

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2017-18

www.nydistrictIV.org



Message from District IV Director Judy Esposito



Dear District IV members,

It has been a long winter for me trying to get rid of a stubborn sinus infection and trying, not too successfully, to keep up with everything in my life. I do like the snow but I couldn't get out in it much this year :(. The birds that come to my garden are always entertaining, and I have been trying to stop the squirrels from getting to one of my feeders.

The flyer for the District IV Meeting & Luncheon on May 1st, which is hosted by my home club Ballston Spa, has been sent to the presidents to be forwarded to all club members (see page 2). We have an entertaining speaker planned, Mr. Sidney Martin, and there will be floral arrangements that members can win. We may ask that other clubs help a little because our club is small. Most clubs, however, have found it hard to share the work as far as organizing and we have also. If your members don't have email, please give them a paper copy of the flyer. As usual, we will have the Ways & Means table, raffle baskets donated by the clubs, and baked goods.

As a District, we are planning a trip to the New York Botanical Garden on Friday, June 15th (see page 8). The theme is 'Georgia O'Keeffe Hawaii' and in addition, the roses will be in full bloom! I can't wait and please promote this so we can fill the bus. I even know the bus driver, so it will be a GO! I love being with my fellow garden club members. Please let this trip be known and reserve your spot for yourselves, your friends and relatives!

If your club has any officer changes, please let me know. If you have a new President and/or slate of officers, I will be happy to install them. I can attend any functions and lunches you invite me to attend.

World Gardening now has two choices (Water for South Sudan and Dip Deep/Navajo Water Project) so please encourage your club to give to one or both of these worthy causes. When planning your year, please take into consideration the State & National meetings which district members may attend. National Garden Week is the first week of June, so activities can be planned around this event. The National Garden Club webpage has some nice ideas for celebrating the week, and it's good publicity for your club.

As a District we will NOT participate in the Capital District Flower Show at HVCC this year because District III cannot assist. Since we were partnering with them to share the cost and man-

The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Judy Esposito, Director
Charlanne Ryan-McDonough, Assistant Director
Mary Ann Brown, Recording Secretary
Martha Van Patten, Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Millington, Treasurer

power, we cannot do it ourselves.

The FGCNYS Spring Conference will be held in Binghamton on April 15-17, and I will be attending. If anyone wants to experience all the great presentations, I will be sending out the information shortly. District IV will be providing an educational display, so I need some help on this for ideas and execution. Please let me know if you are interested.

Enjoy your club planning and the anticipation of a great gardening season. Again, I can come to your meetings and will gladly install any incoming officers. See you all in the Spring!

- Judy Esposito, District Director

District IV Spring Luncheon

'From Seeds and Showers to Flowers'

Hosted by the Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

Tuesday, May 1st 2018 at The Holiday Inn

2223 Canada Street, Route 9, Lake George, NY 12845

9:00 AM: *Registration, Welcome!*

10:00 AM: *Business Meeting*

11:15 AM: *Social Time and Tea, Coffee & Muffins*

12:00 PM: *Luncheon*

1:15 PM: *The Magic of Flowers with Simply Sidney Floral Design & Home Accents*

Deadline for Reservations: April 21, 2018

Entrée Selection (Choose One):

\$ 32.00 per person

Petite Salmon with Rice

Chicken Parmesan

Sliced London Broil w/Potatoes

Please make one check per club payable to the Ballston Spa House & Garden Club, and mail to: Lorraine McPherson, 20 Hyde Blvd., Ballston Spa, NY 12020 (please list attendees names and entrée selection)

**Members please bring baked goods, plants & gently used items for the Ways & Means Table*

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

On October 19th, club members met at the Saratoga Center for Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Care to engage the residents in making dried fall arrangements. The residents enjoyed working with the dried flowers brought from club members' gardens which were placed in clear vases to take to their rooms. Pictured below are Barb Devlin (left) and Lorraine McPherson (right) with residents.



Club members returned to the Center on December 8th to assist the residents with making holiday arrangements for their rooms.

On December 5th, club members met at the home of club member Barb Devlin for a holiday potluck luncheon. In addition to enjoying great food, club members donated canned items for the local food pantry.

Club members sponsored a Wreaths for Memorials event on December 16th at the Veterans Memorial Park in Ballston Spa. A large wreath was placed on the monument to pay tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice defending and protecting our freedom. Village of Ballston Spa Mayor John Romano and BSHGC President Judy Esposito gave thanks to the entire veteran community and all who attended the ceremony.



At the January meeting, club President Judy Esposito shared recipes and tips for infusing oils and

vinegars with herbs. Dried herbs may be used in a variety of oils, while fresh herbs from the garden may be used to infuse vinegars.

On February 8th, club members shared a variety of teas, sandwiches and pastries at a Valentine's Tea celebration.

Club members are putting the finishing touches on the plans for the District IV Meeting and Luncheon to be held on May 1st (details on page 2).

- Pamela Relyea, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

Carillon Garden Club had a busy fall. In October, members of the club received flowers from The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga. With the flowers, they helped the residents of Heritage Commons Nursing Home make arrangements for the dining room. Pictured here are



Bev Sann, Florence Kunnas, Betty Rettig and Judy Szabo.

In December, club members were involved with two activities in town. The holiday tree, decorated by Susan Darrin, was for Hancock House and its Festival of Trees.



After the concert by Champlain Valley Chorale, club members hosted the Holiday Magic reception and displayed their beautiful arrangements. Shown

below is the arrangement made by Vivian DenBlyker. Many members of town look forward to this event.



Club members take the months of January and February off, and will start up again in March. The first meeting will be held at the home of Ann Westervelt with a potluck luncheon to follow.

- Ann Westervelt, President

Glenville Hills Garden Club

In mid-October, a Saratoga PLAN Stewardship Coordinator shared information about public preserves and trails in Saratoga County with club members and guests at a Galway Town Hall open meeting. Feedback indicated that many attendees took advantage of the mild autumn weather and explored heretofore unknown local gifts of nature.

In late October, Angie Tompkins, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator and Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator, presented a program on backyard wildlife management. Club members learned that moles eat insects, grubs and worms while voles like plants, tubers, bark roots and bulbs. Moles can be as asset as their tunneling permits aeration of the soil and they consume harmful grubs. It looks like gardeners have a difficult decision: are their moles assets or pests?

November's program, Growing Small Fruits in Your Home Garden, featured Jay Matthews, one of our favorite local farmers, who owns The Other Garden business. Club members learned about the soil conditions, site selection and plant varieties that create an ideal environment for growing berries and small fruits. The Matthews mantra is "buy local products when they are in season and keep the dollars close to home."

The annual holiday party was catered in a local church hall decorated by club members. It was a happy way to begin the holiday season.



Also in December, club members honored veterans at six local sites by placing a memorial wreath. Town officials spoke at one site; at the Galway High School site, the Star-Spangled Banner was sung by Galway High school student Kim Martin, the granddaughter of club member Lyn Liuzzo. At all sites, heads were bowed with silent prayers thanking "All Who Served."



Election of officers took place at the club's January potluck luncheon. Club member Elaine Podwirny presented a program on essential oils, how they are made, what distinguishes them and what makes them so precious.

In February, club members saw a PowerPoint presentation by co-president Margie Prasek. She used photos of plants that have thrived in the shady spots of club members' gardens.



Club member Lyn Liuzzo welcomes spring in March by guiding fellow members in creating floral arrangements that they will distribute to others in our community who could use some springtime

cheer. Other arrangements will be distributed via the Meals on Wheels program.

The annual luncheon to celebrate the past year, recognize outgoing officers and install incoming officers will take place at Henry's on the Green in Ballston Spa in April.

May will find club members working with sixth grade students and volunteers to weed, rake, prune and plant annuals at various sites in and around Galway in preparation for Memorial Day festivities. Pies and plants will be sold at the Memorial Day parade event. The proceeds will be used to send two 7th grade Galway Central School students to the NYS Department of Conservation Camp Colby.

The annual club potluck picnic will be held in June at a club member's home.

- Lenore Lanka, Correspondent

Heritage Garden Club

Club members began autumn last year with a garden therapy project with 15 residents of Woodlawn Commons. Plant materials from members' gardens were used to create Mason jar arrangements. Beautiful hydrangeas were at the center of each arrangement along with a variety of grasses, hosta leaves, mums and asters.



A second garden therapy project took place in early December. This was holiday decorating of small artificial trees and wreaths with a wide choice of ribbons, tinsel, and tiny ornaments. Approximately 20 men and women participated in this project with the assistance of several club members. After the session, residents brought their own creations to their apartments to enjoy for the season.

The annual November card party was held at the Embassy Suites. Club members were joined by card and mahjong enthusiasts for a buffet lunch. The talented club members sold homemade ornaments, fabulous table-top snowmen, and gently used handbags, jewelry and accessories.

Van Patten Golf Course's Vista Restaurant was once more the site of the club's holiday party. In addition to enjoying fellowship and scrumptious food, club members gathered wrapped gifts for the residents at The Good Shepherd home as well as warm outerwear for Shelters of Saratoga. There was also an Empty Stocking collection used to purchase Christmas gifts for a needy child.

The Pitney Farm Community Project, the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mooncatcher Project were three programs enjoyed by club members in the past months. Everyone learned something new from each speaker presentation.

- Elizabeth Rossi, Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club

As the summer months ended, the Lake George Community Garden Club kicked off fall 2017 at the October meeting with a very informative program and Power Point presentation by Steve Engelhart from Adirondack Architectural Heritage. Club members learned that the Great Camps might be the best examples of rustic style architecture, but there are many other buildings in the region that capture the spirit of the rustic Adirondacks and the architects who shaped these buildings.

On October 5, club member Carolyn Rudolph invited members to her home for a centerpiece workshop, in which they were guided through the steps toward creating original and interesting centerpiece-

es. Carolyn entered her own centerpieces in the "Festival of Trees" competition at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, which takes place each year the weekend after Thanksgiving.

A group of club members lead by Greta West, Diane Morency and Deanna Payne met at Deanna's home in November to decorate the club's entry of a four-foot tree in the "Festival of Trees" competition. Deanna provided a delicious buffet for the decorators. In addition to the tree, several centerpieces represented the Lake George Community Garden Club in the competition.



Before the regular meeting of the club in November, members decorated seventeen wreaths which were given to area libraries, post offices, fire houses and nursing homes.

On Wednesday, December 6, forty-five club members enjoyed the annual holiday luncheon at the Log Jam Restaurant in Lake George. This annual event is an afternoon of conversation, gift swapping and feasting from a delicious buffet. The members brought donations of non-perishables to be donated to the Moreau Food Pantry. They also collected money for Wait House, a homeless shelter in Glens Falls. Music and song were the highlights of the luncheon with entertainment by

famed folk singer Dan Berggeren who is well known throughout the Adirondack area for his talent as a guitarist and singer.



On January 17, the "First Day of Spring Project: Creating Spring Cards" was held in Lake George. Many beautiful cards were decorated and then delivered to residents of the Warren Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing for them to give to friends and family. Despite snowy weather, club members enjoyed a presentation by horticulturist and landscape designer, Amy Howansky. Amy showed design techniques used by landscape architects to trick you into stopping at a garden entrance or entice you into a space where a special plant is showcased.

Continuing projects include: February's covered dish luncheon, the annual plant sale in May, granting a scholarship to a Lake George junior or senior to attend the 2018 session at Camp Colby, and getting ready to enjoy all the benefits of summer in the North Country.

- Scheryl Lomonico, Second Vice President



Schuylerville Garden Club

January 1, 2018 and 18 degrees below zero! We can hope that spring comes early.

Schuylerville Garden Club had a busy fall and winter. The club's November meeting saw everyone making center pieces from local cut greens.



In December, club members joined the seniors at Morgans Run for holiday treats and Christmas carols.



The club's holiday meeting was held at *Longfells* with good food, games and exchange of gifts.

Club members heard from Dr. Jinks in January on how to "grow a healthy spine and nervous system."

After the long cold winter, club members are looking forward to spring planting. The seed catalogs

are coming!!!!

In February, Stacey Simmons from Brookside Nursery shared her expertise regarding the care of house plants to club members and residents of Schuylerville Manor senior housing.

In March, club members will enjoy an indoor picnic with an eye to warmer temperatures to come.

In May, club members will host a plant sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

- Sharlene Pendrak, Correspondent

Message from the editor to Club Presidents

Please forward to me as soon as practicable:

- ° the names of your new club officers,
- ° a copy of your new club yearbook (you can mail the hard copy or email me the digital copy),

and

- ° the correct number of non-email club members (for hard copies of the Garden Gate).

Thank you!

Pamela Relyea

2320 Bishop Drive

Alva, Florida 33920 (thru 5/31)

email: lakelonly@yahoo.com

*Bus Trip to the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit &
The New York Botanical Gardens
Friday, June 15, 2018*

Sponsored by District IV

Enjoy a day at the New York Botanical Gardens:

- ° Self-guided tour of the gardens & O'Keeffe's art work either walking or riding a tram*
- ° Lunch on your own at the Garden or bring your own for a picnic.*

Dinner included at Frank Guido's Little Italy in Kingston:

*A buffet style meal including salad, 4 entrees (1 vegetarian),
mini-desserts & coffee, tea or soda*

Members \$95.00, non-FGCNYS Members \$99.00

Bus, entrance, dinner & all gratuities included!

Reservations by May 10. No refunds after May 10.

Bus leaves from Queensbury & Wilton

Estimated Schedule:

<i>leave Aviation Mall</i>	<i>7:15am</i>
<i>arrive Wilton Mall</i>	<i>7:45am</i>
<i>arrive NYBG</i>	<i>11:00am</i>
<i>leave NYBG</i>	<i>4:00pm</i>
<i>arrive Wilton Mall</i>	<i>9:00pm</i>
<i>arrive Aviation Mall</i>	<i>9:30pm</i>

Contact: Sharon at sharonfoxrun@icloud.com or 518-258-1511 for reservations. Call: Judy at 518-885-6416 for additional information.

a few thoughts on winter

"In the depths of winter I finally learned that within me there
lay an invincible summer."
- *Albert Camus*

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."
- *Anne Bradstreet*



District IV Calendar of Events

<i>April 15-17</i>	FGCNYS Spring Conference, Binghamton, NY
<i>April 25</i>	District IV Board Meeting, 9:30 AM, Lake George, NY
<i>May 1</i>	District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon, Lake George, NY
<i>May 21-24</i>	NGC Spring Conference, Philadelphia, PA
<i>June 3-9</i>	National Garden Week
<i>June 12-14</i>	FGCNYS June Board Meeting & Symposium, Rochester, NY

District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club:

www.bshgc.org

Carillon Garden Club:

www.facebook.com/carillongc

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga
County:

www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org

Heritage Garden Club:

www.heritagegardenclub.org

Lake George Community Garden Club:

www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Schuylerville Garden Club:

www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org