

The Brooksider

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



It was inspiring to see and to meet so many of you at our annual meeting on November 13. The annual meeting is an opportunity for Friends to meet one another, meet the Board of Directors, learn about the projects that FOBG funds for Brookside, and hear from **Stephanie Oberle**, the director of Brookside, about the newest garden projects. This year, an added feature was live music by the ensemble Painted Trillium.

For those who were unable to attend, here is a summary of the program:

The Orchid Show and Sale in March, coordinated by **Gloria Sherman** and **Marcia Postman**, was a great success. Mark your calendars for March 17 and 18, 2012, when the Brookside Orchid Club will join us with advice and a special showing of their members' orchids. We plan to offer an orchid repotting service at that time.

Joan O'Rourke and **Barbara Meiselman** once again arranged for an amazing selection of plants for the annual Plant Sale in September. While the setup for the sale was conducted in pouring rain, the day of the sale itself was sunny and beautiful.

Karen Leete and **Judy Sturtz** are finalizing the details on the annual Holiday Greens sale, which will take place on December 3. This year, centerpieces will be mixed greens and trees and wreaths will be boxwood. With a little care, these wreaths, tiny trees, and centerpieces will be long lasting.



Thanks to **Diana Sullivan** for providing the excellent refreshments and table décor for the meeting. Thank you to those who supplied the eagerly anticipated door prizes and to **Suzanne Carbone** for organizing the awarding of the prizes.



Stephanie Oberle gave an excellent presentation on the many activities of Brookside Gardens, which she illustrated with PowerPoint slides. She particularly thanked FOBG for our support for Children's Day, the Spring and Fall Lecture Series, the Green Matters Symposium, and the Concert Series. Stephanie's presentation showed photos of the garden renovations along with the plant materials and seasonal workers required, which were funded by *you*, our members.



Your Board of Directors would like to invite you to become more engaged in the activities of FOBG. You have seen above the major activities that cannot be successful without the participation of the membership at large. In addition, the Board's membership and marketing committees are looking for support. If you would like to take a leadership role in FOBG, look for an application to become a board member in the next

issue of *The Brooksider*.

A Greek proverb says that "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." You, as a member of Friends of Brookside Gardens, have the knowledge that you are leaving a legacy for the future, but also the enjoyment of sitting in the shade of trees right now. Thank you for your past, present and future support.

Barbara

GROW WITH US!

Do you remember back in 1996 when Friends of Brookside Gardens was launched? We've come a long way since our beginnings 15 years ago. And we've made tremendous contributions to support Brookside in so many ways: plantings in the gardens, interns, lectures and concerts, initial phase of the master plan and many more.

Now FOBG is growing and improving our operations. We have a larger Board – and what a hard-working group they are! We've converted *The Brooksider* from a print publication to an on-line newsletter and reaped significant cost savings because we no longer have to pay for printing and postage. We're developing a new marketing and communications strategy so we can introduce FOBG to more people more effectively. We're designing a new Web site. And our new Facebook page is up and running. We're also planning new events and more ways for members to get involved.

Here's where you come in: FOBG is looking for volunteers, and we'd love to have your help. You can join a committee and give us a few hours a month. Or you can contribute your expertise to some of our special projects. Here are some of the areas in which your help would be very welcome:

- ◆ Graphic design for posters and other marketing materials
- ◆ Web design and maintenance
- ◆ Writing articles for *The Brooksider* and the FOBG Web site
- ◆ Advocacy on behalf of Brookside
- ◆ Committees such as Plant Sale, Orchid Sale, Holiday Greens Sale
- ◆ Membership development

We'll be sending members an e-survey with more details after the holidays. That way, we can find out how you're interested in helping FOBG and what particular expertise you'd like to offer.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to volunteer in any of the areas listed above, please send us an e-mail at: friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com

We hope you'll seriously consider volunteering with FOBG.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS!

One of the most significant ways to volunteer with FOBG is to join the Board of Directors. Each April we bring in a new group of Board members, as serving Board members rotate off at the end of their term. The Board is the heart of FOBG. Its members plan and carry out all events such as the orchid sale and annual meeting. They write and distribute *The Brooksider*. They strategize for the membership campaign. And most important, they provide the interface between Brookside Gardens and FOBG. If you'd like to submit your name to be considered for the Board in 2012, please request an application form by e-mailing friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com. The form will also be published in the next issue of *The Brooksider*.

SEE YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS

In lights? Well, almost...How about bold-faced print? Starting in 2012, *The Brooksider* plans to feature profiles of FOBG members. If Brookside means a lot to you for a special reason, we'd like to hear about it. Do you remember coming here as a child? Did you hold your wedding in the gazebo? Have you been part of Brookside's wonderful volunteer corps? Did you help install holiday light shows? Do you photograph flowers and landscapes in all seasons? Are you a regular exercise-walker around the gardens?

Here's how to sign up to be considered for a profile in *The Brooksider*: Send an e-mail to friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com telling us in one paragraph why Brookside is special to you. Be sure to give us your contact information. If you're selected, we'll send you our interview questionnaire for a feature article – and you'll see yourself in print.



A SAD NOTE

On November 9, Brookside and FOBG lost a longtime volunteer and friend: Fran McClure passed away. Fran served as a Director of FOBG and was the first editor of the FOBG newsletter. As a Brookside volunteer, she was an adult guide and a gardener assistant. Fran also worked with the Wings of Fancy butterfly exhibit as well as the winter Garden of Lights. Most recently, Fran helped at the Visitors' Center information desk.

Fran was active in the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, and she found time for Master Gardeners, where she was a very popular speaker and member of the Landscape Design Committee.

In her professional life, Fran served as chief of technical services with the Montgomery County Public Libraries. At her retirement party, a friend and colleague recalls that Fran was especially excited about finally having more time for her great love – gardening. Another colleague said that Fran was “a true professional with a warm and wise heart.” This sentiment was shared by so many who knew Fran. No wonder she will be missed.

HOLIDAY DECORATING...

As you get ready for the holidays, don't forget that the FOBG annual holiday greens sale will be held on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00-4:00 in the Visitors' Center. You can pick up your pre-ordered greens on December 3 as well.

Fresh mixed green centerpieces, along with boxwood wreaths and trees, can add fragrance and natural beauty to your décor. They're perfect as is, just with a big bow. Or they can be a starting point for your own creative touches. Why not decorate one for a special friend or relative? It's a thoughtful gift – and no calories!

...AND HOLIDAY SHOPPING

As a member of FOBG, you get attractive discounts at Brookside's gift shops. Come explore the Christmas ornaments, art objects for the table, irresistible jewelry, a myriad of stocking stuffers, and of course gardening books. The 10% member's discount makes your holiday shopping budget go farther and helps Brookside at the same time.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Our new Facebook page made its debut this month. You'll find news updates, announcements, relevant links, lots of photos and comments by visitors. Take a few minutes to visit the page yourself, share it with your friends, and let us know what you think.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Friends-of-Brookside-Gardens/290180597671619>

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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