



THE EARTHWORM



WINTER 2024



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WINDSOR GARDEN CLUB.
ONE OF CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST GARDEN CLUBS -
CELEBRATING 87 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EXISTENCE.

President's Message Winter 2024

Welcome to 2024 of the Windsor Garden Club – our 87th year in Windsor! This year, we hope to continue to build upon our traditions of loving plants, nature, and community, and we are glad you are here to join us.

When sitting down to share our ideas for this message, we both agreed that the Windsor Garden Club is one of Windsor's best-kept secrets. Sure, people have heard of us and come to our garden marts and garden tours, but do they really know who we are and what we are about?

While we can all agree that a secret garden is alluring, we think it's time to unlock the gate. We aim to build new partnerships and find new ways to get involved in the community to keep our club growing for another 87 years.

The future is important, but what's a future without the foundation of a past? We know we already have a fantastic team of dedicated members who return each year and devote their time, energy and plants to our cause. We want you to know how much you are appreciated, so we are



Co-President Jim Govoni (left) in his garden while it was featured on the 2023 WGC Garden Tour. Co-President Allison Joanis in her garden while it was featured on the 2021 WGC Garden Tour.

considering new ways to provide you with new activities, incentives, and opportunities as a paid member.

We are fortunate to be taking over from a fantastic 2022-23 Executive Board led by Dave Stender, who carried on our mission and made great strides, setting the ground work for future success. Thank you, Dave and team!

The promise of a new year in the garden is always exciting, and as we plant a few idea seeds, we look

forward to watching them grow along with you!

Happy new gardening year!

Jim Govoni & Allison Joanis
2024 Co-Presidents



Looking Back as WGC 2022-2023 President

By Dave Stender
Windsor Garden Club President 2022-2023

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as club president for the past two years. This was not something I had envisioned when I met Flo Barlow at the Spring Garden Mart checkout table in May 2019.

I happened to, by accident, stumble upon the event and just wanted to pick up some plants for my yard. I got so much more than that on that day; I was introduced to such a great group of people who enjoy being out in nature and spending some time playing around in the dirt, just like me. I ended up joining the club that very day.

You never know the impact you'll have on others but, when you start talking about plants and connect with another person who shares that same passion – what a great experience and way to grow your village. That

continues to this day with me and so many of you.

I thank the executive board, all who served consecutive terms along with me and helped to continue to grow the club membership and increase our clubs' interaction and education with the broader Windsor community.

We are in a strong position to further increase membership benefits and do some exciting things in the near future. I look forward to what is in store for us as club members and for the Windsor community as we continue our great work and maybe do some new things this year with our great club leadership team!

See you in the garden.
Dave Stender



Dave Stender and his contribution to the 2021 Windsor Monarch Project Upcycled Pollinator Planter Challenge. Dave also contributed planters in 2022 and 2023.



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2023 Holiday Luncheon

By Allison Joanis
2023 WGC Co-Vice President
and 2024 Co-President

We hosted another lovely Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 9, 2023 at the Officer's Club of Connecticut in Hartford. With 28 members in attendance, we had a jolly good time over a delicious buffet lunch and dessert.

During the event, we presented our two (2022 & 2023) Honorary memberships to Wendy Mitchell and Sharon Ahern for their decades of service and commitment to the Windsor Garden Club. Wendy has served as Hospitality Chair for many years and has gone above and beyond to ensure that there was hot coffee, sweet treats and healthy snacks at our meetings. Sharon Ahern has put our best foot forward with her beautiful Windsor Garden Club wreath contribution to the Wadsworth Atheneum Festival of Trees and Traditions for many years. Thank you to Wendy and Sharon!



We sure clean up nicely! A very festive crew at the 2023 Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 9, 2023 at the Officer's Club of Connecticut in Hartford.

We also presented Dave Stender with his outgoing president gift, a Steele Utility Tote, that he can fill with garden tools, seeds, plants and more while working in his garden or on other local projects. Thank you, Dave! See a photo of the gift below. Thank you to 2023 Co-Vice

President Susan Joanis for organizing this year's luncheon and Teresa Beatrice for helping out!

While we don't want the year to fly, we know there will be a lot to celebrate in 2024!



For members who missed the event, above is the bag gifted to Dave Stender by the WGC.

Our 2023 Year in Review is on YouTube!



[Watch it Here!](#)

The Windsor Garden Club now has a YouTube channel where you can watch our year in review slideshows! It's a great way to see all we did in a year. Perhaps we will add more videos in 2024—open to video ideas!

Civic Endeavors—Windsor Community Holiday Wreaths and Decor

By Allison Joanis
2023 WGC Co-Vice President and 2024
Co-President

In keeping with our time-honored holiday tradition, a group of volunteers decorated 14 wreaths and two evergreen sprays for Windsor nonprofit organizations and town buildings on November 27.

The wreaths were purchased from Woodland Gardens in Manchester and used member craft supplies and extra greenery from our yards. Wreaths were decorated and distributed later in the week.

Wreaths were on display at the following locations, Windsor Town Hall, Windsor Post Office, Poquonock Post Office, Windsor Chamber of Commerce, Windsor Public Library Main Branch and Wilson Branch, CRIS Radio, Windsor Independent Living Association, Mary's Place, Kimberly Hall North and South, Windsor Health & Rehabilitation, Viability, The Windsor Sustainability Project, Windsor Caring Connection and the Windsor Senior Center.

Special thanks to everyone who decorated wreaths, brought supplies, helped clean up and delivered wreaths around town.

Additionally, Laurie Durant added fruity festive cheer to the Windsor Historical Society! Thank you, Laurie for continuing to represent us!



Left: Our wreath on display at the Wilson Public Library.
Right: Brittany Sheehan, Executive Director of Mary's Place with our donated wreath.

Wreath Thank You Notes

Each year, we receive thank you notes from several of the locations where we donate our holiday wreaths. Read on for those acknowledgements. The cards will be available to view at the February and March meetings.

Windsor Chamber of Commerce

“Dear Windsor Garden Club, What a beautiful job you did on our holiday wreath on the front door of the Luddy House/ Windsor Chamber of Commerce office and Tourism Center for all to enjoy! Best Wishes and Happy Holidays. Sincerely, Andrew K. Surprise, Executive Director and Phyllis Stargardter, Office Manager”

Windsor Independent Living Association (WILA)

“Dear Members of the Windsor Garden Club: On behalf of everyone at WILA, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your donation of a beautifully hand crafted holiday wreath. We are happy to adorn our front door with this festive decoration, Than you for choosing WILA in spreading your holiday spirit. We wish each of you much health and happiness this holiday season. With heartfelt thanks, Jeffrey Swanson, Executive Director”

Mary’s Place

“Thank you for the donation of the handmade holiday wreath to Mary’s Place. It was wonderful to meet and chat with you ladies. It is truly because of people like you that help make the center a welcoming place for all the grieving children, teens and their families that come to us in such a difficult time in their lives. We are an approved 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation under IRS regulations. Your donation is deductible to the full extent of the law and no goods or services have been received for this gift. Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for remembering us. We are so grateful to you and look forward to seeing your beautiful creations each year. Gratefully yours, Brittany Sheehan, Executive Director”

CRIS Radio

“Dear Windsor Garden Club Members: Thank you so very much for donating the beautiful holiday wreath to CRIS Radio. It is now proudly displayed in our entryway, greeting our visitors and volunteers during the holiday season. We are very grateful for your donation as it creates a welcoming festive presence when people walk through our doors. Please extend our appreciation to the club members for the time they spent creating the holiday wreath and delivering it to us. Best Regards, Diane Weaver Dunne, Executive Director”

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Wadsworth Atheneum Festival of Trees Wreath

Sharon Ahern has again made the Windsor Garden Club very proud by creating a holiday wreath for the Wadsworth Atheneum Festival of Trees and Traditions in Hartford. This year, entitled Holiday Time, her wreath included festive and luxurious deep-red velvet poinsettias with gold accents and a beautiful gold ornament.

Each year, Sharon creates her masterpiece sold at the December event to raise funds for the museum’s special exhibitions, educational programs, and operating expenses. This year’s wreath was sold for \$65.

Thank you to Sharon for all the years participating in this event on behalf of the club.



Windsor Garden Club Member Spotlight—Laura Jary

By Laurie Durant
WCG Member Contributor

What can one say about Laura?

Laura has an approachable warmth about her. When I first met Laura, it was on the Town Green at a Garden Club plant sale. She approached me and asked me if I was interested in gardening and the rest is history.

A long-time Windsor resident, she attended Windsor schools and graduated from Windsor High. Growing up, she lived across the very street she now resides on and across the street from her Mom's home. She has had many jobs over the years; she worked for Ahlstrom in Windsor Locks, Easter Seals, and at the Windsor Chamber of Commerce.

Laura joined the Windsor Garden Club in 2009-2010. She served as served as the Windsor Garden Club as Vice President in 2013-2016.

She has been married to Paul Jary for 50 years. Her son, John, lives with them. She has three grand children and a daughter who resides in Rhode Island.

Here are a couple of traits Laura has that draw people to her:

- * Wonderful communicator
- * Fabulous cook (especially baking Xmas cookies)
- * Terrific gardener
- * Great organizer

Everyone in Town seems to know her. Laura has had some health issues in the past couple of years, but both John and her husband have taken excellent care of her. So if you ever see Laura at Dom's (on a Tuesday!), with her good friend Diane Bernier, please stop and say hello.



Laura Jary on the far right at the 2015 CRIS Radio garden presentation. Laura was the outgoing president this year, with Diane Bernier (far left) as the incoming. The CRIS Radio garden was a town beautification project. Also pictured is Diane Weaver Dunne, Executive Director of CRIS Radio in 2015.



Laura Jary on the far right at the 2015 Windsor Garden Club Scholarship Award presentation at the summer meeting held on June 13, 2015. Also pictured left to right are Diane Bernier, John Dehais, Samantha Dehais, Mary Dehais and Rose Stepnick (former WGC Scholarship Committee).



Prestigious All-American Selections Name 2024 Winners for Vegetables, Flowers

By Dawn Pettinelli—*The Hartford Courant*
Recommended by Jim Govoni

As we usher in the New Year, garden enthusiasts and horticulturists alike eagerly anticipate the unveiling of the All-America Selections (AAS) winners for 2024.

The AAS is a prestigious organization that annually recognizes outstanding new varieties of flowers, vegetables, and herbs that have proven their excellence through rigorous trials. Trial gardens were established throughout the United States and even as far north as Canada. New varieties, species or strains of annuals, vegetables and bedding plants are grown and evaluated based on their performance.

Two vegetables and 5 flowers were chosen as national winners this year. Those selected as winners are outstanding plants and deserve a trial in your gardens as well.

Broccoli 'Purple Magic F1' takes center stage among the vegetable winners. With its striking purple hue and exceptional taste, this broccoli variety is a standout choice for home gardeners. This easy to grow variety is tolerant to heat and stress with tight uniform heads on 30-inch tall plants. Plants should be spaced about 2 feet apart and harvests can begin about 90 days after transplant. Beyond its visual appeal, 'Purple Magic F1' offers a nutritious addition to meals,

providing both beauty and health benefits to your garden and table. For those seeking a vibrant addition to their vegetable patch, sweet pepper 'Red Impact' is a true gem. 'Red Impact' is a Lamuyo type that are typically difficult to grow because of the long time it takes these large peppers to mature to red. The 7-inch long, sweet crispy fruits have thick skins and can be harvested red or green. Plants reach up to 3 feet in height and since there can be 10 to 15 peppers per plant, staking is recommended. The dark red, uniform fruits mature in 90 days from transplant. 'Red Impact' is resistant to a number of diseases including tobacco mosaic virus.

In the realm of flowers, 'Burning Embers' celosia captures attention with its vibrant pink blooms that contrast well with its striking pink veined bronze foliage. This well-branched, vibrantly colored celosia will add drama and flair to gardens and containers. The very long-lasting flowers hold up well through periods of heat and humidity. The 8 to 9-inch plants can be spaced a foot apart in garden beds and used as edging or massed in groups. No staking or deadheading



is necessary. Blooming from late spring through frost, makes 'Burning Embers' a standout choice for those looking to infuse outdoor spaces with bold colors and distinctive shapes. Geranium lovers rejoice.

'Big EEZE Pink Batik' is a true show stopper with its large, eye-catching pink blooms that are streaked and spotted with darker pink markings in a batik-like pattern. Upright 18-inch plants are very floriferous with 4 to 5 -inch flower clusters. Deadhead to encourage continuous flowering throughout the growing season. Plants do especially well in containers and are vigorous and heat tolerant.

Impatiens 'Solarscape XL Pink Jewel' lives up to its name offering an abundance of vibrant pink blooms that will add sparkle to any garden or container. The foot high plants spread out to almost 20 inches so give them room to grow. The single pink blossoms open to almost 3 inches

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across. Plants do great in containers or in the ground and no staking or deadheading is needed. ‘Solarscape XL Pink Jewel’ will do well in sun to part shade as long as regularly watered. Gardeners will be glad to know plants are resistant to impatiens downy mildew.

With its vibrant, fully double, golden blooms and compact growth habit, marigold ‘Siam Gold F1’ is a reliable choice for borders, edging, or as a cheerful addition to mixed plantings. The 3 to 4-inch blooms are held high and continue throughout until frost if deadheaded. Staking is not needed for the sturdy 20-inch-tall plants that are tolerant of heat, drought and rain. Use the flowers in arrangements to bring a golden glow indoors. Plants are easily started from seed directly sown in the garden after the last frost date or can be started 4 to 6 weeks before the last

frost date indoors. Its ability to thrive in diverse conditions makes it a go-to option for gardeners seeking low-maintenance yet stunning floral displays.

The final national winner, Petchoa ‘En Viva Pink’, represents a unique and exciting addition to gardens and containers. This innovative hybrid combines the best qualities of petunias and calibrachos, resulting in a plant that offers the best of both worlds. Plants are loaded with bright, iridescent pink, 2 to 3-inch, yellow-throated blossoms that stand up to heat, wind and rain. These plants require no staking or dead-heading and at 10 to 16-inches high and wide would be outstanding in hanging baskets, containers or cascading over garden edges. The 2024 All America Selections national winners represent the pinnacle of horticultural



achievement. As we embrace the gardening season ahead, let these national winners inspire and guide your choices for a flourishing and vibrant outdoor space. For your gardening questions, feel free to contact us, toll-free, at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center at 877-486-6271, visit our website at www.homegarden.cahnrc.uconn.edu or contact your local Cooperative Extension center.

Windsor Historical Society Garden Sleeps Through An Upgrade



When our garden at the Windsor Historical Society wakes up this spring, she will be in for a surprise as the brick walkway framing her has been redone. It looks lovely! Here's to hoping the new pavers and installation will keep some of the weeds at bay this year! We will be publishing planting and gardening days at WHS soon. If you would like more information, see Debbie Baker.

2024 Monthly Photo Contest

Let's get creative! As gardeners we are often also skilled at documenting our garden, plants and capturing the best details of nature through our photos! So let's share, celebrate and see where it takes us!

In 2024, each month, the Windsor Garden Club will host a photo contest to feature garden, landscape, and nature photos.

Photos will be presented and voted on during social time at each club meeting with the winner announced by the end of the meeting.

The winning photo will be shared in WCG publicity materials and featured in a possible 2025 fundraising calendar!



Submission Rules and Guidelines

(any submissions not aligned with the following will be disqualified subject to an executive board review)

- * The photo can be submitted by/for a current member of the Windsor Garden Club only.
- * The photo must be taken in Windsor or the member's town of residency.
- * The photo content must be a garden, plant, landscape, nature or natural element.
- * Non-domestic animals/insects/birds are OK.
- * No photos of pets or people.
- * The photo must be taken within the contest month. (The Feb. contest will be for photos taken in Feb.)
- * Members can submit only one photo per month.
- * Submissions will be accepted by email, or printed photos can be mailed to the P.O. box by the deadline. (A member can submit a photo on the behalf of another member)
- * With the photo, the member must include the

following details: *Photographer's name. *Date photo was taken. *Location the photo was taken. *Plant/animal/insect names, if applicable. *Title the photo and write one sentence about it.

- * Votes can only be made by current members. One vote per member.
- * Executive Board members can submit photos, but cannot vote.
- * The winner does not need to be present to win.
- * Each month the winner will receive a prize TBD

Submission Dates and Information

Photos will be emailed to windsorctgardenclub@gmail.com or printouts mailed to P.O. Box 233 Windsor, CT 06095. Photos must be received each month by the below deadlines.

February 29, March 31, April 30, May 31, June 30, July 31, August 31, September 30, October 31, November 30, December 31.

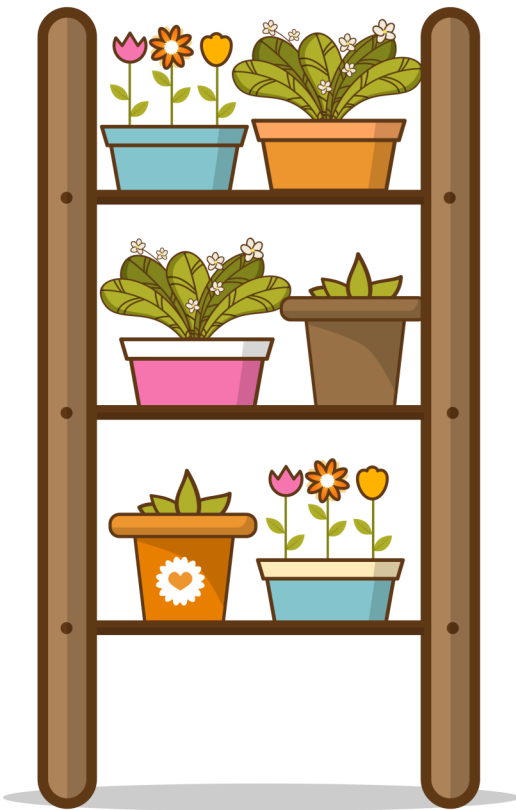
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Windsor Public Library—Main Branch

"Windsor Garden Club, On behalf of the Windsor Public Library, I'd like to thank you for the beautiful, fresh wreath that you made for everyone to enjoy. We love the birdhouses that you used to decorate it! After a couple of days on a table in our back room (where we can enjoy the evergreen scent) we'll have it on display on the Mather House portion of the library outside. Happy Holidays! Gaye Rizzo (Director WPL)"

Windsor Public Library—Wilson Branch

"To the wonderful Windsor Garden Club members—Thank you for yet another stunning holiday wreath! We, at the Wilson Branch look forward to this every year. Your creativity and generosity are unmatched. Gabbie Barns (Wilson Branch Manager)"



SAVE THE DATE!

Our 80th Spring Garden Mart

May 11, 2024

Windsor Town Green (behind the eagle) 10 am-2 pm

Plan ahead!

- ☑ We ask for the contribution of a minimum of six, labeled, potted plants from each member.
- ☑ We also ask that you attempt to pot these two weeks before the mart, so they are established and happy in their pots.
- ☑ Dave Stender will be coordinating again this year. We will have pots and sticks available for you in the spring.
- ☑ Mark your calendar, as this event requires many volunteer helpers!

Announcements

Do you have ideas for ways we can add to or improve upon things or an announcement you would like to include? We want to hear it! Please share your ideas and concerns with the 2024 Executive Board for consideration.

New Membership Information

Our membership forms will now ask your birthday (month and day only) so we can make monthly birthday announcements—this will be optional. We will also ask your preferred monthly communication method so we know how to best reach you for monthly reminders.

Phone Tree

With our new preferred method of communication information, we will only call and text you for monthly reminders if you indicate you want the call/text. We will still initiate full phone tree only for last minute changes or emergencies.

Ride-Share

We will have a sign up for those who need a ride to meetings or events. We will also have a sign up for those who are willing to drive and we will match the folks by proximity. If you are new to the club, driving a long time member is a great way to make a friend.

Speaker Meetings

In 2024, we will begin charging a min. \$5 donation fee to non-members attending our paid speaker meetings. We have five speakers per year, so tell your friends to join the club! For \$20—you get a lot more than speakers.



2023 & 2024 Budget

Line Items	FY JAN 2023 - DEC 2023 BUDGET			FY2024 PROJECTED BUDGET			COMMENTS
	YTD Actual Income	YTD Actual Expense	YTD Actual Inc-Exp	Projected Income	Projected Expense	Projected Inc-Exp	
EXPENSE							
1 Civic Endeavor/ Beautification*	115.00	-485.39	-370.39		-735.00	-735.00	*Includes several projects
2 Community Education		-96.00	-96.00		-50.00	-50.00	Includes handouts for invasive plants
3 Earthworm Distribution		-56.56	-56.56		-150.00	-150.00	
4 Executive Board		-125.48	-125.48		-150.00	-150.00	
5 Holiday Luncheon	945.00	-945.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	TBD at time of event; generally paid for by members
6 Holiday Wreath Effort		-283.46	-283.46		-400.00	-400.00	
7 Hospitality		-76.63	-76.63		-150.00	-150.00	
8 Insurance		-500.00	-500.00		-500.00	-500.00	
9 IRS Filing		-325.00	-325.00		-50.00	-50.00	Annual \$50 state filing fee for organization, plus filing fees for non-profit, possible accountant fees.
10 Membership Booklet		-210.28	-210.28		-225.00	-225.00	
11 Membership Outreach		-67.98	-67.98		-300.00	-300.00	
12 Membership Recognition			0.00		-60.00	-60.00	
13 P.O. Box Rental		-120.00	-120.00		-130.00	-130.00	
14 Programs		-300.00	-300.00		-800.00	-800.00	
15 Scholarship		-1500.00	-1,500.00		-1500.00	-1,500.00	
16 Special Event		-136.82	-136.82		-250.00	-250.00	Ex: Sept. BBQ
17 Website Hosting Fee		-265.00	-265.00		-265.00	-265.00	
INCOME							
18 Garden Mart	3,397.50	-1,050.72	2,346.78	2,700.00	-\$1,700.00	1,000.00	
19 Garden Tour (none in 2024)	4,676.83	-1,004.77	3,672.06	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	No garden tour in 2024
20 Garden Tour Raffle			0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	
21 Special Event Raffle			0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	
22 Member Dues	1,212.26	-5.00	1,207.26	1,200.00		1,200.00	
23 Miscellaneous donations	130.50		130.50			0.00	Donations for memorials & civic endeavors appear as income under civic endeavors
24 Non-member Participation Fees			0.00			0.00	
25 Non-Plant Sales	10.00		10.00			0.00	
26 Revenue from Existing Funds			0.00			0.00	
TOTALS	10,487.09	-7,554.09	2,933.00	3,900.00	-7,415.00	-3,515.00	
Checkbook Balance as of Dec. 31, 2023 = \$12,627.18				Projected checkbook balance as of Dec. 31,2024 = \$8,615			

What's Coming Up

February 22-25—Connecticut Flower & Garden Show
CT Convention Center

March 1—Read Across America Day—VOLUNTEER!
Elementary Schools around town—See Diane Bernier

March 11—Dave Stender—Make Your Own Terrarium
& Business Meeting
LP Wilson All Purpose Room 1—6:30pm
(free for members—supply cost TBD for non members)

April 8—WGC Speaker & Business Meeting
Windsor Senior Center—6:30pm

April 18—Seed Planting Day at PQ School—
VOLUNTEER!
Times TBD—See Diane Bernier

May 6—WGC MEMBERS ONLY Meeting & Plant Swap

May 11—WGC Garden Mart—Town Green
VOLUNTEER!—*See Dave Stender*

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Earthworm Content Submission Deadlines 2024

The Publicity Committee is always looking for submissions for the Earthworm, the website and social media. If you have material you would like to see published, please contact

Debbie Baker and Allison Joanis **until further notice.**

Deadlines for Earthworm material 2024:

Spring (April) issue deadline: March 25

Fall (October) issue deadline: September 26

Winter (January) issue deadline: December 9

Not a WGC member yet?

Join us!

Visit <https://windsorgardenclubct.org/membership/>

•Join electronically

•Print a form and join by mail

•Come to a meeting and join in person!

