



# THE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS FEDERATION

## E Newsletter

Issue 22

January 2011

## Happy and Healthy 2011

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### CCGF Meetings

February 8 – Executive  
Board meeting

**March 8** – General  
membership meeting &  
**ELECTIONS**

Meetings are held at  
Judson Manor,  
1890 East 107 Str.  
at 6:30pm

### CCGF Elections Coming Up

With the first of the year here, elections for trustee positions on the Executive Board are coming up in March.

Joyce Mariani, Italian Garden delegate, kindly agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee chairperson. Please contact Joyce if you are interested in assisting her on the committee, or if you are willing to serve as a CCGF Trustee. Four trustee positions are up for elections. If you feel that things could be better, that you have ideas for the organization, please contact Joyce directly or contact this newsletter ([paulb54@centurytel.net](mailto:paulb54@centurytel.net)). It is important that people step up and are willing to serve! Please consider doing that when the nominating committee calls.

### Dues are Due

As per our By-laws, Garden dues are to be paid by the end of January. It is important that the Gardens are in good standing so that their delegates are eligible to vote!

Voting in the elections of the Officers and Trustees of CCGF is the primary duty of the delegates and it is the process that keeps this organization functioning. Please, make sure your garden is current and plan on attending the March meeting to cast your vote as a representative of your garden.

All delegates must be “Friends of the Gardens” (\$20) in order to vote.

*To submit articles, photos - low resolution please, and other information, send e-mail to Paul Burik at [paulb54@centurytel.net](mailto:paulb54@centurytel.net)*

## Holiday Dinner



Rev. Fr. Remus Grama

The annual Holiday Dinner was held on Tuesday, December 14 at St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Cathedral on Warren Road in Lakewood.

The 114 attendees experienced a great hospitality provided by our host. The dinner was preceded by a guided tour of the church and museum by Rev. Fr. Remus Grama (shown at left). It was a great opportunity to find out many interesting facts about the Church and the Romanian history.

The large and modern reception hall had an eye catching frieze depicting the Romanian history. This artwork was imported from a World Exhibition and incorporated into the décor here. Food was plentiful and tasty, bar was available featuring Romanian wines. By now a traditional raffle of specialty items provided by the individual Gardens raised \$405 for the Federation.

Mary Hamlin, CCGF Executive Secretary and chair of the Activities Committee, organized the Holiday Dinner – thank you Mary. Paula Tilisky prepared a photo show documenting the events in the Gardens that took place in 2010. Thank you Paula and thank you to all the delegates that provided photos!



Sam K. Kim and the Korean delegation present to Federation as President Paul Burik views the documents.

## Korean Community Contemplates a Garden

At the January CCGF meeting, representatives from the Korean community in Cleveland made a presentation proposing a new garden. They have looked at available locations and received input from the delegates.

## Volunteers to Help in the Gardens

On April 16th, volunteers from Global Youth Service Day will be available to help us get the Gardens ready for another season. It is a great opportunity to get all the twigs picked up, turn over the flower beds, or any other tasks done. You must be available to supervise the work, bring tools if needed – shovels, rakes; remember the volunteers do not know what you want done.

Contact Bill Jones if you are interested in this help. Do it in advance so that he can plan the effort. [cleculturalgardens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cleculturalgardens@sbcglobal.net)

We are fortunate that many organizations, especially the schools, are showing interest in the Gardens! Not only to see them but to help. This brings people to the gardens, often for the first time, and instills a special bonding to the park.



Dr. Dubai performs at the Polish Garden, Ben Stefanski assist with page turning

## Grand Piano; el fresco

On October 17, 2010 the bust of composer Chopin was reinstalled in the Polish Garden. Ben Stefanski and the Polish American Cultural Center did a spectacular job to celebrate the event. All this was topped off by a concert grand piano brought to the Garden. Dr. David Dubai, professor at Julliard School of music in New York City, performed Chopin's compositions to delight the attendees. Dr. Dubai surprised all when he announced that he grew up in the neighborhood, just blocks away.

*Special concert featuring Chopin will be performed at Severance Hall on 2/14 at reduced prices for CCGF members and friends - \$15 main floor seating!! Contact Gary Kotlarsic at [gkotslarsic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gkotslarsic@sbcglobal.net).*

The Polish community is already planning a dedication of a Paderewski bust in their Garden for July. Congratulations!

## Holiday Traditions – just a glance at cultures found in the Rockefeller Park (re-printed from 2009 issue)

In the spirit of “mutual understanding” - a guiding principle of the CCGF, a quick look at how we celebrate the holiday season brings a variety to the forefront.

Bishop St. Nicholas is honored on December 6th by many nationalities, including the Czech, Slovaks, Germans and Slovenians. A figure dressed as a bishop accompanied by a devil and an angel delivers small gifts of fruit or chocolate to children that were good, the devil threatens with rattling chains the not so good youth.

For our Jewish community, Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) typically takes place in December. It celebrates freedom from oppression by lighting a candle each night of the eight nights of the festival. Originally oil was used rather than candles. Eating fried foods, using oil, became associated with Hanukkah. Today potato pancakes (latkes) and jelly donuts (sufganeot) are fried foods consumed in quantities.

Similarly the Muslim community celebrates Aid Al Fitr during the same period but lasting only three days. Communal and family gatherings are common, in particular breakfast gathering before visiting the mosque. Gift giving for either Hanukkah or Aid Al Fitr was not traditional until modern times in Western nations.

On December 25th all Christians celebrate Christmas – the celebration of birth of Christ. The symbolic Christmas tree decoration originated in Germany and spread to most nations. The tree is traditionally decorated with candy wrapped in foil, fruits, nuts and lit with candles (now electric). The tree magically appears as a gift from the “Christ Child” on Christmas Eve to children in Germany, Czech and Slovak Republics.

## Year End Report

Reminder: Each garden is to submit a “Year End Report” highlighting their accomplishments in 2010.

The report should be no more than a page long, it should highlight any events or improvements made this year, credit people involved and list any sponsors. Photos are welcome. Please submit your reports to Bill Jones at [cleculturalgardens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cleculturalgardens@sbcglobal.net) as soon as possible!

#### GARDEN WEB SITES:

##### **Cultural Gardens Site**

[www.culturalgardens.org](http://www.culturalgardens.org)  
[clevelandculturalgardens.org](http://clevelandculturalgardens.org)

##### **Czech Garden**

[czechculturalgarden.webs.com](http://czechculturalgarden.webs.com)

##### **Irish Garden**

[www.irishgardenclub.org](http://www.irishgardenclub.org)

##### **Hungarian Garden**

[hungarianculturalgarden.org](http://hungarianculturalgarden.org)

##### **Slovenian Garden**

[www.cleslo.com/scga/](http://www.cleslo.com/scga/)

##### **Special**

**acknowledgement to**  
[ClevelandPeople.com](http://ClevelandPeople.com)

This e-newsletter was  
produced by Paul Burik  
for the CCGF. **Feel  
free to pass it on!**

In Ireland holly and ivy are brought into the home, a tradition that predates Christianity. Candles in the windows to aid the travelers of all kind but especially to the Holy Family of Mary and Joseph are common in many cultures. In Ireland traditionally the door is left unlocked (note; traditionally). Gifts are exchanged between the family members most often on Christmas eve, sometimes on Christmas Day. In Latvia “Ziemassvetku Vecitis” figure similar to Santa Clause but with Latvian designs on his coat presents the gifts. In Ireland it is “Santy” or “Father Christmas”.

Food plays a major role in the holiday celebration. Christmas eve dinner is not right without fish for the Czechs. The Slovenians also serve fish or pork. Pork and sauerkraut are served by the Latvians, Germans like pork and red cabbage. Lamb, turkey or pork, grape leaves and Greek salad is the choice of the Greek community, topped off by “baklava” pastry. Goose with rashers (bacon) is the Irish favored. Potica (nut-rolled bread) is traditional desert for the Slovenians, and a tort is the German favored. Piparkukas (thin spice cookie baked in variety of seasonal shapes) is the Latvian snack.

The African American community starts celebrating Kwanza on December 25, Christmas day. Seven candles are lit each subsequent day to represent desired principles: Unity, Self-determination, Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. The candles are black, green and red to represent the color of the flag.

The Greek Orthodox followers, as represented by the Greek Garden focus on Feast Day of Saint Basil on January 1<sup>st</sup>. In the mother country, gifts were exchanged then to honor St. Basil who was known to return riches to the people. This is symbolized by “vasilopita”, a loaf of bread with a coin baked inside representing the riches returned.

The India Garden represents the Hindu followers. Their holidays start with Vaikunta Ekadasi – a “Heaven Gate” on December 20<sup>th</sup>. North facing doors on temples are opened indicating that gate to heaven is open. Many sects consider Christ to be re-incarnation of Lord Vishnu (Krishna) and thus participate in celebration of Christmas. Gifts are exchanged on Christmas day morning. Much of the food is vegetarian, but some prepare mutton curry on Christmas day.

Music plays a roll in all celebrations. The very popular “Silent Night” has strong roots in Europe and has been translated to many languages.

Epiphany, the baptism of Jesus Christ on January 6<sup>th</sup> generally represents the conclusion of the Holiday season.

This very simplistic overview of the customs of the various cultures represented in the Gardens, illustrates the broad span of traditions and the need to know and understand in order to achieve “**peace through mutual understanding**”.