

Bradley Hills Village December 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to our New Members!

Since August when we last published our new member roll call for 2023 in our newsletter, additional people continue to choose to become members of our vibrant Bradley Hills Village. In 2023, we attracted 38 new households to our Village, which is an increase of 50% over last year's entire total. We are thrilled to now have over 100 households in our mighty village. Please welcome the newest members who joined in the past four months:

Amy Royden-Bloom
Sean and Beth D'Arcy
Michelle and Stuart Frank
Geoffery Green
Susan Henderson
Jan Levine

Vicki and Jon Levy
Alexandra Michailov
Charlotte Moser
Pat Octavio
Andy Popper
Jean Williams

December Dates

December 2, 10:30 - 11:30 AM - Asahi in the Backyard
December 2, 5:00 - 6:30 PM - Landon Symphonette Messiah Performance
December 7, 1:00 - 3:00 PM - Art Group visits Katzen, Linda with Coffee afterwards
December 9, 2:00 - 3:30 PM - Garden Group - Master Gardener lecture
December 13, 6:30 - 9:30 PM - Book Group Potluck Dinner
December 16, 10:30 - 11:30 AM - Asahi in the Backyard
December 14, 2:30 - 3:30 PM - Coffee and Conversation
December 28, 10:00 - 11:00 AM - Walking Group meets at Triangle Garden

Event Details

December 2, 10:30 - 11:30 AM - Asahi in the Backyard with Margaret Hilton. The weather looks good for Asahi at **10:30 this Saturday, Dec. 2!** We'll meet in Carole Klein's backyard at **8616 Garfield Street** – thanks, Carole! Dress for temperatures in the 50s and bring your own hot or cold drink. Last Saturday, 7 of us enjoyed bright sunshine and deep blue skies while practicing Series 1, first with instructions, and then in silence. During the water break, I explained that Asahi activates the whole chain of joints, from our toes to our jaws, and we finished by practicing Series 2. We will host another class on December 16th (rain date December 18th).

December 2, 5:00 - 6:30 PM - Landon Symphonette Messiah Performance at Landon School's Performing Arts Center. Free and open to the Bradley Hills Village (free parking). For those who wish to Carpool, there is a meet up at Betsy Carrier's house at 4:30 PM at 5805 McKinley Street. Wine and cheese afterwards back at Betsy and Don's house for anyone interested. This is a beautiful musical event.

December 7, 12:30 - 3:00 PM - Art Group visits Katzen Gallery. Please note the NEW departure time! Interested in art and nature? Join this fascinating field trip to Katzen Art Gallery at American University with optional coffee afterwards. We have arranged for a special tour of the photo exhibit of Nature's Tapestry. See how photographer Bernis Vonzur Muehlen forms a "tapestry of nature" with this evocative series of images. We plan to meet at 12:30 PM at Linda's house – 8601 Ewing Drive and carpool to American University for a 1:00 PM entrance to the exhibit. We will return to Linda's home for refreshments. Registration required.

December 9, 2:00 - 3:30 PM - Garden Group hears Master Gardener Lecture - "What you need to know to Grow Houseplants" - In Person - Connie Morella Library. Join Master Gardener Bonita Condon in this informative demo/talk about common house plants, tools required, the maintenance and propagation of your plants and common pests and diseases. This event is open to the public and sponsored by the library. <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/8867755> If you would like a ride to the event, please email info@bradleyhillsvillage.org

December 13, 6:30 - 9:30 PM - Book Group Potluck Dinner. As is its tradition in December each year, the Bradley Hills Village Book Group turns from food for thought to food for delight and uses its gathering not to discuss another book, but to enjoy each other's company over a festive meal. This event is open to anyone who has ever participated in a BHV Book Discussion. To sign up for the potluck dinner, contact Caryn at cmusil@outlook.com. In the new year of 2024, we invite anyone to join in the discussion on January 17 with the Book Group of Vivek H. Murthy's *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World*. On February 21, we will be discussing Richard Powers' *Overstory* and on March 20, Thao Thai's *Banyon Moon*. For a full list of the 2024 book titles for the Book Group, contact Caryn at cmusil@outlook.com.

December 14, 2:30 - 3:30 PM - Coffee and Conversation at Mariette Klein's house. Indoor plants are on our mind this month and we picked Mariette's house because she has some plants that are impressive in how long they have lived and how large they have gotten. Our conversation will be in the company of the plants and participants are

encouraged to ask questions, but the bulk of our time will be spent catching up and talking about what we are looking forward to this holiday season.

December 28, 10:00 - 11:00 AM - Walking Group meets at Triangle Garden. Coffee afterwards at Betsy's house.

Other News:

News From the Triangle Garden - Saturday, November 18th, dawned brisk and clear, after two days of much-needed, soaking rain. A hearty group of 12 contributed to this late-autumn work session, including those who gave the lawn its final 2023 haircut; weeded the last of the invasive vines to prevent their overwintering; reinstalled the sticks and string so that they again hold up the drooping plants and demarcate the edges of the beds; raked the last large tranche of leaves off the lawn and *into* the beds; made sure that Bradley the Stone Snake was visible in all his glory; did some judicious pruning of the white oak per advice from an arborist, making short work of the pile of branches that resulted; said "hi" to the song sparrow family that nests in the shrubs; noted tasks to keep in mind for spring 2024; gave a mighty scrub to the two busy birdbaths; and chatted with friends to catch up on their news. In the middle of a conversation, an out-of-town visitor suddenly said, softly but urgently, "LOOK!" We turned our heads to see a full-grown buck walking down the middle of Roosevelt Street, not quite as rhythmically as did John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*; but with the same sense of calm and magisterial "I own this block" dignity.

The Triangle Garden will spend the winter reinforcing its root system on warmish days, and providing shelter and food to countless tiny creatures upon whom our whole environment depends. We'd love to see you next Spring, whether you're a long-time volunteer (yay, you!) or a newbie who wants to learn how to distinguish a goldenrod from a black-eyed Susan (yay, you too!), or even an out-of-town visitor who wants to check out with whom their family members have been hanging out on random Saturday mornings. When December gets just a tiny bit too hectic, come over to the Garden and sit for a spell on one of the benches, and listen to the rustle of last year's dried stems saying, as only they know how, "Rest."

-- Triangle Garden Work Crew

And we have to thank those who volunteered to help in the Triangle Garden in 2023. Pam Janssen, Shirley Rojas, Behram Pastakia, Bob Musil, Caryn McTighe Musil, Sheila McTighe Walker, Phil Hugil, Betsy Carrier, Carolyn Talcott, Matt Munter.

Hearing Devices Update: [Free Over-the-Counter Hearing Devices Now Available to Eligible Montgomery County residents](#)

Quality of Care in Nursing Homes: People often ask me about the quality of care in different skilled nursing homes in the County. Here is a recent report:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2023_reports/OLO-Report-2023-7.pdf