**HFMA SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT - A LONGWOOD CHRISTMAS**

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| On Saturday, January 7, our HFMA Social and Community Outreach Committees hosted a Longwood Gardens Christmas visit for 51 HFMA members and their families and friends. The day began at 10:30 am and included self-guided tours through all the indoor and outdoor grounds. Some of the highlights included the gorgeous Christmas-decorated, poinsettia-filled conservatory, the original Pierre S. du Pont Country House, the Italian-inspired garden fountains, and the Christmas music outdoor water-light show. The HFMA provided delicious lunches at the Longwood restaurants, with many Kennett Square specialties, such as their cream of mushroom soup. The gardens were open to all until closing at 11 pm, with many excited guests enjoying the colorful outdoor light-filled night.  We were pleased to connect with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Delaware Counties, a national 501(c)(3) organization, adding a fundraising component to this Longwood event. Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Delaware Counties has been building homes, community, and hope locally for the past 33 years. They work to create and preserve affordable home ownership by providing education and support opportunities through its four key programs: Home Buying, Critical Home Repair, Almost Home Financial Education, and Neighborhood Revitalization. Habitat MontDelco continues to grow and in the next 2 years, will build 8 new homes! Generous donations make this work possible. $5 of each paid ticket was donated to Habitat, with all HFMA Members invited to additionally donate, through the link: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/HabitatforHumanityofMontg/HFHAMPC.html>  The day was a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues, family, and friends. One of our members said, “Thank you for a great program. The Gardens were beautiful!” Another HFMA member, Angela Stambaugh shared, “Thank you so much for a wonderful event! My daughter and I had a great time, and I could never thank you enough for providing me special time with her at such a beautiful property! Excited for the next one!” We look forward to seeing many more of you, at our next events.  Anyone wishing to volunteer with the HFMA Community Outreach Committee, please contact Carol Primavera Paris at [carolpparis@yahoo.com](mailto:carolpparis@yahoo.com)    And for a “taste” of the day’s events, try a special Longwood Gardens’ recipe:  KENNETT SQUARE  MUSHROOM SOUP  – 1/4 c butter  –      Finely chop: 2 leeks, whites only;    4  shallots; 6 ribs celery; 2 T thyme  – 2 c each of shiitake, crimini,    and button mushrooms sliced  – 1 c sherry wine  – 2 c a ll-purpose flour  – 1 gal    mushroom stock (see recipe)  – 1 c heavy cream  – 2 t t arragon leaves, chiffonade  – 1 gal + 1 c water (for stock)  Sweat the leeks, shallots, and celery in butter  until translucent. Add thyme, season with salt  and pepper. Add sliced mushrooms. Cook until  mushrooms wilt and release their liquid. Add  sherry wine and reduce by half. Add flour and  stir to coat vegetables. While stirring, slowly  add mushroom stock and bring to a simmer.  Simmer for 10 minutes. Add cream and tarragon.  Let simmer for five more minutes. Season to taste  with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.  For the stock:  1  lb white button mushrooms, chopped (and any  mushroom stems); Finely chop: 1 leek; 1 Spanish  onion; 1 ribs celery; 3 sprig tarragon; 3 sprig  thyme; 1 bay leaf  Place ingredients in a tall saucepan.  Add water and bring to a boil.  Simmer for an hour. Strain.  RECIPE ADAPTED FROM:  RESTAURANT  1906 |
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