

## THE BOW GARDEN CLUB GOES NATIONAL!



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- Sogkonate Garden Club in Rhode Island canceled its Earth Day project, but members were on hand to assist in the town's cleanup.
- Many planned gardening projects that focused on working closely with children were postponed. Members of Bow Garden Club in New Hampshire and Saybrook Garden Club in Connecticut compiled planting kits for local children and distributed them at the local library via curbside pickup.



Members of Bow Garden Club in New Hampshire distributed planting kits. Photo courtesy of Bow Garden Club.

### Fundraising in the pandemic

Garden club members brainstormed and mined opportunities in which they could host fundraisers that would continue to fund their many programs:

- Garden clubs in Natick, Massachusetts, and Windham, New Hampshire, held successful online plant sales. Club websites included information on the plants for sale and how the public could preorder; locations and times for pickup, as well as listed parameters on wearing masks and social distancing during pickup.
- Members of Bow Garden Club in New Hampshire held a "Plant-less Plant Sale." The club spearheaded a community outreach effort, sending informational flyers on the club's ongoing role in the planting and maintenance of the town's "beauty spots" in the community – and how the club relies on plant sales to cover those expenditures.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. recently published an article titled "Shifting Strategies" in their Winter 2021 issue of *"The National Gardener."* The TNG is a quarterly news publication sent to all National Garden Club officers and committee members, state presidents, their 5,000 club presidents and subscribers.

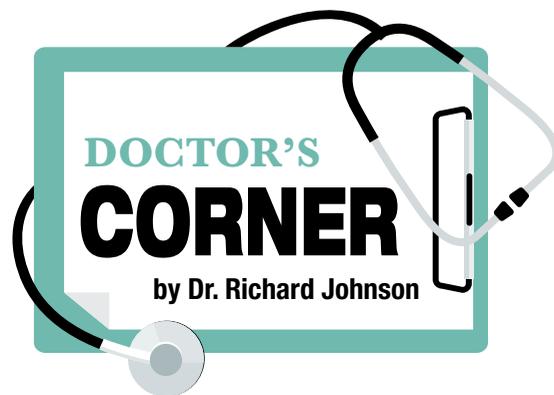
We were delighted to learn that the Bow Garden Club was mentioned, not once, but three times in the article. (1) Under the heading "Getting creative during COVID-19", the "Drive-Thru Planting Kit Pick-Up" project we held in the Community Building parking lot in June recognizing "National Garden Week" was reported on, accompanied by a photo; (2) We were recognized for our innovative and very successful "Plant-Less Plant Sale" under the heading "Fundraising in the pandemic" and (3) We were acknowledged for launching the new club newsletter that we designed to keep in touch with all our members through these Covid times "Yay us"!

Visit the following link to view our article in The National Gardener Winter 2021 edition at: [www.gardenclub.org/sites/defaultfiles/2021-01/tng-winter-2021-final-01.pdf](http://www.gardenclub.org/sites/defaultfiles/2021-01/tng-winter-2021-final-01.pdf)

For more information visit our website at: [www.bowgardenclub.org](http://www.bowgardenclub.org)  
or contact Club President Keryn Anderson at: [kerynanderson@ericandkeryn.com](mailto:kerynanderson@ericandkeryn.com)

I am writing this on 10 January 2021. Whether people are talking about the Yellowstone fires of 1988 or the recent forest fires in CA, reference is made to the "conditions" that contributed to the disasters. There have been many voices saying that the political "conditions" in our country made it ripe for a conflagration. We have seen peaceful rallies turn deadly, we have seen innocent people killed, we now have seen an assault on the seat of our republic, and we are in the midst of a pandemic that seems to be claiming more lives every day and, in several locations, is overwhelming the medical care systems. I would like to add my voice to the thought that "conditions" can be a real factor in what happen... medically, socially, politically, and culturally. Certainly, we all can understand that in this pandemic those with "underlying conditions" have been hit the hardest and are therefore being given priority for vaccination. In reading the book *Educated* one can viscerally feel how "conditions" within a family can affect a person's whole life. Much has been written on the how the "conditions" in Europe following WWI contributed to the rise of Hitler.

We, today, are part of the cultural fabric that is the "condition" of our time. We might be advocating for an "ism" of one persuasion or another. We might be part of the "condition" that is posting on social media against "the other side" and unwilling to try to understand their perspective. We might be so closed minded and passionate that we cannot see another perspective; we are right, and they are wrong. We see the world through the lens of our particular "ism." I quote Dr. Diane Langberg: *"We are servants to our rage, killing with guns and fists, beating spouses and children, and often snuffing out our own lives in the process of ruining theirs. Most horrifying of all – we do, indeed, get used to it."* This has become our cultural fabric, and it is a highly flammable fabric. In saying that, I do not absolve anyone who strikes the match,



## THE CONDITION OF OUR SOCIETY



but I would plead for a change in our cultural fabric.

Can we get to a less incendiary place, can we become a nation of persons that will not burst into flames when a match is dropped? To do so will require us to feel the regret of our behavior and change our minds and attitudes. Moral leaders can give us good advice:

"When we truly repent of our failings, we'll be able to wash

away the five major sources of mental afflictions: greed, anger, ignorance, arrogance, and doubt. Such mental impurities, if allowed to converge and come together, cause a ferocious karmic force to arise that can destroy the peace and safety of the world. This is why it is so important to take care to reflect on ourselves and repent." (Excerpts from a speech given by Buddhist Master Cheng Yen in 2011)

"To achieve true repentance, one must not only focus on deeds done, but also on negative and destructive emotions like anger, hatred, envy, greed, and gluttony that lead people to transgress."

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/repentance>

"According to Islamic belief, repentance has a main role in the development of the human soul in its journey toward God. The act of repenting means turning ourselves toward God and asking Him to cover our shortcomings and to help us to overcome them."

<https://elijah-interfaith.org/sharing-wisdom/islam-and-repentance>

The words of Jesus: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10

The secular humanist can behave in a moral way. Indeed, the bible says that all humans have within them God's moral law.

The question remains open: Are we willing to repent and change the fabric of our culture?