



MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS

JUNE 2026
Vol. 5, Issue 2

*Uwchlan
Garden Club*
Lionville, PA

OFFICERS 2024-2026

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Terry Miller

Vice-President:
Karen Yoder

Treasurer:
Carolyn Schreffler

**Recording
Secretary:**
Connie Peterson

**Corresponding
Secretary:**
Dolores Knight



President's Message

Greetings, my floral friends—

What a whirlwind it was the last few weeks as Uwchlan GC prepared for the annual Plant Sale. It was wonderful to see it all come together with enthusiastic members potting, creating, cleaning, staging, organizing, and welcoming the eager shoppers who started arriving an hour before we opened! It was a very successful event, and I would like to thank all of you who participated. Special thanks to the fearless leaders, Pam Halitsky and Carol McConnell!

Hopefully we are past our final frost. We always seem to get zapped just as the magnolias burst into bloom, but that unexpected FREEZE affected so many plants. My Hostas look like they melted, and the trees everywhere took a major hit. Shenk's was wiped out of tomatoes with folks coming in for a second round of plants that they had to replace. Some of us haven't gotten to our gardens since concentrating on the sale, so I didn't lose anything. I did manage to set a few pea seeds which are starting to shoot up. Then begins the challenge of getting them to grow up the trellis I so lovingly provide. Why is it they are supposed to know how to grow vertically, but mine only hear the fence siren calling them away from the tower I purchased to make them happy? There is no satisfying those "Sugar Magnolias."

I know we all are looking forward to the upcoming GCFP Garden Party. Please offer some of your time to help our host gardeners prepare their external homes for the tour. We will probably put out calls for assistance on garden prep days, so watch your emails carefully to see when you can offer a helping hand. Hostesses are also needed at each garden to greet the visitors the day of the event.

So, this will be my last message to you as your president. I will now have more free time to let the horticultural fever take hold so that I may attack the earth with ferocity. I wish to thank all of you for your words of encouragement along the way. It has been a great pleasure serving as your president these past two years, and I know that Karen will be an excellent successor.

Wishing you continued growth in every aspect of your lives!

Terry Miller

UWCHLAN MEMBERS WIN BIG AT THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW



Carrie Schreffler, 1st Place and GCFP Special Achievement Award



Carrie Schreffler, 1st Place Large Backed Pedestal Class 131



Carrie Schreffler, 2nd Place Large Backed Pedestal Class 129



Alex Dulchinos and Maria Jacobs 1st Place and Best of Large Backed Platforms for "Twist and Turns"



Maria Jacobs, 2nd Place with Class Commendation for Red Carpet Dress in Botanical Arts



Maria Jacobs, 2nd Place and Class Commendation for "Tip of the Hat"



Alex Dulchinos, 3rd Place, Large Backed



Wendy Fox, 1st Place and GCFP Special Achievement, Quadrant



Wendy Fox, 2nd Place, Large Backed Pedestal Pot et Fleur

Uwchlan GC Members Judging at the Show: Nancy Cuttic, Wendy Fox, Maria Jacobs, Barbara White

Spring Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9, 2026

It takes a village!!



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER REDEDICATION

Sunday, July 5, 2026 at 1 p.m.

As part of our nation's 250th anniversary, a rededication ceremony for Uwchlan Garden Club's Blue Star Marker will be held on **Sunday, July 5, 2026, at 1 p.m.** at the Uwchlan Meeting House, 3 N. Village Avenue. The event will coincide with an open house at the Meeting House, as well as at the Edith P. Moore One-Room Schoolhouse, 9 N. Village Avenue, and the Cadwalader House, 21 N. Village Avenue, in Lionville's National Historic District.

The Blue Star Marker was originally installed and dedicated on October 7, 2016, in conjunction with the Meeting House's 260th anniversary.



Mary Whitesel, Sandy Hengst, and Helen Kittraser preparing for the marker with tools from the 2016 Ames Tool Grant.



Mary Whitesel, M J Schlomann, and Doug Forsythe, Commandant, Chester County Marine Corps League 286, at the original dedication in 2016.



Club To Unveil Blue Star Memorial

By Francine Fulton

The Historic Uwchlan Meeting House in Lionville served as a hospital during the Revolutionary and Civil wars, so members of the Garden Class of the Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan decided it was a fitting place to honor members of the military with a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker.

After an application process, the club obtained the marker, which will be dedicated during a special ceremony on Friday, Oct. 7, at 1:30 p.m. at the meeting house, located at 5 N. Village Ave., Lionville.

Among those who will participate in the unveiling ceremony will be students from the Lionville Middle School Patriots Club. Members of the Downingtown VFW Post 845 and the Marine Corps League will provide a color guard and play taps.

The Veterans Affairs in West Chester

is lending the club 100 U.S. flags to be used during the event, and refreshments will be served after the unveiling. "The (ceremony) will be really special," said Mary Whitesel, Garden Class chairman.

The marker is fastened onto a large rock, which weighs between 400 and 500 pounds. Members discovered the rock just outside the front door of the meeting house while preparing to plant a flower garden around the marker. "When we started to dig, we saw the top of a rock. It was flat to the ground," explained Whitesel. "(We) started digging and digging."

Once the rock was uncovered, club members had to make sure that it could serve as a permanent location for the marker. "They used a pry bar, lifted it and put down a cement foundation with rebar, so it will not sink," Whitesel explained. "My husband, Bob, had to drill into the rock with a special



The Garden Class of the Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan will dedicate a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker on Friday, Oct. 7, at the Historic Uwchlan Meeting House. Club members include (back, from left) Mary Whitesel, Mary Jo Schlomann, Barb Fleming, (front) Anne Howe and Peggy Hartwick

Blue Star Memorial *from pg 1*

masonry drill and bit to put in anchors so that the marker could be fastened."

According to www.gardenclub.org, the Blue Star Memorial Program is designed to honor men and women who serve in all branches of the United States Armed Services. The program began in 1944 when members of the Garden Club of New Jersey planted 8,000 dogwood trees to honor veterans of World War II.

During a meeting of the National Council of State Garden Clubs in New York in 1945, the group voted to adopt the memorial marker program. Thus started the Blue Star Memorial Highway system, which covers thousands of miles across the country. "The Pennsylvania Turnpike - as of 2014 - is a Blue Star Highway. Every rest stop along the east/west corridor has the highway (Blue Star) marker," noted Garden Class member Mary Jo Schlomann.

After getting official approval for a site, garden clubs can purchase markers for their own locations. The Uwchlan club started the application process in June. District 1 of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, of which the Uwchlan club is a member, donated half the funds to purchase the marker. The local club raised the remainder of the funds during its spring plant sale. The National Garden Club Federation provided tools used in digging out the stone.

According to a written history of the Uwchlan Meeting House, John Cadwalader and his wife, Sarah, donated land at the junction of present-day Route 113 and the old Route 100, located on the west side of the meeting house, for use as a burial ground and eventually for a new Quaker Meeting House. Several years later, a log cabin was built to serve the members of Uwchlan, Nantmeal and Pikeland meetings.



The Uwchlan Meeting House, located at 5 N. Village Ave., Lionville, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

This was replaced in 1756 with the fieldstone meeting house, which still stands today. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Today, the Uwchlan Conservation Trust owns the building, and the Woman's

Community Club is the manager of the building for the Trust. An open house is held at the meeting-house on the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m., April through November.

For more information, readers may visit www.uwchlan.gardenclub.org.

How to Plant, Grow, and Care for Lilacs in Your Garden



Are you planning to grow lilacs this season, but aren't quite sure where to start? Lilacs are a popular shrub that can survive and thrive in many different hardiness zones. In this article, certified Master Gardener Liz Jaros walks through how to plant, grow, and care for lilacs in your garden space.

[Full article here.](#)

Lilac Plant Overview

Plant Type Shrub, tree	Hardiness Zone USDA 3-7	Height 3 feet to 30 feet	Maintenance Low
Genus Syringa	Season Early spring/early summer	Watering Needs Even, moderate	Soil Type Loose, well-drained
Family Olive (Oleaceae)	Exposure Full Sun	Pests Lilac borer, leaf miner, scales	Plant With Spring bulbs, peonies, clematis
Species Syringa spp.	Plant Spacing Variety dependent	Disease Powdery mildew, blight, leaf spot	Attracts Bees, Butterflies
Native Area Eastern Europe, Asia	Planting Depth Variety dependent		

Uwchlan GC Awards Announced at the GCFP Convention - Marilyn Small

Uwchlan Garden Club

Seed Money - \$75

1st - Beautification of Community Areas, Planters at Downingtown Library

1st - Newsletter 3-12 Pages, Large Club

1st - Holiday Project or Event, Large Club - Christmas Fair

1st - Plant Sale, Large Club

1st - Youth Activities a. Series, Large Club - Bulb, Salad, and Pumpkin Workshops

2nd - Other Project/Event Promoting GCFP Objectives, Large Club - Horticulture Therapy



CAR-SGC Jean Ladson Outstanding Achievement Award - Annual Christmas Fair benefiting the Meetinghouse

Nancy Cuttic - District I and GCFP Perennial Bloom and Presidential Citation

Valerie Burgess

1st - GCFP Club Floral Design Achievement - Series of Floral Design Educational Presentations

Carrie Schreffler - 1st Place Workshop, "Succulent Dish Creations," and 2nd Place Workshop, "Mod Podge Vases"

Marilyn Small - Presidential Citation

St. Patrick's Day Horticulture Therapy - *Kate Morrison-Teeter*

On Tuesday, March 10, Simpson Meadows participated in a St. Patrick's Day-themed horticultural therapy session. Participants created a "Luck o' the Irish" floral arrangement using a shamrock pail accented with festive, glittery embellishments.

The program welcomed 13 residents from independent living and assisted living. The atmosphere was joyful and engaging, with each participant creatively expressing themselves and taking pride in their finished arrangement—ideal for displaying on a small table or sunny windowsill.



Sincere thanks to the UGC volunteers who supported this session: Mary Whitesel, Nancy Malanowicz, Lucille Jackson, and Suzanne DiJiacomo.



Brandywine Valley Active Aging Planters



On April 29, *Ruth Kofke and Kate Teeter* planted the self-watering planters at Brandywine Valley Active Aging in Downingtown, marking our second location for community plantings. The design features a patriotic red, white, and blue theme for our country's 250th celebration, including red begonias, white and blue lobelia, ferns, variegated Hosta, vinca, and sedum. Several elements were thoughtfully gathered from Ruth's own garden—especially meaningful, as she originally proposed this project to the Uwchlan Garden Club. The display will be further embellished with small flags in celebration of Memorial Day.

Downingtown Library Spring Planters - *Kate Morrison-Teeter*

Since May 2025, the Uwchlan Garden Club has proudly partnered with the Downingtown Library to design and maintain six seasonal planters. This spring, the planters were refreshed with a vibrant mix of cabbage, chard, lettuce, and pansies, beautifully accented with curly willow and yellow dogwood. The front entrance planters also include primrose and fescue—excellent choices for early-season color and resilience in cooler temperatures.

This ongoing project is a wonderful way for members to get involved, and all are welcome to lend a hand throughout the seasons. Please let me know if you are interested in helping—we have a great time, and the work is accomplished efficiently. Up next, we will be adding summer flowers in May, along with two new planters at Brandywine Valley Active Aging in Downingtown.

The creative vision for these community projects is thanks to Carol McConnell and Darlene Snyder.



Sprouts and Seedlings Succulent Terrariums at the Downingtown Library

- Kate Morrison-Teeter

On Monday, April 13, the Uwchlan Garden Club welcomed 13 young gardeners for a hands-on terrarium planting workshop as part of our *Sprouts & Seedlings* series. Each participant created their own miniature garden, planting two succulents while learning about the important layers that help a terrarium thrive — including rocks for drainage, charcoal for freshness, soil for growth, and moss for structure. The children added their own creative touches with decorative stones and a small ceramic critter, making each terrarium unique.

This engaging and educational program introduced basic plant science in a fun, interactive way and inspired curiosity about gardening and nature.

The success of this workshop was made possible by the generous support and enthusiasm of our volunteers: Nancy Malanowicz, Kathy Ewell, Davida Waters, and Peggy Schubert.



Jenny Rose Carey Gardens Visit

April 24, 2026



MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS

Bee Skep Workshop

Carrie Schreffler - May 13, 2026

A group of five members came together for a hands-on workshop to build and decorate their own beehives. The result was a collection of unique hives showcasing creativity and a love for nature's tiny pollinators.



Trading Winter for the Wonders of Costa Rica

January 30—February 11, 2027

Sharon Richardson

While planning a winter getaway to scratch a gardener's itch, I was searching for a destination rich in warmth, sunshine, and natural beauty. I discovered Costa Rica — a small Central American country known for breathtaking biodiversity, welcoming people, and a deep commitment to conservation.

If you love nature and enjoy traveling with warm and friendly gardeners, come join me next February as we escape the short freezing days and long dark nights!

Interested in Joining the Tour January 30-February 11? The trip itinerary is available [HERE](#).

An informational video about the tour company and itinerary can be viewed [HERE](#).

Passcode: ^An4uhx+ (**case sensitive passcode)

To enroll or ask questions, contact Mark Rake at mrake@aca.aaa.com or 215-315-4065.

REGISTRATION ENDS IN JULY, SO SIGN UP SOON!

Plant Sale Workshop - *Carrie Schreffler*

On Wednesday, April 15, 8 members gathered at the Meeting House to make 21 succulent and sand art air plant terrariums for sale at the spring Plant Sale. Thank you to all who participated.



10 plants for easy summer flowers

10 easy-to-grow plants to add instant color to your garden

by *BBC Gardener's World Magazine* [Full Article Here.](#)

CREATING A MAGICAL "UNDER THE STARS" EVENING

On April 17, members of the Uwchlan Garden Club partnered with Hopewell United Methodist Church to help decorate for a special "Under the Stars" dance, a joyful evening designed for young people with special needs.

Seventeen youth regularly participate in programs at the church, and what began last year as their very first prom-style dance has quickly grown into a beloved annual event. With participants inviting friends and guests from the CCIU and Handi-Crafters groups, attendance has expanded from 50 last year to an exciting 80 young people this year—a testament to the event's impact and popularity.

The church was buzzing with activity as volunteers prepared food, created festive wall décor, and assembled stunning floral arrangements. UGC members contributed a beautiful, elongated centerpiece designed by Becky Zeeger. The arrangement featured curly willow, silver-sprayed branches, ruscus, and carnations in soft hues of green, white, light yellow, and pink, complemented by airy baby's breath. Blue bottles adorned with delicate blooms added a whimsical, starry-night touch to the tables.



Many thanks to Becky Zeeger, Darlene Snyder, Kate Morrison-Teeter, Lynne White, Bridget Lillis, and Peggy Schubert for sharing their time and talents to help make this meaningful event so special.

BARNES & NOBLE FUNDRAISER

In March, the Uwchlan Garden Club's Barnes & Noble fundraiser in Exton was a wonderful success, made possible by the time and enthusiasm of our dedicated volunteers. We are pleased to share that the club received a check totaling **\$2,629.08**.

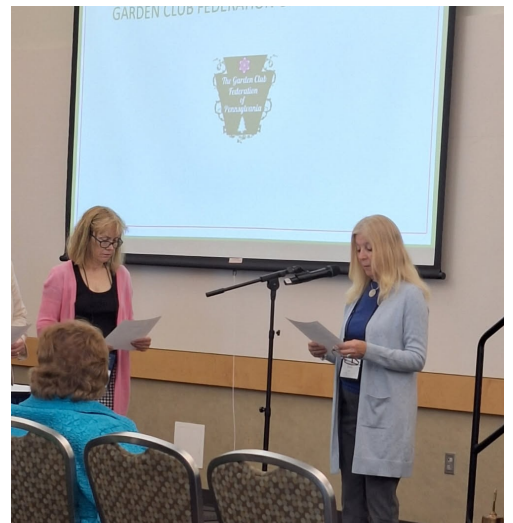
Throughout the weekend, members warmly greeted shoppers, shared information about the club, and promoted our upcoming Garden Party and Plant Sale. Volunteers encouraged customers to support UGC by mentioning the club at checkout and by using the Barnes & Noble QR code for their purchases.

We also engaged families by inviting children to create dried flower and floral sticker book-marks, adding a fun, hands-on element to the event.

This fundraiser was not only successful but also a meaningful opportunity to increase community awareness. Thank you to our volunteers—your energy and enthusiasm helped everything flourish.



Uwchlan GC members attend the GCPF Convention in Erie



District Director Pam Walsh giving her report



CAR Director Beverly Kazickas, Nancy Cuttic, Marilyn Small, President Pat Wolanski



Sharon Richardson honored for receiving her 4-Star designation, completing all four schools. Pictured with President Pat Wolanski and Past President Leeanna Ryba

NGC SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Courses are in-person unless otherwise specified.

Schools may be taken in any order, in any state, in-person, via Zoom, or hybrid (combination of in-person and on-line.)



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Course 1: October 27-28, Charleston, SC
 Course 3: September 28-29, College Station, TX

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Course 1: September 17-18, Derby, CT
 Course 2: August 4-6, Virtual
 Course 4: October 23-24, Sheboygan, WI
 November 2-3, Augusta, MI

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course 1: August 11-13, Lafayette, LA
 August 16-19, Johns Creek, GA
 October 26-28, Raleigh, NC
 Course 2: August 24-27, Fort Payne, AL

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course 3: August 16-18, Memphis, TN
 August 24-27, Richmond, VA
 Oct 26-29, Dallas, TX
 Course 4: June 10-12, Derby, CT
 July 28-31, Bowling Green, KG
 September 24-26, Poway, CA
 October 6-8, Voorheesville, NY
October 26-28, Gettysburg, PA

GARDENING SCHOOL

Course 3: August 3-4, San Antonio, TX
 August 24-25, Westerville, OH (Virtual)
 Course 4: June 10-11, Spartanburg, SC
 September 18-19, Sawyer, MI

Become a Four- & Five- Star Member

Members completing all four NGC Courses may apply to become Four-Star Members. Those mastering each course may apply for Five-Star Membership.

Uwchlan Garden Club's Four-Star Member
 Sharon Richardson



The seed does not ask why it has been surrounded by darkness. It's only focus is to reach for the light.

Acellinaforms



Upcoming UGC Meetings, Programs, and Events

Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m.

Susan Moyer-Glass

Thursday, July 23, 11 a.m.

Kathy S. Cole, Backyard Flower Grower

Thursday, August 27, 6 p.m.

Picnic at the Uwchlan Meeting House

Thursday, September 24, 11 a.m.

Greg Tepper, horticulturalist, arborist, and designer

GCFP District I Meetings

President's Luncheon

Friday, June 5, 11 a.m.

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

7224 Division Highway, Navaron

Overview of Landfill Programs and Successes

District I Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, September 10, 9:30 a.m.

Fox Barn

16 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern

Hosted by Covered Bridge Garden Club

Speaker Rob Cardillo, "Through the Garden Lens"

Fall District I Meeting

TBD

Uwchlan Meeting House

In Memory of

Sharon Kauffman, member for 4 years

Jane Press, member for 3 years

Anne Howe, member for 48 years

Our Affiliations



National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

President: Donna Donnelly

www.gardenclub.org



Central Atlantic Region of State

Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC)

Director: Beverly Kazickas

www.car-sgc.org



Garden Club Federation of PA (GCFP)

President: Patricia Wolanski

www.pagardenclubs.org



GCFP District I

Director: Pam Walsh

Meetinghouse Moments

UGC Website & Facebook

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UGC Website - uwchlangardenclub.org

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