The Mount Airy Claybreakers Garden Club met at 1:00 P.M. at the Chapel of the Incarnation in Brandywine, MD. There were 13 members present.

Opening Remarks by the President. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, the flower of the month is the Pussy Willow. Esther explained how easy it is to propagate for spring planting

Program: Mount Airy Claybreakers Garden Club member, Gilda Allen, was the presenter. Her topic was “How to plant an organic garden.” She opened her program with the question “Why should you become an organic gardener?” She went on to explain that organic foods are very expensive and it’s cost effective to grow your own. To get started, you must determine the site, plan the dimensions, prepare the bed, adjust the PH level by adding sulfur or limestone. Gilda recommended keeping a journal on what was planted, the yield and problems. She emphasized the importance of enjoying your garden by installing benches and planting vegetables with flowers. Gilda also touched on the various mediums for starting plants from seed, i.e., egg shells and commercial sources. The program was most informative and members were provided handouts.

The meeting convened at 2:46 PM with Esther thanking Gilda for the program and the members who brought the delicious refreshments. Birthday greetings were extended to Loraine Leonard.

Horticulture: A beautiful tulip arrangement was provided by Pam Smart.

Treasurer’s report: Pat will be at the next meeting.

Sunshine: Arminta sent birthday cards to members with birthdays in Dec., Jan., and Feb. Also a get well was sent to Linda who is recovering from an operation and a sympathy card to Ann DeBoeser for the loss of her husband.

Ways and Means. Dot extended the deadline for purchasing Spring bulbs until the next meeting. She encouraged members to participate in the fund raiser.

Conservation: Elaine explained that it’s not easy being green, but we must change old habits and be mindful of our carbon footprint and its impact on earth. Something as simple as changing ordinary light bulbs to LED bulbs can make a difference and save you over $600.00 annually. She mentioned LED bulbs are a lot cheaper now than when they first came out.

Horticulture: Diane talked about Inviting Container Gardens in Charleston, S.C. from a book by Allen Lacy. Container gardening there is a must because of the high water table and due to flooding. Many of the fabulous container gardens are hidden by walls and can only be see on tours during the spring. She also noted that many gardens have large fountains to enhance their beauty and to cool the hot summer air.

**Old Business**: Pam, Iona and Julie will be visiting some of the sites in preparation for the April 21st Maryland House and Garden Tour. Pam reminded flower arrangers that they can drop their arrangements at her house or take them directly to their assigned site.

**New Business:**

Esther asked members to bring a flower arrangement in a tin can to the May meeting (leave the label on) for a Tin Can flower Show

Rooting DC is on March 3rd at Wilson High School. It offers various workshops and lectures on gardening, planting, how to save seeds, how to start seedlings, etc. It’s free but you must register on line.

The Annual Philadelphia Flower show is on March 3-11. Members are encouraged to attend. If you haven’t been, it’s really worth the trip.

District 1 Meeting is at 10 P.M. March 10th at the USNA. Larry Spaulding will be the guest speaker. He’s engaging, funny and uses magic in his program. Also, our Chapter’s prestigious Busy Bee award will be presented. Members are asked to please attend

Marilyn’s Flower Workshop may be rescheduled due to illness.

Our next meeting will be at Esther’s with Joyce as co-host.

The end of the year Dinner Meeting and Installation of Officers has to be relocated from the Prime Street Grill because of required financial obligation. Esther suggested Chevy’s as an alternate location. The motion was made by Pam to change the venue to Chevy’s. Gilda second the motion and it was accepted by the members.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Gilda won the 50/50

Respectfully submitted

Iona J. Black

Recording Secretary