

UPTON ASSOCIATION *Update*

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From the President: BUSTLES & BONNETS

By Janet Schweitzer

In 1936, my mother attended a political rally in West Middlesex, PA. I am sure she voted that year. (See photo at right.) About 15 years ago, I asked an older woman at SCOPE if she would be voting in the coming election for the senior services levy. "I've never voted in my life," she whispered, shyly shaking her head. I'm not sure if either of them knew how close this right to vote and own property came to defeat, after nearly 75 years of struggle.

After passage of the 19th Amendment in the US Congress, 36 states needed to ratify it to become law. Harriet Taylor Upton traveled to Washington, D.C. and many states with Susan B. Anthony to convince Representatives and Senators to support suffrage and convince their states to ratify the amendment. Often, these elected officials read into it nonsensical outcomes. Harriet wrote in her memoirs that one legislator stated that if Congress allowed suffrage, there would be "nothing but bustles and bonnets in the legislature." Harriet leaned over to Susan B. Anthony and said, "Do we think of men as just suspenders and neckties?"

Historian Carole Buchy, quoted from *USA Today*, said talk about disastrous changes in home life was really just a "red herring." "It was primarily about race."

Most southern states had already declared they were against the amendment. The needed 36th state, Tennessee, became a battleground in 1920 of suffragists, and anti-suffragists. They focused on Nashville's Hermitage Hotel, draped it in banners and decorated it with bushels of red roses (anti-suffrage) and yellow roses (pro-suffrage). According to the *Reader's Digest*, February 2020, a 24-year-old, Harry Burn, youngest representative in Tennessee, was expected to vote "nay" even wearing a red rose in his lapel. The morning of the roll call, he opened and read a letter from his mother, Phoebe Burn. She told him to "be a good boy and vote for the measure." He later stated, "I know a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

Tennessee became, on that vote, the 36th state to ratify and the 19th Amendment became law. Just one vote made the difference.



*Esther Watson Tetrick Bunchy
(Mother of Janet Schweitzer)*

SPRING LUNCH IS MAY 30

In honor of the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment, The Upton Association will welcome guest speaker Dr. Molly Sergi, history professor at the Geauga Campus of Kent State University. Dr. Sergi is a resident of Girard, OH, and will speak on fashions of the 1920's. An invitation with registration information will be sent to members at a later date.

**APRIL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED
Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
pandemic, The Upton Association Board has
decided to cancel ALL April meetings,
including the Annual Meeting on April 23.
Thank you for your understanding.**

Rental Report: *Interesting Gatherings*

By Kathy Lepro

Usually, the Rental Report in the Spring Newsletter contains a calculation of the type and number of events which took place at the Upton House in the previous year. This time, I'm just providing the total number: 40 in 2019. Now here, for your reading enjoyment, is a summary of some interesting gatherings that weren't already published in the fall newsletter, or that happened since then.



50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration



Professional Photographer Photo Sessions

There was a luncheon with royalty where little girls came dressed in their finery and some in princess-type gowns. As you might expect, it was a tea party. Both mothers and fathers attended and saw wide eyes and big smiles on little faces as professional fairy tale characters were there to entertain their daughters.

One high school senior chose to celebrate her accomplishments with a banquet setting in the Upton dining room with just family members, as opposed to the more common, large open-house party.

“Tea for Two” was the theme of a baby shower for an expectant mother of twins. That mother-to-be surely appreciated all the doubles of everything she opened, as well as the numerous boxes of diapers she received.

There have been several 50th wedding anniversary celebrations over the years, but what prompted me to share this particular one is the family's repeated use of the Upton House. In addition to this anniversary party, this local family had a Christmas gathering two years in a row, and they have already booked and paid for a third one in December of 2020. They are one of our best rental supporters and obviously love to gather at the Upton House. Especially, when they can enjoy each other's company and all the beautiful holiday decorations too.

In 2019, there were three couples who chose the Upton House for their wedding ceremony and reception. One of those couples combined their big day with a New Year's Eve celebration. They said there was no better way to start off their life together than to ring in 2020 with their families and close friends at Harriet's lovely home.

A first-time rental event took place at the Upton House in early 2020 when several photographers and their subjects arrived on a snowy January day. A professional photographer from Strongsville, who discovered our facility on our website, joined with other colleagues from Columbus, Akron and the Cleveland area for group photo shoots. For them, it was a networking opportunity. For us, it was a way to showcase the beautiful home at 380 Mahoning Avenue in downtown Warren. Not surprising, it was a success for both and all who attended were greatly impressed. The organizers, who have held similar events at other northeastern Ohio locations, said they would like to return with different photographers in the summer when the garden is at its finest.

Perhaps you will consider holding an interesting gathering at the Upton House in the future. It's a great place for almost any type of an event. Feel free to call me at 330-392-4202 to schedule one.

Membership Report *By Sandy Mahaffey*

Membership letters were sent out in January for the annual membership drive. We are grateful for those who are committed to the Upton Association. They keep Harriet's memory alive, support her home, and make repairs for this 150 year old house. Also, we support the gardens and the Women's Park across the street. I know you have enjoyed our beautiful flowers and the Park. Thanks go to all the volunteers who lovingly take care of the Women's Park and Harriet's Home. Memberships are always available. Forms are at the House or I can send one to you if you call me at 330-518-6927 or email me at sjmahaffey515@gmail.com. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Women's Park Bricks

By Linda Davis

Hello Spring! Big changes will be taking place soon on the walkways in the Women's Park as we finally begin replacing the old 8x8 inch pavers, which have become weathered and hard – and in some cases impossible – to read.

At this time, about 50 bricks, beginning at the mailbox entrance and extending around the “every woman” statue circle, are being engraved and will be replaced in the coming weeks. It will probably take several more months, but I hope the task of replacing all of the worn bricks will be completed by the end of this year.

Thanks again to Judi Sheridan for finding a new source for the \$100 bricks (8x8). Our engraver, Rick Ambrosia of Etchings Unlimited in Cortland, has assured me that the smoother surface of these new pavers will allow him a better, cleaner cut and hopefully alleviate the issues we have experienced in the past.

Additionally, we have new orders totaling \$1750 from the Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs. Many thanks the club for their support of Upton's Women's Park and to President Margaret Petrosky for submitting the orders. The Club is honoring the current president and ALL past presidents.



A temporary brick needs to be set in place when a brick is removed to be returned to the engraver. Ken is becoming a master at digging up bricks and replacing them!

Thank you to Ken Conklin for installing the backlog of bricks that were engraved and waiting to be placed. Another thanks to both Ken and Elaine (his wife) for their work deciphering what was written on the first fifty 8x8 bricks that will be replaced.

For comments or questions, please send a message to my email at kewpish1@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER REPORT

By Marti Flint

Once again, our volunteer members have been a great help with all the Upton projects. As we begin 2020, a variety of activities are planned and there will be many interesting ways to get involved. Those who love gardening can be a part of the committee that maintains Harriet's gardens during the spring and summer months. The gardens are a lovely backdrop to all the events held at the house. Members can have lots of fun and fellowship helping with the summer and holiday sales while sorting and selling all the donated treasures. The Women's Park is always a busy place during the summer months and that group always welcomes extra hands in maintaining the grounds. As the holidays approach helpers are needed to decorate the house. Mrs. Claus takes over the house in December to host young guests. Many are needed to make this a success. We hope you will join us in one of the volunteer groups. For information, please call Marti Flint at (330) 772-5623.



Curator Report

By Sandra Sarsany

The Harriet Taylor Upton House has earned many honors and accolades over the years, and this year it was selected by the J.M. Smucker Company to be the featured historic home on the company's annual holiday plate. This is something the Smucker's Company does every year at Christmas. This plate is the 48th in a series portraying the works of David Coolidge.

President Janet Schweitzer gave the company permission to copy the image of the house and information about the Upton House is on the back of the plate. The plates came packaged with two jars of jam and are available for sale. There are a couple in the Upton Gift Shop. Or you can purchase directly from Smucker's at <https://shop.smucker.com/smuckers-2019-christmas-plate-gift-box>.

Report: Story Time with Mrs. Claus

By Mrs. Claus

At total of 33 boys and girls participated in the Upton's 2019 Story Time with Mrs. Claus sessions. The Nutcracker story was this year's theme and the children made an ornament of the head of a Nutcracker. They also decorated a candy-land frame for their individual photograph with Mrs. Claus. Listening to stories read by Mrs. Claus, the children also joined in singing some holiday favorites – Up on the Housetop, Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman. The children were served a light lunch. With big smiles on their faces, and after giving Mrs. Claus a hug (the BEST gift to give and get), the children left with an activity booklet and special decorated cookie. Once again, the grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles were treated to a history lesson and sweet treats in the Upton library.

As with all of the Upton activities and events, they wouldn't happen without our loyal volunteers. Mrs. Claus is grateful for her volunteers – Ginnie Baran, Caleigh and Colleen Calvey, Liz Clark, Stephanie Furano, Esther Gartland, Koreen Palm, JoAnn Roberts, Deborah Rudloff, Ava & Gina Sheller, Sue Stoddart, Pam Vines and Charlene Wilson.



House Report

By Ken Conklin

The big gray house on Mahoning Avenue has survived another winter and continues to serve the community well. We want to thank Rosemary Sebring for purchasing LED light bulbs for the House. I am sure we will save so much money on electricity that Ohio Edison will probably think we've changed to candlelight. We also thank Kathy Lepro for overseeing the rentals of the House. Kathy, you are an asset to the organization.

I would like you to take this short quiz and test your memory:

1. When was Harriet's House built? **1830, 1840, 1850**
2. Who was the seamstress who made the window treatments for the rooms on the first floor? **Sandy Sarsany, Roslyn Hahn, Betsy Ross**
3. When was the dining room redecorated? **2011, 2012, 2013**
4. What year was the Parlor piano built? **1835, 1860, 1850**
5. Who made the wool rug in the display kitchen?
Martha Washington, Lucille Hourigan, Liz Clark
6. Who donated the desk in the front hall?
Susan B. Anthony, Barb Wright, Dolly Madison
7. When was the Parlor redecorated? **2008, 2009, 2010**
8. When did Harriet come back home? **2009, 2010, 2011**
9. When was the upstairs opened to the public? **2013, 2014, 2015**
10. When did Barbara Bush come to town? **1996, 1997, 1998**
11. When was the Women's Park established? **2003, 2004, 2005**
12. When did the Upton House become a National Historic Landmark?
1992, 1993, 1994

I hope you pass the test! *Please see answer key on Page 5.*

'Valiant Visionaries of the Vote'

By Janet Schweitzer

Northeast Ohio representatives of many historic groups have been working on a Trading Card Tour to celebrate the work of local suffragists in our area such as Harriet Taylor Upton, Elizabeth Hauser, Frances Jennings Casement, Dr. Julia Porter Green, Ruth Fisher Munn and Betsey Mix Cowles, among others.



Sunday afternoon Open Houses have been scheduled at historic homes and sites throughout the region. They are scheduled for May 3, June 7, July 5 and August 2 from 2-4 p.m. The program area includes Trumbull, Geauga, Ashtabula, Columbiana and Mahoning counties. Trading Cards will be available as well as souvenirs.

The Upton Association, representing the Centennial Consortium, has been awarded a grant from the Ohio Humanities to present the program, "Valiant Visionaries of the Vote."

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Visit our website for the latest updates:
www.uptonhouse.org

Garden Report: 2019 Volunteer Hours Totaled 290.5

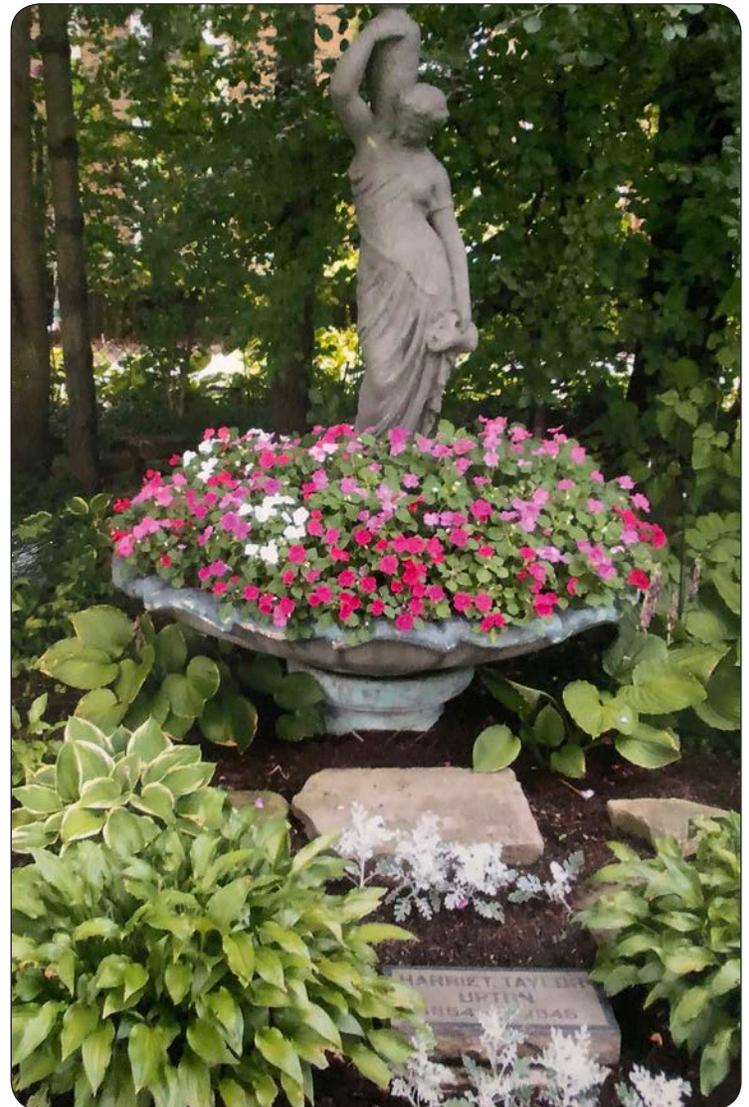
By Carol Olson

As I sit at my computer and look outside, I cannot believe that I am writing a report about the garden...it looks more like Christmas with all the snow and ice. But gardeners love to see some snow and feel some cold in the winter because it can mean garden preparations for the upcoming season may be less arduous without as many weeds whose seeds were killed during the winter season. Our last garden session of 2019 was in November when we put Harriet's Gardens to bed. Hopefully, all the garden volunteers have cleaned and sharpened their tools to get ready for spring.

The number of garden volunteers was small but faithful. They were Hank Angelo, Ruth Ann Capito, Ken Conklin, Joyce Fleischer, Pam Rintala, Deborah Rudloff, Phyllis Savakis, Kathy Seemann and Marilyn Thomas – a great group! We did not have to fight as much with the Bishop's Weed or onion plants this past summer. I did spray the Bishop's Weed and was successful in some areas. The only area it became a "thug" was in the front bed behind the Boxwood. The Dusty Miller in Harriet and Kay's area looked lovely all season and accented the vibrant pink impatiens in the Lady in the Fountain. We also created a border of Dusty Miller on the Monroe side. The stone border that lines the side of the driveway still looks great thanks to Todd Pippenger and Hank Angelo. The stones were discovered when we started digging and leveling in the driveway bed. We will make plans for what to permanently plant there at the Kick-off Luncheon. Kay Fisher had donated 2 decorative garden stones shaped like bells. One was placed in the driveway bed and the other one is displayed by the patio. The Pachysandra donated by Bonnie Hood survived in some of the areas where it was planted, but every gardener knows that transplanting plants gives them a shock. So, next year we look forward to them becoming fuller. We also purchased a "Pseudo" stone to cover some of our hoses. The money came from the donation by "Lost in Spanx," the Tribune's third place weight loss winners. The birdbath was bleached, cleaned and put into storage. Annuals were not removed until after "Make a Difference Day," October 12, because they continued to look healthy until November when they were removed from the stone pots and the fountain, cut up and put into the compost bin.

Carol met with Matt Martin, Executive Director Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, to discuss the damaged and cracked slate stones in the walkways. He may be able to help the Upton with manpower when we decide what we are going to do. There is one company in Warren that sells the slate stones. Hank has also investigated boy/girl scouts to see if one group would take on the stones as a project. Ken, Dan and I took turns raking leaves as they came down. There were not as many leaves around the patio area since many tree branches were removed. The biggest issue is that all the trees do not shed their leaves at the same time, so the process dragged on and on into the colder fall days.

Gardening remains the #1 pastime in America and I invite anyone to join in the fun in 2020. Our plans for our "Kick off" Luncheon will



have to be confirmed at a later date since we now must quarantine ourselves. Just let me know via email at candols4848@gmail.com if you plan to work in Harriet's gardens in 2020, so I know who to contact later. Things are even uncertain about obtaining plants from TCTC, since the classes on site were canceled. I will keep you posted.

Looking forward to seeing Harriet's dedicated volunteers with some new ones in Harriet's Garden in 2020!

ANSWERS TO THE "HOUSE REPORT" QUIZ ON PAGE 4:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| 1. 1840 | 7. 2009 |
| 2. Roslyn Hahn | 8. 2011 |
| 3. 2013 | 9. 2015 |
| 4. 1860 | 10. 1998 |
| 5. Lucille Hourigan | 11. 2003 |
| 6. Barb Wright | 12. 1993 |

Education Report

By Liz Clark

This past month, Education committee members Ginnie Baran and Liz Clark were busy attending meetings for the Wean Neighborhood Success Program. We were interviewed by three YSU students and another young lady. We were also invited to attend another session on March 15 to display our children's booklets, letters from the children, pictures and other artifacts about our program. We are still awaiting notification that we will be a recipient of one of the program's grants.

We were privileged to host 20 Cleveland Montessori High School students, along with their teacher Mr. Buzzard, here in Harriet's home. These students were extremely attentive and interested in learning every aspect about Harriet, the Upton House, and women's suffrage. Our own Howland High School Principal (retired) Chuck Hahn assisted with sharing details and leading the students through the house tour.

We are grateful to Bonnie Hood for taking pictures of the Perkins Mansion basement. Photographs show areas of the basement that have not been seen; areas that identify parts of the original home, especially the hand cut stone; stone that might have been cut at the old stone quarry on North Road.

The Upton school tours went especially well last autumn. The reason – we have well-trained docents and the weather cooperated! Receiving letters from the students, and especially the teachers, have boosted our ego enough to want to conduct our tours this year. The teachers have expressed their appreciation by telling us the tours of Ohio history have improved and changed the dynamics in their classrooms for the

whole year. Each 4th grade child receives a booklet about Trumbull County. The booklet includes coloring and drawing activities. Also, they receive a free Upton membership card and a ziplock bag with instructions on collecting litter around their homes, a plastic glove and a litter bag. Thanks to the Wean grant, this year we will be giving the children new booklets with stories about Harriet and her childhood.

In honor of the Poland Ohio Library's anniversary celebration, a donation to the Upton Foundation was received for my lecture on Women's Struggle for Suffrage.

Thirty-six executives from the Chamber of Commerce visit annually for a lecture and tour of the Upton and Perkins Mansion. Sandee Skovran and Gail Maurice are docents in the Perkins Mansion, and I cover Harriet's home. This year, the top 10th grade student from each county – Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull – will be welcomed.

The Education committee enjoyed entertaining the parents and grandparents at the annual Story Time with Mrs. Claus event. We serve tea, coffee and cookies while they listen to Harriet's story and her efforts in the struggle for women's rights. Many who have been here before like to choose the story. This past December Martha Washington was their choice.

I'd like to express my gratitude to our faithful, always available, hard-working docents: Ginnie Baran, Linda Davis, Joyce Fleischer, Bonnie Hood, Sandy Mahaffey, Kris Majcher, Vonnie Peterson, Marybeth Roman, Sue Smith, Janet Schweitzer, Sandee Skovran, Sue Stoddart and Bonnie Williams.

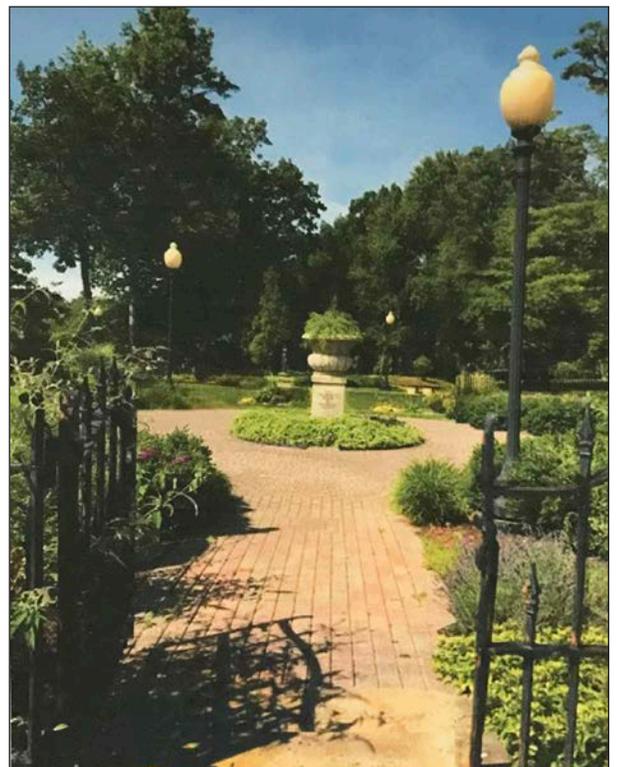
WOMEN'S PARK REPORT

By Marti Flint

The face of the Women's Park has a new look. The serene background of the Lady's statue has been changed due to the removal of the trees on City property. Although this has been a trying time, the Park will survive and continue to be a jewel for the city of Warren. The Park is coming alive after a winter's rest. The spring bulbs are sending up green shoots and buds to signal flowers will soon appear. The shrubs and trees in the Park are also showing signs that leaves and flowers will be coming soon. Now is an exciting time in the Park, as we will be removing the net from the pond and enjoying the antics of the fish. It is the time when we will trim, prune and weed to get ready for all spring and summer events.

The Park will host many events this year as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Stop by the Park to enjoy the spring weather and have a relaxing walk. We always welcome new volunteers. Please contact Marti at 330-772-5623.

Join Us!



**Mark Your Calendars
Now for the 2020
Garage Sale Dates!
July 17 & 18
November 20 & 21**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SPEAKER *By Judi Sheridan*

December 1, 2019, saw a full house in the dining room at the Upton House where the Christmas season started in a very special way. Reverend John Ferris, who has been doing the stage version of "The Christmas Carol" done by Dickens himself for more than 50 years received a standing ovation when he finished his presentation. Ferris complimented the audience for their response to the classic tale. The story was followed by a Victorian dinner prepared by Judi Sheridan and served by Upton board members. The first course included local artisan cheeses and sausages and pickled quail eggs. The entrée was a duck leg confit accompanied by cheesy scalloped potatoes and maple glazed carrot sticks. Dessert was a fruited rice pudding. It was a wonderful way to start the holiday season.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE *By Judi Sheridan*

The first of our programs celebrating 100 years of Women's Suffrage was held on February 5. Light refreshments started at 9:30 a.m. preceded the program at 10 a.m. The speaker was Ginny Seifert from Austinburg, OH, whose ancestor Betsey Mix Cowles was an ardent abolitionist who started the long road to Women's Suffrage following the Civil War. Ms. Seifert was in costume as she discussed her ancestors' life and times.

On March 4, we welcomed Carole Starre Kmiciek from Lakewood, OH. In costume, she portrayed Clara Barton (1821-1912) telling us of her life, her loves, her nursing work on the front lines during the Civil War and her founding of the Red Cross in America in 1881, after she learned of the Swiss-inspired global Red Cross, which was developed in Europe. Once again, the dining room was filled with spectators who all wore hand-made (by Sandra Sarsany) paper nurses' hats as they sat and listened to the entertaining presentation.

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA!

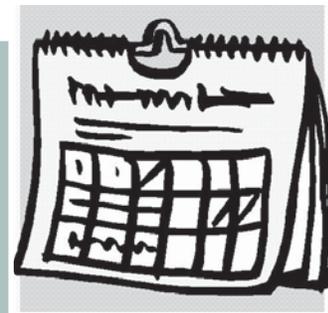
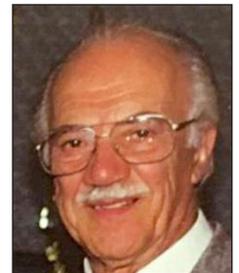
By Liz Clark

GARDEN TRELIS - Maxwell Parents' Memory

This beautiful little oasis in our backyard was built by John Monsanty, especially for E. Carol Maxwell in memory of her mother and father. It is a quiet spot where you can read a book, eat your lunch or just be quiet. Thank you, John!



The death of John Monsanty brought many good memories of a great man and a person dedicated to make the Upton yard and garden beautiful. He helped design the fence, constructed it at his home and brought it to the Upton garage to be painted and then installed. When certain parts of the fence began to deteriorate, he restored them. Again, thank you, John!



IT'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TIME!

Please renew your membership
now to be included
in the 2020 celebrations!

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