

THE FRIENDLY GARDENERS

A History of
The Berkeley Garden Club
1932 - 2007



by Barbara Holden

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to

Roberta Ghertner

A long time member, Past President
and inspirational gardener,
who made this publication possible
by her generous bequest.

Berkeley Garden Club
2007

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Club shall be to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs; to aid in the protection of native flora and fauna; and to encourage civic plantings.

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INTRODUCTION

From the earliest records of the Berkeley Garden Club, which fortunately were meticulous and abundant, it was evident the Club members were anything but ordinary. The founding women were dedicated to gardening, to the study of botany, and to community service. They went about these pursuits with a passion and good humor that still radiates from its members seventy-five years later. In 2005 the Club initiated a plan to chronicle the organization's remarkable history from the volumes of minutes, historian's reports, newspaper clippings, photographs and rosters. A committee was formed for that purpose and I was invited to author the book. It was an honor I readily accepted.

In the midst of searching through the mountain of information provided to me both in original format and in summary by committee members, it became apparent that while I would be able to report specifics of what was done, when, and by whom, the flavor of the group, that is, the members' sense of humor, their intelligence, dedication, and passion would best be conveyed by the members themselves in their own words. Therefore, much of the text in this book has been transcribed directly from the original records and may contain grammatical errors.

I made an attempt to credit the authors for passages included, but have not done so in all cases. Therefore, while you read through these pages, please keep in mind that the eloquence of language in most cases belongs not to me but to the Club member who took the time to keep the detailed records. I hope you enjoy their charming accounts as much as I did when I read through them for the first time.

-Barbara Holden