

WE REMEMBER

SHIRLEY



What a wonderful stream of memories has flowed to honor Shirley, memories paying tribute to the many facets of her rich life and keeping her alive in our hearts.

HELLO! First impressions really matter, and the really superb and the terrible get stuck in our memories. Shirley made only a positive first impression on everyone she met.

I always enjoyed seeing Shirley at the Garden Club meetings. She greeted us with a smile and a hug and always had something nice to say to each. I admired her for all she did as president as well as a member. We will miss her but will not forget her. To her family, I offer my sincere condolences.

Madelaine P. Ferguson

It didn't take long for Shirley to make a lasting impression. I was new in the GC, got the job of newsletter editing right away. Shirley was the historian at that time and we both thought it would be nice to have something from the past in the monthly letter. She enthusiastically did some research and came up with an article and pictures to share with all the members. She made me admire her even more when I watched her how she organized Bloom 'n Art. Discreet, but always there even after her illness made her pass on most of the tasks to other members. A lasting impression, a lasting legacy! We will miss her!

Marijke

Shirley was my first acquaintance in the garden club. She was most welcoming and probably the main reason why I decided to join the club. She did a wonderful job in every way. I am very sad to hear this terrible news and send my deepest condolences to Shirley's family.

*Most sincerely,
Lee Callinan*

I was truly saddened to hear that Shirley has passed away. I was introduced to The Garden Club of Harvard by Becky Shives and Shirley always welcomed newcomers and was most generous with her knowledge and time. I was deeply saddened to hear that she has passed away and send sincere condolences to her family, friends and all members of The Garden Club of Harvard.

*With sincere respect,
Rachel (Ross)*

Some things were widely known – Shirley was an incredible chef, and in fact, a caterer for a while:

Shirl and I had great discussions on food, she catered for a while, and had many a laugh at the strange ways people deal with food. I am so sorry to hear of her death and will miss her.

Pat Jennings

Shirley organized armies of meals for our sick and bereaved members, saying “Everybody can make ‘stoop soup.’” She was a great connoisseur and appreciated excellent blends (especially Porto Rico coffee from Brooklyn). She enjoyed incredible chocolate from Belgium, thanks to Maria, with whom she shared the belief that everything could be improved by chocolate!

And then there are surprises, like Shirley's artistic skill, admired by a fellow gardener-artist:

I am very sad to hear that Shirley has died. I have some very fond memories about her which I shall send later. For now I would like you and other club members to see this pastel painting that Shirley had shown in Harvard Cultural Collaborative (now Fivesparks) exhibit in 2018. I really like this lovely suggestive color study (7.5"x3.5 ")and bought it for my collection of local artist's work. I don't think many people knew she was a fine artist who painted sensitive observations. This is a tranquil memory of her that warms my heart in memory of her.

Suzan (Osborn)



Shirley appreciated the outdoors, and enjoying it with fellow gardeners and dogs. Here is a selection of photos shared by members:



Above left, dogs Jimmy and Misty, courtesy of Barbara Heim, and Shirley and MaryAnn Piasecki at the rosemary tree sale.



*Bundled up for a trail walk.
Photo by MaryAnn Piasecki*

Shirley served in almost every role the Garden Club of Harvard has, and approached each with relentless energy and enthusiasm. She had a special gift of reading people that enabled her to invite them into roles in which they could succeed. She held herself and others to high standards, showering recognition and thanks on stellar performances, while coaching and mentoring along the way. People knew and appreciated this and recall fondly key moments from years ago.

Thank you for sharing this very sad news. I have not seen much of Shirley in recent years, but when our sons were at Bromfield, it was always a delight to run into her. I only want to say by way of tribute that in my experience Shirley was always incredibly kind, non-judgmental and big-hearted, a model of generosity of spirit. She will be sorely missed.

Molly Cutler

This is a really sad news. She will always be in my heart and I will remember her as a wonderful leader and a very kind friend.

*Love to all,
Claudia*

I am sorry to hear Shirley has passed away. She and I met when I was district director. She was always a friendly face I looked for at meetings. She supported some many activities in the area. May God Bless her and her family.

*Warmly
Joy DiMaggio*

What very sad news. My family and I are deeply saddened. Shirley was a very special person, kind and generous with her talents and time. Shirley was a great asset to the garden club and I say thank you. I have Pulmanarias that are about to bloom which Shirley shared with me some years ago. They were special then and even more so now. When I told Stephanie about Shirley she immediately said "I love her". I think that speaks for all of us.

*Thank You,
Karen Green*

Shirley had a sense of humor. This all natural “hat” was a wild interpretation of the annual meeting sartorial directive, everyone should decorate or create a hat.



Thanks to Denyse Cox for this photo and these words:

Such sad news. I didn't realize she was so sick. Shirley will be greatly missed.

Denyse

Shirley was the wind beneath my garden wings ... she took me gardening in places I could never have ventured alone & in the most wonderful kind compassionate & Fun Flower Way xo. She was truly The Flower Fairy ... & I will hold her loving giving heart close to mine forever & ever. Rest In Peace my Beautiful Flower Friend Forever.

Daria Petrilli Eckert

By far, Shirley's greatest project and her legacy for the Garden Club is Bloom'N Art. The story is captured by these words of members and the slide show presented by the art teachers who co-collaborated from the very beginning. Here are their comments:

I was so inspired watching Shirley take her vision of creating an art in bloom show in our town similar to the ones being done by much larger towns and garden clubs. It was a daunting task, but Shirley was determined, and persistent. She personally recruited the teachers and garden club helpers and made her dream a reality beyond all of our greatest expectations. Shirley was lovely to work with, she was so kind, good natured, good humored, generous, genuine and committed to whatever project she approached. I admired Shirley greatly, and will miss her deeply.

Deb Dowson

----- I will sadly miss Shirley as a wonderful friend. She leaves us with the Bloom N Art legacy which has delighted the whole town. Hope her family can find some peace and comfort knowing that Shirley will be missed by so many of us.

Carol Hartman



I am devastated by this news. Shirley was president when I first became a member of the Garden Club.

When she wanted to make her vision of Bloom N Art a reality, she didn't have to ask me twice. Her enthusiasm for this project, and the collaborations that she initiated between the Garden Club, the library, and the

Bromfield School art department were unprecedented. From this year's Bloom N Art program, her work "not only builds a bridge between generations but reinforces the common bond between all artists in the Harvard community, whether their media be paint, computer graphics, sculpture, photography, or flowers."

That's exactly what she wanted.

The planning for Bloom didn't always go well. There were many emails back and forth and telephone calls and meetings (where there was some minor swearing) when we were venting about what was happening vs. what was supposed to be happening. But thanks to her ability to bring people together for a common cause, it always worked, and I think that the result was always far greater than her expectations.

Her outgoing personality and sense of humor were always infectious, and that's what drew us all into her orbit. It was easy to make her laugh, whether it be about compost bins or the any of the crazy issues that arose as president of the club.

A few years ago, she gave me some bloodroot Sanguinaria. Every year, it has multiplied. This weekend, it has grown and is ready to bloom. What an amazing gift!

*Love to Shirley's family,
Theresa (Ledoux)*

In the picture Shirley with her artist

19 April, 2020

Shirley's most visible legacy in the town of Harvard will always be her introduction and organization of Bloom n Art to our community, for all generations to be enchanted by works of our schools' artists, interpreted by our members with flowers and exhibited at the library. The HGC will surely continue this wonderful cultural addition for all ages in town to which Shirley's name will be attached forever as the founder.

She always was willing to help organize or contribute to local events, whether GCH or HWC, especially involving good food, whether yearly Club lunches, meetings or several local memorial services, which included food after my husband's service, for which I will always be immensely grateful. It was a great pleasure for me to work as a team with Shirley as President and VP of the GCH. We shared a love for gardening, good coffee with dark chocolate and many more interests which gave us opportunity to check in on another frequently.

Four beautiful, special colored lavender plants from the Cape were a gift from her last summer to help renew my big lavender bed and they will always have her name on them.

I will so miss her company and our chats over coffee or the phone. I know you all will, too.

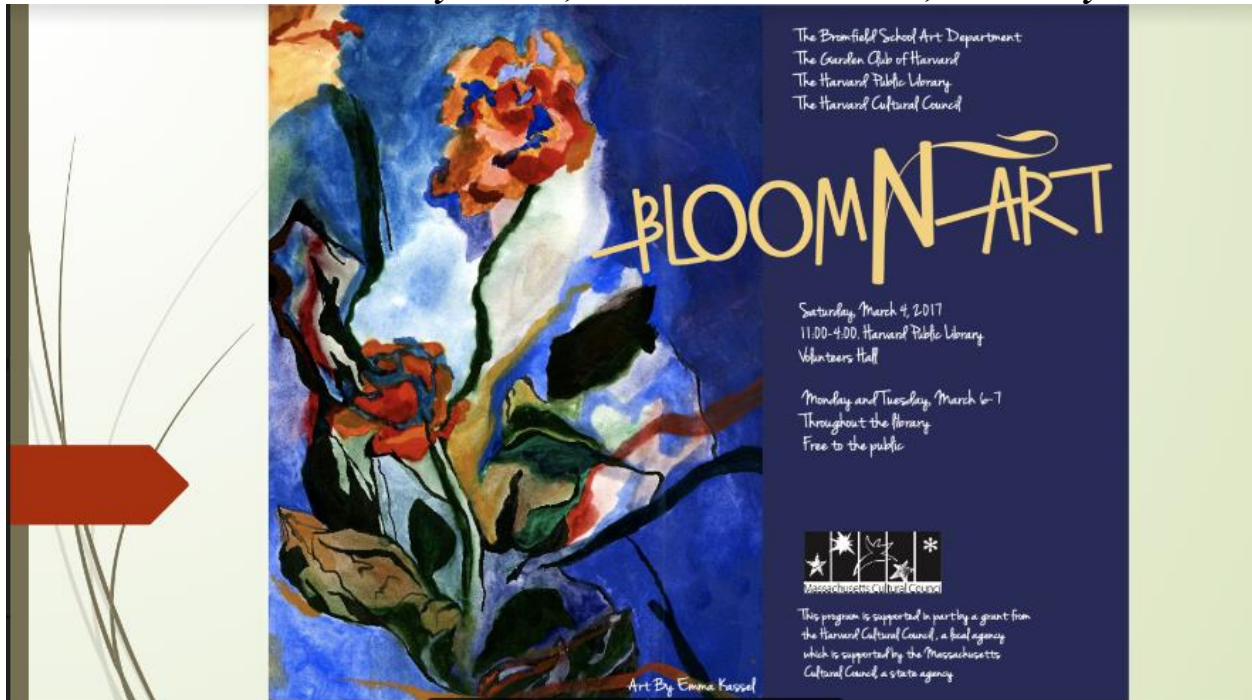
Maria v. S. Day



Shirley planning how she will interpret the student painting behind her

Hi Margaret, we are deeply saddened to hear of Shirley's passing. She created such a beautiful legacy! We are so grateful and honored to have had the opportunity to know such a beautiful soul!!!! We send our love and prayers to you and to Shirley's family and friends!!! We also wanted to share this slide show with is a small tribute of our love for Shirley with her family and friends. Please let us know if there is any way we can be of help.

*Lots of Love,
Cindy Harris, Elizabeth Hoorneman, and Cindy Fontaine*




The Bromfield School Art Department
The Garden Club of Harvard
The Harvard Public Library
The Harvard Cultural Council

BLOOMNART

Saturday, March 4, 2017
11:00-4:00, Harvard Public Library
Volunteers Hall

Monday and Tuesday, March 6-7
Throughout the library
Free to the public



This program is supported in part by a grant from
the Harvard Cultural Council, a local agency
which is supported by the Massachusetts
Cultural Council, a state agency

Art By Emma Kessel



BLOOMN ART 2017

Joanna Young

Artist

Grade 12

Grade

Clay

Artwork

Shirley Boudreau

Floral Designer



The Bromfield School Art Department
The Garden Club of Harvard
The Harvard Public Library
The Harvard Cultural Council

BLOOMN ART

Saturday, March 17 11:00 - 4:00
Sunday, March 18 1:00 - 4:00
Monday, March 19 10:00 - 5:00

Harvard Public Library
Volunteers Hall
Free to the public
Student artwork paired with floral interpretations



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Harvard Cultural Council, a federal agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency



We are so grateful for the time we had with you Shirley. It has been an honor to know you. You will be forever missed! We will carry you in our hearts forever!

Cindy Fontaine, Elizabeth Hoorneman and Cindy Harris



“Her absence is like the sky, spread over everything.”

-C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

BLOOMART

Artist

Julian Iverson
Grade 8
Grid Self Portrait/ Op Art

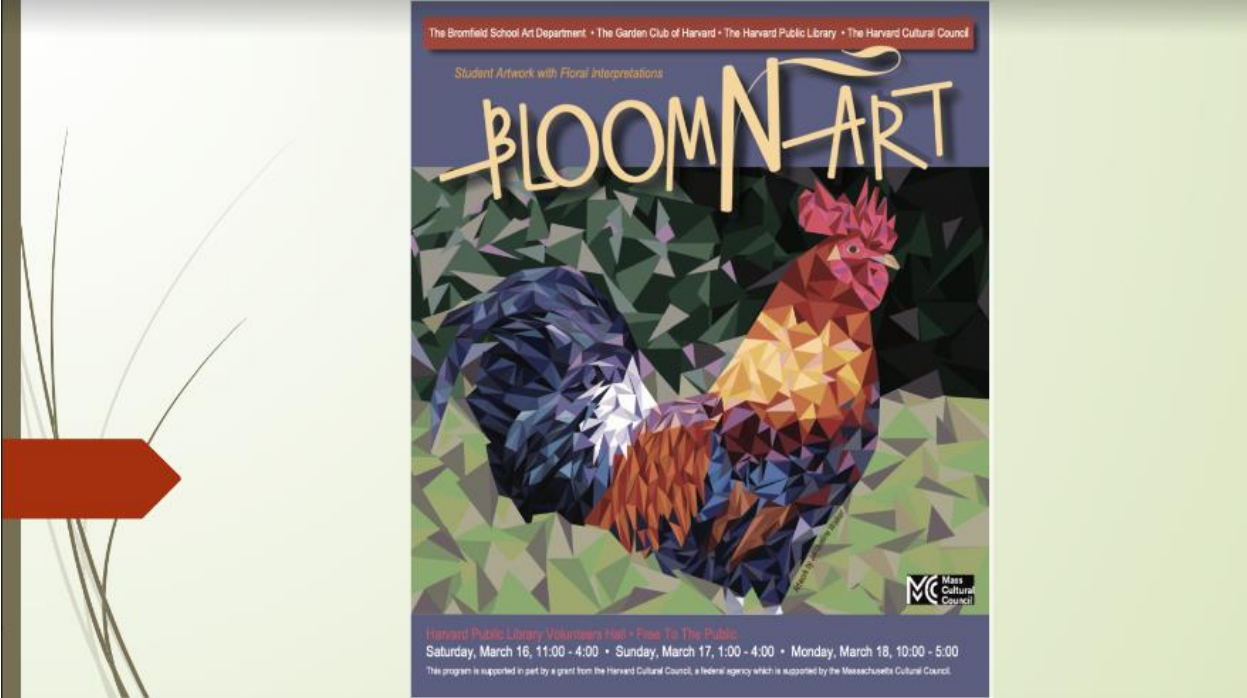
Floral Artist

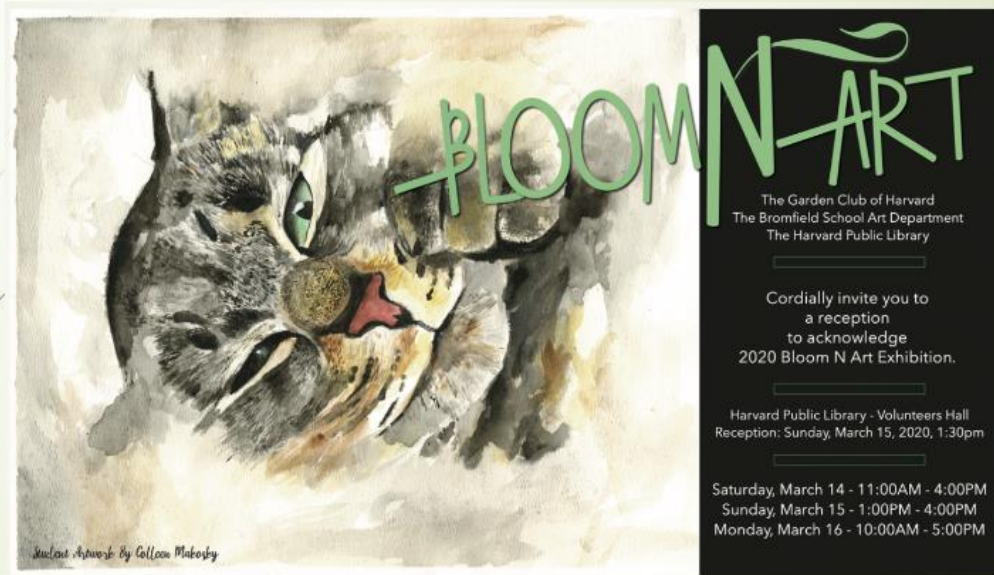
Shirley Boudreau



"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart." -Helen Keller

Thank you Shirley for touching our hearts with your LOVE!!!!





The photos below were sent by members to help remember Shirley.



The bloodroot was Shirley's gift to Theresa (Ledoux)



Shirley with her dog,

and with the president's gavel (courtesy of Lois Frampton).



And below the Kerns' garden on tour (also from Lois)



Fond memories of Shirley:

Most especially, that unique, warm, and cynical sense of humor. Everyone has enjoyed and benefitted from that!

Her skill in organization, her energy, and her determination to get things done. Plant Sales (Building 19 training), and BloomNArt. Three years in planning to make that happen.

Her “deadbeat list”.

Long walks with Jimmy, Misty, and Agent. Only “lost in the woods” once in Boxborough.

Searching for native bloodroot, trillium, and hepatica on Ft. Devens, and finding hundreds of deer ticks on us and the dogs as well. We just laughed as we picked them off in the parking lot.

Her love of cooking, chocolate and good coffee, and her generous sharing of plants, meals, stories, and support.

*I will miss her so.....
Barbara (Heim)*

*“I first met Shirley years ago when we were working on the Plant Sale together. Throughout the years that I have known her I have enjoyed and admired her keen sense of humor. She could bring unexpected laughter to so many situations. What a wonderful giving friend she was to so many. She will be deeply missed by us all.”
Dorene (Lewis)*

And, Shirley's last outing with gardeners was memorialized by Kathy Jackson:



Boy am I glad that we, Mary Ann, Janice and I, had a very lovely time with Shirley at Tower Hill just two months ago, I think Janice is sending you the pictures. I am not a writer but I did get a message written to the family this morning.

As new members Shirley and I chaired the plant sale back in the late nineties. Thank God for her organizational skills and hard work, we pulled it off. I remember no email just lots of phone calling. She was such a warm and kind person and I enjoyed working on many projects with her. She was a dear friend who I will miss.

I think we need a big group hug.

Kathy (Jackson)

Photo is from this trip to the ORCHID Show at Tower Hill, taken by Jan Rusiecki.

Finally, several offered poems and prayers :

I'd like to share this poem, "If I Should Go" by Joyce Grenfell, to honor Shirley and comfort her friends and family:

*If I should die before the rest of you,
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone.
Nor, when I'm gone, speak in a Sunday voice,
But be the usual selves that I have known.
Weep if you must,
Parting is hell.
But life goes on,
So sing as well.*

I extend my deepest condolences to her loved ones.

With great sadness,
Maribeth Marcello

**Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow
I am the Sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn's rain
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight
I am the soft star that shines at night
Do not stand at my grave and cry
I am not there: I did not Die**

A Native American prayer offered by MaryAnn Piasecki, who
Recalled that Shirley liked it greatly.

Shirley truly made a difference – touching all those lucky enough to spend time with her – she was one of the first people to welcome me to Harvard, and I count her friendship as one of my dearest blessings. She managed a terrible illness with grace and aplomb, and always focused on what was going on in others' lives. A model of grace and courage, she has “slipped the surly bonds of earth” – may she be at peace. We will miss her, while we carry her in our hearts! Margaret



May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your land
May the rain fall soft upon your face until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand