

Christmas 2023

...T'was the day of our traditional Christmas luncheon. The members of the Christmas Lunch committee, MaryEtta Wood, Fran Hamel, Eleese Lester-Baier and Julie had sampled the food at a variety of restaurants in the area and selected 'CLEMENTINE' for our gathering. The cozy banquet room was festively decorated. The tables were set with white linens and china. The committee added sparkling centerpieces and set small, sparkling bags with treats at each place set.



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One by one or in small groups members came to the dining room and were greeted by our hostesses MaryEtta and Fran. Susan Hanson had a list of members with RSVP and she marked us off as we passed her on the way to our tables.



Soon the room filled up with the joyful chatter of ladies in festive attire.





Our hostesses made sure that all were comfortably seated and had their beverages.





With everyone present, Mary opened the celebration with a prayer. President Harriett thanked the hospitality committee for their hard work in making this gathering possible. With no other announcement we were invited to enjoy the buffet.



Christmas Garden Payer

Lord, as members of our garden club, we seek Your blessings of patience and trust.

Help us to understand that gardening is a journey that unfolds at its own pace.

Grant us the ability to surrender to the rhythm of nature, embracing the seasons of growth and dormancy.

Teach us the value of waiting, knowing that every seed we sow will sprout in its appointed time.

May our gardens become a reminder of the beauty that emerges when we place our trust in Your divine timing.

Bless our club with patience, faith, and an unwavering belief in the miracles that nature unfolds during this Christmas season.

There is a special winter garden and it blooms in December as it is planted with the seed of every Christmas we remember.

There's mistletoe for laughter and love, there's holly for good cheer, there's evergreen to symbolize the hope of the new year.

There's poinsettia for beauty and for the sweetness there's the bay.

May the harvest of these all and more be yours this Christmas Day.

Bless the food that will nourish our bodies and bless the hands of those who have prepared it and will serve it.

We are thankful for all that You have provided for us all.

Amen











Judy Beckham declared that she did not reach her goal to collect \$1,000.00 for CAM this season.

She challenged us to make up the difference of around \$100.00.

At the end of the meeting she was happy to announce that we did not only meet her challenge, but exceeded it by a substantial amount.







While we were enjoying our food, our hostesses entertained us with the rendering of a garden Christmas poem (see below).



And there was more... Small items were gifted to one person per table who found a number under the giftbag at their place setting. This was an unexpected surprise, indeed!



A Gardener's Christmas

*'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the yard
The branches were bare and the ground frozen hard;*

*The roses were dormant and mulched all around
To protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground;*

*The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of fertilizer danced in their heads;*

*The newly planted shrubs had been soaked by a hose
To settle their roots for a long winter's doze;*

*And out on the lawn the new fallen snow
Protected the roots of the grasses below;*

*When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a red Ford 150 full of gifts of gardening gear;*

*St. Nick was the driver a jolly old elf,
And he winked as he said "I'm a gardener myself.*

*I've brought new seeds and light systems, too,
Give them a try and see how they do.*

*To eliminate weeding, I brought bags of mulch
To attract the pollinators, I have flowers for best results.*

*To add to your joy, I've plenty of herbs
And ornamental grasses for your street side curb.*

*For seed planting days, I've a trowel and dibble.
And a roll of wire mesh, if the rabbits should nibble.*

*I have the latest books plus some gadgets you'll love;
Plant stakes and frames, and waterproof gloves.*

*Here are sharp shears and a new compost pit
And, for pH detecting, a soil testing kit.*

*With these colorful flagstones, lay a new garden path.
For the view from your window, a bird feeder and a bird bath.*

*And last but not least, some well-rotted manure.
A green garden year-round, these gifts will ensure.*

*Then, jolly St. Nick having emptied his load,
revved up his engine and took on the road.*

*And I heard him exclaim through the motor's loud hum,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb!"*





The luncheon came to an end with members thanking our hosts for a wonderful event. Our gift bags in hand, we departed wishing everyone a Merry Christmas season and with our sights set for more exciting club events in the coming year.



Poinsettia Sale for R.E.A.C.H.

Members of the garden club had pre-ordered Poinsettias through REACH and they were ready for pick-up at Margo's garage and driveway.



After the lunch people came by to collect their fresh flowers, delivered directly from the grower. Margo had sold over 100 poinsettias this season; many of them to members of the garden club.

