

GCA Quarterly Business Meeting
December 5, 2018
Susan R. Yeager
GCA Zone V Chairman
A Leader Personified - Alice Doering, The Weeders

Alice Doering does not consider herself a remarkable person. Her first career was biochemistry, conducting cancer research.

She stopped lab work with her first pregnancy. Then, while raising three children, she was Sunday School teacher, Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, Parents' Association leader, and attended classes at Longwood Gardens. Later, she added Temple University for training in Landscape Design. In 5 short years, she completed a two-year certificate. Meanwhile, she started her landscape design business.

Her love of horticulture brought her into GCA on the Hort Committee. Inspired by an Annual Meeting speaker, she initiated The Rares with other hort-lovers in GCA. The Rares are volunteers who propagate wonderful, hard to find plants, and offer them to members of GCA clubs. Twenty-four years later, 27 *Rares* continue their self-appointed mission at personal expense, eagerly mentoring and sharing rare horticulture treasures with others.

Horticulture led to Judging where she continues active travel to GCA clubs, finding new friends everywhere and mentoring new judges.

When PCGCA asked for volunteers to create the GCA 100th anniversary project at Concourse Lake, in stepped Alice. Started in 2008, the project is a brilliant success, honoring Philadelphia and GCA. Alice continues to monitor the park and its native plantings.

Alice has been President of the Weeders as well as its Hort Chair. In Zone V, she has been Hort Rep, Hort VP, Judging Rep, Zone Director, GCA Exec VP and has earned 8 awards of distinction, including the Creative Leadership Award.

But, in her own words, she is not so remarkable; though, as the best leaders do, she translates vision into reality, has a zest for change and inspires others. She inspires me.