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Welcome.

As the entertainment part of this evening, we are here to present the Grafton Garden Club year in Review, 2007-2008. This Year has been full of exciting opportunities, hands-on workshops, and informative sessions

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As this Year started, the club elected a new treasurer, and the rest of the Executive board stayed the same. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the treasurer submitted her resignation and was accepted reluctantly. As an emergency fix, the president stepped down; the vice president became the President pro tem. Then the ex pres was appointed treasurer and the executive board was back in business. The board wants to thank Connie for all her help with the transition, one more time

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On October 9th, Don returned to talk to us during our Welcome Back meeting at the Municipal Center. Don talked about fall gardening and what steps gardeners should take in the fall to help insure better gardens and healthier plants next year. As usual, Don was a very entertaining speaker with lots of useful information and interesting stories.

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Again, this year, the Club decorated the Willard house in time for Grafton Celebrates the Holidays. We want to thank all the members who helped make the Willard House and Clock Museum period-appropriate decorations. Many appreciative comments were received about the decorations and the Willard House thanked us for our efforts.

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The same night that we decorated the Willard House. Members and Friends gathered at the Corey Barn to create mantel displays for the mantel contest during "Grafton Celebrates the Holidays" or personal use.

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On December 2nd, the Club participated in "Grafton Celebrates the Holidays" with an informational table at The Community Barn. There was a great computer Slide show of Club activities as well as the collection of Press Releases & President Letters, which we now call Letters from the Board and our stand-up display. We did pinecone bird feeders in the basement again this year for the kids.

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On December 11th, the Club held our annual Holiday Party at the Municipal Center. Denise demonstrated how to create winter floral displays. Two lucky winners made their own centerpieces that they kept, and Denise donated one as a door prize.

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On February 12th we gathered at the Corey Barn again and created miniature Valentine arrangements. It is always amazing how different people can take the same raw ingredients and create unique items. From tea cups to votive holders were utilized as containers for the beautiful arrangements.

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On March 11th, we presented a well attended slide show on day-lilies. Nick, a hybridizer from Auburn, brought his slides of beautiful day lilies and his stories of the history of hybridization to the Municipal Center. He answered questions from the audience about day lilies and passed on tips & explanations about hybridization.

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On April 8th, Donna from Wild Blossoms Aromatherapy lead an Aromatherapy workshop where club members & the public learned the benefits of different essential oils & created individualized room or plant sprays for specialized purposes. Donna passed around some oils so we could pick the ones that would most appeal to us or that would perform the desired effect like calming or energizing.

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April 26th, was the third annual Grafton Community Day the Grafton Garden Club organized the day where, once again, businesses & residents came together to help clean up the public area in Grafton. Troop 107 kicked off the day with a great pancake breakfast. Then we handed out bags and gloves on the common. Lunch was a barbecue from the Buggy Whip. We had hot dogs & hamburgers, chips, water, cookies all provided by our wonderful sponsors. This event directly impacts Grafton, and as you can see, the Welcome to Grafton sign on 140 by Shrewsbury has approved our curb appeal in the last three years.

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On May 17th, we held our major fundraising event or the Scholarships & Grants the Club awards. The weather started the day by being not terrific, but the sun broke through the clouds by 9am, and it turned into a wonderful day to buy plants. The club thanks all the members that helped at the tables and all others that came & purchased plants. Special thanks to Denise for getting & transporting the plants for the sale.

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Which brings us to tonight...

We want to thank Pat & Don, Judy, and Olive for opening their homes to us for the tour and meeting.

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As voted by the members, for next year, the president will be Chrystal, the Vice president will Pauline, Secretary Helen, Treasurer Deb. Heading the scholarship committee is Barbara the telephone committee is Jo & Sandra. After many years of dedicated service as Membership chair, Dorothy is leaving the Executive Board and Margo is stepping in. The duties of the hospitality chair will vary by meeting. The annual tea chair is still to be announced, and the past president is still Josephine.

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In addition, do not forget that we have group discount tickets for the Newport Flower Show Mansions Tour. The Club will carpool down on June 29th to see the Flower Show and two other mansions. There are a couple of seats left if you are interested. See Helen for details.

In addition, that concludes the Grafton Garden Club year in Review. Thank you for attending.