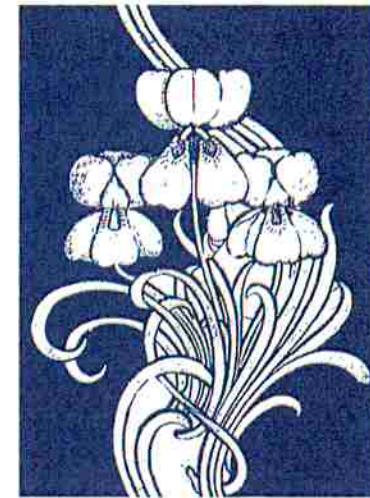




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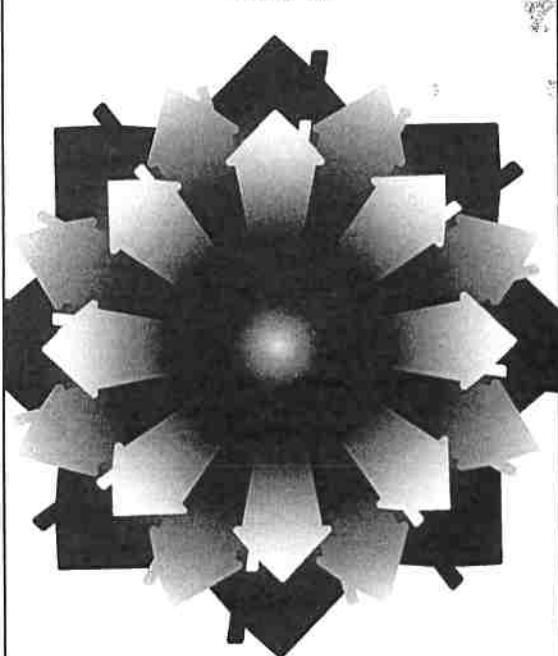
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July 13, 2014

Dear Library Friends,

Welcome to the 24th Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour! We are sure that you will be as excited as we are when you visit the six gardens on this year's tour. We are grateful to the gardeners for graciously opening their outdoor spaces to us today 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.

As the owners have carefully tended their gardens, so, too, have the residents of Mt. Lebanon nurtured the library. Funds raised by previous Garden Tours helped expand and renovate the library, create the outdoor courtyard, provide furniture for the children's library, add books, audio-visual materials, magazines, and technology such as e-readers, and so much more. This year's proceeds will be used for books, audiobooks, programs, computer equipment, and improvements to the building.

We thank 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 for their support. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

Thank you and enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

*Cynthia
Kathleen*

Cynthia K. Richey
Kathleen A. Mays
Garden Tour Chairs

David McKibben

David McKibben
Garden Tour Coordinator

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a seed once sown that never dies.*

- Gertrude Jekyll



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Garden of
Regis & Helene McQuaide
805 White Oak Circle

They say that every misfortune has the potential for a silver lining. That is certainly true for Regis and I. After our home caught fire in 2011 we quickly shifted our despair and anxiety into empowerment...how can we turn this into something really good?

The result of our efforts is nothing short of inspirational. A beautifully restored home with a new family room addition, a transformed outdoor dining patio with a waterfall, and surrounding gardens to embellish, nurture and delight.

I don't consider myself a gardener as much as I do a host. And because Regis and I both love to create beautiful spaces of comfort and joy, transforming our own indoor/outdoor areas into a haven for our family following a devastating hardship has been our greatest feat.

Although I have relished the art of gardening at a very young age alongside my beloved grandmother Helen, for this large project I deferred to the professionals. Phyllis Gricus of Landscape Design Studio created our garden design that coincides with Regis' design of the family room addition. Rich Barna and his hardworking crews of Greenleaf Landscaping made it happen. The goal was to integrate the relationship between the interior of the home and the great outdoors.

Phyllis will tell you the most important element in building the gardens is the soil preparation. Just as good design, engineering and sustainability was the foundation of our home, good soil was the foundation for long-lived, healthy plants—it's where the roots live. Because there was a lot of clay in the hillside, Phyllis incorporated both the compost for the organic matter and expanded shale, a product used in the nursery industry to prevent clay soils from re-compacting and improve drainage. While enhancing the soils, the yard hillside was re-contoured to slow the storm water runoff process and allow the water to be absorbed by the plant material.

Plants were carefully chosen with their horticultural requirements in mind (right plant, right spot) and are generally low-maintenance. To create year-round interest, plants were chosen with texture, color, foliage and blooms in mind as well as their value to wildlife. We want to be able to feed the birds and the bees but not the deer.

For me, the most important part is a home with an abundance of nature that nourishes the mind, body and spirit. And we love nothing more than sharing it. Welcome!



Garden of

Michele Bamburak
431 Beverly Road

"Leave room in your garden for the angels to dance..."

I bought my house on Beverly Road more than 10 years ago on what would most definitely be considered a busy street, which turned out to be the delight of my life rather than a negative. The walkers along Beverly Road have been my inspiration, and have offered such wonderful positive feedback that I know the reason that I garden is to bring delight to others.

I was very fortunate to have had a loving gardener live in my house before me and I was gifted with many perennials and wonderful shrubs such as a smoke tree, astilbe and monarda. Many of the azaleas and evergreens have been here for many, many years and their blaze of color in the spring is a wonderful sign of many glorious garden days to come.

As with most gardens, it is a labor of love and an ever changing landscape. I have added more perennials and flowering shrubs over the past ten years, such as hostas, daylilies, hydrangeas and a wisteria that cascades over a welcoming garden arch. I have gradually decreased the grass footprint, leaving just enough room to "let the angels dance." Pops of bright color in a palette of pink, purple and white flows through the garden and is enhanced by the annuals that complement the color scheme. I have had the opportunity to develop both shade and sun garden beds with lots of experimenting and challenges. The side yard between the neighbors' house and mine is lush with ivy, lamia, and a sweet little weigelia that seems to have appeared one day as if by magic.

I have been creating and designing art for many years and have incorporated artistic surprises throughout the garden. A butterfly sculpture, a teapot cascading with flowers, a Victorian birdcage exploding with butterflies and the sculptural flora and fauna that gives my garden a theme of Birds, Butterflies, and Beasties.

I hope my garden will make you smile, exclaim in delight and spark new creative ideas for your own garden.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"....Audrey Hepburn



Garden of

Susan Grove & John Davis
674 Moreland Drive

When we decided to look for a new home, we were ecstatic to see this one, but it had a "sale pending" sign on it. We were very disappointed. I drove by the house almost daily for the next couple of weeks in case the sale fell through. Then one day, the pending sign was down and the owner was in the yard. I stopped and asked if the house was sold. He said, "No." I said, "I want to buy it!" He said, "Do you want to see the inside?" The inside was fine – the yard was the treasure to me.

We purchased this 1949 home thirteen years ago. We fenced in the back yard to keep the dogs in and the deer and turkeys out. We've changed the formal landscaping that had been professionally maintained to plants that have a more natural growth look. New gardens were added in the front yard and every garden area seems to get a little bit bigger each year (you know how that is). We've added several trees, jumbo rocks, grasses, hundreds of perennials, and bunnies.

Variety is important to us. Colorful flowers are always beautiful, but so is texture and shades of green, gold, blue, red. I have to admit that my taste changes almost annually as to how I want my gardens to look. So, my plants know not to get too comfortable in any one spot, because they probably will be moving within the next couple of years.

Gardening in this yard is a continuous circle --- fertilize, water, trim, fertilize, water, trim, divide and transplant, add a new species or two. It's a wonderful life!

Thank you for coming to see our gardens.



Garden of

Bob & Marina Lauver
20 Roycroft Avenue

Our back yard garden took shape in 2006. I had taken a landscape class in St. Louis, so I drew up a little plan that incorporated a "tree house" and a small water feature. Wanting to have professional guidance, I presented our plan to a local landscaper. He came back with a drawing that elaborated on the water feature, creating the cascades between 3 small ponds that you'll see today. Most (but by all means not all) of the plants in the garden are native perennials. The evergreen backbone is hemlock trees and rhododendron and the rest are deciduous shrubs and small trees. A meandering path edged with lobelia, wood poppy and ferns, takes the visitor around a pond, over a tiny bridge and up to a seating area that overlooks the top two ponds and a small seating area below. The herbaceous perennials along this path came from Sylvania Natives in Squirrel Hill that sells western PA native plants propagated on site. Above that seating area is the "tree house" which is a modified deck with a tree growing up through it (a lovely place to kick up your feet and read in a hammock). Behind that are two vegetable/herb gardens, both very small and definitely "works in progress." We have yet to figure out a graceful way to manage the grazing that continually happens back here.

Our plant list includes woodland aster, lyre-leaved sage, trillium, mountain laurel, goats beard, wreath goldenrod, columbine, woodland phlox, great blue lobelia, cardinal flower, wood poppy, Joe Pye weed, Lenten rose, geranium, coral bells, Christmas fern, Spikenard, wild Senna, fragrant Sumac, Solomon's seal, Mayapple, blue cohosh, and Whorled Rosinweed. There are other non-natives that seem to work, too!

Our intent is to allow as much naturalizing as possible while still keeping an inviting and peaceful element to our oasis. In concert with the theme of the tour this year, you may find small signs of fairy inhabitants, as our daughters regularly create "fairy houses" with twigs and other by-products of the life cycle of the flora.

The environment is quite a bit more sustainable now. We have two large rain barrels, which keep our watering from the hose to a minimum. We also use a large leaf shredder, which I wheel into the yard every fall to shred the leaves to mulch the garden. All of the leaves from the back yard now stay in the back yard and become loamy topsoil within one season. It has resulted in a continually improving soil structure, and keeps water from washing down the hill as much as it used to. We hope you enjoy our garden, and will give us feedback to help us improve it! We're always looking for great suggestions!



Garden of

Frank & Katherine Flanegin
241 Park Entrance Drive

My garden is proof that you don't need a big budget to get nice results. You do, however, have to be flexible and have a lot of patience. When we bought our house in 1993 our front yard had the rhododendrons and a hosta. The rest of the front yard had evergreens that were so overgrown you could not see anything below the glass block window. The back yard had the rose of Sharon, the lilac tree and the forsythia hedge. The house had sat empty for several years so the lawns had been taken over by weeds.

We were a new family and my husband had just graduated and gotten a job in Pittsburgh so we didn't have a lot of money to spend on the gardens, besides the house really needed a lot. Thankfully I found out you could buy perennials for a fraction of their regular cost if you waited until after they bloomed and the stores were trying to get rid of them. You just had to be patient and wait for the following year. Annuals were also extremely cheap when the store had forgotten to water them and they looked dead or cold had damaged the leaves. If you watered them or cut back the dead foliage they would usually come back and thrive. Again you had to be patient. The only thing is you would have to take the type of plant the store had, but if you weren't fussy about what you put in the garden it would usually work out just fine.

The stone patio in the back yard was painstakingly dug out by hand by my husband. He got the stone off craigslist. He also constructed the playground and the balconies on the side and back of the house. He got the material from an old deck on a house that was scheduled to be demolished. He constructed the front porch with materials bought at a building surplus auction. Even the pond is stocked with 16 cent feeder fish from Petco. While a garden like this may not win any major awards, it can still be a tranquil and beautiful place to relax on a nice afternoon.



Garden of Stacey & Andrew Rhodes 16 Nakoma Drive

I must confess, we are not avid gardeners. We do, however, enjoy working, relaxing and entertaining in our yard.

We like simple organic design and tailored curves. We also enjoy the multiple destinations our yard has to offer. Highlights of the yard are the water garden and a mature maple, that we have called "Old Oakie" for years - did I mention we aren't gardeners?

The pond and gazebo were a Japanese water garden exhibit at Phipps well before 1960. The original gazebo fell in disrepair and had to be replaced. The pond has been updated and enlarged to include an upper tier with lava rock and grasses serving as a natural filtration system. The water lilies shade the fish. Four old Japanese maples surround the pond, as well as a variety of plants, grasses, ferns and succulents.

The original water garden featured large lava rocks, which we incorporated into the new design. Remaining lava rocks are scattered throughout the yard. We love to see what naturally grows in the nooks and crevices of these rocks. In the front yard there is a small pine that has been growing for 3-4 years. On the left side of the house a flowering bush is anchored in the rock.

The pond attracts and is home to many animals. Three mature and one young Koi live in the main body of the pond, the rest are goldfish. Last summer we raised three ducks. We are currently trying to attract a bluebird.

We have better luck planting annuals in pots in highlight areas, due to deer and the size of the yard. In the main beds, we attempted to choose a variety of specimens that add interest year round.

Mistakes/Misfortunes: 1. Extreme cold browned the needles on most of the weeping cedars. These cedars, though increasingly popular, are not completely hardy for this climate. 2. We are gradually removing fabric liner for better soil cultivation and easier planting. Weeds grow anyway. 3. Sadly, previous owners "capped" Old Oakie, which is ill advised.

Thank you for visiting!

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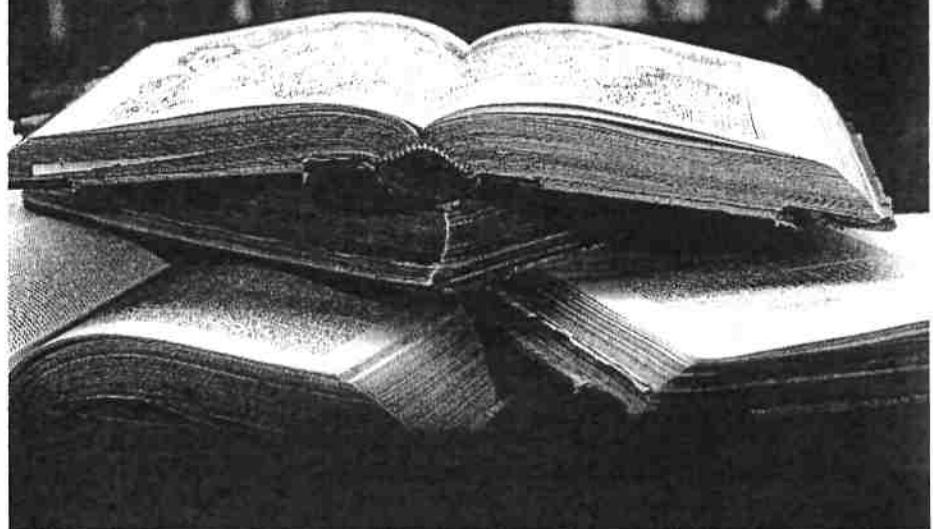
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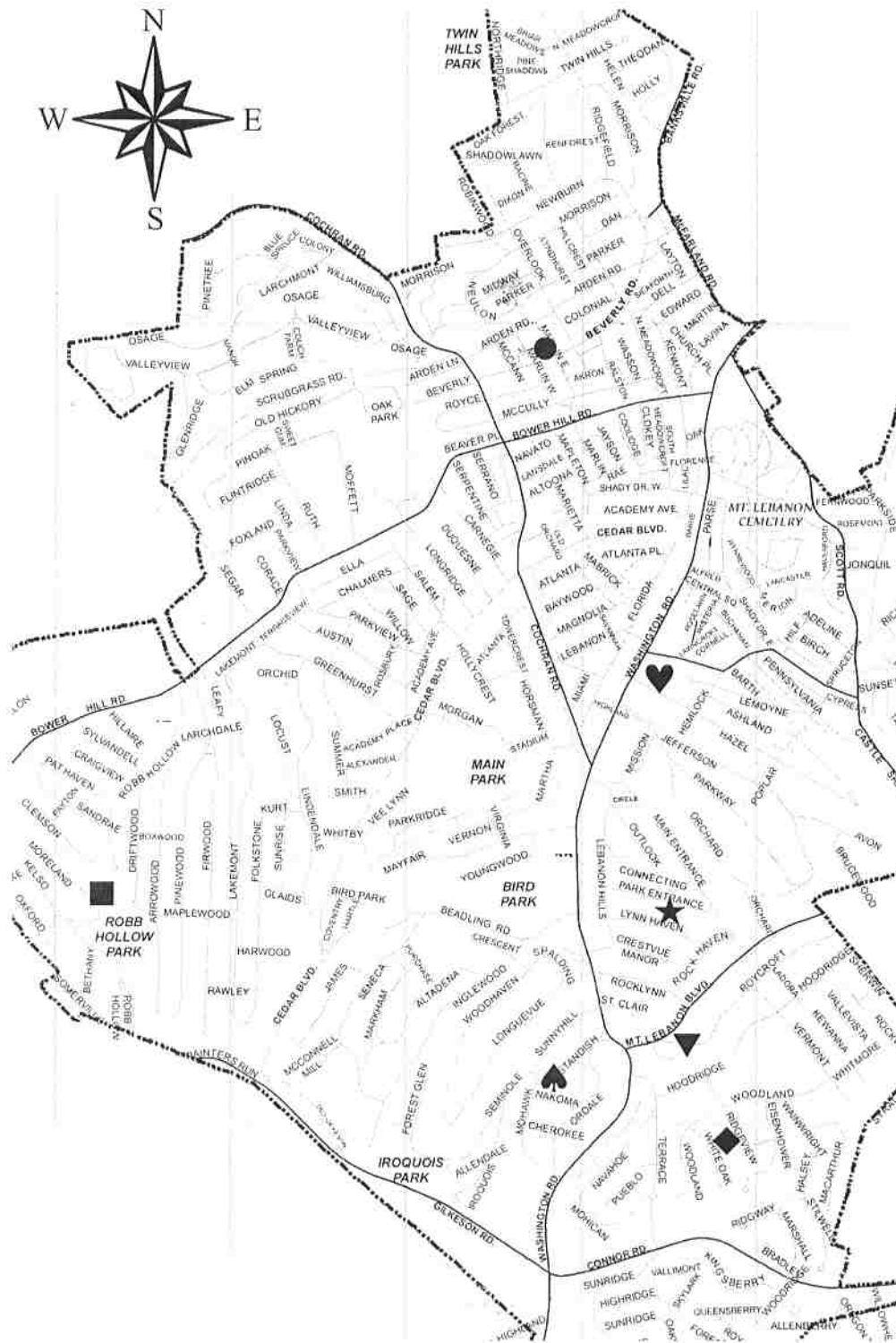
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DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2014

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.

● **431 Beverly Road 15216** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road to Cochran Road. Turn right onto Cochran Road and continue past Cedar Blvd. and Bower Hill Road. After Bower Hill stay to the right and go right at Beverly Road. The garden is at the corner of Beverly and Marlin Drive East.

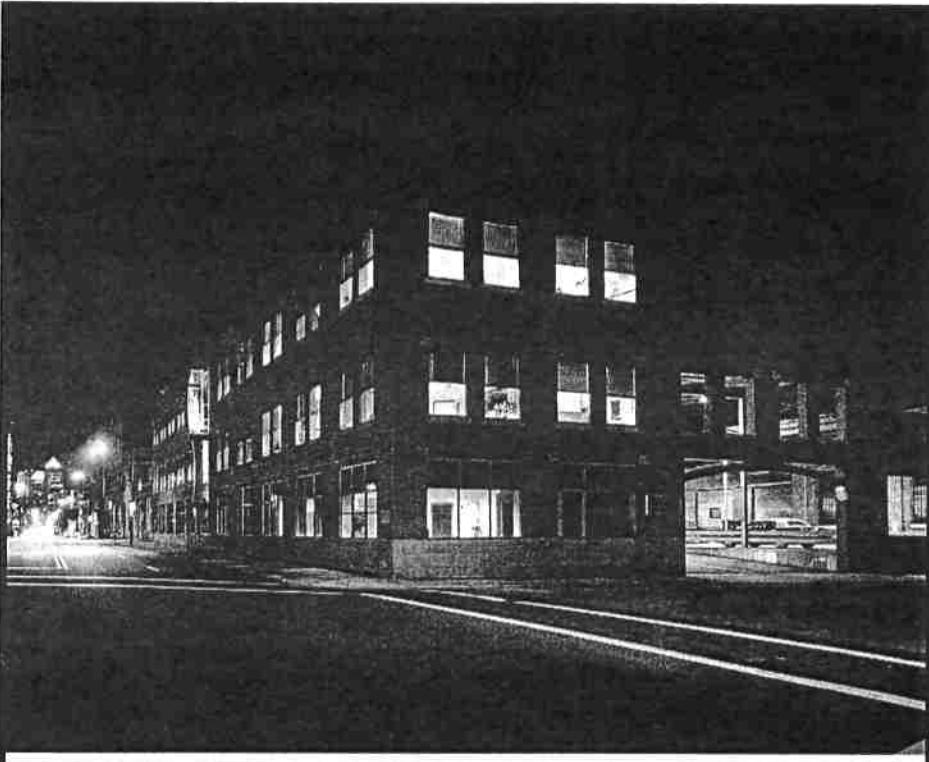
■ **674 Moreland Drive 15243** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road and then turn right on Cochran Road. Continue on Cochran past Cedar Blvd. to Bower Hill Road. Turn left on Bower Hill and continue past the Asbury Heights campus, St. Claire Hospital, and Temple Emanuel to Kelso Road on the left. Make a left onto Kelso Road. Moreland intersects Kelso in two places; either one will take you to the garden.

▼ **20 Roycroft Avenue 15228** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road past Cochran Road and continue to Mt. Lebanon Blvd. Go left onto Mt. Lebanon Blvd. for only a short distance and go right onto Roycroft Avenue. The garden is right after you enter Roycroft.

◆ **805 White Oak Circle 15228** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road past Cochran Road and Mt. Lebanon Blvd. to Terrace Drive on the Left. Make a left onto Terrace and at Hoodridge (first street on the left) go left to Ridgeview Drive. Make a right onto Ridgeview Drive to Woodlawn Drive. Go left on Woodlawn Drive to White Oak Circle on the left. Go left onto White Circle to the garden.

★ **241 Park Entrance 15228** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road past Cochran Road to Park Entrance on the left. Go left onto Park Entrance to the garden.

♠ **16 Nakoma Drive 15228** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Road past Cochran Road and Bird Park to Standish Blvd. on the right. Go right onto Standish to Nakoma Drive. Turn right onto Nakoma Drive to the garden.



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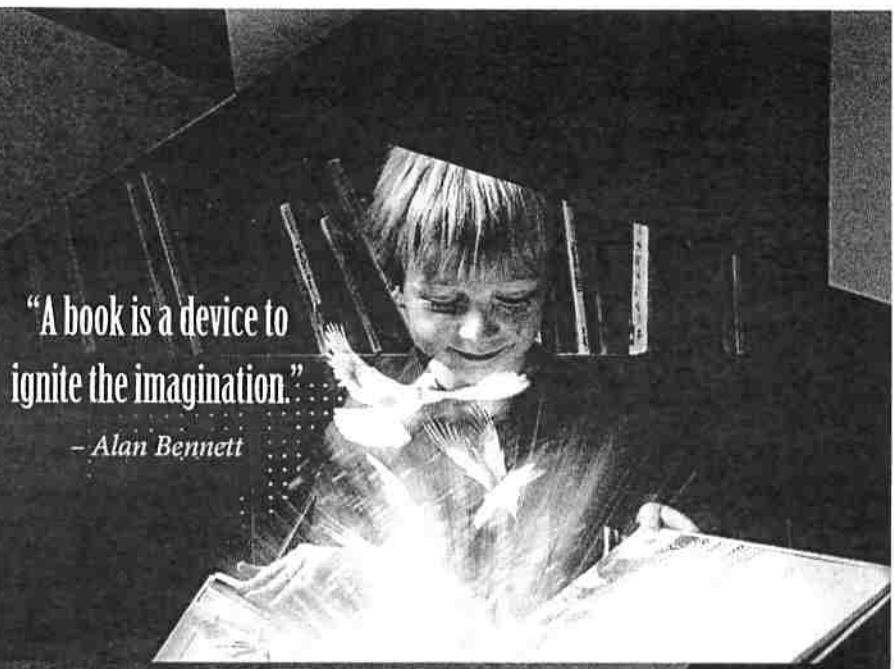
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– Alan Bennett

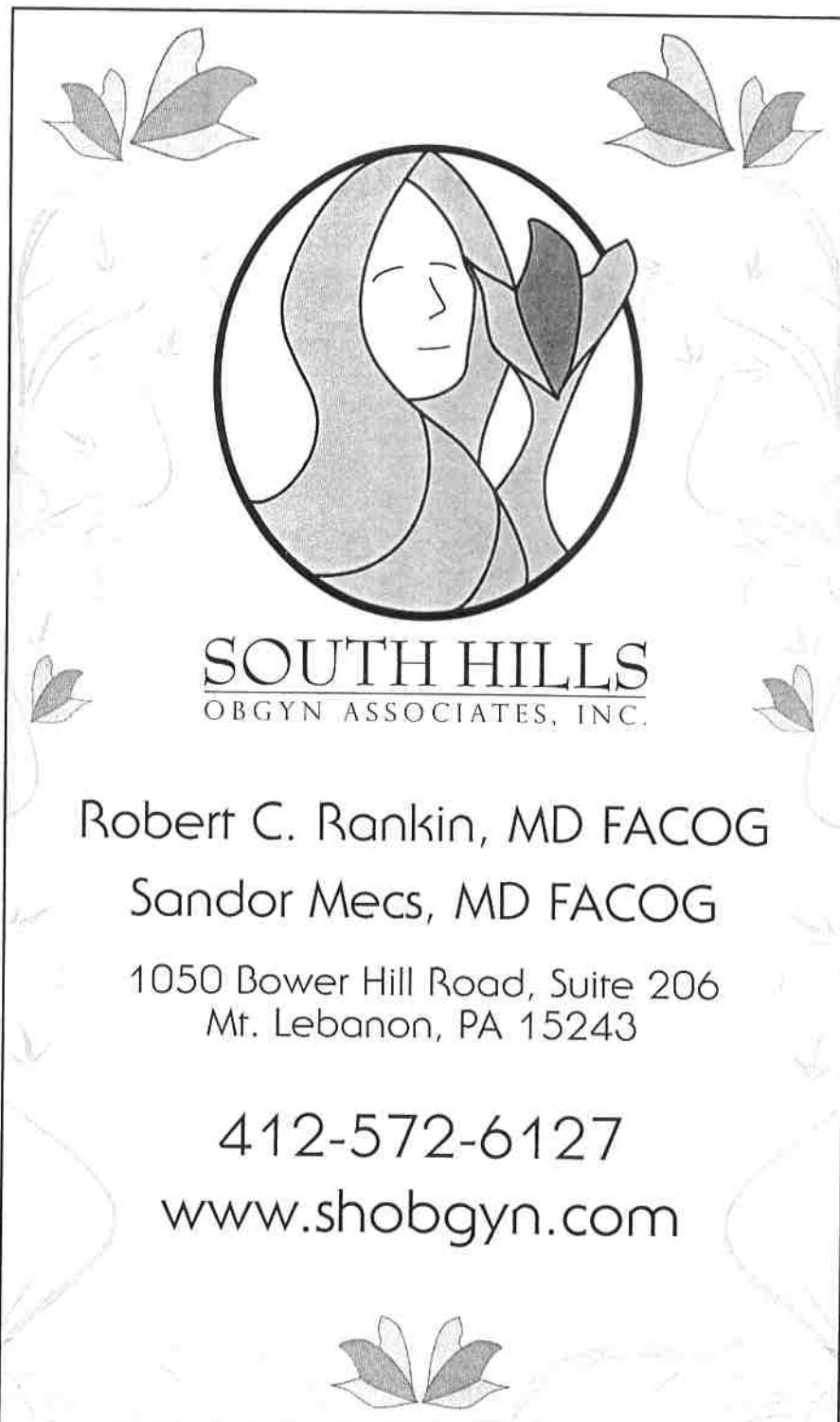
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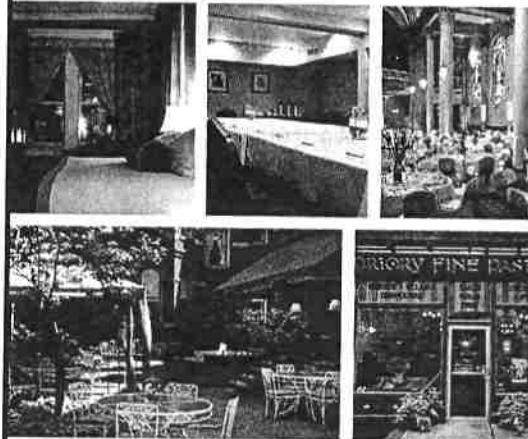
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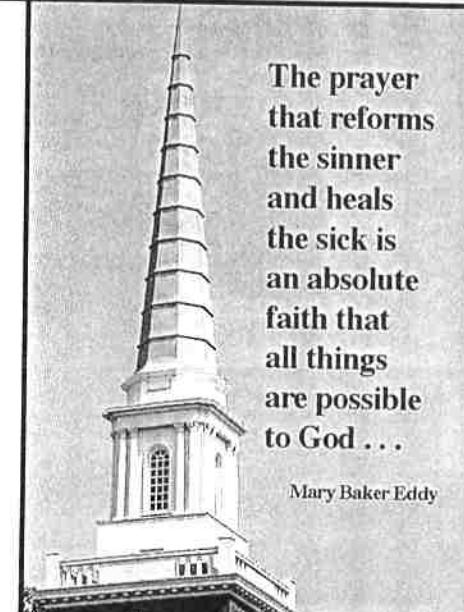
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