



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

December 2025

President's Message

It's the time of year when we've accepted that summer is truly behind us—but wait—is that winter already staring us down? The days are growing shorter, the leaves have fallen, and the sun rises and sets from a more southerly post. There's a quiet peacefulness settling over the natural world.

Not so for our garden club! December may end with quiet introspection, but for us garden club members, these early days of December are as busy as the summer bees. Committees have been meeting and planning, the greenhouse is buzzing with the



joyful noise of gardeners jumpstarting plants for the spring, and the coach house is bustling with production in preparation for our Holiday Greens Market on December 6.

We'll pause to celebrate our good fortune and friendship at our holiday party on December 11 at the New Bedford Yacht Club. Please be generous with your offerings of unisex hats and mittens for those less fortunate. I look forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you all both the merriment and peace of this wonderful season.

Warmly,

~ Barb

Photo: Holly Barrows

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Changing of the Seasons



Photo: Laura Campbell



Photo: Linda Cornell



Photo: Holly Barrows

Committee News

Archives Committee

Submitted by Laura Campbell

Recently, I had a lovely visit with the outgoing Chair of the Archives Committee, Judi Sterns. She also happens to be one of my most favorite people in the world. She handed me a package of items destined for the Archives. She said most of them would be duplicate copies, but she wanted to be sure we had each document in the Archives before we parted with any of them.

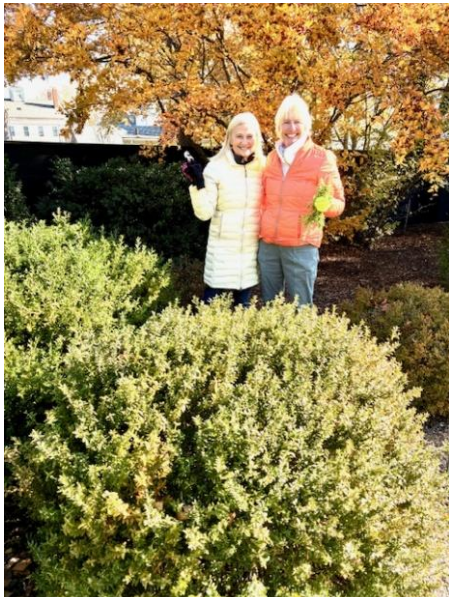
Judi also gave me the new lock for the Archives cabinet door in the Coach House. Instead of a combination lock requiring 3 numbers and the proper sequence of turns, we now have a lock with a simple 4-digit code: **1930** (the year the GCBP was founded). I invite you to unlock the door and take a peek in the Archives. But do bring your readers, as the numbers on the lock are small.

I am new to the committee and look forward to sharing more information about what is in the Archives and how to best access what is there (there is a catalog system that follows GCA guidelines). If you have any questions, please email me: LCampbell64@comcast.net.

Lastly, when I left Judi's house, I felt a profound sense of gratitude for the connections and relationships the GCBP provides. I'm truly grateful to be part of such an amazing group of people.

Boxwood Committee

Submitted by Marcie Damon



Tia and Holly with clippers in hand gathering boxwood for holiday market creations!

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild

The Committee is paused in its Hazelwood Park project at present. We are still awaiting the decision of New Bedford Cultural Council as to whether the Friends of Hazelwood Park will receive any funding for our Oak project there, the first phase of planting 6-7 young trees.

Ruth Furman asked me if it would be helpful if the GCBH Horticultural Committee started some little oaklings for the Hazelwood project, and we agreed that the oaklings could find homes in private gardens as well as in the Park, as opportunity presents. Recall we will be doing a public outreach via revival of our Oak exhibit from the Sept 2023 Autumn Joy flower show.

Some news to report on the revival of the Oak “Why are oaks special” exhibit at the Zone I meeting in Dedham in mid-Sept. It was well-received by the public, and the Little Compton Garden Club has rec’d \$100 to cover the cost of the 100 booklets of “Oak Tree of Life: Biology, Bounty and Belief” our 2 clubs donated to the Zone I exhibit.

I have asked Conservation Committee members to share any books or other literature with the Committee as a whole, so that we might identify good conservation-oriented reads on important topics this winter among ourselves as well as with the club. More to come on this in the fast-approaching New Year.

With respect to national legislative actions, Susan McLaren has stepped forward to be our representative at the NAL mtgs in Washington, D.C. in March 2025. Phyllis Pollack, the current Zone I Con/NAL rep recently reported that the federal Bureau of Land Management has proposed to rescind the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule for Public Lands that was put in place by the previous administration, an action opposed by the GCA. Public comment closed on Nov 10. Pros and cons center on economic impact of land use, and the final decision on the rule is pending.

At the state and local legislative levels, I think it would be informative for our club to know more about actions (or inactions) affecting us close to home. Perhaps we can think of hosting a club colloquium in the future.

I recently attended the St. Mary’s County Garden Club Nov meeting in Southern Maryland and heard the report of their Conservation and Environmental Chair, Becki Wolf. It was interesting that she summarized the findings of the recent Potomac River Commission report on water and habitat quality as well as local town planning (development) efforts that will deleteriously affect wetlands. I think our committee/club might be informative to our club members in this fashion—doings of our town and

city councils on selected topics related to conservation and our environment such as wetlands, rivers, harbors and Buzzards Bay.

Greenhouse Committee

Photos by Cynthia Brown



Holiday Greens Market

Submitted by Holly Barrows, Carole Griffith, Susan McLaren, Natalie Mello, B.J. Pease, Jan Tatelbaum

It is hard to believe that the Holiday Greens Market at the RJD Coach House and patio is almost here - **Saturday, 12/6 from 9:00-2:00** to be exact!

Many elves have been hard at work making non-perishable ornaments, moss trees, fire starters, succulent wreaths, Kokedama moss balls and much more. We need your help with creating perishable items from Monday 12/1 - Thursday 12/4. We will be using fresh greens to make wreaths, table arrangements, swags etc. in the Coach House - it is truly a fun and festive time. This is an all-club, all "hands-on-deck" event and I hope you will join us for a portion or all of that time.



Busy making moss trees: Carole Griffith and Margaret Forbush

Please spread the word and good cheer about our fabulous Holiday Greens Market - it is a very special event not to be missed.

Thank you for your support and creativity!

Garden History & Design Committee

Submitted by Nan Sinton

On Thursday 13 November some thousand GCA members attended a national Zoom titled "Inspired Garden Design" featuring nationally known speakers and thought provoking presentations. The program ran for 4 hours with a 15-minute break. Images from all the membership Zones were shown in numerical sequence during the break -- and representing Zone I was the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay and this picture from member Fran Levin's garden!! The Garden History and Design committee is 'taking a bow' for their work in re-documenting the Levin garden and bringing it up to date on the Smithsonian web site, and sending our thanks to Fran for creating and preserving such an inspiring place (FYI the Zone pictures were on a loop that repeated 3 times during the break..Nice!)

On November 18 the committee met to discuss the ideas presented during the Zoom symposium and to plan activities for the winter, including more interviews for the ['Members Remember: Gardens are our Legacy'](#) tab on our website and plans to research and document gardens in the coming year. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2pm in the Coach House. Remember that our meetings are open to all GCBB members.

Feature

An Archeological Find

Submitted by Michel Jodoin

This Spring I started to volunteer some time working in the Roach-Jones-Duff gardens under the supervision of Rick Finneran. He had asked if I would consider working in the Native Flower Garden removing the English ivy, which was overgrown and had become invasive to the trees and other plants on the south side of the property. I was happy to do so and began removing the ivy. However, it was much more difficult to do than I initially thought that it would be, as residual roots would continue to sprout in areas that I had initially completed as time went by. While I started with one method, I altered what I was doing twice until I finally came upon a way to remove the ivy that eventually seemed to work.

During this work, while rounding the east end of the section that I was working on, my garden tool struck something solid in the ground. I gradually uncovered a large granite rectangle that had a metal plaque on it. Much of the stone had sunk into soil, with an entire quarter of its top surface entirely buried underground. I cleared all the debris away so that the words on the plaque could be read and was as excited as a young child

who had just found buried treasure in his backyard. I could hardly contain myself, as I immediately went to find Rick to show him what I had found.



**“The Garden Club of America
Founders Fund Award
1985
Won By
The Wildflower Walk at the
Roach Jones Duff House & Gardens
Presented by the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, Inc.
Sponsored by the Cambridge Plant & Garden Club”**

Founders Fund information from the GCA website:

Zone I, Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

May 1, 1985

Location: New Bedford

Project Mission Statement:

In 1834, William Rotch Jr. completed his Greek Revival mansion up the hill and away from the busy port noise of Buzzards Bay. The house, designed by Richard Upjohn, was set back from sidewalks in order to allow for greater space for gardens on the south and east of the property. In 1981, it was purchased by the Waterfront Historic Area League and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay began its relationship with the RJD House by rebuilding a greenhouse and a portion of the coachman's house.

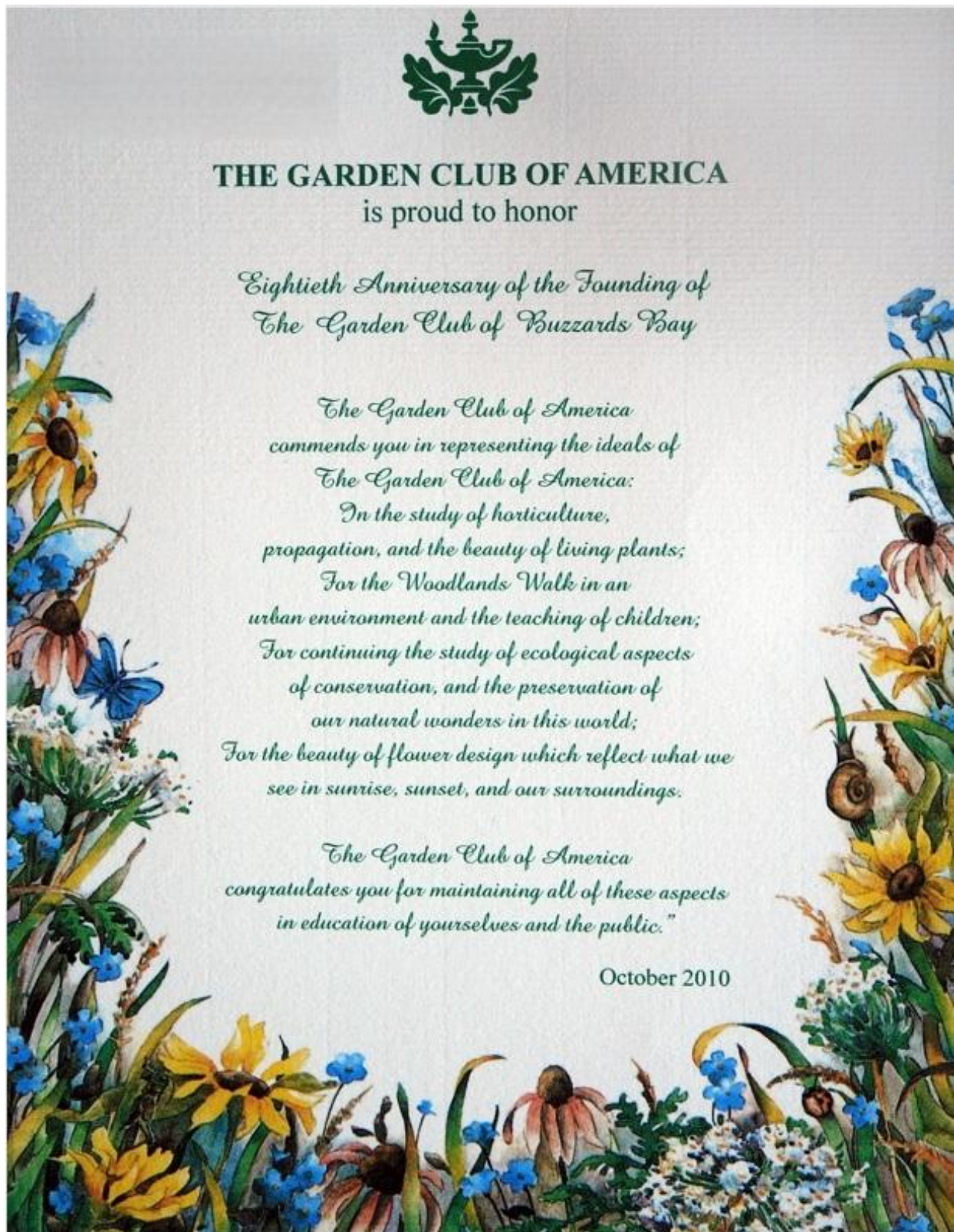
Then in 1985, the Founders Fund Award was given to recreate a perimeter wildflower walk representing four habitats: woodland, bog, open woodland and fern cobble. The wildflower walk is used as a base for a botany program for New Bedford area fourth grade students. Each May, when the wildflowers are in bloom, hundreds of students and their teachers take part in classes and walks guided by the Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay members.

The wildflower walk has flourished and grown into a significant visitor experience over the years. Now handicapped accessible, several stopping off areas have been added for guides to point out areas of interest. Renamed the Woodland Garden, plantings were also added to give the walk year round appeal. The relationship between the RJD House & Gardens Museum and the GC of Buzzards Bay has continued with a collaboration to plant a small orchard reflecting a historical connection to the 1880 era of the landscape. This orchard reflects the club's participation in the 2013 Centennial Tree Project.

Project Gallery:



The GCA also honored the GCB in 2010 (the club's 80th anniversary) with a specific mention of the Woodland Walk:



Source: GCB Archives

GCBB Holiday Party

The annual Garden Club Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11 at the New Bedford Yacht Club in Padanaram, from Noon until 2:00pm. Paperless Post invitations have been emailed to all members, so please make sure you've seen the invitation and responded so that we have an accurate head count. We'll enjoy a festive luncheon, the Yacht Club's lovely dining room view & holiday decorations and celebrate the friendship and wonderful horticultural and garden work that bring us all together. This year we ask members to consider contributing a warm unisex hat or pair of gloves for donation to Mercy Meals. Please check out their [website](#) to learn more about what they do and how you can help.

If anyone has questions or didn't see the invitation, please contact either Cynthia Brown (Cell 914.462.0601) or Iryna Priester (Cell 508.596.3393). Hoping to see everyone on the 11th of December!

Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



Congratulations, Carla! See: [GCA Zone I](#)

Holly Barrows and Mimi Carrington, Zone IV, Morristown NJ taken at an Open House and Tour of GCA Headquarters on November 6, 2025.



In other GCA news, GCBB members Janet Sherwood and Ruth Furman played a key role in the GCA's [2026 Plant of the Year](#):

GCA AWARD RECIPIENTS: MONTINE MCDANIEL FREEMAN MEDAL

Enlarge the photos of winning entries to see more detail: click on the image and it will pop out. Click outside the full-size image to return to the details page. ×



Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly' Threadleaf ironweed
2026 Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal

Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly' is a fine nectar source for a wide variety of butterflies, moths, and bees. This plant's drought tolerance is most valuable, as is its late-season bloom which attracts many migrating pollinators, including monarch butterflies. The species is rare, but in the wild it is known to play a small part in erosion control. Its sturdy, upright stems have smooth, unusual leaves, similar to those of *Amsonia hubrichtii*. Its bushy mound appearance provides valuable texture in the garden over a long season. *Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly' is a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal plant.

Proposed by: Janet Sherwood, Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, Zone I

Seconded by: Ruth Furman, Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, Zone I

Thank you, Janet and Ruth. The butterflies, moths, and bees thank you, too!

Miles Away

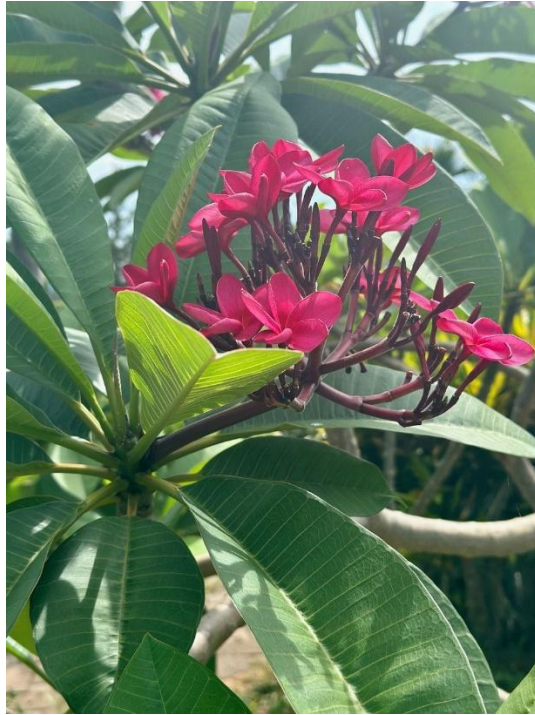
From Jennifer Webb's visit to the Bermuda Botanical Garden. Jennifer says that the photos were taken on a steamy, hot day in June:



Pseuderanthemum (shrub), also called Carruthers' False Face



Shrimp plant



Frangipani, also called Plumeria



Banyan tree

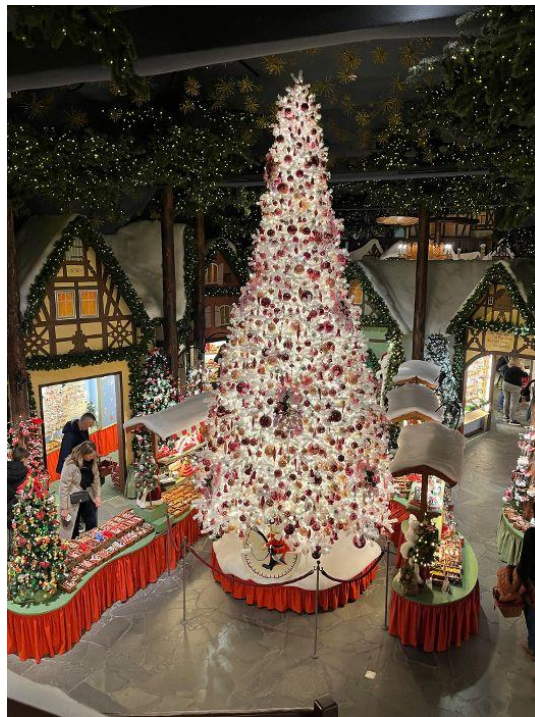
Beth Ladd shares these pictures from her trip to Germany:



The German and Austrian alps in the distance



Market in Starnberg - Flowers and dessert: a dream combo



Christmas market in Rothenburg

Not So Many Miles Away

Leslie Longfield took some amazing pictures while hiking at Bare Mountain in Western MA and closer to home at DNRT trails:





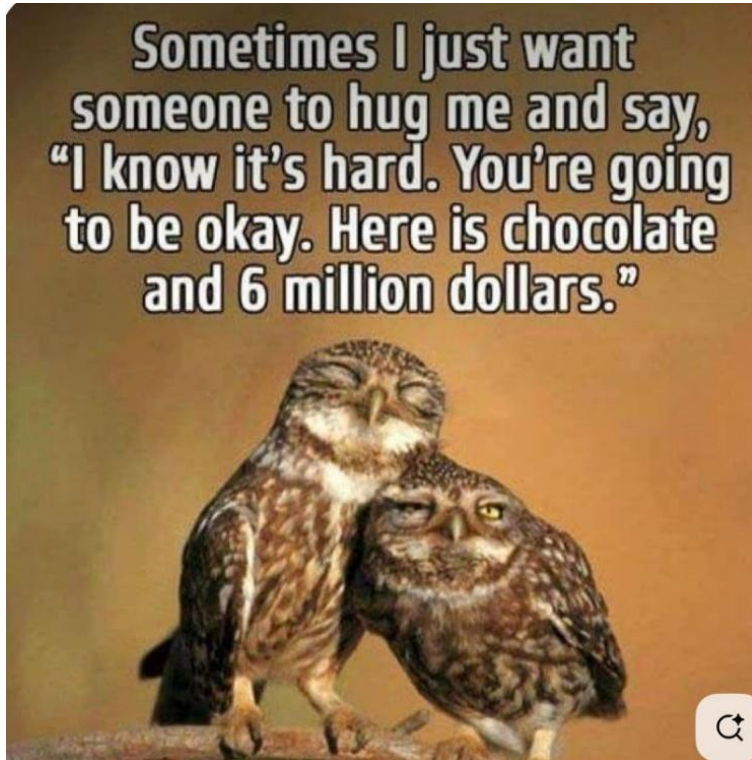
December 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	2 9:00 Greenhouse 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	3 10:30 Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	4 10:30 HGM Prep  Full Cold Moon	5 9:00 SET UP FOR Holiday Greens Mkt Prep	6 9:00 - 2:00 Holiday Greens Market!
7	8	9 9:00 Greenhouse	10	11 12:00 GCBB Holiday Party at NBYC*	12	13
14 First Night of Hanukkah 	15	16 9:00 Greenhouse	17	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice 	22 Last Night of Hanukkah 	23 9:00 Greenhouse	24	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27
28	29	30 9:00 Greenhouse	31 			

***Annual GCBB Holiday Party at the New Bedford Yacht Club at 12:00.**
This year we ask members to consider contributing a warm unisex hat
or pair of gloves for donation to [Mercy Meals](#).

[GCBB Google Calendar](#)

Just for fun...

Sometimes I just want
someone to hug me and say,
"I know it's hard. You're going
to be okay. Here is chocolate
and 6 million dollars."



My dentist told me
I need a crown.
I was like
I KNOW, RIGHT?



Until next time...

