

25th Annual
Mt. Lebanon Public Library
Garden Tour



more green thumbs

Mt. Lebanon
Public Library

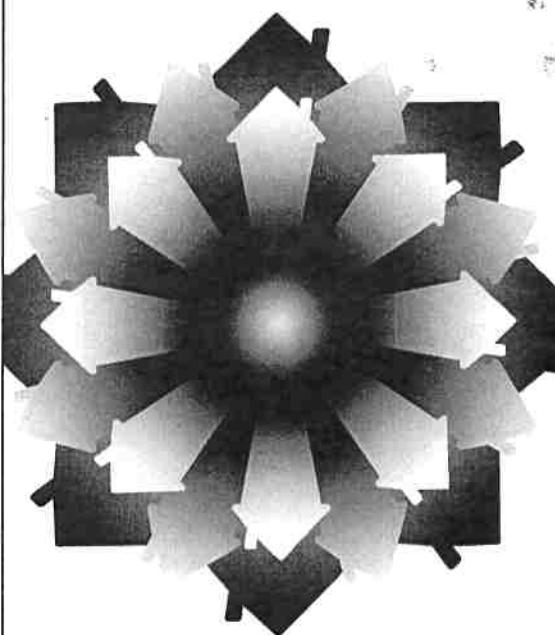
Sunday, July 12, 2015
11 am - 4 pm

**Tickets \$15 in advance,
\$20 on tour day**

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July 12, 2015

Dear Library Friends,

Welcome to the 25th Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour! We are confident that you will be delighted by the eight gardens on this year's tour. We are grateful to the gardeners for graciously opening their outdoor spaces to us and taking the time to share their labors of love. As you stroll through the varied gardens we hope that you not only renew your enthusiasm for gardening, but also glean ideas for your own landscapes. Please feel free to ask questions; the owners will be happy to share their knowledge.

Be sure to visit the lower level of the library today, where tour activities include the annual plant sale, free consultations with gardening experts, and special promotional offers at The Book Cellar, the library's used bookshop.

As the owners have carefully tended their gardens, so have the residents of Mt. Lebanon nurtured the library. Proceeds from the previous twenty-four Garden Tours helped build the new library and the outdoor courtyard, and have provided thousands of books, audio-visual materials, magazines, and programs for patrons of all ages. This year's proceeds will be used for books, educational DVDs, electronic resources, programs, and improvements to the building.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the Garden Tour and Garden Party Committees and the many volunteers whose efforts are critical to the success of the tour. We also thank the advertisers, gardening experts, and all the sponsors of the Garden Tour. Their support provides that margin of excellence to our community library. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

Finally, we thank you for supporting the 25th Annual Garden Tour. Your donation will help ensure continued excellence in our library's services.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

Cynthia K. Richey
Kathleen A. Mays
Garden Tour Chairs

David McKibben
Garden Tour Manager

James A. Cappucci
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The Day's Activities

11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Gardens open for touring

Free consultations with Gardening Experts

Lower level of the library:

Tickets and programs available

Restrooms

The Book Cellar ~ used books, baubles,
refreshments for sale

Plant Sale ~ sale features the best plants from
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*To possess ideas is to gather flowers.
To think is to weave them into garlands.*
- Greek proverb



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Salute the Garden Tour



The Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization helping the library provide a wide range of services—from programs and books to computers and furniture.

The Friends also raise much-needed funds through The Book Cellar, the Library's used book shop, and membership dues. Anyone may join the Friends and support the library's mission. Your time, talent and enthusiasm will keep our library vital.

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BOOKS

The Flower Farmer's Year: How to Cut Flowers for Pleasure and Profit | Georgie Newberry | 635.966 New

Grow All You Can Eat in 3 Square Feet | Kate Johnsen | 635 Gro

Handmade for the Garden: 75 Ingenious Ways to Enhance Your Outdoor Space with DIY Tools, Pots, Supports, Embellishments & More | Susan Guagliumi | 717 Gua

Homegrown Herb Garden: A Guide to Growing and Culinary Uses | Lisa Baker Morgan | 635.7 Mor

Improving Your Soil: A Practical Guide to Soil Management for the Serious Home Gardener | Keith Reid | 635.0489 Rei

The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden | Rick Darke | 712.2 Dar

Modern Pioneering: More than 150 Recipes, Projects, and Skills for a Self-Sufficient Life | Georgia Pellegrini | 635 Pel

Mosaic Garden Projects: Add Color to Your Garden with Tables, Fountains, Birdbaths, and More | Mark Brody | 712 Bro

The Organic Book of Compost: Easy and Natural Techniques to Feed Your Garden | Pauline Pears | 631.875 Pea

Organic Lawn Care: Growing Grass the Natural Way | Howard Garrett | 635.9647 Gar

Pennsylvania Getting Started Garden Guide: Grow the Best Flowers, Shrubs, Trees, Vines & Groundcovers | George Weigel | 635.09748 Wei

The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden: Grow Tons of Organic Vegetables in Tiny Spaces and Containers | Karen Newcomb | 635 New

Remarkable Plants that Shape Our World | Helen & William Bynum | 635 Byn

The Shady Lady's Guide to Northeast Shade Gardening | Amy Ziffer | 635.9543 Zif

Straw Bale Gardens Complete: Breakthrough Vegetable Gardening Method | Joel Karsten | 635 Kar

PERIODICALS

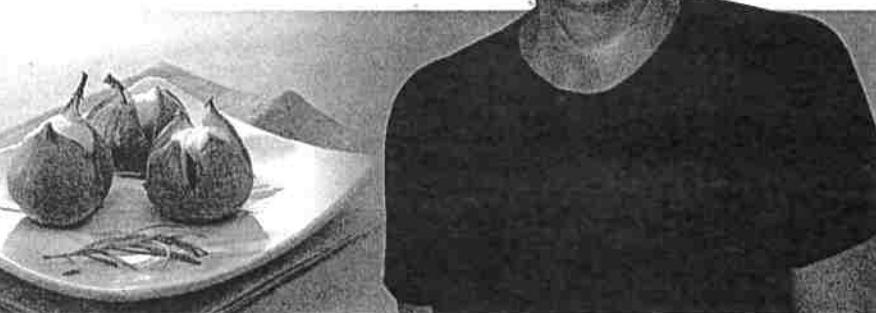
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DATABASES, WEBSITES, & ORGANIZATIONS

GreenFile Database www.mtlebanonlibrary.org
Universal Class www.mtlebanonlibrary.org
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Garden Club of Allegheny County www.gcacpgh.org
iConserve Pennsylvania www.iconservepa.org
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The owners describe their gardens



Garden of

Rania & Stephen Harris
1031 Washington Road

Because of its prominent location on Washington Road, the front gardens of the Harris residence are always on

display. Two banks of the white shrub rose 'Kent' provide non-stop flowers from June through the first frost. Many other shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses, including 'PeeGee' Hydrangeas, Artemisia x. 'Powis Castle,' Guara l. 'Whirling Butterflies' and Miscanthus s. 'Morning Light' fill the season. While essentially a white garden, autumn ushers in some subtle colors with Caryopteris x. c. 'Dark Knight' and Sedum. On the north side of the house, a Stewartia stands behind a semicircular wall ringing a more formal courtyard, and beyond, a woodland shade garden features a European ginger, Japanese painted ferns, oak leaf Hydrangeas, Anemone x 'Honoree Jobert', Cimicifuga Racemosa, Tiarella Cordifolia and Hosta 'Blue Angel'.

Hydrangeas of several types are included in the gardens behind the home, more oak leaf, 'Nikko Blue' as well climbing Hydrangeas that line the fences around the side and back of the garden. To the left of the entrance arch, a Heptacodium is accompanied by a Buddleia and Lavender. To the right, near a Japanese maple, is a Salix n. 'Yezo-Alpina' and Rodgersia tabularis. Chelone has thrived along the porch beds, amid several Clematis and Viburnum. Other beds are filled with Ophiopogon, Bergenia and several types of ferns, Digitalis and Alchemilla.

Around the pond, a Vitex, Callicarpad. 'Issai,' and Chamaecyparis o. 'Filicoides' lend height to perennial groupings of Asters, Astilbes, Ceratostigma, Monarda and Japanese Anemone. A newly installed Pennsylvania flagstone patio features hand forged architectural metalwork Dragonfly benches and chairs by Cricket Forge.



Garden of

Barbara & Robert Logan 838 Valleyview Road

This has become a garden of memories: reminders of gifts from generous friends, including the Iris and Daylily Society;

purchases from nurseries now defunct; and plants that have died. Once we had camellias, sarcococca, skimmia, and a gorgeous winter Daphne with two-toned leaves, but two successive bitter winters taught us that we cannot outwit Mother Nature.

Other ghosts include an unattractive swimming pool that once filled the back yard, poison ivy, garlic mustard, heavy clay soil, and overgrown holly trees. Gradually undesirable elements have been eliminated, and most of what remains is intentional.

Personal favorites are the boxwood hedges, the stone paving installed by the talented Petrellis, and the numerous daylilies. Spring here is glorious, bringing a swath of mertensia, which mingles with trillium, as well as dodecatheon, hepatica, primroses, and bleeding hearts. Pink lily-of-the-valley fills an unpromising space, as does a bank of borage.

If we are fortunate, you will see calla lilies, agapanthus, Peruvian lilies, tigridias, and lots of annuals. Perhaps our most numerous perennial is helleborus, a gift from a specialist before it was widely available.

Gardens being what they are, subject to the vagaries of weather, foraging animals, and gardeners who accidentally uproot cherished specimens, we cannot guarantee what will be blooming or even alive on July 12. However, we will do our best to provide a pleasant visit.



Garden of

Annie Laurie Foust 303 Bower Hill Road

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece" - Claude Monet

When I bought my home 17 years ago, I didn't know at the time what magic awaited me in the garden. Gardening has become a passion for me, and a welcome escape from life's daily demands. Fortunately, the previous owner was a landscape architect who created a beautiful foundation from which I have expanded upon. Into the green landscaping I added my "paints" which included many varieties of annuals and perennials. I come from a family of garden lovers, so I also have sowed into my landscape generations of flowers such as peonies from my grandmother's yard, Lupines from my sister's garden in Illinois and Lily of the Valley originating from Butler, PA.

I have removed some trees and shrubs over the years but have always replaced them with something new. I prefer to change things up a bit each year and love adding new varieties along with the old. In fact, I "rent" out a little space to my 10-year-old friends, Teagan and Lucy. They enjoy learning about gardening and they have fun watching their garden grow. I thin out my plants when needed and I love to share them with my friends and family. Why not spread the beauty? In a children's book that my nieces always loved, called "Miss Rumphius" by Barbara Cooney, the main character did just that. She made the world a more beautiful place.

The biggest compliment I ever received was from a man who sent me a letter last year explaining to me how his drive to work each morning was so much nicer because of the view of my garden from his car window. I feel honored to have been asked to show my garden this year on the garden tour. I hope that while you meander through my garden today, you will leave inspired and feel the need to continue to make the world a more beautiful place through gardening.



Garden of Helen & Ed Palascak 200 Orchard Drive

Since our garden was last on the library tour in 2007, it has continued, as all gardens do, to evolve. A large blue atlas cedar died along with most of the azaleas in the corner bed; an addition to our house required a change in the footprint of the herb garden, and we redesigned sections of the fence forming the garden's boundaries. Its most important goals and design features, however, remain the same. Our garden is a peaceful place to relax with friends, read a good book (from the library, of course), or simply sit and meditate. It is most enchanting in early evening when sunlight, filtered through several large sycamores and maples, spotlights various plants, giving each its moment to shine.

Each season offers distinctive interests. As the February blooms of the witch hazel and the hellebores signal spring is near, we look forward to a mild day to cut down the grasses and liriope in preparation for a new growing season. Then hundreds of chionodoxa bloom, carpeting the beds a brilliant blue. Yellow and white daffodils follow, and finally the blue returns in a sea of wood hyacinths while the heart shaped leaves of the epimedium carpets the ground below a weeping Higan cherry. By summer, shrubs and perennials have replaced the bulbs in the limelight. A calycanthus blooms with dark wine flowers above painted Japanese ferns. Solomon seal, reaching for the sun, fill the bank by the pond's waterfall. A blacklace elderberry is a favorite resting spot for the finches waiting their turn at the feeders. Ostrich ferns hide a jack-in-the-pulpit patch. Hydrangeas of many varieties bloom throughout the summer. The herb garden provides fresh greens well into fall if we are lucky. Favorites include dill, the mints and basil and the tangy blossoms of chives and nasturtiums. When the flowers of the monkshood glow a dark purple against the fall leaves, we prepare for winter. Tucked in a back corner is a space where we shred almost everything cut, pruned or raked, transforming yard debris into rich compost.

We welcome you to walk through our garden and relax on one of the benches. We hope you will share with us your ideas for plants or design features we might add to our garden.



Garden of Barbara Lowenstein 325 Orchard Drive

What a Wonderful Floral World!

My mother has been the greatest influence in my life. She has always loved gardening, and from my early childhood experiences with nature, I became an obsessed gardener. My move to Pittsburgh brought me into a world of wonderful plant life which doesn't grow in my hot and drought-ridden home state of Texas. My opportunities to learn and grow as a gardener were greatly enhanced when I completed the Master Gardener program through the Phipps Conservatory.

When one has a large garden area, it is important to create paths in order to create a geometry of interest and to enhance appreciation of different sections. I created a switch back which adds visual interest while promoting walks.

I have been very lucky to work in three gardens that have been on the library garden tour in the past. It is so exciting to see how garden design has changed over the years. Flowers speak to our vision, and mine contains many varieties grouped to achieve impressionist swaths of color and texture. The senses of smell and touch are piqued by flowers, shrubs, and trees, many of which are chosen to attract butterflies.

Herbs and vegetables always appeal to smell and taste, but the challenge is to plant them harmoniously so they enhance both the beauty and the utility of the garden. Another major challenge is to plant so that every season is as beautiful as the preceding one, requiring an interleaving of dormant plants with those in full beauty.

This garden was originally limited by many great yews, but I sacrificed them to create art from nature. It's always painful to remove healthy plants, but gardens must grow and change just as everything in life does.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work on community gardens in Mt. Lebanon. As a volunteer, I work on two beds on Washington Rd. next to the Stevenson building and enjoy the comments of my neighbors while attending to them. I created a special bed in Mission Hills where Orchard Dr. and Parkway Dr. intercept. Everyone in the neighborhood knows it as Peace Park. I designed a peace sign out of boxwoods because the deer ate the annuals originally used, and I didn't want to replant every year. I put newspaper down before the mulch to avoid weeding. It pretty much maintains itself with a few additional plants every year.

I look forward to enhancing and maintaining gardens for my neighbors this summer so they can simply enjoy their gardens, travel and otherwise make the most of the season without having to do the work themselves.

Besides my work as a gardener, I am a professional violinist who strongly believes there are many ties between music and gardening. This connection was inescapable over the many years I have played music for garden weddings. I want to thank the library for giving me the honor to show my gardens. Have fun in the sun at 325 Orchard Drive.



Garden of

Kate English & Jay Blount 291 Shadowlawn Avenue

In 2001, we left our Shadyside apartment for the suburban "wilderness" of Mt. Lebanon. We looked at our house in winter and were

so crazy about the outdoor patio, side porch and heavily wooded yard that we contracted to buy the house that same day.

Imagine our surprise when we moved into the house that summer. The snow melt revealed a ramshackle, uneven patio with broken flagstones and collapsing retaining walls. Smack in the middle of the backyard was an old cistern that at one time fed a now-backfilled pond. The pièce de résistance was a concrete pig lording over the backyard from the cistern's center. Worse yet, all but one of the beautiful elm trees that we assumed shaded the backyard were dead, and the landscaping otherwise consisted only of mangy yews and waist-high weeds!

We immediately removed three dead elm trees (for fear that one of them would fall on our house or on a neighbor's house) and tore out most of the existing landscaping. In about year three, we finally gave up on the peonies that once lined the driveway (probably *phytophthora* blight). Over the years, we took out several other overcrowded and ailing trees, including a large magnolia, which, once the centerpiece of our front yard, fell victim to magnolia scale.

Where yews and weeds used to be, we planted pachysandra, hostas, ferns, hydrangeas (Annabelle and Oakleaf), boxwoods and rhododendron (PJM). And, we replaced the magnolia with a Japanese maple. From the original garden, we are still nursing along a single elm and two old mountain laurel. The most recent addition to our garden is an espalier against the back of the house.

We have been guided in our garden renovation by our friend and neighbor Claire Schuchman of Exceptional Gardens. Our two young boys help out occasionally, usually vying for the job of spraying for deer, which beats weeding hands down.



Garden of

John & Normajean Graybill 59 Connecting Road

We have lived in Mt. Lebanon for 40 years. This, our second house, was purchased in early March of 1993. When

we moved here with our two sons there appeared to be very little that needed to be done, but appearances can be deceiving.

There were two very large oaks, each approximately 85 feet tall, in the captive back yard. Once summer came, we realized one oak was dying and had to be taken down; not an easy task. The remaining oak did very well for the next 15 years, then it started to show signs of illness. A test for oak wilt was negative. We also had an arborist treat it multiple times. Two years ago, he told us there was no hope for the tree, it was slowly dying. The lower trunk was healthy, but all the very large branches were dead or dying. We feared it might come down in a storm and injure someone.

A cousin in Michigan has a wonderful tree sculpture, so we decided to go that route, too. Thanks to the co-operation of some very nice neighbors adjacent to our back yard, Dean Thomas Tree Service was able to remove the tree, leaving 9 feet of trunk for the sculpture. We were told that the main trunk weighed 500 plus pounds per linear foot. Joe King (treecarver.com) came with his chainsaws and created our eagle, "Oakley," in two days! It was all amazing to watch. We wish the tree were more centrally located, but moving it was not an option.

Other projects over the years included removal of the very large shrubs out front, installation of new steps and railing, and replanting the areas along the steps. The back of the house had a low deck that was sinking because it had been undermined by one of our local groundhog families. It came out two years ago, right before our oak came down, and was replaced by a new cement patio. This garden involves multiple levels and steps to reach the back near our eagle.

Our yard is really the most attractive in the spring when the flowering ground covers and hydrangeas are in full bloom. The west side of our driveway is our hopeless case. No amount of care seems to make a difference. Of course, with the deer, groundhogs, rabbits, and various insect pests, it is a challenge to have anything grow and continue to look nice. We hope you enjoy your garden treks today and enjoy meeting Oakley.



Garden of Diane Sunderlin & Susan McShane 41 Thornwood Drive

We stumbled upon our home by following the arrow on a "For Sale by Owner" sign. As we turned onto Thornycroft then onto Thornwood, we were in awe of the neighborhood. The house we went in search of was not for us, but two doors down, we found our dream home. Susie loved all of the stonework and the natural setting. I was excited by the tremendous potential of the front garden. The previous owners left a great starting point, and I, immediately, had bigger and better plans. At that point, Susie and I made a deal. I take care of anything green and she takes care of anything stone.

Transforming a landscape excites me. Sharing any of these activities with a family member, friend or neighbor means everything to me. I was raised in the gardens of my grandfather and my mother. I was right by their sides with a shovel in hand, the sun on my face, and the biggest smile. I learned the importance of beautification, of nurturing one's soul, of sustaining your family with the food you grow. I learned that gardening is sharing. It is a sharing of knowledge, ideas, stories, and bounties.

My garden is filled with so many stories of sharing. Many of the plants in my garden have been passed down to me from my gardening mentor, Celeste. She spends countless hours working in the garden with me. The mulch I use was suggested by a neighbor. Another neighbor suggested the motion detection sprinkler to keep the deer away. This same person tells me every year when it is time to trim my liriope. The vegetables from my rooftop container garden are shared throughout the neighborhood. Best of all, I love to hear the squealing laughter of the neighborhood children running through the sprinklers, while the adults hang out in the street and talk.

When the hard work is done and the mulch is spread out, the backyard patio is our oasis. Whether we are spending a well-deserved day of relaxation, sitting by a warm fire on a chilly evening, or having a cookout with family and friends, the backyard is our summer retreat.

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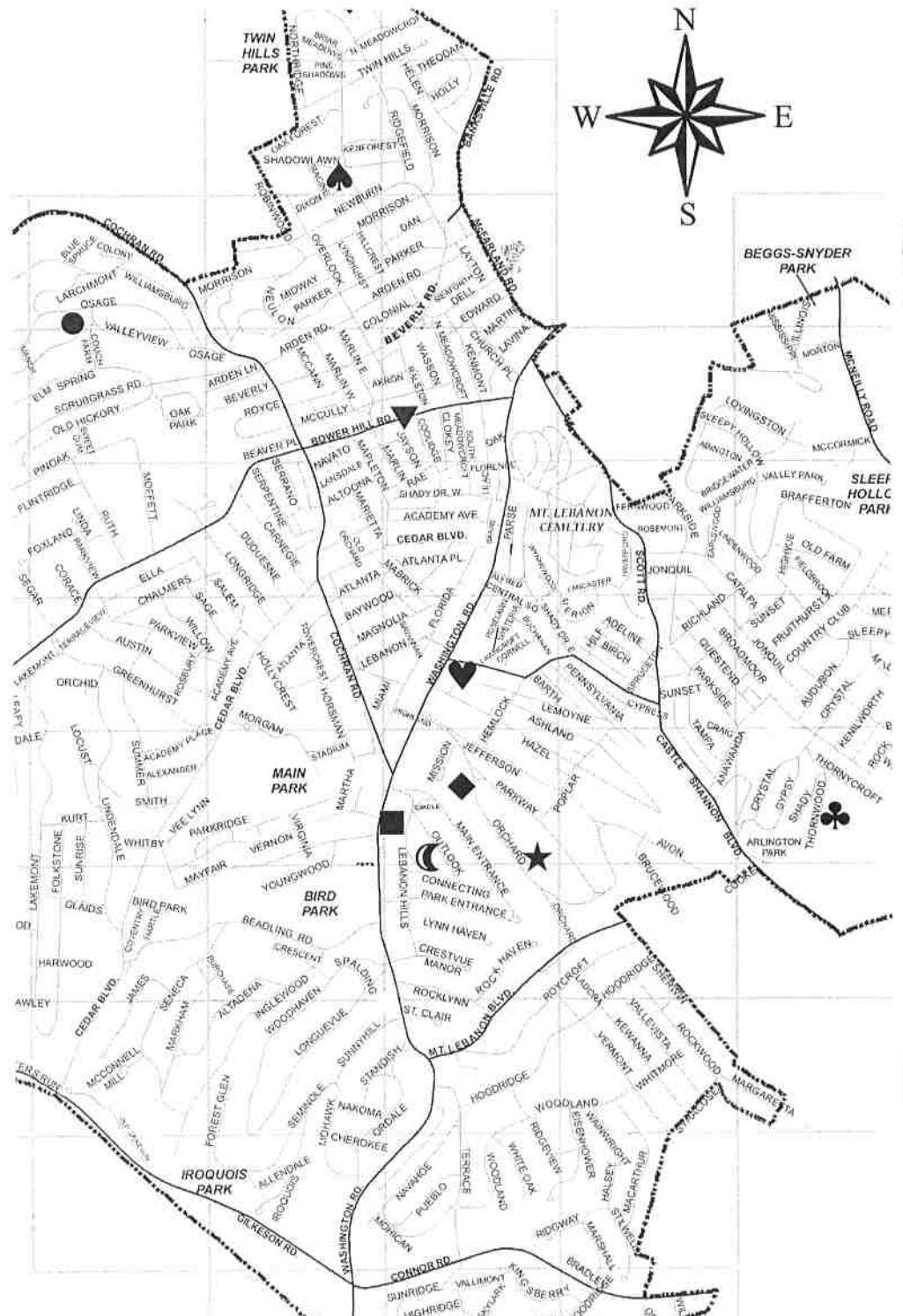
The attorneys of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. salute the staff and volunteers of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library for keeping open thought alive in our community.

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DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2015

The following directions start from the Library ❤ at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd. (just off Washington Rd.) and guide you to the first garden you choose. There is no particular order that is recommended. The Garden Hosts/Hostesses will have a map at each garden if you need assistance or more details to help you find your next destination.

While you're shopping at the Library's Annual Plant Sale and The Book Cellar (our used book store), be sure to visit the Library's award-winning courtyard.

■ **1031 Washington Rd.** ~ Make a left onto Washington Rd, travel south on Washington Rd. for approximately ½ mile. This house is on the left. Best to park on Main Entrance.

● **838 Valleyview Dr** ~ Make a right onto Washington Rd. At third light, make a left onto Bower Hill Rd. At next light, make a right onto Cochran Rd. Continue on Cochran to second light and make a left onto Osage Dr. Stay straight to go onto Valleyview. At stop sign, continue slight left on Valleyview. Travel .4 miles. House will be on the right.

▼ **303 Bower Hill Rd.** ~ Turn right onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Bower Hill Rd. Travel .3 miles. House will be on the left. Best to park on Coolidge.

◆ **200 Orchard Dr.** ~ Make a left onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Jefferson Dr. Continue onto Orchard Dr. House will be on the right.

★ **325 Orchard Dr.** ~ Make a left onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Jefferson Dr. Continue onto Orchard Dr. Travel .3 miles. House will be on the left.

♠ **291 Shadowlawn Ave.** ~ Make a right onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Shady Dr. W. Turn right onto S. Meadowcroft Ave. Turn left onto Shadowlawn Ave. House will be on the left.

☾ **59 Connecting Rd** ~ Turn left onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Main Entrance Dr. Make a slight right onto Lebanon Hills Dr. and a slight left onto Connecting Rd. House will be on the left.

♣ **41 Thornwood Dr.** ~ Turn left onto Washington Rd. Turn left on Hazel Dr. Make a left onto Poplar Dr. (cross the "T" tracks). Continue to Castle Shannon Blvd. and turn right. At the light turn right to continue onto Castle Shannon Blvd. Turn left onto Anawanda Ave. At stop sign turn right onto Broadmoor. Turn right onto Crystal and immediately left onto Thornycroft Ave. Make a slight right onto Thornwood Dr. House will be on the left. Please note: Thornwood is a dead end street that narrows by the house. Best to park on Crystal or Thornycroft or the top of Thornwood and walk down.

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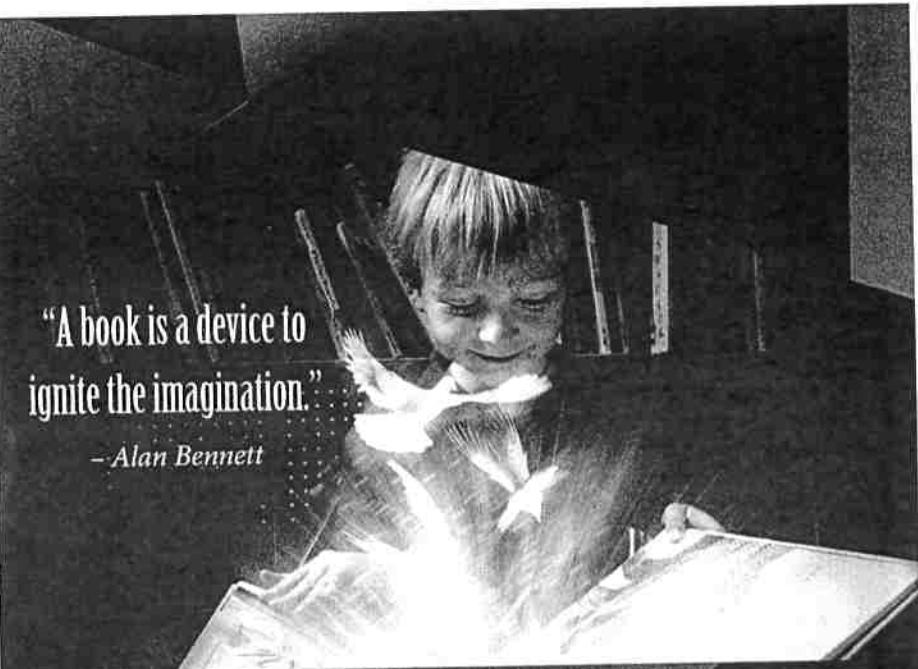
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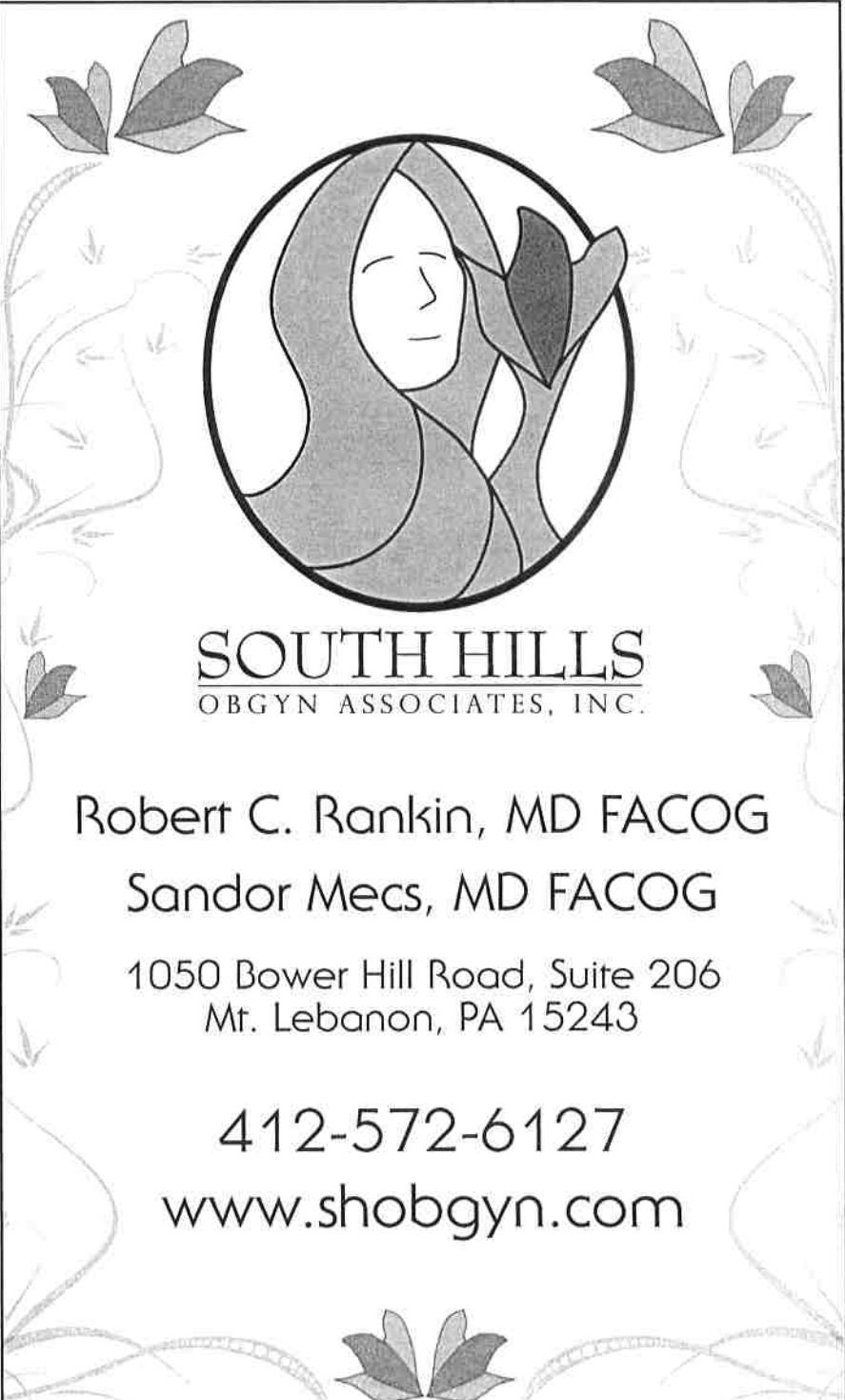
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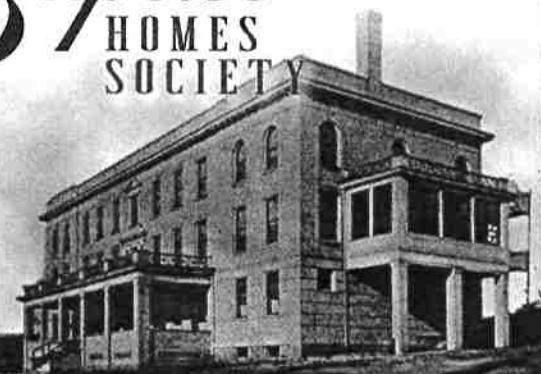
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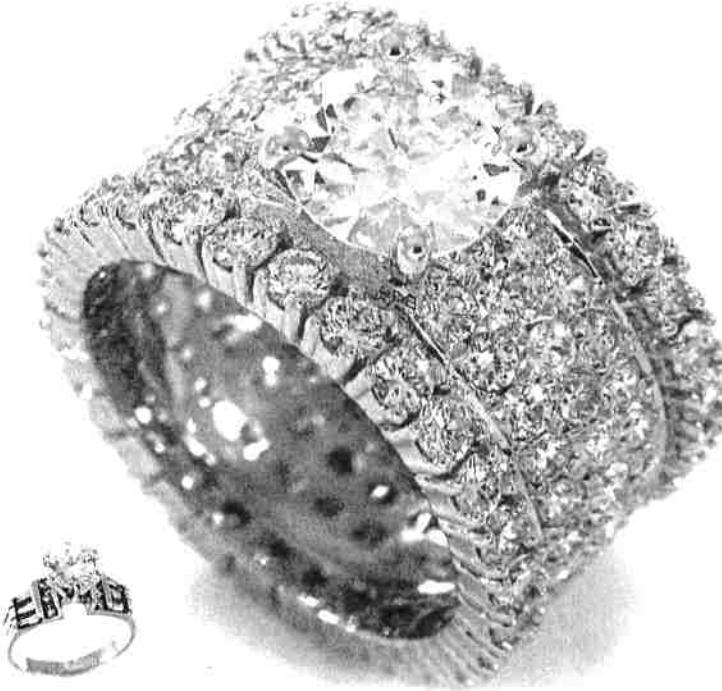
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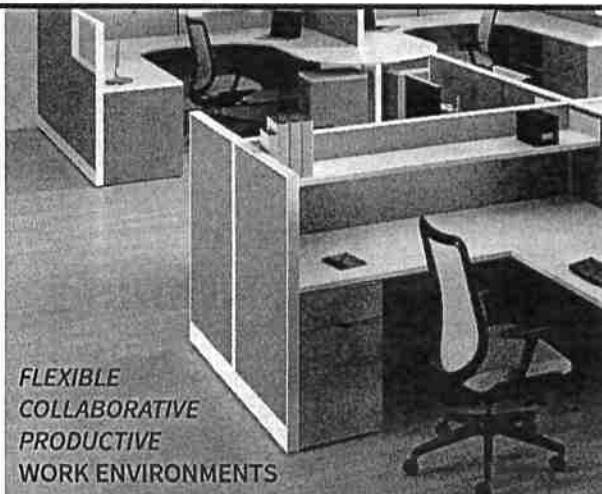
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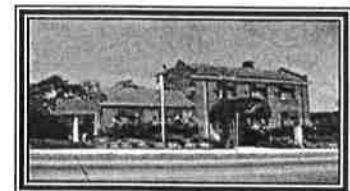
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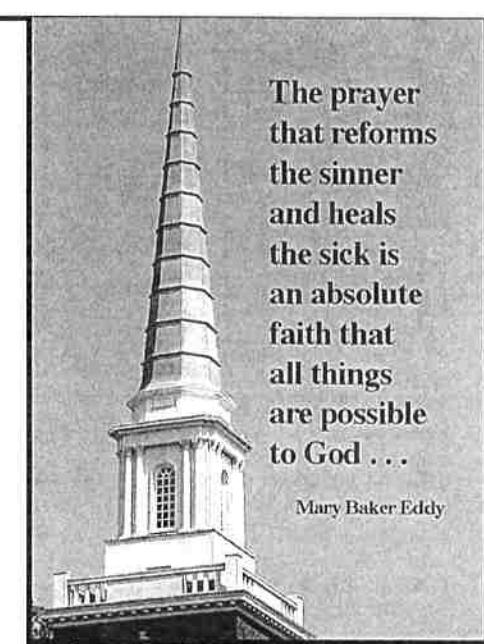
14,738 hours were donated to the library by nearly 300 volunteers

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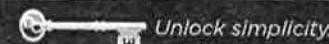
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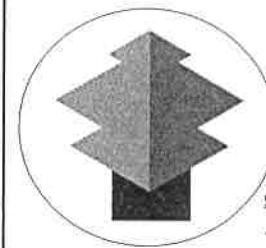
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