

## Things I Wish I Knew as a Provisional

**Brief history** The Garden Club of Montclair has a deeply rooted history in our community. Our club was organized in 1925; joined the Garden Clubs of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs in 1926; and incorporated in 1952. Our purpose is outlined in our Mission Statement:

*The Garden Club of Montclair educates Members and the public in their knowledge and practice of conservation, horticulture, and the artistic use of plant material. We work to beautify the Township of Montclair and the State of New Jersey. The Club sponsors and supports projects of an educational character, specifically allied to these purposes, and fosters fellowship through its work and its social activities.*



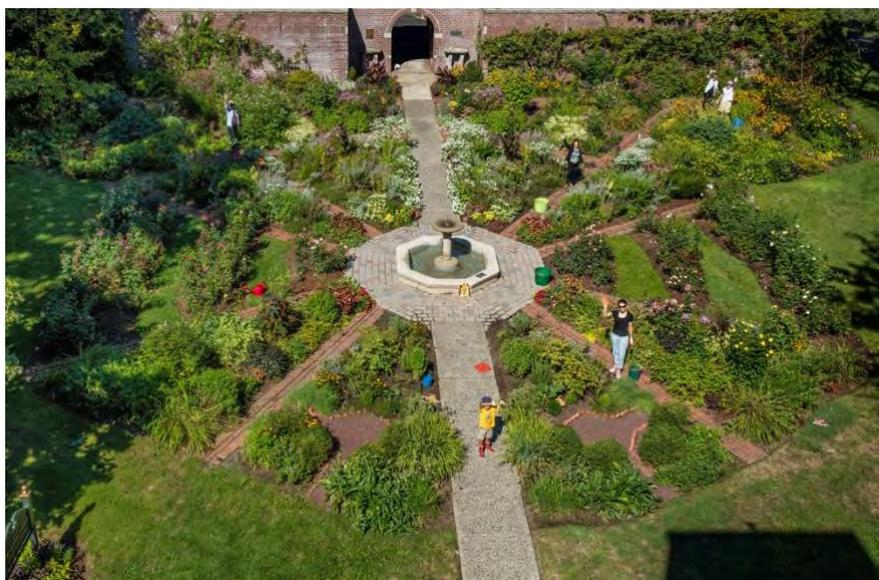
### Club Location

Since 1952, our club has met at 60 South Fullerton Avenue in the Mills Building, home to the United Way and other community service agencies. It is next to the Montclair Public Library which is at 50 South Fullerton. There is a driveway between the two buildings with parking at the back of the property. We are tenants and have parking privileges, but you may want to leave a note on your dashboard, or the Garden Club business card.

Recently acquired by The Placek Family Foundation, the building is undergoing extensive renovation.

The Mills Building and the Avis Campbell Gardens behind the building (installed over 70 years ago by the Garden Club and continuously maintained by us ever since!) are designated as protected historic sites.

<https://www.themontclairgirl.com/montclair-secret-garden-avis-campbell/>





Our monthly program meetings are held in the auditorium. Enter through the doors on the driveway side of the building. These are the only doors currently kept open for visitors. The auditorium is up the ramp and to your right.



Workshops, board meetings, and other gatherings are held in the Club Room in the basement. The entrance to the Club Room is down a flight of outdoor steps on the driveway side of the building. There is a sign on the wall at the top of the stairs. The door should be propped open by the organizers of the event, but in case it has swung closed, knock loudly, and someone will let you in.



## Monthly Flower Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts Competitions

Besides our many volunteer projects, fun social activities, and informative programs and workshops, our club is involved in monthly competitions. This passion is evident in the Club Room immediately following our monthly program meetings, where members' floral arrangements and horticultural specimens are on display.

To compete, members register in advance, then bring entries to the Club Room on the morning of the competition. A panel of National Garden Club of America judges will evaluate the entries and award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mention prizes. While it may sound a bit intimidating at first, the atmosphere is always one of friendly encouragement and supportive assistance.

The requirements, themes, and types of designs or horticultural specimens for each competition are listed and explained on the website under *What We Do: Botanical Arts Schedule; Flower Design Schedule; Horticulture Schedule*.

### Flower Design Division

Members are divided into groups by their skill level: Provisional, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Advanced Plus. Members move up to the next level when they have successfully demonstrated mastery of their current placement. Flower Designs run the gamut from very traditional to petite, creative, even abstract, and they are displayed in the Club Room on pedestals and tables. Provisionals will always be asked to create more straightforward American Traditional Flower Designs, and are never ranked by the judges, but offered helpful suggestions and recognition of accomplishments. There are videos and handouts on the website explaining how to create American Traditional arrangements, as well as other design types.



### Horticulture Division

Horticultural specimens are displayed in categories on tables in the Club Room. When members arrive the morning of the competition, containers to hold specimens, along with watering cans and wedging materials will be available. Knowledgeable members will be on hand to help make each specimen look its best. All members compete with each other, and Provisionals may enter any category in Horticulture. There are videos and handouts on the website explaining selecting, preparing, and exhibiting horticulture.

**Botanical Arts Division** A more recent addition to our monthly competitions is the Botanical Arts Division. There are many different categories, from Design to Artistic Crafts to Photography. These are atypical

categories that do not conform to the same rules as the Flower Design and Horticulture Divisions. All members compete with each other, and Provisionals may enter any category in Botanical Arts. There are several videos on our website of different Botanical Arts workshops.



## Where to Shop for Flowers and Supplies

There are many places to source plant material for your arrangements. Of course, you can always purchase stems from your favorite florist, or the floral department at grocery stores. Don't overlook your own garden or houseplants!

Our club has two wholesale accounts that can be used by any member to purchase flowers, plants, and supplies at reduced prices. The accounts are under the name Garden Club of Montclair.

### Main Wholesale Flowers

Flowers and plant material, supplies and containers.

27 Styertowne Road, Clifton, NJ 800-242-7814

Monday-Friday 6AM to 3PM

Saturday 6AM to 11AM

Closed Sunday

Upcharge for using a credit card. Largest wholesaler in the area, with a large refrigerated section of flowers and greens, plus warehouse space for flowers that don't require refrigeration and potted plants. Limited containers and dried plant material.

### Juliet's Wholesale Flowers

Flowers and plant material, supplies and containers.

1275 Bloomfield Avenue, Building 8, Unit 69, Fairfield, NJ 973-227-8304

Monday-Friday 5AM to 3PM

Saturday 6AM to 12PM

Closed Sunday

Upcharge for using a credit card. Space and selection of flowers and greens are slightly smaller than Main, but this is a great place with very helpful staff. Larger selection of containers and supplies than Main. No potted plants.

*A note about shopping in a Floral Wholesaler:*

- *You can walk right in to the coolers. Pick out your flowers and take them to the cash register (in Main) or the central table (in Juliet's) and someone will come to you to write up an invoice.*
- *There are no prices on any of the flowers or plant material, and no one on the floor will know the prices offhand, as they fluctuate. Take the flowers you want from the coolers, and ask the cashier to tell you the prices before ringing them up. If something is too expensive, you can ask for it not to be included, and they'll return it to the cooler.*
- *Florists shop early! Main and Juliet's are open by 5 or 6AM and closed by 3PM. If you show up at 2:30, most of the stock will be gone, or already placed back in storage.*

### G&G Distributors

Floral and craft supplies, vases, baskets, ribbon, tools, etc.

275 N. Midland Avenue, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663 201-791-1330

Monday-Saturday 8AM to 5PM

Closed Sunday

You can create your own personal account, which costs \$10.00 for 5 years. When you walk into the store, turn right at the first hallway and there is an office window on the right where you can request an account. You will need to show a Garden Club of Montclair business card, available from the club president, and have a federal ID with you (like a driver's license.) Purchases under \$30 total are subjected to 20% surcharge. You'll be asked to show your account card at check out.

# AMERICAN TRADITIONAL DESIGNS



horizontal

Am. Traditional  
LINE



crescent



inverted right  
angle



diagonal

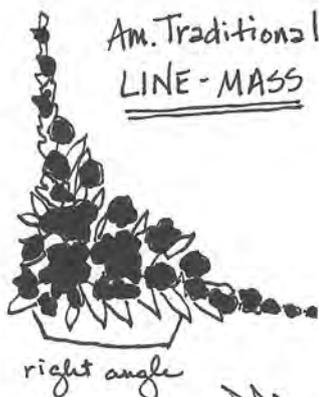


Hogart's  
Curve



vertical

Am. Traditional  
LINE-MASS



right angle



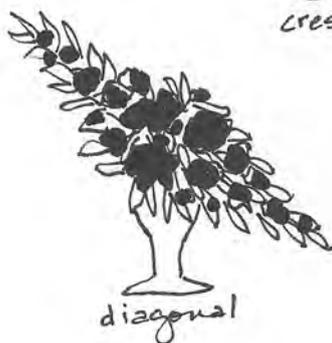
crescent



vertical



Hogart's Curve



diagonal



horizontal

Am. Traditional  
MASS



triangle



oval



fan



circle

# How to Fill Out an Entry Card for a GCoM Monthly Competition

This handout explains how to complete the card that accompanies entries in our monthly club competitions.

*NOTE: In these instructions, the "Schedule" refers to the details about this particular month's competitions as written in the Yearbook.*

For monthly club competitions, **Flower Show** refers to the month's Theme and the date of the competition.

**Division** indicates whether this is a Design, Horticulture, or Botanical Arts entry. You can write D, H, or BA.

**Section** indicates into which category your entry is being submitted, as identified in the Schedule. If there is no section listed, leave it blank. For Design, it indicates which group you are entering under: Provisional, Novice, etc. You can use abbreviations.

**Exhibitor, Address, and Club**  
Write your name along with your address. You can use a small address label. Club is, of course, GC of Montclair.

**The Judges** use this area to indicate your placement in the competition. Nothing is to be written by the competitor here or on the back of the card. These areas are only for the judges' use. If you scored 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Honorable Mention, and the judges also circled "EXHIBIT SCORED 90+," that means that your design scored high enough to win first place, but in this competition, there were others whose designs scored higher than yours, and therefore received higher placement.

## National Garden Clubs, Inc.

FLOWER SHOW			DATE
DIVISION	SECTION	CLASS No.	ENTRY No.

VARIETY OR CLASS NAME

EXHIBITOR

ADDRESS

CLUB

1st      2nd      3rd      Honorable  
Mention  
EXHIBIT SCORED 90+

EXHIBITOR

ADDRESS

CLUB

DIVISION	SECTION	CLASS No.	ENTRY No.

VARIETY OR CLASS NAME

**Class** will indicate into which category your entry is being submitted, as indicated in the Schedule. If there is no class listed, leave it blank. For example, if you are entering a grape hyacinth in Horticulture, and the Schedule indicates grape hyacinths are Class 3, *Muscari*, write "3" here.

**Entry Number** When you notify the head of the division to indicate you will enter the competition, she may send you an entry number, which you include here. If you do not receive a number, leave it blank.

**Variety or Class Name** refers to different things for different divisions. For **Design**, write in the type of design the Schedule indicates for your section. For example, Provisionals may have been instructed to design an "American Traditional Mass Design." For **Horticulture**, indicate the binomial name, or the genus followed by the cultivar. For example, if you are entering a grape hyacinth into Class 3, *Muscari*, you would write the binomial name of the plant, *Muscari armeniacum*, (Genus is capitalized; specific epithet is not capitalized; both are italicized or underlined.) If you know the cultivar or variety, include it after the binomial name (capitalized but not italicized and in single quotes), perhaps 'Dark Eyes.' For **Botanical Arts**, write in the description of the Section, as described in the Schedule; for example, "BA Artistic Crafts: A Cuff Bracelet."

### IMPORTANT!

The red items must be filled in **TWICE**. Once above the perforated line and once below.