



Seattle Garden Club

# All The Buzz

November 2023

[www.seattlegardenclub.org](http://www.seattlegardenclub.org)



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Newsletter editor:  
Edie Tenneson

Our first General Meeting of the year was a huge success, and we owe sincere thanks to the many people who made it possible. Funding from the Iris Wagner Conservation Fund gave us the financial means to enjoy a private event at Climate Pledge Arena with David Brenner, founder of the Living Wall. We are very grateful to Iris Wagner and the Fund for this assistance. The idea to invite David Brenner was first hatched in the Program Committee. With Carlyn Steiner and Ana Hergert at the helm, the idea quickly turned into an SGC field trip. Lee Rolfe put us in contact with Nick Forro at Climate Pledge Arena, who booked us into a meeting room, arranged for security and free parking, and provided escorts to the Living Wall itself after David's excellent presentation. Kudos to everyone who made it happen!

Our meeting was packed with members and guests – all anxious to learn more about the origin of the Living Wall and to see it up close without the throngs of Kraken hockey fans normally present. Climate Pledge Arena had just been honored as the first “climate neutral arena in the world.” That special distinction only added to the morning's excitement, giving us all another reason to be proud of our city. Here's a [link for more information](#) on the amazing work making CP Arena sustainable. <https://climatepledgearena.com/sustainability/#zerowaste>

Excitement is also building for our “Garden Inspirations” Flower Show in May. Please check out the [show schedule](#), find something of interest and sign up to participate. There are many mentors throughout the club who are happy to walk you through the process of entering a floral arrangement, a photograph, a horticulture specimen, or botanical arts entry. Our GCA Flower Shows only occur every three years or so. This is a great opportunity to get inspired and challenge yourself by entering the show. It's guaranteed to be a fun and educational experience!

[SGC Flower Show “Gardens Inspirations” Schedule \(select here\)](#)

Susan Potts,  
President

# Horticulture

Christina Koons takes the stand on **Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** with a talk on "Garden in Art: Persia and India" featuring the Assyrian water projects in ancient Iran which enabled that country to garden in a mode similar to modern day Persian gardens.

In addition, the Flower Show Crew will have some special advice and share more information about the upcoming May show! And... don't forget to bring your plants for Horticulture Share; your books, magazines and other garden reading materials you are ready to pass along; and any vases that need a new home.

Carey Davis  
Horticulture Chair

## Horticulture Committee Members

Hope you can join our meeting that will be happening prior to the talk at 8:45 to 9:15 AM . Your input is welcomed. If you have items to add to the agenda , please let me know beforehand so we can make sure to reserve time for them. See you there!



*Persian Garden in the Fall*

## October 2nd Meeting

During this wonderful season of celebrating the harvest and abundance of gardens, we are fortunate to be enjoying the rich and abundant talents of our Provisional Members' presentations during Horticulture Meetings. The first of these talks was initiated by Lucy Glenn with an incredible and thorough presentation focused on the blue lotus flower in early Egyptian culture. She provided many beautiful visuals, too, highlighting the artistic, cultural, and medicinal importance of this lovely plant.



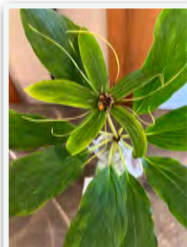
*Lucy Glenn speaks about the Blue Lotus flower*



*Sandy Hanower and Lucy Glenn*



*Wade Garretson and her Baird Board*



*Hort Share*



*Catherine Allan giving Flower Show Advice*



*Carlyn Steiner shares Flower Show Advice*



## November General Meeting

Plan to attend our next General Meeting at CUH which will feature Erin Lea giving her Provisional Talk on “Garden in Art, Middle Ages”. We will also be treated to a demonstration of Sue Ashman creating a “Pots aux Fleurs”. Don’t miss it!

Also, please bring your Favorite ☀️ Summer 📸 Photo to share! Print on 8.5 x11 and bring, [upload here](#) or send to Kim Bishop to print via text 206-930-5564 or email at [kimbsgcphoto@gmail.com](mailto:kimbsgcphoto@gmail.com)

### BYOCC or “Bring Your Own Coffee Cup”

In an effort to reduce our waste, we are happy to announce that your coffee cup from home is welcomed and encouraged at all meetings at CUH. BYOCC was first initiated several years ago and then curtailed during COVID. Some Members purchased SGC cups, but any cup is most welcome especially “unusual” ones that you are sure to recognize and take back home!



## October General Meeting

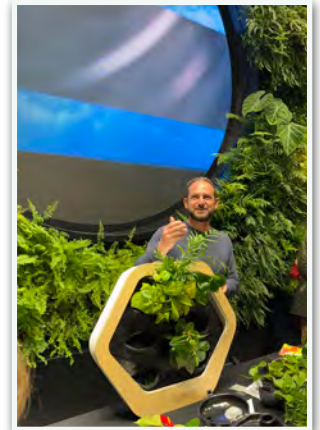
On October 19th, Seattle Garden Club members and guests were treated to a guided tour at the Climate Pledge Arena featuring its living walls. The special speaker was David Brenner, a pioneer in the field of vertical gardening. Thank you to Iris Wagner, Carlyn Steiner, Ana Hergert and Lee Rolfe for making this amazing event possible



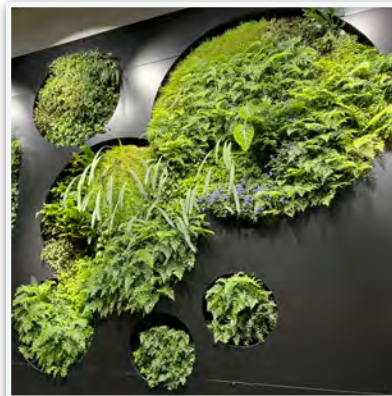
*David Brenner and Susan Potts*



*Sally Nordstrom, Nancy Parker, BJ Anderson, & Sue Blethen*



*Iris Wagner, Meg Nichols (Zone XII ZCP), Pam Green & Marilee Ahalt*



*Iris Wagner*

*More photos of this event [here](#)*

## Ways & Means



It's hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner, and the Ways and Means Committee continues to plan for our 4th exciting online auction. Make sure you have marked your calendars for **November 29th from 5:00 to 7:00pm**. Get registered and bid! This is our major fundraiser of the year and a lot of FUN! Here are links to the [auction registration](#), [auction registration instructions](#), [online procurement form](#), [angel donation form](#), [printable procurement form](#).

The online auction will be the same format as last year. Patsy Andrews will provide a tutorial at our November 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting explaining how to register and bid, so that everyone has a smooth, fun online auction experience. And just like last year, there will be opportunities to make an Angel Donation during the auction or by mail. Guests are welcome to join the online auction, and there are two options, an [emailable invitation](#) and an [emailable angle invitation](#), on the [website](#) that can be forwarded to your friends.

Our committee and SGC members are busy procuring many festive items for your garden and home, but we could use everyone's help to procure more items and experiences to ensure the success of the auction. **The deadline for procurement is November 20<sup>th</sup>.**



And don't forget our holiday luncheon will take place on **December 7<sup>th</sup> at The Sunset Club**. Experiences will be available for purchase and guests are welcome! [Sign Up here](#) and Here is an [emailable luncheon invitation \(select here\)](#) or find on our [Sign Up](#) or on the [website](#) to forward to your friends; the invitation can currently be found in a drop-down under [Holiday Luncheon](#) menu. **Please RSVP by November 27<sup>th</sup>.**

We're looking forward to a great auction and a festive holiday luncheon!

Sarah Robinson and Marianne Kitchell, Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs



# Flower Show

## Garden Inspirations

### through Conservation, Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography & Botanical Arts

The wind is in our sails as we prepare for the May 7-9, [2024](#) flower show! Our schedule for Garden Inspirations has just been approved by GCA!

This is a major milestone! Kim Bishop has posted the approved schedule on our website for everyone to read. We urge you to pay close attention to the registration dates in each division in order to fill the classes.

Jenny Wyatt & Carolyn Whittlesey, Division Hort Chairs, will present an overview of the Horticulture Division classes and how to prepare entries for the show during the Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Horticulture meeting. Please read the schedule and be thinking which classes to enter! Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> is also the first day to register Hort entries. Our first flower show committee meeting is Mon. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> following the Hort meeting at CUH. All are welcome!

Catherine & Caroline

Here is the Flower Show [link](#)

## Flower Show

### Flower Show Updates:

Horticulture classes opened for registration Oct. 15. A few spots remain in Classes 37 through 43, except Class 36, Baird Boards 6" or less. PLEASE go online and click on the flower show tab to register! Joan Harkins is eager to fill these classes with SGC members before other GCA members jump into the ring.

**November 7** is the six-month deadline to own plants for container classes.

Floral Design and Botanical Arts classes are also open and ready to accept registration. PLEASE take a moment to check out the website and be inspired to enter our show, ***Garden Inspirations!***

If you're a Provisional, ask an experienced Floral Design, Horticulture or Photography Committee member or Judge for help to enter a class. It's a terrific way to become involved.

Photography classes opens **November 15**. Be looking through your photo library and consider entering. Classes fill quickly, so secure a place before it's too late:

<https://www.seattlegardenclub.org/flower-shows>

We need everyone's participation, in order to inspire our members and the public to grow and show garden possibilities.

Join the excitement 🌱🍁🌸

In the United States, chrysanthemums symbolize friendship, happiness, and well-being. They are often tied to the arrival of autumn and are the November birth flower.

-Edie





# Judging

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Jill Crutcher, Seattle Garden Club, Floral Design Prospective

Caroline Goedhart, Seattle Garden Club, Floral Design Prospective  
&

Nancy Bain, Seattle Garden Club, Horticulture Emeritus

A dozen of our amazing SGC members attended the Zone XII Judging Workshop in Denver in October. We had great learning opportunities, fabulous meals and lots of fun enjoying the Denver Botanical Gardens in between our informative and motivating meetings. The Judging Program is a rewarding program to be a part of within GCA.



*L to R: Diana Neely; Catherine Allan, Susan Ashmun, Catherine Parker; Suzy Titcomb, Jenny Wyatt, Mary Turner, Suzette de Turenne, Marilee Ahalt, Jolie Roze, Barbara Hamachek (not pictured: Barbara Feasey)*

If you have not already, please read the Summer Bulletin article about judging, “Don’t Judge the Yellow Book by Its Cover”. Please use the updated 2023 Edition of the GCA Yellow Book (FS&JG) when judging. You can find it and a list of changes on both the Judging and Flower Show Committee landing pages. Book 4 is now titled Judging at Flower Shows!

Please reach out to me if you have ANY QUESTIONS regarding this program.  
Your Judging Chairperson, Marilee Ahalt

## Community Projects

To all our membership,

This is the time to think about those organizations you know and love in the community which could benefit from receiving a grant from the SGC. Let them know about our grant application process. The Grant Application is available on our SGC website. It can also be sent via email or USPS mail.

This year’s deadline for receipt of the applications is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please contact Roxanne Wiley at [roxwiley@gmail.com](mailto:roxwiley@gmail.com) if you have any questions.  
Thank you!



# Photography

If not too late when you read this, please join us **Monday, Oct. 30th, 10:00am: Kubota Garden** for another photowalk with [Michele Burton](#). [Gallery Link](#)

We had a great photowalk to UW Farm on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, with Michele working on sketching photographs. See [members' photos on this page](#).

We are looking forward to the **Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** when the SGC Flower Show, "Creative Inspirations" **Photography Division Class open to our club** ([select here](#)).

**Do you have a "Favorite ☀ Summer Photograph" or two?** Please print, bring and share at our **Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** General Meeting at CUH. You can also send to Kim Bishop, or [upload at this link](#) and have it printed for the meeting.

GCA FOCUS Magazine Challenge: Break "the rule of thirds" [Details in Fall FOCUS - pg 19-23](#) ([select here](#)) Deadline Nov, 15<sup>th</sup>.

We welcome [Robin Layton, Photographer](#) to speak on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Please consider attending her [Nov. 18th Performance at Benaroya Hall](#).

On Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, take a photo and submit to our Winter ❄ Solstice Photos to our gallery. [To upload select here.](#) [View your photos by selecting here.](#)

Kim Bishop  
SGC Photography  
Committee Chair  
[kimbsgcphoto@gmail.com](mailto:kimbsgcphoto@gmail.com)



"UW Farm Tour with Michele Burton, Left to Right: Edie Tenneson, Ann Blume, Stacy Campbell, Jeannie Gravenkemper, Catherine Parker, Joan Harkins, Ana Hergert, Candace Lancaster, Susan Dunlap, Barbara Peterson, Suzette de Turenne, Suzy Titcomb, Delphine Stevens, Jolie Roze, Anne Dor, Barbie Snapp and Michelle Burton" Photo by Kim Bishop



"Evolving Hydrangeas"  
by Ana Hergert



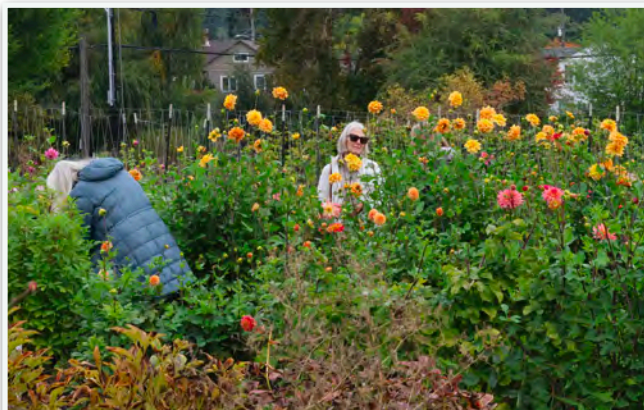
by Delphine Stevens



by Anne Dor



"Sketching Shapes"  
by Suzy Titcomb



"Suzette and Candace among the Dahlias"  
by Catherine Allan



"Michele helping Catherine"  
by Edie Tenneson

[Select here to view the gallery](#)



## Membership

Do you know someone fantastic? Fun? Loves to work with a team? Interested in Horticulture, Conservation, Photography or Floral Design? Loves to learn with others? Doesn't mind getting their hands dirty? We would love to get to know them too! Bring them to a general meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month), a work party (all are welcome), have them sign up and participate at our auction Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, bring them to our Holiday Luncheon or an auction experience you've purchased. They may feel we are just as fantastic as they are!

The Membership Committee is working hard on prospective Seattle Garden Club members and would love for you to submit an application if you have a great candidate. Our application form is available on our website under Members Home/Forms, you can download it, enter the information, save and submit it electronically to me, [Cathmueller@gmail.com](mailto:Cathmueller@gmail.com), OR you can print it off, fill it out with a pen and mail it to me (address is on the form), [SGC Membership Proposal Form](#). We do like your fantastic someone to attend meetings and events so they can meet us and get a feel for who we are prior to submitting an application.

We look forward to meeting your fantastic someone at one of our SGC meetings or events soon!

Deadline submissions: December 15, 2023

P.S. You can always submit an application any time during the year but know it would go into the pool for following year.

Catherine Mueller  
Membership Chair

## Nominations

### NOMINATIONS – WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR CLUB?

As we all know, SGC is a volunteer organization, and that means we depend on **you** to fill the various positions! The Nominations Committee begins working in late Fall to identify leadership for various aspects for the following year. Most positions are two-year stints. Each year, we replace approximately 50% of our Board. This year, given our switch to a two-year Presidency, the process has been revised creating an imbalance in the number of positions needed to fill. Thus, we hope you will all be keeping your minds open and recognize the importance of your involvement. We cannot exist without your help.

Suzette de Turenne, Nominations Chair

## Provisionals

The Elizabeth C Miller Botanical Garden hosted the Provisionals on October 12th for a beautiful fall morning tour. Executive Director Richie Steffen personally lead us through this special garden. The fall colors and plants were gorgeous.



*L to R: MJ Leventhal, Betsy Larson, Richie Steffen, Executive Director, Miller Botanical Garden, Mary Nelp, Whopper, Erin Lea & Sandy Hanower. Not pictured: Linda Walker.*

Miller Garden [link](#)

## Hospitality

Please remember to sign up to bring snacks, coffee, and flowers to our Meetings! Here is the [link](#) for Sign up Genius or go to SGC webpage.

Thank you all,  
Charlee Reed, Hospitality Chair





# Conservation

## King County Loop Project and Concerns of the “forever chemical”, PFAS

by Sis Woodside

King County uses 400 tons of partially treated sewage sludge (biosolids) from its three treatment plants at West Point, Brightwater and South Plant, as an alternative fertilizer or soil amendment. These biosolids are really sewage ‘poop’ and industrial wastes that which goes down the toilets and household drains along with the runoff from all the streets and highways since the majority of the sewer system is a combined sewer. This Loop ‘poop’ is then trucked to eastern Washington to be spread in Douglas County on Boulder Park Farm, the Snoqualmie Tree Farm and Marckworth Forest near Duvall with the hopes to generate healthier, more productive soil that increases crop yields and boost tree growth..



There are dangers in using sewage solids for fertilizer. Loop’s daily trucking of 12-15 diesel trucks with 78% wet pathogenic biosolids going 400 miles roundtrip to eastern Washington contains 3 billion 540 million salmonella bacterium per day that is being spread on east Wenatchee farm fields that grow wheat, oats, hops, canola, sunflower seeds and other crops. Spreading sludge on farm fields is not protective of human health and the environment, as this sludge can include 90,000 plus contaminants including pharmaceuticals, plastics, antibiotic resistant

genes, and the dangerous PFAS ‘forever chemicals’, many of which accumulate in consumers, animals, soils and groundwater. PFAS chemicals have been linked to cancer and other health risks. When spread on land, the contaminants and pathogens can be absorbed into edible crops and by animals on grazing lands, then moved up the food chain to unsuspecting consumers. There is no label and often no signage warning consumers that the fertilizer and compost contain sewage waste. When this sewage is spread in the forests, animals and birds can pass on these contaminants to humans.

There have been recent articles about the harmful health effects of PFAS in our state’s drinking water and in women’s breast milk as reported in the Seattle Times July 21, 2023 article. The state of Maine passed a law forbidding sewage fertilizer where crops are grown. Del Monte, Nestle and Heinz forbid using sludge as fertilizer on food crops, as well as PCC Community Markets, Whole

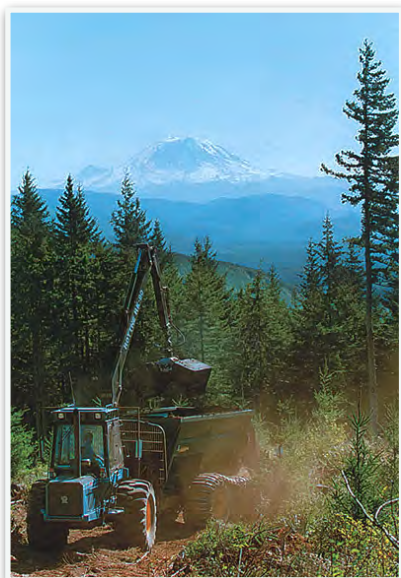
Foods, Darigold and Carnation. McDonald’s only accepts potatoes for French fries grown on sludge-free land. The US Department of Agriculture prohibits the use of biosolids on land producing organic food products. Cedar Grove discontinued using King County sewage sludge in its compost due to lawsuits pertaining to odors.



Cont. next page

## Conservation Continued

Trucking King County's sewage sludge to eastern Washington does contribute to climate change with the use of 350,000 gallons of diesel a year, in addition to the sludge in the trucks producing methane gas which is about 25 times more detrimental than CO<sub>2</sub>. Loop's pathogenic sludge fertilizer with PFAS on food crops could pose a liability risk of leachate and runoff into groundwater in nearby watersheds of Douglas and McCartney Creeks' flow that reaches the Columbia River during storm water runoff harming salmon and the marine ecosystem. High levels of PFAS have been found in the blood of eagles and in their eggs.



King County is doing some testing on PFAS levels but it is just in the beginning phase. Battelle is also addressing the challenges of identifying PFAS contamination and attempting to find alternative chemicals to use with similar properties. In March of 2023, EPA made a proposal to protect public health by proposing to establish legally enforceable levels for six PFAS known to occur in drinking water. This system would enforce, limit and monitor PFAS levels in our water as well as provide notification of concerns and require treatment to reduce above normal 'Forever Chemical' levels.

My concern is, with more PFAS in our environment each year due to increased population, why don't Washington residents question the use of PFAS being spread on their farmland in eastern Washington and in King County forests? There needs to be more public awareness of the dangers of toxins including PFAS in sewage sludge as it affects human health and the environment. Home and community gardeners should check the labels of fertilizers to ensure products are not made from sewage sludge. This method of using sewage sludge for fertilizer has been used for over 40 years in Seattle and in many other states. It is time to pivot our direction and consider new ways of eliminating 'the forever chemical' from our King County biosolids.

*Link to more information [here](#)*



# Garden History & Design



Please register for the 1st ever GH&D National Conference and view any time after our November Club meeting. Historical and Current landscape architecture design will be the focus for the National and International caliber presenters (link below).

All members are welcome to join us for our February 8th committee meeting as we host speaker Suzanne Bishop, recent GH&D National Vice Chair who will speak on “Document Your Own Garden for submission to the Smithsonian Archive of American Gardens”. Location: CUH Miller Library conference room, 9:30am.

Anne Dor

[Select here to register](#)

## In Memoriam

# Mary Ellen Hughes

Sustaining member, Mary Ellen Hughes, passed on October 14, 2023. She leaves behind a lasting legacy of community involvement. She was an enthusiastic UW graduate, skier, and bridge player along with being a loving Mother, Grandmother, Great grandmother and wife. She joined SGC in 1990 and will be greatly missed.

## Poetry

Five Fifty-Five

By Maura Dooley

Last of the sun, flintlight on a bright field  
before evening      before      but not yet, not yet.

Here where houses spill kitchen light  
across a cloud of leaves,  
gusting into the

violet hour            not yet, not yet  
                         the vesperly flight  
                         of sloughed off skins,  
for even as oak and alder hold tight to ochre and amber  
                         in not-yet-winter

leaves are skipping a fairytale path to my door,  
a door that opens to let a slice of warmth  
hold back the falling darkness  
hold back from

not yet, not-yet-winter  
and though summer may be over  
still the roses keep insisting, insisting.



*Lake view from CUH wetlands trail*  
by Anne Dor

*submitted by Barbie Snapp*

# November Calendar

[Link to Calendar  
select here](#)

Seattle Garden Club Event Calendar November 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10am - 12pm Board Meeting 12:30pm - 2:30pm Ways & Means Committee Mtg.	3	4
5	6 8:45am - 9:15am Horticulture Committee Meeting 9:15am - 12:00pm Hort. Meeting: CUH: Christina Koons Provisional Presentation "Garden in Art: Persia and India" 12pm - 1:00pm Conservation Committee Meeting 12:00pm - 1:00pm Provisional Brown Bag session to follow after Hort. meeting 12pm - 1am Community Projects Meeting	7 10am - 11:30am Program Committee Meeting	8	9 11:00am - 1:00pm Ways & Means Committee Mtg.	10	11
12	13	14 11:00am - 12:00pm Ways & Means Committee Mtg.	15 ** PHOTOGRAPHERS' DIVISION III Photography OPEN "Garden Inspirations" for SGC members only 11:30am - 12:30pm Membership Committee meeting	16 Bring your FAVORITE SUMMER PHOTO(s) To DISPLAY 8:00am - 1:00pm GCA's 2023 Garden History & Design Virtual Conference 9:00am - 9:45am Floral Design Committee Meeting 9:30am General Meeting CUH: Erin Lea's Provisional Presentation, "Garden in Art, Middle Ages" 11:30am - 12:30pm Flower Show Committee Meeting	17	18
19	20 11:00am - 12:00pm Ways & Means Committee Mtg.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 11am - 1am Ways and Means Committee Meeting	28	29 5:00pm - 7:00pm 2023 Holiday Auction	30		

# December Calendar

[Link to Calendar  
select here](#)

Seattle Garden Club Event Calendar December 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 11:30am - 12:30pm Membership Committee meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Deadline for Newsletter Submissions to EdieSS48@msn.com	21 Take Winter Solstice Photos and Share with Club!	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						