



PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America
Pioneer Unit

December 2023

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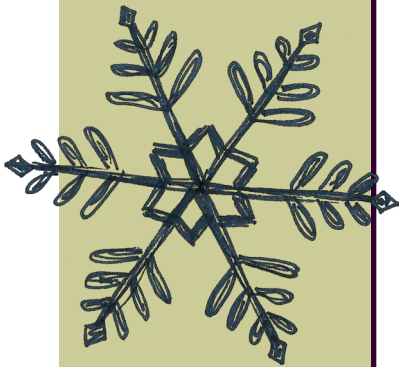
MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

- Date: December 14, 2023
- Time: 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet (Classroom)
10:00 a.m. Tours leave from the Classroom
11:00 (or so) Meeting (Chapel)
11:45 a.m. Lunch at Menke House
- Location: Festival Hill
Round Top, Texas
- Directions: From Highway 290, take Texas 237 south 6.6 miles to Jaster Road. Turn right on Jaster Road. Turn left into the parking lot and drive back to the Lower Chapel and the Edith Bates Old Chapel.
- Program: Holiday Tour of Festival Hill Gallery and Library
- Speaker: Lamar Lentz, Associate Managing Director & Library and Museum Collections Curator
Pat Johnson, Associate Curator of Collections
- Angel: Cathy Kietlinski
- Hosts: Cathy Nitsch, Noreen Barker, Joanna Hagler, Betty Pior, and Jill Wilson
- Lunch: Christmas Lunch at Festival Hill

December 21
Winter Solstice

—

December 26
Long Nights Full
Moon



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I really like looking at my garden at this time of year in Texas.

My yellow rosebush is just beautiful. My yellow salvia is very healthy as well as my shrimp plant. All the herbs are great -- the oregano, thyme, mint, basil, and rosemary.

So I don't know why I haven't done this before, but I made a wreath from my plants this year to hang on my door. I don't know how long it will look nice, but it was an enjoyable project.

Let's have fun at our December Christmas party, as we end the year on a good note.

I have located two speakers for our 2024 Herbal Forum with the focus on yarrow. (I hope you can see the yarrow leaves that I added to my herbal wreath.) One presenter will be telling us all about the benefits and history of yarrow, and the other speaker will be illuminating the world of dyeing with plants. We still need one more speaker.

Be sure to pay attention to the locations for the December meeting at Festival Hill and what we will be doing and who will be taking us on the tour. The tour will be done in two groups. If you have already been on another tour at Festival Hill, feel free to skip the tour and meet us later in the Chapel and then go over to the Menke House for Christmas lunch.

Barb and Tom Solis will not be joining us as Tom is having knee surgery, but Barb wanted me to let you know that we are in talks to help with establishing an herb garden at the Round Top Family Library. This is because we have not been able to distribute our scholarship money; Barb checked the Junior Master Gardener program in Round Top and had a wonderful discussion with the woman who leads the program, which led us to the possible project at the library..

Best,
Kathe Forrest
Chair



FROM OUR PROGRAMS CHAIR

What a gray day here! One of the bright spots in my garden this month is these brown-eyed Susans. They hated the heat of September but bounced back last month with our rains and cooler temperatures to brighten December with their orange blooms.



I am excited about our Christmas Holiday tour at Festival Hill. We will be touring special collections in the Bybee Library (Did you know they have 20,000 books?) and the Guion and Oxehufwud Rooms. Our tours will be led by Lamar Lentz and Pat Johnson, both of whom are well versed in the history of Festival Hill. We will meet in the schoolroom and divide into two groups to enjoy the collections, then have our business meeting in the Chapel followed by lunch at Menke House. See you there!

Tess Hartman
Programs Chair

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Another year almost gone. Wow! It's hard to believe that the years go by so fast. Christmas is upon us with lots of wonderful holiday activities about to begin. Have a wonderful and merry holiday.

Forty-two members and three guests attended the November meeting. Our guests were Jason Beierle and Marain Didier (Cammie Beierle's husband and mother-in-law) and Leslie Conrads (3rd meeting). Leslie is continuing to work on her joining requirements.

Recognition of Member's Anniversary Dates

Cindy Nash and Betty Pior were recognized for obtaining their 10-year membership anniversaries. Cindy joined HSA and the Pioneer Unit in September 2013, and Betty joined in November 2013. Congratulations!!

2023-2024 Program Yearbook/Member Directory – please make the following changes in your Directory:

- Shawn Helm – change her phone number to 318-393-7132 and her email address to shawn.helm@yahoo.com
- Michael Perkins – change his phone number to 936-230-2593. His email address remains the same: im4tiger@mac.com

Herbally Yours,
Diana Sellers
Membership Chair



Julia Johnson included this collage with a post on our listserv about "Mulch Day." What great volunteers we have!

December Birthdays

December 9 — Beverly Green
December 19 — Linda Rowlett
December 25 — Becky Nichols
December 31 — Phoebe Lake



Linda Rowlett (December 19) wrote: "On December 19, I will be three-quarters of a century old. I still remember driving to my teaching job 50 years ago feeling old because I was a quarter of a century old! I didn't know what "old" meant, did I? And I remember that my husband managed to stage a surprise birthday party when I was half a century old, and my parents drove in from Florida and my sisters flew in from New England — and they all surprised me at what I thought was going to be a client dinner.

"This year has had its surprises, too, but most of them have not been the kind we want. Still, life is good. I was happy to fit into my Emily Dickinson dress and pleased to get reacquainted with the poet for my talk. I continue to read more of her letters along with my other reading. I manage to spend time with my family weekly. I still work in my gardens and hope that some day my herb garden will be relatively free of weeds. I remain pleased and grateful to be a member of the Pioneer Unit. Yes, life is good."



"We turn not older in years, but newer every day."
Emily Dickinson in a letter to one of her cousins, 1874

MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING
HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER UNIT

November 9, 2023

Kathe Forrest, Chair, opened the meeting held at St. John's United Church of Christ in Burton, Texas. Tess Hartman, Vice Chair Programs, introduced the speaker, Becky McKay, on the topic of "Winterizing Your Garden and Cool Season Plants." After an informative presentation, there were many questions from the members.

After the program, Kathe presented pictures of volunteer activities over the last month. She had before and after pictures of the climate-controlled storage unit which was straightened out by our member volunteers; before and after pictures of the bridge Cathy Kietlinski had fixed at the Sensory Garden at Brenham Elementary School; and pictures of our volunteers giving tours of the Sensory Garden to the children at Brenham Elementary, of our volunteers who moved the wagons from the non-climate-controlled storage unit in Brenham to a storage building at Festival Hill, and of volunteers at an information booth at the Antique Rose Emporium. Kathe asked that anyone who had not filled out a "Volunteer Survey" to please do so. The form was available on the sign-in table.

Ann Lugg, Communications/Publicity Chair, gave instructions on how to navigate the HSA and Pioneer Unit websites. She pointed out how to navigate to important benefits that the HSA website has to offer members.

Diana Sellers, Membership Chair, announced we had 41 members and three visitors: Jason Beierle, Marion Didier, and Leslie Conrads. This is Leslie's third meeting, and she is working towards being a member. Next, Diana presented Cindy Nash and Betty Prior with 10-year pins. It was noted that Mary Reeves will be a 50-year member next year.

Kathe thanked the lunch hostesses Connie Gwyn, Cammie Beierle, Jan Hughes, Patty Mills, Martha Neva, Noreen Barker, Carol Edwards, and Susan Yancey.

Patty Mills, Hospitality Chair, announced a sign-up sheet for the December Unit meeting meal at Menke House. The cost is \$10 for a member and \$35 for a guest. The Pioneer Unit is paying the difference of the meal cost for members. Members can pay today or mail a check to Patty by December 1. The December pre-meeting Welcome Gathering will be in the schoolhouse building at Festival Hill. The planned tour of the Library and Gallery will be given by Pat Johnson and/or Lamar Lentz.

Kathe informed the members that new Board members will be elected in June 2024. Volunteers for the board positions are needed and job description printouts are on the back table. Kathe feels we need to recruit new, younger members to fill our volunteer positions. She attended a Unit Chair Meeting and one suggestion made is to give a talk at local libraries such as Brenham, Round Top, and LaGrange about the Pioneer Unit and what it does. Discussion followed about an easy herbal project to demonstrate at a library talk. Kathe also said that she would ask Phoebe Lake to hand out our literature at the Farmers Markets and have a sign-up sheet.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Rice
Secretary

THYME WELL SPENT SHOP

Merry Everything from Thyme Well Spent! May all your blessings fill you with appreciation for the tastes and scents of the season. We are always looking for new items to include in our shop during the Plant Sale, so if you have any ideas, please contact Cathy Kietlinski, Belinda Weatherly, or me. If you need jelly/jam jars, there will be some available at the December meeting. Finally, please enjoy and appreciate this wonderful time of the year and what it offers to all.

Cathy Nitsch
Thyme Well Spent Shop
281-235-5078

CULINARY GROUP



Culinary celebrates its December meeting with an herbal cookie exchange, recipes included. Everyone will go home with cookies and some new recipes.

January will be the annual mustard making extravaganza! Many jars of different mustards will be made for the Thyme Well Spent Shop to sell during the Plant Sale. Always a fun flurry of VitaMixers and canning activities resulting in lovely stacks of gourmet mustards.

For information, text Belinda at 713-398-0479.

Belinda Weatherly



HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

At our last meeting for the year, the Horticulture Study Group started its meeting in the Pharmacy Garden. We used our clippers and garden knives to prepare the potted mints in the garden for their Spring growth. This involved a severe 'haircut' and then cutting through the roots in a grid pattern. These mints will emerge next Spring to be as glorious as they were in 2023. Cammie volunteered to take the cuttings home for drying and storage. We will be sharing more about mints at the January unit meeting.

The final activity for the year was choosing our study herb for 2024. After consideration of lavender and other herb selections, we chose rosemary. We are looking forward to a fascinating study of this wonderful herb that has so many uses and benefits.


Madeline Johnson



Phoebe Lake provided the above photos showing her Ricola mint immediately after the pruning described above, then as it started to recover, and then one month later.

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends				1	2
3	4	5	6 CG 10:00 Menke House	7	8	9
10	11 PU Field Trip	12	13	14 Pioneer Unit Meeting	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 CG 10:00 Menke House	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Pioneer Unit Meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 HSG 10:00	26	27
28	29	30	31		CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HSG = Horticulture Study Group HB = Herbal Blends



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Editor: Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.

Pioneer Paths is a publication of The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$10.00 per year.

The Mission Statement of The Herb Society of America: "To promote the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of its members with the community."

Chair—Kathe Forrest

Vice Chair Programs—Tess Hartman

Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers

Secretary—Louise Rice

Treasurer—Debi Thomas

