of 1972, Georgina Garcia, gave us buckets of day- lilies, sedums, black-eyed susans, and rose of sharons to grace our little patch of space.

In addition, there were or- ganizations like Home De- pot who in their generosity helped to beautify our little community garden. Special thanks to Ivanna Rivera, Veronica Hairston, and Ki- sha Thompson of Home Depot in Bedford- Stuyvesant who donated resources to our project. In addition, let us not forget all the folks at Citizens Committee for NYC who awarded us the Mollie Par-

nis grant. This project would never have happened without their kind generosity.

Each in their own way gave more than they realized be- cause what they truly gave was their gift of community and friendship. I just want to

say to them, on behalf of Olympus Gar- den Club, Thank You.

E. Cornier

Our 2008 Monthly Meeting Schedule

July 28, 2008

Create Your Own Stepping Stones

August 25, 2008

All About Raising Chickens in NYC

September 22, 2008

Creating with Pressed Flowers

October 27, 2008 Gardening

Craft

Please check our website for last minute changes or cancellations.

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Word Scramble Answer

V C S N V V S L X T Y T X P P S N M H H C
C D Z N N R L L L X R R P J N R W B T V T
C C T A C G N C S Q T L P E L K R C C K E T B B N J J
G T R C G N G Q F F L P W S R C A C P R L R R C Z
H L P C G N G Q F F L P W S R C A C P R L R R C Z
P J X C L I M B E R R L L V F L T T A N N V P P L B N L L
P P R R L M B E R R L L V F L T T A N N V P P L B N L L
Z L N M B E R R L L V F L T T A N N V P P L B N L L
S S N N B E R R L L V F L T T A N N V P P L B N L L
Z Z N N B E R R L L V F L T T A N N V P P L B N L L
N X Z B R R L L V F L T T A N N V P P L B N L L
N F B U R R Q S L E H T T H H Q J J X
P P R Q S L E H T T H H Q J J X
P P S A N L E H T T H H Q J J X
T K L F H T H H Q J J X
X L B R P H H Q J J X
J D Z Z Q K J J X