

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
May 12, 2026
1:00 p.m., Milne Library

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Karen Parker called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.
- B. WELCOME: Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the refreshment committee for our snacks and drinks. We had 23 people in attendance. She called on some members to give announcements before introducing the speaker.
- C. UPDATES:
1. Pat Wilk explained our two-day collection of pots and plants from Williams College students before they depart for the summer. We hope to clean out and save the nice pots, nature and divide the healthy plants, and toss dead and drying plants into a compost pile before washing the pots. Further, we hope to spread goodwill among the plant-curious students we meet, and to tell them about our club and our fall sale. Pat asked for volunteers to help; we will be at a table on the Paresky steps from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Wednesday the 13th and Thursday the 14th. Kathy McKnight has publicized our project via posters and the campus email, and she will bring our "Williamstown Garden Club at Work" signs.
 2. Delia Marshall reminded us that the container plants are being delivered on Wednesday, May 20. Everyone who is not a Walley Bridge caretaker needs to pick up plants at her house: 555 Hancock Road. Pickup times are: Wednesday 5/20 4pm-7pm, Thursday 5/21 noon-4pm, and Friday 5/22 noon-4pm. Please plant the containers by Monday, Memorial Day.
 3. Kathy's McKnight reported that on the 22, at noon, Mt. Williams Greenhouse will deliver 120 petunias, in red, white and blue to Walley Bridge. We'll be planting 60 on each side of the bridge. If you volunteered to be a Walley Bridge caretaker, please be there. Wear your Williamstown Garden Club shirt and bring a trowel, garden gloves, and a jug of water, or a filled two-gallon watering can. Problems with attaching the flower boxes to the bridge might delay us by a day or two, but Delia will keep us posted via email.
 4. Karen reminded us about our bus trip to Stanley Park in Westfield on June 9. We'll leave the Walgreens parking lot via Dufour bus at 7:40 a.m., and return at 2:40 p.m. Once we arrive, we'll join a park horticulturalist for a 10:00 a.m. tour of the rose garden, and then find a shady spot for our picnic lunch. Members should pack their own lunches; we will have coolers with ice packs on the bus to store lunches. We will have time to explore an arboretum, Japanese garden, or botanical garden, among other possibilities. Members should sign up via our Constant Contact newsletter or by contacting Karen.
- D. Karen introduced our speaker, Jen Munoz, who told us about her program, "Growing Healthy Gardens," which serves a wide range of populations in Berkshire County. She was a passionate and lively speaker, and started by explaining that she worked in the garden with her grandfather as a little girl growing up in Adams, came back to Adams as a social worker, and decided to leave that field so that she could work hands-on with a wide range of people doing more joyful, productive work. "The garden is a peaceful place," she said,

as she told us stories about some of the different branches of her work: establishing gardens at the Greylock Apartments in North Adams with teen parents, growing vegetables at public schools, donating produce to the Berkshire Food Project in North Adams, getting funding for community gardens, working with neighborhood leaders in subsidized neighborhoods, convincing the City of North Adams to plant fruit trees instead of shade trees, building raised beds at the Roots Teen Center and creating outdoor classrooms at Brayton elementary school. Now, she says, she has been able to make some lasting changes. She sees her neighborhood families shopping at farmers' markets. She told us the story of one boy who went to culinary school on a scholarship as a result of learning about the joy of growing fresh food. "My idea is to educate people, to give them a little exercise, to provide nutrition education, and to reduce food insecurity," she said. "My superpower is I try hard." She showed us pictures of many of her gardens. Her high energy and obvious joy was a vivid reminder of the power of growing things.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE: Our next meeting will be the June 9 trip to Westfield.

Submitted by

Pat Wilk

Recording Secretary