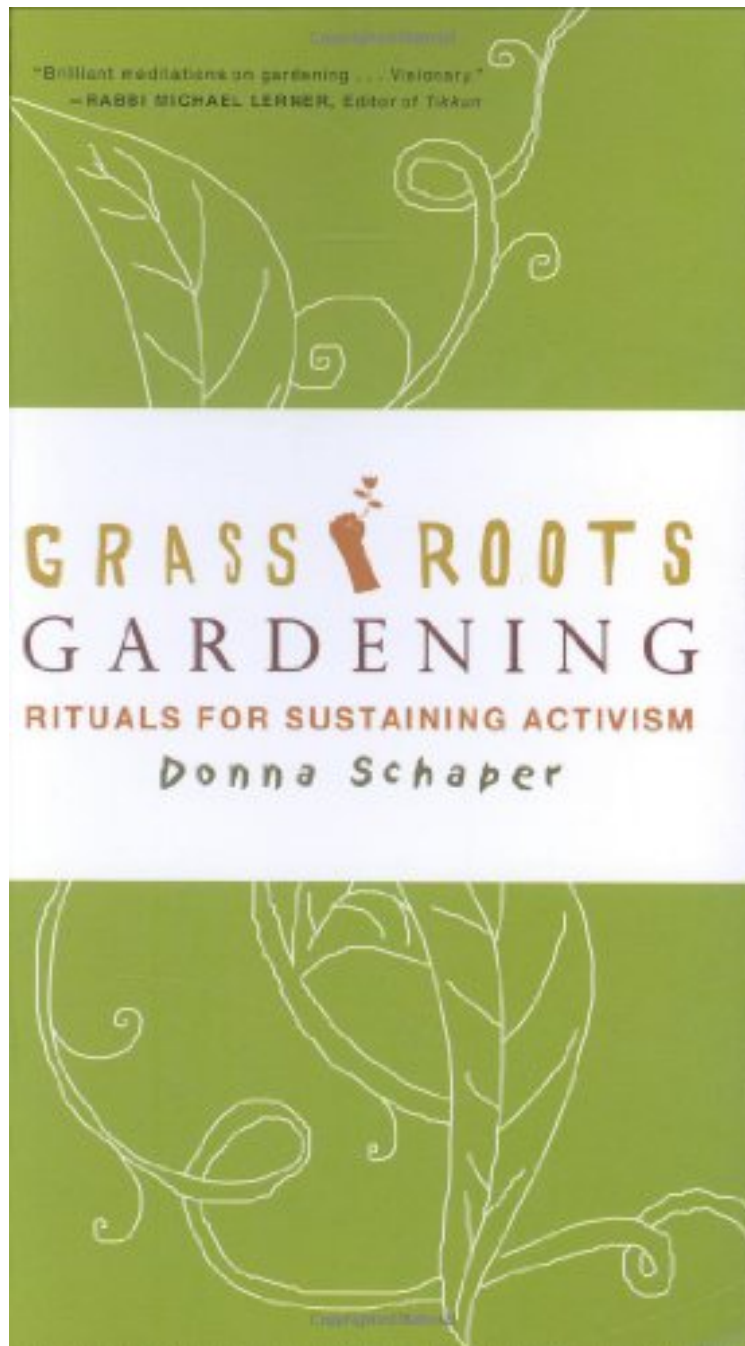


[Ebook free] Grassroots Gardening: Rituals for Sustaining Activism

Grassroots Gardening: Rituals for Sustaining Activism

Donna Schaper

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Donna Schaper : Grassroots Gardening: Rituals for Sustaining Activism before purchasing it in order to gage

whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Grassroots Gardening: Rituals for Sustaining Activism*:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Decent read on a gardener's practice. By P. Jacobson I enjoyed this book. I did. It was a very quick read. Schaper is at her best when she's discussing her 'plotting' in winter for the next season's garden and the women of the Amherst Garden Club. The most successful essays were centered around her personal experiences with both homes and with planting. That said, some of the theoretical examinations seemed a bit surface. I could have definitely done without the gypsy nonsense, for starters. If you really want to actually think about CSAs and garden markets, you'd get more out of Michael Pollan. His wonderfully rich analysis of Polyface Farm in *Omnivore's Dilemma* or his discussion of apple varieties in *Botany of Desire*, for instance. I had trouble understanding the relevance of the title to the contents of this book. I understand the author sees herself as an activist, but it barely shines in her words. Only the most abstract meanings and applications of activism are touched on. Schaper is a fan of the Slow Food movement and defends it as a more than idealism. I'd tend to agree, but it seems much more realized in its original Italian incarnation. The New York chapter looks like it has wonderful events but they are not cheap. It strikes me as fairly rarified... It's the good life for people with the luxury to focus on it. Upper middle class white people should tone down the pretense of being populists. While Schaper calls herself middle class, she's moved back to Manhattan in the last few years and has a backyard. Do that math. Not so struggling. I had a problem with the essay on Gleaning. Schaper has no problem discussing Sackville-West, but it's insulting to your audience to assume that wouldn't have seen a French film that this essay is so clearly 'borrowed' from. Rearranging someone else's ideas might work in freshman lit in college but she really should have referenced Agnes Varda. Gleaning should not extend to other people's ideas and work. Read Michael Pollan and rent *The Gleaners and I* by Agnes Varda from Netflix if you're at all interested in these topics. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like talking gardening with an old friend. By rezen Donna Schaper's book, *Grassroots Gardening* is food for the mind and soul of those who find spiritual renewal in the garden. With wit, wisdom and a healthy dose of global perspective, Donna not only shares her love of the soil and plants, but speaks in much larger terms of our own human responsibility to look deep into nature for answers to our most pressing societal issues. I was entertained, charmed and moved by *Grassroots Gardening* and will recommend it to all my friends.

In 2003, Minister Donna Schaper wrote an op-ed for *The New York Times* detailing her rejection from the Coral Gables Garden Club. It seems that the ladies of the club thought she'd bring inappropriate people into the club (meaning gays and blacks). Because of this piece, Minister Schaper was invited to join other clubs around the country. Minister Schaper argues that gardening is a way to sustain activism. It's a ritual for radicals, urbanites, nomads, and for anybody who is sufficiently angry.

From Booklist With apologies to Pete Seeger, one can almost hear a trio of folksingers answer the musical question "Where have all the hippies gone?" with "Gone to gardens every one" as self-proclaimed activist minister Schaper ponders the merits and miracles she has discovered while working in gardens. From Manhattan to Miami, Schaper has dug in her heels (not to mention her bulbs and seeds) to ground herself by creating or tending a garden. The term "putting down roots" is not one Schaper takes lightly, as evident from this vibrant collection of essays that is as zestful as a hothouse orchid yet as straightforward as a simple white daisy. With seasoned insight, Schaper draws a direct correlation between caring about and acting upon social issues and tending the land. From economics to aesthetics, recycling to reflection, gardening can impart essential lessons for social change, even if it's only a society of one. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Donna Schaper is a life long gardener, granddaughter of a strawberry and potato farmer in upstate New York. She has written many books and publishes frequent essays in *NEWSDAY*, *PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER*, on NPR, *NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER*, *CHRISTIAN CENTURY* and many others. She is the winner of an ACLU Courage Award. She is currently a Senior Minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City. She is chair of the Interfaith Clergy Dialogue, an affiliate of the National Conference for Christians and Jews. From 1993-2000 Dr. Schaper served as the western Massachusetts executive in which position she was responsible for supporting 125 United Church of Christ congregations. She had strong urban ministry experience in Chicago, Philadelphia and Miami. She was one of the first woman trained by Saul Alinsky in the 1970s and she was the executive director of Chicago's Urban Academy. She was also an associate chaplain at Yale University. Rev. Schaper completed her theological studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA and the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her Doctor of Ministry degree is from Hartford Theological Seminary. She is married to Dr. Warren Goldstein, chair of the department of history at the University of Hartford. They have three adult children Isaac, Jacob, and Katie.