



**Save these dates:**

**No November meeting**

**Thursday, Dec 8**  
**Christmas banquet and gift exchange**  
**Castelli's Restaurant at 255 (Moonlight Restaurant)**  
**3400 Fosterburg Rd**  
**Alton, IL 62002**  
**arrival 5:30 pm**  
**dinner served 6:00 pm**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017**  
**club meeting**  
**7 pm**  
**Bethalto Senior Citizens Center**  
**100 E. Center St,**  
**Bethalto**  
**Topic : TBD**  
**Dues for 2017**

**Monday, January 30, 2017**  
**Board meeting**  
**7 pm**  
**Location: TBD**

**Christmas banquet and gift exchange:** This year the Christmas banquet as been moved to Castelli's Restaurant ( Moonlight). It was brought to the board's attention that it was probably time for a venue change. Vernice did the foot work to check out places. It was decided on Castelli's.

**Cost** is free for members. Guests will be \$20.

**To reserve** a seat contact Susan Ruckman, 466-5892

**Deadline** is December 1, a count is needed.

Arrival time is 5:30 pm. Dinner will be served around 6:00, once every one is seated. Coffee and tea will be included with the meal. Soda and other drinks will be a separate charge.

**Gift exchange:** The gift should be around \$15. It should also be garden related. If it is specifically for a man or women please mark it as such.

**Note from the president:** Its been a pleasure serving as your president for the last two years. It's a pretty easy job when you have competent and efficient officers, committee chairs , executive board and helpful garden members. You have a great group to take the reins for the next two years. I'm looking forward to the new ideas they have for our club. Thanks to all and see you at our Christmas banquet.

*Susan Hiller, President 2015-2016.*

**Officers/board members for 2017-2019:** The following members will be officers or board members for the next two years. President— Carole Baker, Vice President— Susan Ruckman, Secretary— Susan Ruckman, Treasurer— Juanita Cox. Board members: Vernice Allen, Christy Butler, Gail Clarkson, George Kahl, Jerry Linker and Dottie Rogers. Community Projects—Susan Hiller, Hospitality—Joanne Bottens, Debbie Winship, Historian and Photos—Jerry Linker.

**We** are still in need of a chairperson for trips. Carolyn has done it for several years and is ready to take a break.

**Dues 2017:** It will soon be time for the yearly dues. They remain \$10 for renewal. For a new member it is \$17, (\$7 is for name pin). We will start collecting at the January meeting. If not paid by March 16, the renewal fee will be \$15. If you aren't able to attend, please mail your dues to the new treasurer, Juanita Cox. 24379 Grange Hall Rd, Jerseyville, IL 62025.

**Fall bus trip, Arthur, IL:** A beautiful day greeted 39 members and guests for our fall bus trip to an Amish working farm and a pumpkin patch. The group boarded a bus by 8:00 am and we were off to our first stop which was the Amish farm for meal hosted by Melvin and Sara Helmuth, an actual Amish family.

Our meal consisted of baked boneless chicken, meat balls and sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, fresh corn on the cob, chicken and noodles, a choice of home made apple pie or cream pie, tea or water and lastly coffee. Mr. Helmuth talked a little about the Amish life style and answered questions from the diners. He indicated that pictures were ok, with the exception that the Amish do not allow their pictures to be taken. After our fabulous meal, we wandered around the farm grounds to view the barns, see carriages and the horses. They also had flowers and a large garden.

At 1:30 or so, we departed for The Pumpkin Patch which was very busy because of the lovely weather. All shapes and sizes of pumpkins, gourds, squash, and mums could be purchased, as well as fresh bakery items and a gift shop. Halloween and lots of fall items were on display in an array of arrangements. Several purchased very large pumpkins, perhaps to display or to carve scary faces into them. We arrived back to Macy's about 5:40. Our thanks for another great trip planned by Carolyn James.  
*Jerry Linker, Historian*



**October meeting:** We were back inside for our October meeting. This was the last meeting for the season. It was very enlightening. Our speaker was Patti Brown, educational director of the Nature Institute. She shared a little bit of her knowledge regarding bugs in the garden. Patti, was very enthusiastic about her bugs. She described good and bad bugs. She suggested plants to help repel the bad bugs. Patti, also brought some critters with her, she had meal worms that they had raised. She also, had samples of bugs to eat, they are very high in protein. The members were very receptive to the information provided. Patti, had lots of written information and bugs to display. Patti, is welcomed back anytime.



**Keeping Up:**

Our sympathy is extended to Dottie Rogers in the loss of her beloved husband, Raymond, and to Christy Butler in the loss of her younger brother, Terry.

We've been missing Carolyn Holt at our meetings. She and Joey, her therapy dog, keep busy. They visit local nursing homes bringing smiles and joy to the residents.

Linda Eisenreich continues to assemble beautiful vintage crystal solar lights. For fifty dollars, a solar light will make a nice Christmas gift for someone special. They are stunning in the garden.

We continue to wish a speedy recovery to Christy Butler, Susan Ruckman and George Kahl as they continue to make progress after their surgery. Hopefully they will be at our Christmas dinner, December 8th at Castelli's restaurant.

A special thank you to Gail and Kent Clarkson for hosting the bonfire October 29th. Hot dogs, brauts, chips, desserts and drinks were provided by the generous hosts. The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all.

Let me know if you have any news about our members so we can continue " Keeping Up." Thanks, Vernice —259-6726

**Note from hospitality:** The following members have signed up to bring goodies for the January meeting.

**Dessert:** Edith Reed, Jan Maxiener, Juanita Cox, Helen Fulk, and Karen Cairns

**1 large bag of ice:** Nancy Shipman

**1 liter regular cola :** Debbie Winship

**1 liter white soda:** Minnie Dooley

**1 liter diet soda :** Linda Votaw

**1 liter unweetened tea:** Charlotte Bryant

**President:** Susan Hiller 466-4942

**VP/Secretary:** Susan Ruckman  
466-5892

**Treasurer:** Judy Dare 979-0273

**Committee chairs**

Carolyn James— Trips

Earlene Harrison— Community  
Projects

Joanne Bottens— Hospitality

Debbie Winship— Hospitality

Jerry Linker — Historian & Photos

**Board members**

Vernice Allen

Carole Baker

George Kahl

Jerry Linker

Dottie Rogers

Paula Zugmaier