

The weeks before holidays are always hectic. You might want to do some “community gardening” to ease your weary mind. Read on to find out about a new project at the Poulsbo Library and also some other ways to lighten your hearts and brighten your holidays.

“Botanica” landscape architect John Von Den Meerendenk designed and his crew installed the grounds around the library. Poulsbo Garden Club, Master Gardeners, Friends of the Library and members of the community will be involved in an ongoing project to maintain these newly planted areas. The first work party was Saturday December 2. But anyone who wants to participate can come join the group on Saturday December 16 and Saturday January 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. All you’ll need is yourselves and weeding tools. Come for an hour or stay for three rain or shine. It’s a great way to learn about gardening and help your community.

The new garden is modeled after Bainbridge Island Library’s. Von Den Meerendenk designed and planted the fern garden. Ann Lovejoy and her group of Friday Tidy gardeners have been weeding, enriching the soil and planting every Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for the last year and a half. If you haven’t seen the gardens at the Bainbridge Library or Poulsbo you’re in for a real treat.

The Poulsbo Library project will be guided and coordinated by the Poulsbo Garden Club. Von Den Meerendenk will compile a database of the fern collection (and later all the other plants). Library staff will be able to print out a map and visitors can stroll through the garden to learn about the plants. Gardening work parties will be every other week at first and then every week as gardening season approaches. Contact Diane DiGleria at 697-4640 for more information.

Monday, November 27, I had the extreme pleasure of helping fellow “Christmas tree angels” and gardeners Jean and Jim Lamb and our Santa’s elves Mark Lunsford and Ken Farnsworth deliver fully decorated trees to houses and businesses in Silverdale and Poulsbo. This is my fifth year being an “angel.” It’s fun to call up the tree receivers and tell them their tree angels are on the way. It’s the closest to being angelic I’ll ever get. Every year our local United, Mayflower and Allied moving companies contribute a truck and employees for a whole day of tree delivery.

The trees are from Harrison Hospital Foundation’s annual Festival of Trees held Thanksgiving weekend at the Kitsap Pavilion. Every year thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours are donated by members of our community to benefit Harrison Hospital. In October the Foundation donated a check for \$600,000 to Harrison’s new Oncology Wing. In past years donations purchased neo-natal and heart monitoring equipment.

Mark your calendars now for this worthy event. Kitsap Pavilion turns into a magical place for several days every Thanksgiving. Attendees see over forty fantastically decorated trees and shop for mini trees, Christmas wreaths and holiday crafts galore; not to mention the food and entertainment to enjoy.

Planning starts immediately after Christmas each year. Trees, wreaths, mini-trees and Christmas stockings are created and donated by individuals and groups throughout Kitsap County. It’s a perfect project for gardeners. Call the Hospital Foundation now to find out how you can participate. Even if you’re not good at decorating, your talents will be welcome.

This is the perfect time to give. Drop canned food and checks off at one of our many food banks. Select a family or child from one of the giving trees in local banks and churches. Call this newspaper for more ideas. In Poulsbo The North Kitsap Herald is collecting stuffed animals for kids. My husband and I found three adorable stuffed critters to donate. Many of our schools are having food drives. Check your favorite grocery store for a food bank collection bin. If you don’t see one, see the manager and suggest he/she start one. You can also contribute to the bellringer fund. If your pocket book is lean why not offer to volunteer at a local food bank or at a school in your neighborhood. The possibilities are endless. There is an abundance of ways to give. You’ll be glad you did.

*You can email comments to Peg at [gardenmentor@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenmentor@yahoo.com) or in care of this newspaper.*