



# Through The Grapevine

December 2025

## HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Holiday Luncheon



*Holiday luncheon committee*

Lovely tablescapes represented numerous countries and holiday traditions around the world

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***Our next meeting is January 27, 2026***

Social and refreshments: 9:30 a.m.      Program: 10:00 a.m.

Grapevine Convention Center at 1209 S. Main Street

## President's Message

Brrrrrrr! There is a nip in the air! I just came in from checking on my ponds and the fish are hunkering down in the bottom of the largest pond. They are not active when the weather is below 50° - and it is definitely below 50°! Hopefully when you read this, the weather will have warmed to what we are used to in Texas!!

But the chill does make me want to hunker down with a cup of hot chocolate and remember past holidays:

- The sight of glorious lights, candles in the windows and red and green all around.
- The sound of holiday music playing everywhere.
- The smells of gingerbread baking, a cinnamon candle, evergreens over the fireplace.
- The feel of soft quilts and sweaters and a dog who loves to cuddle.
- The taste of cookies fresh from the oven, cranberry relish, ham and turkey on every menu.

May the season ignite all your senses with warm memories and golden opportunities to create new ones.

*∞ Dinah Chancellor*



President Dinah Chancellor, center, with Holiday Luncheon Co-Chairs Cecilia Mitchell (left) and Annmarie Garlin (right.)



The garden club raised \$2,200 for GRACE. Rebecca Cox from GRACE was on hand to receive the donation.



## Holidays around the World was represented by the following cultures, plus a few others:

**Chinese New Year**, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is China's most important festival. It is also the most important celebration for families and includes a week of official public holiday. One of the most popular legends is about the mythical beast Nian (Year). He ate livestock, crops and even people on the eve of a new year. It's said that a wise old man figured out that Nian was scared of loud noises (firecrackers) and the color red. So, people put red lanterns and red scrolls on their windows and doors to stop Nian from coming inside. Crackling bamboo (later replaced by firecrackers) was lit to scare Nian away.



Christmas in **The Czech Republic** is celebrated with some lovely customs and folk traditions that have been passed down through hundreds of years. They traditionally open presents on Christmas Eve and leave their trees up until January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Day of the Three Kings.



**England** was displayed with two tables: One displayed quintessential English teapots and teacups, the other captured a Charles Dickens theme, featuring a center piece of a miniature Dickens village. There were bright placemats and doilies, decorative cards displaying the story behind the Christmas cracker, the Christmas pudding and Charles Dickens. In addition a handmade felt Christmas pudding decoration, for each to take home and a Christmas cracker for each to enjoy during the meal.

**Finland** is the home of Santa Claus. You can visit Santa Village year-round with reindeer, sleigh rides and a visit with Santa. Families' main celebration is on Christmas Eve where they enjoy a family sauna bath and then head to the cemetery to light candles for loved ones. Once they are back home, they enjoy a family dinner and then Santa comes to each house and knocks on the door to ask if there are any well-behaved children, then he leaves them a gift.

**Hanukkah** is celebrated around the world, wherever there are Jewish people. As Christmas increasingly became commercialized in the early 20th century, Jews began to add to Hanukkah various Christmas-like traditions in parallel, such as gift giving, new joyful songs and festive Hanukkah-themed decorations. There are several non-religious customs associated with Hanukkah, including festive meals, songs, games and gifts to children. Potato pancakes (latkes), doughnuts (sufganiyot) and other treats fried in oil are beloved foods and symbolic of the miracle of the oil. Children often play a game with a four-sided top called a dreidel.



The **Hawaiian Islands** celebrate with its palm trees, turtles, whales and beautiful flowers, all of which are believed to bring good luck, longevity and wisdom to the Hawaiian people. “Mele Kalikimaka” is what is said on a bright Hawaiian Christmas Day. Santa arrives in an outrigger canoe pulled by dolphins.



**Japan** does not celebrate Christmas like we do but give gifts to each other much like we celebrate Valentine’s Day. The decorations are minimalist, yet they display winter arrangements such as pine, holly berries and gifts wrapped in Japanese print fabric. Other decorations include Santas, pandas and Christmas trees. Kentucky Fried Chicken and sponge cake with strawberries are mealtime favorites.



**Kwanzaa** was created in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga. It is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates history, values, family, community and culture. The seven principles which form its core were drawn from communitarian values found throughout the African continent. Kwanzaa gets its name from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza” and is rooted in first fruit celebrations which are found in cultures throughout Africa both in ancient and modern times.







The club was presented with a check for \$2,000 from the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau for our work with Butterfly Flutterby.



## HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

### Holiday Luncheon







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## Keep Grapevine Beautiful ECO Talk - **Mission: Forest Watch!**

What do flying planes and planting trees have in common? Our January ECO Talk guest, Mike Sills, is not only an Urban Forester—he's also training to be a mission pilot with the Civil Air Patrol. His work helps protect our forests from above spotting forest fires, detecting tree diseases and monitoring pests. He is also planning a volunteer fly-in tree planting event! [Register here.](#)

Environment. Community. Outdoors.

## **ECO**Talks **Mission: Forest Watch!**

Mike Sills, Texas A&M Urban Forester will share how the Civil Air Patrol helps spot forest fires, detect tree diseases, and monitor pests—all from the air!

DATE: Wednesday, January 7

LOCATION: The REC of Grapevine, 1175 Municipal Way

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

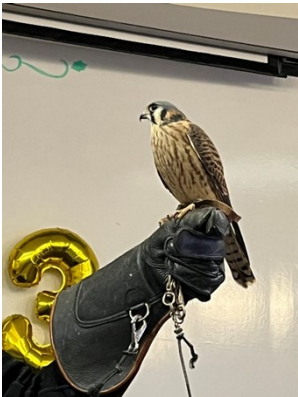
COST: Free

REGISTER: [KeepGrapevineBeautiful.org/Forests](http://KeepGrapevineBeautiful.org/Forests)



## Blackland Prairie Raptor Program

**Saturday, January 24, 2026**



Once again, the Grapevine Garden Club and the Grapevine Public Library are partnering to bring you the Raptors Program in honor of Bird Sanctuary Week. So, save the date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. to meet up close and personal with an owl, a vulture, a kestrel and/or a hawk. Be sure to bring your kids, your grandkids and friends because this program is a wonderful thing to experience.

Blackland Prairie does an outstanding job rehabilitating these birds of prey and releasing them back into the wild or, if that is not possible, those birds have a safe home right there at Blackland Prairie.

*~ Questions? Contact Suzi Guckel, I'm in the book*

### **PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION**

The Blackland Prairie Raptor Program will now be held at the REC of Grapevine—  
On the Senior Side in Stewart Hall





# GGC Annual Plant Sale

Happy Holidays to all! 2025 has flown by and we are fast approaching 2026.

This means the GGC Annual Plant Sale will be here before you know it. It's time to get all you wonderful volunteers signed up. We will have all the volunteer sign up sheets at the January 27<sup>th</sup> General meeting. Thanks to those who signed up in November.

If you are potting up plants over the holidays and need pots and soil, just contact Judy or Karen and we can meet you at the GV Botanical Greenhouse to get supplies.

Thanks to Joetta King, Ella Barber and Ginger Jones, we have a 'Recommended Plant ID/Name List' posted on the GGC website located in the Membership access section. Having the same species of plants identified by the same name is very helpful to the plant sale volunteers who receive a plant and must determine where it should be located at the plant sale. Please refer to this list when labeling your plants.

And.....Don't forget to save the date in your 2026 calendars:

***April 11, 2026 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Grapevine Botanical Garden***

Any questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

*~ Judy Sutherland and Karen Stephenson, Plant Sale Co-Chairs*

Please welcome  
our newest  
members:

Eden Belk

Barbara Madden



## GARDENERS ON THE GO

*Save The Date*

### The Makers Spot

**Thursday - 10:30 a.m.**

January 29, 2026

9015 Grand Avenue, North Richland Hills, TX



Join us for a guided tour of The Makers Spot at the North Richland Hills Library. For the Makers in us all, they have 3-3D Printers, A Cricut Maker, A Heat Press, A Design & Drafting Machine, A Music & Editing Station, An Embroidery Machine, 2 Sewing Machines, A Serger, A Soldering Station, and a Woodworking Station. Classes on how to use the equipment are free!



Lunch - Noonish  
Texan Kitchen - 415 N. Main, Euless

Meet Up: Grapevine Botanical Garden  
**10:00 a.m. for Car Pooling**  
Wear Purple T-Shirts







## GARDENERS ON THE GO

### *Follow Up*

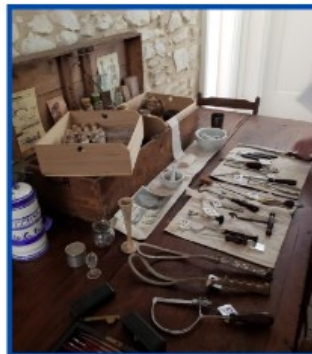
## Farmers Branch Historical Park

November 19, 2025

12 Members went on an awesome tour



of the Farmers Branch Historical Park. It was so fun and oh so educational. There were so many cool things to see and learn about from the past, that it was hard to pick a favorite thing. We were all fascinated by "Big Bertha." Tina jumped right in. The General Store was loaded with all kinds of goodies. And Linda, well she was sent to the corner in the school house.



## It's time to order caladium bulbs



There are ten (10) varieties to choose your best color combinations and size. Remember all varieties do best with no afternoon sun. Shade is your friend. **New** this year is **Tapestry**: A medium white leaf with deep rose pink colored veins and a dark green border. See descriptions and order form.

Mail or hand deliver order with check or cash to Mary Lou Brieger by February 7th. Bulbs will be available for pick-up the first of April at Mary Lou's home.





### **Candidum**

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Medium (12 - 18")

Sun Tolerance - Partial

Leaf size - Medium (2 Hands)

Candidum has medium white leaves and striking and delicate green veins throughout. White caladiums brighten the dark and shaded areas and look beautiful with green foliage.



### **White Queen**

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Tall (18 - 25")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Large (3 Hands)

White Queen has large white leaves with bleeding red veins. It may emerge with large pink leaves that tend to fade into gorgeous white leaves as it matures with more defined red veins.



### **Red Flash**

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Tall (18 - 25")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Large (3 Hands)

Red Flash is the heartiest of all red caladiums. It is known for its large beautiful and vibrant leaves that consist of bright red veining and pink/whitish speckles throughout the leaves.



### **Tapestry**

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Tall (18 - 25")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Medium (2 Hands)

Tapestry has a medium white leaf with deep rose pink colored veins and a dark green border. Tapestry is originated from a cross of White Christmas (female) and Red Flash (male) parents.



### **Postman Joyner**

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Medium (12 - 18")

Sun Tolerance - Partial

Leaf size - Medium (2 Hands)

Postman Joyner has stunning medium red leaves and a green border. This variety is often described as having velvety red leaves.





### Carolyn Whorton

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Medium (12 - 18")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Medium (2 Hands)

Carolyn Whorton has medium pink leaves splashed with dark pink-red veining and typically bordered with green. This is a tried and true variety that has been around in many gardens for decades.



### Miss Muffett

Leaf Type - Dwarf

Height - Short (8 - 12")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Medium (2 Hands)

Miss Muffett displays lime-green leaves with white veins and spattered with burgundy freckles. Great for containers, hanging baskets or garden accent.



### Gingerland

Leaf Type - Strap

Height - Medium (12 - 18")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Small (1 Hands)

Gingerland has creamy white leaves with burgundy freckles and dark green trim. Strap and Lanced leaf varieties look beautiful in front of taller caladiums or foliage. Great for containers, hanging baskets or garden accent.



### Florida Moonlight

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Medium (12 - 18")

Sun Tolerance - More

Leaf size - Medium (2 Hands)

Moonlight has medium bright white leaves that illuminate at night with ghostly thin green veins and a thin green border.



### Summer Pink

Leaf Type - Fancy

Height - Tall (18 - 25")

Sun Tolerance - Partial

Leaf size - Large (3 Hands)

Summer Pink has a very large creamy white leaf, pink veins that bleed from the center with a thin green border.

## GGC Members 2026 Caladium Bulb

	Quantity	Amount
<b>Fancy Leaf (\$10.00 per bag)</b>		
<b>Whites</b>		
Candidum		
White Queen		
Moonlight		
<b>Reds</b>		
Red Flash		
Postman Joyner		
<b>Pinks</b>		
Carolyn Whorton		
Summer Pink		
<b>Dwarf/Strap Leaf (\$12.00 per bag)</b>		
Tapestry		
Miss Muffett		
Gingerland		
<b>TOTALS:</b>		

Minimum order 1 bag

10 bulbs to a bag

**#1 size**

Order by February 7th

Mail/Hand deliver order to:

Chairman: Mary Lou Brieger

Yearbook page R-11

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Pay by check made out to

**GRAPEVINE GARDEN CLUB**

Special notes