

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Spring 2016

www.nydistrictIV.org



Message from District IV Director Judy Esposito



*We receive but what we give,
And in our life alone does Nature live.*

- Samuel T. Coleridge

Nature lives in all of us, a gift for us. As I was getting excited about the gardens because the plants are beginning to bud and the tulips are pushing up, the temperatures dropped as did the snow. It will be interesting to see what buds survive the April snow. It is also interesting to see what our clubs will have planned for the upcoming year! Yearbooks will be coming out by the time you get this newsletter, so please make sure you read them and mark your calendars to support your club, district, & state activities.

In January, there was an FGCNYS Executive Committee teleconference called by President Pat Wania in which I represented District IV. There were many motions passed that included such things as increasing the Guilderland office assistant's hours, dates for future board meetings and conferences, and an increase to the size of State publication "The News". In addition, the rules of NYS gaming have been examined by FGCNYS officers. There will be a state level committee meeting on this topic in the near future but in the meantime, we may continue to offer baskets to raise funds.

Important dates to include on your calendars are the NGC-CAR conference to be held on October 23-25th in Saratoga followed by the FGCNYS Flower Symposium on the 26-27th. NGC President Sandra Robinson and CAR Director Anne Bucher will be in attendance. District IV will be represented by providing favors for a meal, by this Director participating in a skit (not my idea but peer pressure is exerting a great force!), and by two District IV Judges Council

The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Judy Esposito, Director
Mary Dame, Assistant Director
Elizabeth Rossi, Recording Secretary
Martha Van Patten, Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Millington, Treasurer

members participating in the Flower Symposium. Barb Millington and Laurie Tompkins are on the committee organizing the outings for the guests, and Pat Wania is overseeing much of the planning. Please come and support your participating district members! This conference is an honor to have right in our backyard at the Gideon Putnam with award winning floral displays, floral demonstrations, and gardening speakers. Preliminary information has been disseminated to your presidents, with more forthcoming as we get closer to the fall.

Club presidents have been giving you information about the District IV bus trip to Elizabeth Park in Connecticut and please see the detailed information later in this newsletter. This is a day trip and you will get to experience a wonderful garden, have lunch in a beautiful setting, and not have to worry about driving. The trip is open to club members, guests, and spouses so please sign up as soon as possible. Unsold seats will be offered to other districts and/or the public, so sign up early to insure you are included with your guests.

There is only one club, Glenville Hills, installing new officers this spring, and I will be honored to attend the installation luncheon at the end of April. I look forward to attending many upcoming various plant sales and meetings of other clubs.

National Garden Week is the first week of June, and activities during this week are encouraged by the NGC and FGCNYS. Don't forget to file for a State award if your club holds an event.

By the time you receive this Garden Gate, the May 3rd District IV Spring Luncheon and Meeting will be upon us, and I know that it will be a fun time of information and socializing. A nominating committee will be formed at the meeting. If you would like to be more involved in continuing the work of District IV, please consider submitting your name to your club president to forward to the committee. Reservations for the luncheon are accepted until April 26th so please sign up, if you haven't already. As club members, we need to rally together to make our events fun and to attract new members. "Spread the word to spread the work!"

-Judy Esposito, District IV Director



Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

The recurring slate of club officers was inducted at a potluck luncheon on March 12th at the lovely home of club member Liz Kormos. Many wonderful and creative dishes were sampled, followed by a fun game of Garden Jeopardy. The April meeting will see club members planting spring blooms in a pot.

Club members are now busy planning for spring and summer in their own gardens as well as those of the Village of Ballston Spa that the club maintains. Garden cleanup for all three village gardens is scheduled for the first week of May, and compost spreading with the local Boy Scout troop will occur later in the month. In addition, much work is being done in advance of the first Hidden Garden Tour on June 26th hosted by the club and the Friends of the Ballston Spa Public Library. Details will be communicated to everyone soon.

On a sad note, a memorial service for long time club member Jean Puckhaber was held in Ballston Spa on April 23rd. Jean was a founding member of the club in 1955, served as president, and was a National Garden Club life member. She was very involved in many community activities as well. Club members remember Jean as always being well dressed and coifed, and they loved to hear her stories of being a Radio City Rockette!!



- Pamela Relyea, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

Spring blessings to all! The Carillon Garden Club started the 2016 year with a program in March on



making pressed flower pictures. Club member Lena Iuliano shared her expertise and passion for preserved flowers with the mem-

bers, much to everyone's delight. It was a great opportunity to come together once again after the winter hiatus.

Plans are being made to get into the community soon to start spring cleaning and maintenance of garden projects in Ticonderoga and Hague. Plans are also in the works to visit a local assisted living residence and bring a springtime planting project to the residents. The April meeting will feature a slide presentation of a club member's trips to the gardens in the Netherlands.

May brings an opportunity for the club to share a program with the community and sister clubs in District IV when Charlie Nardoizzi presents a program on May 19th at the Hague Community Center (see details on this fun event later in this newsletter). Club members hope to see many of you at what will be a fun and informative afternoon.

- Betty Rettig, Correspondent

Glenville Hills Garden Club

A potluck luncheon with gourmet contributions from members was held in January at Nancy Caparulo's unique home. Officers were elected and plans for the coming year programs were discussed.

In February, new member Maria Walker hosted the club meeting in her charming home. The program “Early Friendly Choices” was presented by Karen Totino, co-owner of Green Conscience in Saratoga. Club members learned about the environmental impact of common products, how to be earth friendly inside and outside the home, how to create a living air green wall, and the choices for green alternatives available to consumers in the local area. Karen’s shop specializes in “safe” walls, floors and beds. A lively discussion brought many important facts to the attention of club members.

“Lavender and Herbs” was the topic in March. Sheelagh Baily provided a warm atmosphere in her home for the presentation by Marilyn Stevenson of the Thymly Herb Club. Marilyn was born and raised on a lavender farm so she has firsthand experience and information on how herbs and lavender are grown and harvested for use as supplements as well as for their beauty and fragrance.

The installation of officers takes place in April at the Cock ‘n Bull Restaurant in Galway. Club members are honored to have Judy Esposito install the officers in one of the club’s favorite gathering places.

Spring is the time for clean-up day in Galway Village on May 25th. Phyllis Sleeper and Darby Neahr organize the 6th grade students from Galway, some parents, teachers and of course, the club members. Besides the usual weeding, edging and raking at the school, post office, churches and library, club members also plant



an annual garden at the Galway Food Pantry, and twelve flower barrels along the Village’s roadside are planted with colorful annuals. They will be ready for the Memorial Day Parade on May 30th which is when the club holds its annual Memorial Day Plant and Pie Sale in the center of Galway Village Park. Members keep busy digging and sharing their perennials, as well as baking a variety of pies and quiches for some fortunate customers. This is the club’s main fundraiser. Proceeds are used to send four 7th grade Galway Central School students to Camp Colby in the summer.

At the end of June, club members will celebrate with a pot luck luncheon at Lenore Lanka’s home on Galway Lake.

- Lenore Lanka and Lyn Liuzzo, Co-Presidents

Heritage Garden Club

The Heritage Garden Club has been busy making plans for spring. The April meeting features a program on the Yaddo gardens.

The May meeting will include a program on floral design given by the District IV Judges Council. On May 9th at noon, the club will hold its annual Spring Luncheon at the Prime Restaurant at the Saratoga National Golf Club. The luncheon will feature a speaker about the importance of honey bees. Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend. On May 14th, there will be a nature walk lead by naturalist Linda White at the Saratoga Battlefield at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is no fee. For more information, contact Martha Van Patten at 583-0688 or email her at gmvan6@aol.com. Also in May, club members will work with Woodlawn Commons residents to put up pansies as a garden therapy activity. These events conclude the club’s scheduled meetings until September, but not its other activities.

Club members will participate in planting annuals once again at a home on North Broadway. This a fun event and a fundraiser that takes place in early June. On June 6 at noon, the club will host a National Garden Week program in the Community Room at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Emily DeBolt of Fiddlehead Creek will present a program on native and invasive species. This program is partially supported by the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust. The club's annual plant sale will be held on June 11, 9-noon, on the corner of East Avenue and Bryan Street in Saratoga Springs.

On July 10, the Visitor Center Memorial Garden will be open for visitors during the Saratoga Soroptimist Secret Garden Tour on that day. The committee will be busy getting the gardens ready. Other news about the gardens that the club maintains is that the Garden of Hope at Saratoga Hospital's Radiation Oncology Center has been allocated additional funds so that it can be made larger and so will become more impressive and beautiful.

An event that the Woodlawn Commons residents and club members alike look forward to is the annual barbecue at Woodlawn Commons. This will take place on July 11 and is complete with outdoor grills which are "manned" by expert grillers, club members Barbara Tasso and Sharon Meyer.

- Martha Van Patten, Correspondent and District IV Wildflower and Bird Chairman

Lake George Community Garden Club

The Lake George Community Garden Club started the new year with the annual greeting card workshop. The goal of making 100 cards was achieved in no time by very creative members. The cards were stamped with LGCGC on the back, and the envelopes were adorned with a flower postage stamp and packaged in two-card packs, ready for delivery to the Warren Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing for the First Day of Spring project. Despite the cold outside, the members had a good



dose of spring inside. Following the workshop, the members enjoyed a slide show presented by Peter Bowden. Peter is spokesperson for Hewitt's Garden Centers and WRGB's resident garden expert with the weekly

garden tips. Peter discussed creative ways to photograph our gardens. Members learned one very important practice...never leave home without your camera!

At the February meeting, the members enjoyed the popular covered dish luncheon. It was a wonderful excuse to get out of the house and brush away the winter blues. Members arrived with their signature dishes from soup to nuts. After eating a dollop of every dish, the members exchanged recipes and shared winter stories and plans for the spring and summer. Also in February, the Perennial Planters gathered at President Charlanne McDonough's home for a meeting entitled "Bring your Favorite Gardening Tool". Members brought a variety of tools, some shiny and new and some a little rusty and worn. Each member talked about the tool and demonstrated how it was used in the garden.



Members asked "where can I buy that tool"?!

At the March meeting, members enjoyed a lecture by Julie Nathanson, Consumer Horticulture Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Warrensburg. Julie discussed several invasive plants generally found in local gardens and how to combat them. Julie discussed the negative effects of

invasive plants in NYS and the spectacular native plants available in the northeast as alternatives to plant in our gardens.

In upcoming events, Bilye Jo Gilligan, Binley Florist and Garden Center designer, will demonstrate and lead a seminar in April for members to create their own miniature indoor fairy garden. The meeting in May will be a lecture by Stephen Englehart of Adirondack Architectural Heritage on the Great Camp Santanoni. Stephen will take club members through the history and elegance of Santanoni in the Essex County Town of Newcomb. June will bring the club back to Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The members will enjoy an afternoon of remembrance of past members and projects with a slide show and old photo albums.

- Charlanne Ryan-McDonough, President

Schuylerville Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club met on March 9th for a covered dish winter picnic. With an abundance of food and entertainment by "The Clowns", everyone had a good time. Members received the 2016 yearbook showing future meetings.

The April meeting will feature Marcia Martin speaking on gardening in a changing climate. At the May meeting, Liz Gee and Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine (club members and Master Gardeners) will demonstrate Duo Design and Transparent Design in preparation for the club's July 23-24 flower show. In June, club members will visit the Wilton Wildlife Preserve to see Karner blue butterflies and the diverse ecological wild flowers there.

With the temperature in the 70's, spring may come early. Let's hope that everyone's plants can adjust to the change and bloom when expected.

- Sharlene Pendrak, Correspondent

ANNUAL DISTRICT BUS TOUR

TUESDAY - JUNE 28, 2016

Join your fellow garden club members on a tour of *Elizabeth Gardens* in East Hartford, CT. The park has 2.5 acres of roses that should be in full bloom. You will be able to enjoy the roses and the other gardens on a leisurely walk along the pathways of 101 acres of park.

The Pond House, a well-known restaurant in Hartford that has its own vegetable garden, will provide our group lunch.

We will be using one bus. Reservations are now being taken on a first come-first served basis. After May 21, it will be open to the public.

The tour, including lunch, is \$80 with a \$1 off per ticket if you bring a friend. Thank you to those that have reserved seats already!

Please join us for a fun relaxing time!

Barb Millington

bmillington@nycap.rr.com

Carillon Garden Club Invites All!

The Carillon Garden Club is hosting an interesting presentation on May 19th at the Hague Community Center. Mr. Charlie Nardozi, a very entertaining and knowledgeable author and nationally recognized TV and radio personality, will present the program "Food Scaping" about using edible plantings in our landscaping. A buffet luncheon will be served at 11:30 with the program following at 12:30. Luncheon and program is \$15.00 per person. Reservations are needed by May 12th to Anita Masten, 11 Lakeshore Terrace, Hague, NY 12836. Checks are to be made out to Carillon Garden Club. If you have questions, please call Anita at 543-6952.

*BALLSTON SPA HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB**6th Annual Plant Sale*

Available: Wave Petunias in Purple, Red & White,

Green Sweet Potato Vines,

Geraniums in Pink, Red, White, and Salmon

Price: \$4.25 each in 4 1/2" pots

Order by: May 12 Pick up on: May 17 To order: 309-3210

District IV Calendar of Events

April 27 Spring Board Meeting, Lake George Senior Center, 9:30 AM.

May 3 Spring Meeting and Luncheon, Holiday Inn Resort, Lake George, 9 AM

June 28 Bus Trip to Elizabeth Gardens, East Hartford, Connecticut

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.schuylervillegardenclub.org