



Garden Club of Buzzards Bay

From the Ground Up

February 2026

President's Message

February. A nice, short month, bringing us ever closer to spring. But let's not waste these days pining away. Winter's respite from toil offers a wonderful opportunity to learn. Both in-person programs and Zoom conferences provide ways to pursue interests or discover something new.

Personally, I'm looking forward to a hot mug of tea and the GCA photo conference on February 5th. But there are myriad ways to stretch ourselves. Within our club, that might mean taking on new or expanded responsibilities. Try chairing a committee you've served on or want to explore. Conservation, Horticulture, Floral Design, or perhaps the Newsletter? Our club offers many opportunities to refresh or even reinvent ourselves.



Case in point: Our four greenhouse co-chairs, despite a steep learning curve (read: *we don't know what the heck we're doing!*), with a basic structure in place and open minds, they are leaning on one another, pivoting when necessary, and—guess what—having fun. (right?). Learn by doing. Making mistakes often leads to a deeper understanding of the process. After all, isn't that why we're here?

A leap of faith can feel intimidating, but the good news is that you are surrounded by your fellow gardening friends. And like those teeny-tiny seeds being planted in the greenhouse, I guarantee you will grow and blossom.

Stay warm,

~ Barb

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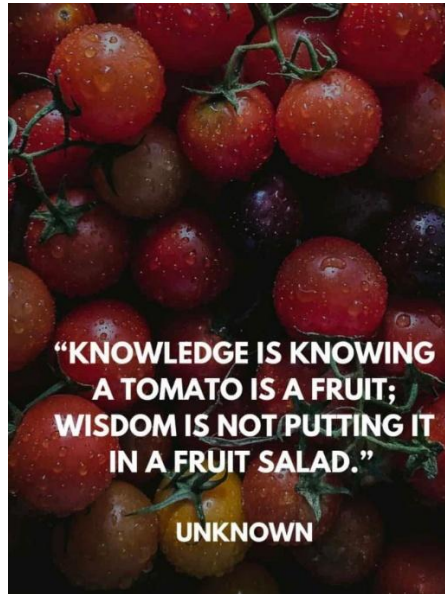
Changing of the Seasons



Winter walk at the Lloyd Center



Photos: Laura Campbell



**Mark your Calendars for the GCBB Plant Sale:
Members Preview Party - Friday, May 1st, 3pm to 5pm
Public Plant Sale - Saturday, May 2nd, 9am to 1pm**



Committee News

Conservation Committee

Submitted by Susan Rothschild

The Conservation Committee, as you may recall, is a supporting group on the Friends of Hazelwood Park 2025 application to the New Bedford Cultural Council for \$4,000 in funding to support our collaborative restoration project of oak planting at the park. We had understood that the Cultural Council would be announcing the awards in December. However, Trina Borelli, Treasurer of the Friends, told me recently that the award announcements have been rescheduled to March 2026. So, no news is good news, so to speak. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

My winter reading has strayed a bit from conservation per se, but I would like to recommend Victoria Finlay's 2022 [*Fabric, The Hidden History of the Material World*](#). Like her earlier book *Color, A Natural History of the Palette* she travels the world to research her subjects and, in the process, reveals all sorts of linkages – between past & present, utility & luxury, war & peace,

politics & religion, labor & markets, cultivation & ecology, waste and conservation—explaining fabric origins and significances to human societies. We all wear clothes and Finlay’s stories of barkcloth, tapa, cotton, wool, tweed, pashmina, sackcloth, linen, silk, patchwork, and synthetics take the reader on enlightening and thoughtful journeys. All the content is related to plants and therefore fitting for us to indulge in!

Lastly, the little GCBG-sponsored fastigiata oak, whose planting by the City of New Bedford was so helpfully guided by Michel Jodoin last fall on the Madison St. corner by the RJD Greenhouse, has taken root. These upright English Oaks (*Quercus robur* ‘Fastigiata’) are being planted by the City along streets as the growth form accommodates confined spaces. Our tree is now providing us with a winter display of marcescence—retaining its dead leaves through the winter, as we learned oak trees do in our 2023 Autumn Joy Why are Oaks Special? education exhibit. If you travel Rt. 140 this winter, many little oaks along the shoulders are now evident with their dressings of dead leaves!

Holiday Greens Market

Submitted by Holly Barrows





The teamwork, time and effort put forth by our GCBB members to make Holiday Greens Market 2025 a success was nothing short of extraordinary. THANK YOU all for the energy and creativity you so generously shared to make the December 6th Holiday Greens Market such a wonderful success.



From planning and preparation to crafting, creating, decorating, gathering fresh greens, setting up and welcoming our guests, each contribution played an important role. The Market reflected not only your talent and hard work, but also the spirit of cooperation and community that makes GCBB so special.

**More good news:
Our gross receipts were \$10,357,
our expenses \$3,828. These are
the best numbers to date!**



Thank you again for your commitment, enthusiasm and generosity. It is a pleasure to work alongside such a remarkable group.

**With sincere appreciation,
Holly Barrows, Carole Griffith, Susan McLaren, Natalie Mello, B.J. Pease,
and Jan Tatelbaum**



Greenhouse Committee

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Bianca Bator, Teresa Betit Cynthia Brown, and Michel Jodoin

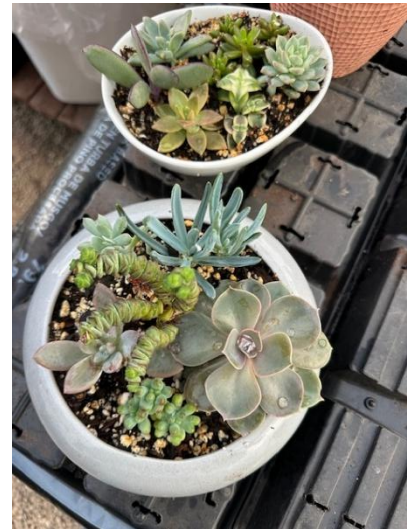
Please come and visit our beautiful greenhouse! All members are always welcome, and it is a delightful respite from the cold and dark winter weather. At the greenhouse, you will be greeted by warmth and a gorgeous green collection of healthy plants. Here, you will enjoy a wide selection of propagated annuals, including geraniums, coleus, cuphea, plectranthus, euphorbia, fuchsia, bacopa, and many others, lovingly tended by our Greenhouse Committee. You will also see a beautiful, curated selection of succulents, which are rapidly expanding and have been creatively arranged by Michel Jodoin.





The Greenhouse Committee has also begun to plant some favorite annuals flowers grown from seed, and soon we will be sowing seeds for a delicious array of heirloom tomatoes. Flower choices this year include nasturtium, nicotiana, Bells of Ireland, datura, and sweet peas.

In mid-February, we will be receiving a large order of plugs from two different commercial growers, one in New Hampshire and one in North Carolina. Over a period of two weeks, we will be working in teams to pot all the plugs so that we have plenty of beautiful specimens for our annual Plant Sale. We will be looking for volunteers to sign up for shifts during the weeks of February 16 and February 23. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the [GCB website](#) in the next few days.



As you can see from the photos, the Committee has been hard at work making the plants flourish! Every time we are in the greenhouse, we feel enthusiasm and joy as we watch our babies grow. It's been an amazing group effort with wonderful results. Thanks for all you do.

Plant Sale Committee

Submitted by Bianca Bator

THE PLANT SALE COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

Do you have any garden pots, planters, urns or other handsome decorative outdoor garden features that no longer work in your current garden design?

Please consider donating them to the GCBB 2026 Plant Sale. We would like to have a table reselling these handsome pieces at our May sale.

Please take a look in your garage or shed for stone, fiberglass, metal or pottery pieces which are at least 8" wide. Bigger is better, and no plastic please. And keep your eyes peeled at rummage sales or antique shops for reasonably priced pieces we might be able to resell.



The first collection date will be at the All-Club meeting on Feb 19th (Contact Bianca Bator at 201-704-5877 or Marcy Busch at 781-635-3979 should you need help moving items from your storage spaces and into the car.)

Proceeds from the GCBB Plant Sale are contributed each year to many wonderful charitable organizations serving our community. Your donation will have an impact!

SAVE THE DATES:

Members Preview Party, Friday, May 1st, 3pm to 5pm

Public Plant Sale, Saturday, May 2nd, 9am to 1pm

Membership Committee

Submitted by Anne Heller and Cheryl Gamsby, Co-Chairs

Nominations Anyone?

The Membership Committee will be reviewing applications for GCBB membership in the next few months, and we'd like to invite nominations for promising candidates. New members will be introduced at the annual meeting in June and begin their Provisional year as a group in the fall.

This timetable will allow provisional members to work together in the Greenhouse throughout the year and at the plant sale as a way of building a connection with the Club and making individual friendships.

In order to give the Committee time to process applications and meet the candidates, we'd like to ask that proposers and seconders submit their applications by May 1st. Membership guidelines and the application can be found in the Membership section of the Club's yearbook.

Floral Design Committee

Submitted by Tina Read

Yay! We are having a "MAY DAY" Judged Floral Design and Horticulture Flower Show on May 13, 2026.

To all members and all provisionals: Please think about participating and trying your hand at a design. Just for fun.

Carla, Tina, and Ruth will be hosting workshops on "HOW TO DO". We will send the final schedule to everyone.

It is going to be held in Sandy Hall's Barn and she provided the artwork. Hooray, Hooray The First of May!!!

A BARN FULL OF BLOOMS



A GARDEN CLUB of BUZZARDS BAY
FLOWER SHOW
MAY 13, 2026

Grants Committee

Submitted by Gig Lang

The GCBB has awarded the following organizations for the 2026 Grant Cycle:

ROCHESTER LAND TRUST:

Build a stone retaining wall with drought resistant plantings while keeping in line with the natural feel of the property.

YMCA SOUTHCOAST SHARING THE HARVEST COMMUNITY FARM:

Program to empower youth to become capable, community-minded leaders who are prepared for meaningful postsecondary education and career pathways. The program connects career exploration, leadership development and service to promote long-term economic and civic success.

MASS AUDUBON:

Funding to assist with the expansion and implementation of native pollinator gardens as well as the continued participation in the Monitoring program known as “Monarch Watch”.

NATIVITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL OF NEW BEDFORD, INC.:

Build a raised vegetable and herb garden complementing the native flower beds around the school. The project will increase students’ knowledge about how food is grown and teach them about the joy and benefits of raising plants you can eat.

OUR SISTERS’ SCHOOL:

Create the “Three Sisters” garden with the Outdoor Classroom. Corn, beans, and squash will be planted. Construction of raised bed and materials.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED:

Plants, seed, fertilizer, mulch, soil and irrigation for the Victory Garden. During the 2025 season youth participants grew and harvested 700 pounds of fresh produce.

BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC:

Pollinator Garden and “eco root view” planter studying the life cycle of plants. Located in “Charlie’s Nature Play” section of the zoo.

COASTAL FOODSHED:

Host a two-part planning workshop with Brooke Werley (farm partner) owner of Emergence Gardens in Dartmouth is a community garden educator.

COMMUNITY BOATING CENTER, INC:

Improve outdoor spaces at facility. Expand vegetable garden, plant flowers. Extend planting beds behind beach house. Plant vegetables and flowers in planter boxes.

YWCA SOUTHEASTERN MA:

Garden of Growth project for 27 women living in three YWCA residential housing. Raised beds offer accessible gardening so that women with limited incomes and mobility will have an opportunity to grow, harvest and cook their produce.

MARION INSTITUTE, INC:

Anchored by outdoor garden classrooms that serve as microcosms of regional farms their elementary school “Grow Education Farm-to-School” program connects students to enrichment science lessons on plant lifecycles, our regional climate, and health benefits of eating fresh produce.

WESTPORT RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE:

Enhance the pollinators and climate change programs.
Develop Interactive Garden Learning Tools.
Citizen Science and Community Service.
Expand “River Reads” Lending Library.
GCBF themed Activities: Activities free during “River Center Open Days”.
Little Marvin Mini Microscopes to make the garden a classroom.
Complete and install Educational Garden signage.

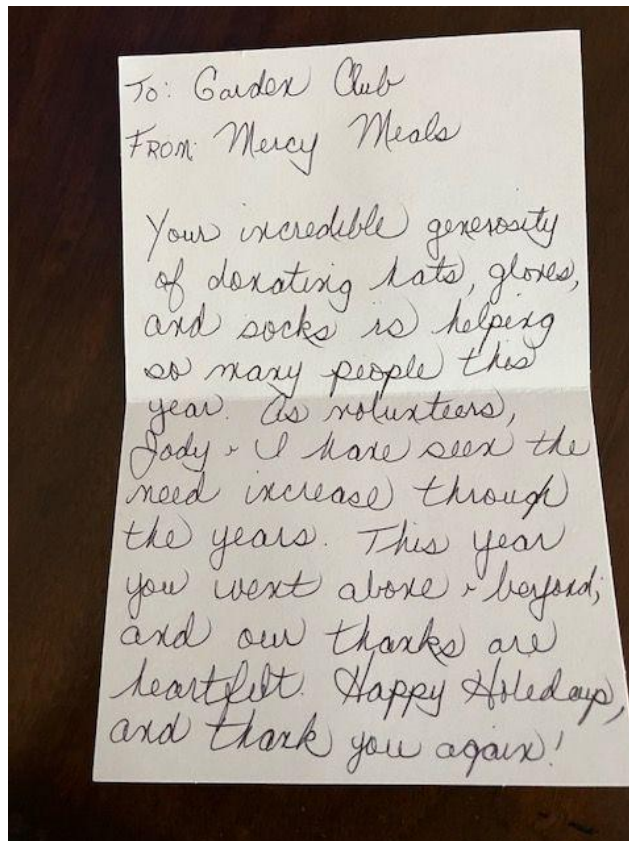
I would like to thank the Grants Committee for their hard work during the

grant process. Their dedication to the GCBB mission is admirable.
- Gig Lang, Chair of the Grants Committee



GCBB Holiday Party

A Thank You note from Mercy Meals for our donations:



Feature

GCA Founders Fund

Submitted by Holly Barrows

The Founders Fund grant was established in 1934; established to recognize exceptional community projects proposed by GCA member clubs. It is the only GCA grant chosen by votes from each member club. The first grant, given in 1936 was \$700. For 2026, \$70,000 will be awarded: \$40,000 for one project and \$15,000 for each of the other two recipients. The grants will be presented at the GCA's 2026 Annual Meeting in New York City.

You can read about the finalists in detail in the GCA News, The Bulletin Winter 2026, pages 29-35, www.gcamerica.org or [2026FFeature.pdf](#)

There are 3 finalists, please e-mail me your vote for one. The projects are:

- 1). **Appalachian Spring, Charleston WV**, proposed by Kanawha Garden Club, Zone VII. The project envisions a transformation of its small community by planting 1,000 flowering trees along its streets, riverbanks and parks over the course of two to three years.

- 2). **Community Greening, Delray Beach, FL**, proposed by The Grass River Garden Club, Zone VIII. A Founder's Fund grant would be used for a motorized tree trolley, storage facility and watering truck to assist volunteers and the Youth Team in their mission to grow, distribute and maintain free trees in areas in need of remediation. To date, 27,000 trees have been planted.

- 3). **Garden of Hope, New Orleans, LA**, proposed by New Orleans Town Gardeners Inc., Zone IX. A Founder's Fund grant would be used to enhance the outdoor component of Manning Family Children's (a facility for children with serious illnesses). Thousands of children are served each year; the outdoor space is called Walker's Imaginarium.

Please send your vote for #1, #2, or #3 to me
at hollybcobb@gmail.com by **Saturday, 2/28/26**.

Garden Club of America



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA



GCA Photography Conference
Thursday, February 5th
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

NOTE: The last day to register is Tuesday, February 2nd.

The Photography Conference is offered as a one-day virtual event to expand photography inspiration and skills. All GCA Club members are invited at no cost to attend the virtual 2026 Photography Conference: *Mobile Magic*.

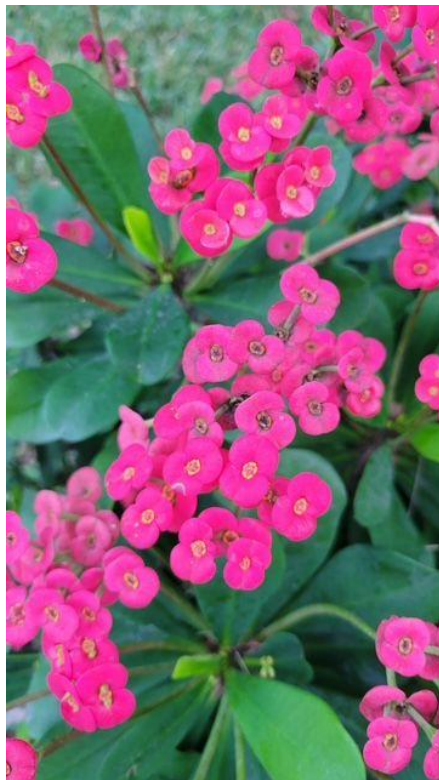
This conference is for everyone. From capturing stunning photos to mastering post-processing techniques, this conference is designed to help you unlock your phone's full potential.

To register go to:

<https://www.gcamerica.org/members/photography#Photography-Conference>

Miles Away

Pretty in Pink: Susan Mead shares photos from her recent trip to Florida.





Palm trees in sweaters (or knee socks!)

View from My Window

Cardinals at Ruth Jolliffe's



Frost on a window at Linda Cornell's



In Memoriam

We lost two long time Garden Club of Buzzards Bay members recently: Mary Schubert and Peg Megowan. GCBB Club members share their remembrances:

Both Mary and Peg were good friends and compassionate people. Peg was more forthright in her recalls and Mary a bit more quiet about her responses.

- Fran Levin

Mary Schubert was always ready to take on a challenge. She was a GCBB President and led with a kind, firm hand. She went on to the GCA Scholarship Committee and was effective in promoting scholarships in Zone I. A creative and talented woman who readily shared recipes - she enjoyed the 'catering' opportunities GCBB provided. She never hesitated to sign up when help was needed for club undertakings. She and her husband Allan did a lot for the club and always with a smile. I am forever grateful to have crossed paths with Mary and cherished her friendship.

- Ruth Furman



I love this photo of Mary at the GCA 2015 Zone I meeting. Mary was the GCA Scholarship Vice Chair for Summer Environmental Studies. She is sitting with Valeria Vidal, the Clara Carter Higgins Summer Environment

Studies Scholar. You can see from Mary's kind expression and from Valeria's big smile that they were enjoying their connection. Mary always helped people feel seen and heard. She will be missed by so many.

- Laura Campbell

Photo: Page 5 of [GCBB Newsletter Summer2015](#)

Mary Schubert had so many talents; she'd taught cooking school classes and headed up the equivalent of the MFA's Art in Bloom in Hartford before moving to Mattapoissett. Mary and Allan were regular volunteers at Rotch Jones Duff House events, sometimes cooking other times organizing and promoting. Plates of goodies flowed from her home kitchen, platters of four or five kinds for monthly meetings. I consider myself a decent baker, Mary was an extraordinary one. She painted in oils, mostly florals used as notecards and reminders. Golf, bridge, etc. A Renaissance woman.

The GCBB president's job is a bit like herding cats, as you try to work toward a club project or goal while detours, objections, hurt feelings inexplicitly appear. Becoming president in 2010, Mary would often gently suggest and suggest again that we modernize what was a chaotic budget system or try to get people to switch committee chairmanships to strengthen the club or fill slots for Backyard Botany or flower shows. Beneath all her "accomplishments" Mary had a Scot's determination. I was lucky enough to be her second vice president and considered myself fortunate to be her a friend. - Carolyn Willard

Cowboy Caviar from Mary Schubert (Willard family favorite for 15 years)

2 cups of chopped tomatoes (can be red or mixed with yellow)

1 green pepper, chopped

½ cup chopped onion (can substitute shallots, green onions)

2 avocados, chopped

1 pkg. frozen corn, thawed

1 can black eyed peas, rinsed, and drained (look in the Mexican section of grocery)

¼ cup cilantro, chopped

1 Jalapeño pepper, seeded and chopped

½ bottle Kraft Zesty Italian dressing (or to your taste)

Mix all the ingredients and let marinate in the refrigerator for several hours. This is good as an appetizer for a good-sized group, served with Tostitos Scoops. Or you can serve it as a side dish with something you have grilled

outside. This takes about 15 minutes of preparation, depending on how fast you chop. (I sub black beans for pintos, use hot sauce instead of the jalapeno and less dressing –Carolyn)

For more information see [Gardens are our Legacy: Mary Schubert](#) and [Mary Schubert Obituary January 1, 2026 - Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Homes](#)

Peg Megowen



I met Peg when I was a provisional and she was Hort chair. Demanding, she intimidated many newbies but underneath the sometimes-prickly exterior was an open to adventure woman with a keen interest in plants. She was always ready to answer plant questions and push one along. She was a Hort judge and when I entered the judging program I learned of Peg's sterling reputation on the judging trail. She was part of GCB's & GCA's horticultural bests (elite) along with Timmy Shapiro, Betsy McBratney and Anne Almy all highly respected and I came along in their wake.

- Ruth Furman

For more information see: [Gardens are our Legacy: Peg Megowen](#).

“In offering words of wisdom to newer gardeners Peg said she had never met a plant she didn't like, keep on reading, studying and looking.”

- [Margaret Megowen Obituary - South Dartmouth, MA](#)

February 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Full Snow Moon	2  HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY	3 9:00 Greenhouse	4 1:00 Archives Committee	5	6	7
8 Super Bowl 	9	10 9:00 Greenhouse	11	12 9:00 Executive Committee	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15	16  Presidents Day	17 9:00 Greenhouse	18	19 10:30 Monthly Meeting*	20	21
22	23	24 9:00 Greenhouse	25	26	27	28 Last day to email your vote for Founders Fund to Holly (see p. 8)

***Monthly Meeting**
Topic: Preservation, Breeding, and the Importance of Bioregional Seeds
Speaker: Bill Braun, Executive Director, [Freed Seed Federation](#)



[GCBB Google Calendar](#)

Just for fun...



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aunty acid



Linda's Alter Ego, Baby Yoda:



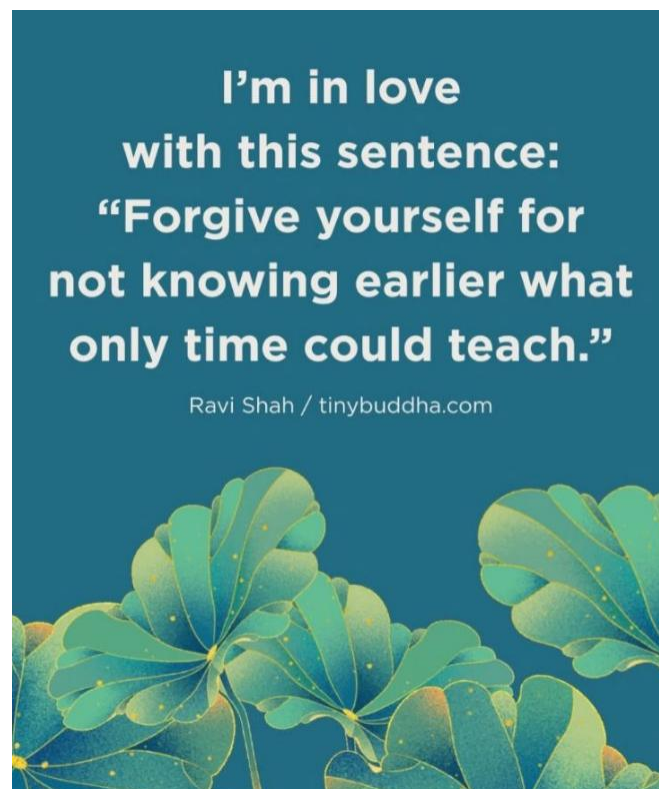
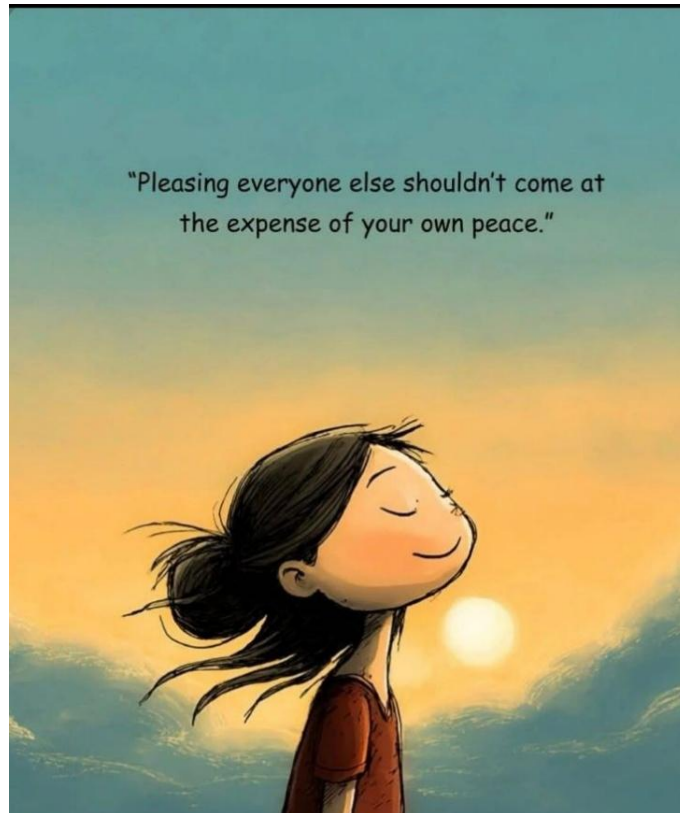
I love being outside, just not when it's too cold or too hot or too wet or too windy or if there are bugs.

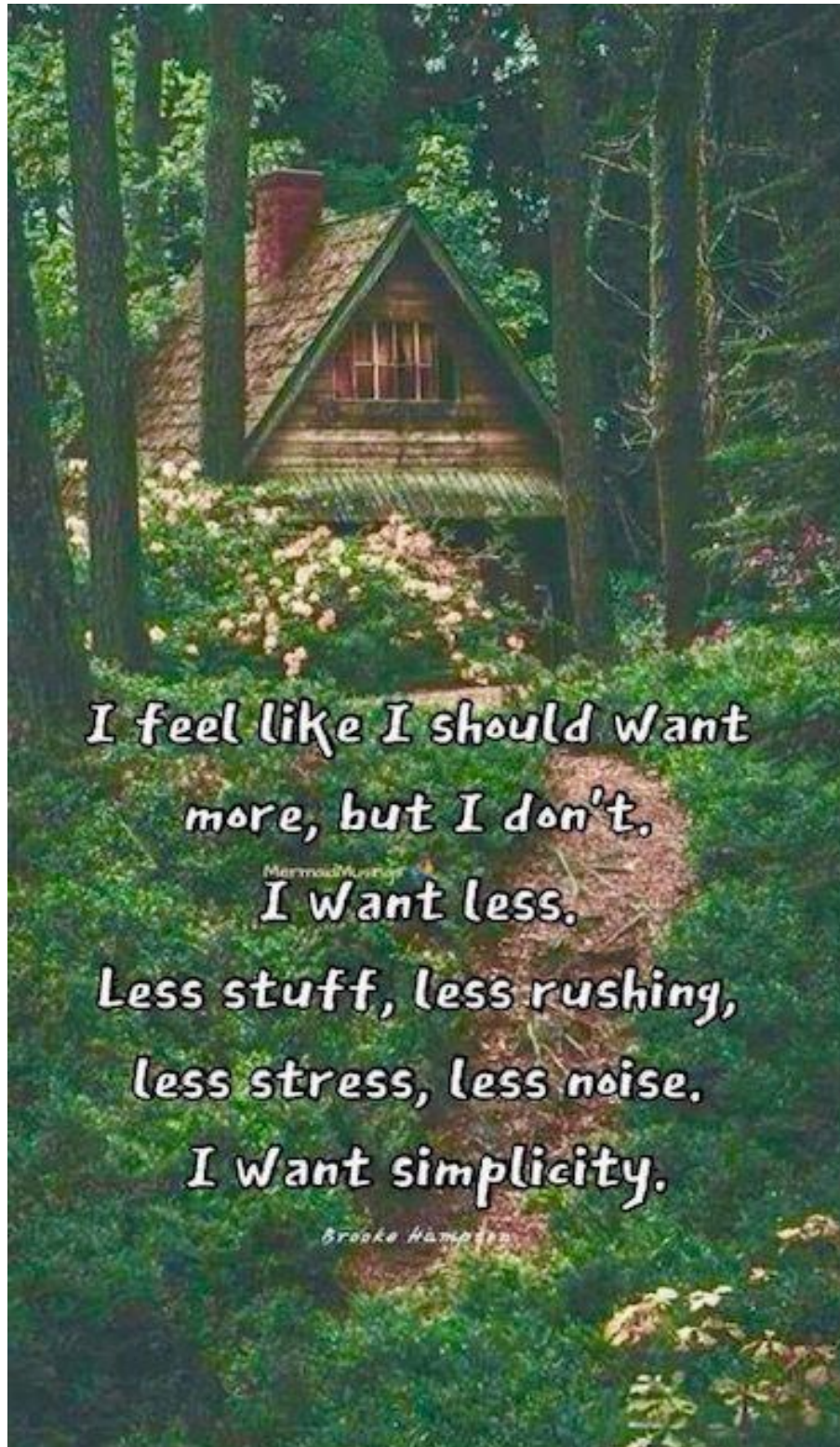


I miss the good ol' days when bills had my parent's names on them.



Until next time...





I feel like I should want
more, but I don't.

MermaidMusing

I want less.

Less stuff, less rushing,
less stress, less noise.

I want simplicity.

Breake Hampton