



FIRST DISTRICT  
FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.

JUNE 2014

*The Garden Line*

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2

Virginia Bodrate, District Director

Robert Bauer, Editor

Lucille Bauer, Production Asst.



*Directors Message*  
*By Virginia Bodrate*

Spring this year proved to be a tardy guest, giving little promise of the rebirth and renewal we expected. But our Island home recouped; lawns are flourishing, snow capped tulips and daffodils have perked and hardy Azaleas once again flaunt coats of multi colored blossoms.

For me, March has always been a busy month. During the past 40 years I have conducted the annual Philadelphia Flower Show fund raiser hosted by the Great Kills Garden Club. It continues to be a personal source of pride and pleasure that this delightful excursion attracts an increasing number of club members and outside supporters.

Shortly afterwards I attended the South Shore Garden Club's "lunch and learn" program featuring the work of a professional florist. His program-floral "vase" arrangements was interesting.

Our annual Spring luncheon was a stellar event due in great measure to the admiration and respect tendered Ellen Pratt, a long time member. Her achievements and those of her fellow "Greenbelt" advocates well deserve a place of honor in Staten Island history. Appropriately on Arbor Day, April 25th the Great Kills Garden Club planted a native American Holly on the grounds of the historic Conference House. For all of us who attended it was a solemn reminder of our commitment to preserving our natural history.

On May 4th I attended the Staten Island Garden Club's centennial at the Old Bermuda Inn. Founded in 1913-one of Staten Island's most prominent citizen of the day Alice Austen was a founding member. I presented to its current president Alma DiSimone a certificate of merit for its noteworthy achievements.

May's main event was the Annual Spring Conference of the Federated Garden Clubs of N.Y.S., Inc. This year it was held in Albany at the Desmond Hotel, May 7th -9th. Thirteen members of District's One's six garden clubs attended, a commendable achievement, considering we are one of the State's smallest Districts. Eileen Torricelli, Garden Therapy President, presented an informative talk. She was rewarded for her dedicated efforts by citations from the Governor's office and from State Senator Andrew Lanza as well. The Garden Therapy Club will have a table at the Ecology Fair on May 17th at the Staten Island Mall.

I had the pleasure on May 14th, accompanied by Joan Junqua of the Great Kills Garden Club to present a program at Castle Manor Garden Club. I demonstrated table arrangements, Joan- a "Petite" expert dazzled the members with her miniature beauties.

District One's flower show "Rock Around The Clock" will debut on June 7th, chaired by Denise Dunphy and Carol Berardi. Competition will be keen because the District is gifted with many talented and creative members.

Once again, as District One's Director, I thank you all for your continued support, service and dedication.

Virginia Bodrate  
Director

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## District Officers

**Virginia Bodrate,**  
Director

**Betty LaFemina,**  
Assistant Director

**Lucille Bauer**  
Corr./Recording Secretary

**Bonnie Rogers,**  
Treasurer

**Carol Berardi,**  
Asst. Treasurer

## Club Presidents

**Castle Manor** - Lucille Bauer  
**Garden Therapy** - Eileen Torricelli  
**Great Kills** - Graceann Morawek

**Richmond-Evergreen** - Marge Holten  
**South Shore** - Gertrude Sokolowsky  
**Staten Island** - Alma DiSimone



### World Gardening—Water for South Sudan

Since 2005, 220 wells have been drilled in South Sudan. Your generous donations have brought fresh clean water to tens of thousands of people transforming life in their villages. Please continue to support the FGCNYS World Gardening Project “Water for South Sudan.” Donations can be sent to Bonnie Rogers, District One World Gardening Chairman payable to FGCNYS, memo line “World Gardening.”

## Upcoming Events

### 2014

June 1-7—National Garden Week

June 2-4- FGCNYS Exe. Board of Directors Meeting and Symposium, Rochester, NY

June 7 - District Flower Show, New Dorp Moravian Church

June 12 - Great Kills GC Bus Trip to Boscobell

Sept. 8 - District Meeting

Sept. 13 - Great Kills GC Flower Show

Sept. 27 - First District Bus Trip to Wintherthur

## WEB LINKS

**National Garden Clubs:** <http://gardenclub.org> (Login with “member” as a user name and “world” as a password to access full site.)

**Federated Garden Clubs of New York State:** [www.fgcny.com](http://www.fgcny.com)

**District One, FGCNYS:** [sigardenclubs.org](http://sigardenclubs.org).

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## Club News

### Castle Manor

Spring is always a renewal for our club. Now celebrating a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, our members are refreshed and excited about the future year. At the April 10<sup>th</sup> District Meeting & Luncheon, member Lucille Bauer received a Directors Award and the Karen Woytowich 1st District Horticulture Silver Bowl. Also, 1<sup>st</sup> District Flower Show Schedule "Paws & Claws" received a CAR 2<sup>nd</sup> place-multiple clubs citation chaired by members Robert & Lucille Bauer.

On May 8, four of our members Peggy Wall, Elaine Callari, Greta Johnsen and myself attended the FGCNYS Meeting in Albany which included a beautiful Tulip Tour in Washington Park hosted by the newly retired City Horticulturist. The meetings and Awards Banquet dinner was a time to meet old friends and the opportunity to make some new ones.

On May 14, our District Director Virginia Bodrate and Membership Chairman Joan Junqua offered a wonderful design program for our club on tables and petites. Thank you both so much our members loved it. Also, in May members Robert and Lucille Bauer attended the Staten Island GC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

In honor of Memorial Day, member and Chairman of the Blue Star Memorial Marker, Evelia Foster placed flowers at the Ft. Wadsworth location.

With the District Flower Show coming up shortly, our club will host the Judges Luncheon chaired by member Elaine Callari and her committee. A number of our members have entered the show, good luck to all.

Happy Summer to All!

Lucille Bauer, reporting

### GARDEN THERAPY

Eileen Toricelli was a guest speaker at the 90th FGCNYS Convention speaking about Garden Therapy and the Club prepared an educational exhibit which was displayed in the main lobby. At the convention several awards and citations were presented honoring the FGCNYS and the Garden Therapy Club for their work with Garden Therapy including proclamations from Governor Cuomo, Senator Lan-

za and Assemblyman Cusak. The Club was also recognized at the State CAR and National levels as being the first club in Garden Therapy for seniors and the disabled.

We did a "Lunch and Learn" program on Earth Day on April 22 at the Clove Lakes Health Care and Rehabilitation Center and made "Garden Bracelets" out of roses, flowers and beads. Our club will celebrate National Garden Week with a number of public events including tree plantings, a breakfast workshop at Community Resources, a tea at Clove Lakes Nursing Home and educational displays at several locations including CTV, Stop and Shop and Citizens Bank. We are continuing our work with Sandy victims helping them to rebuild and sending cards and packages to our SI Military abroad. Eileen Torricelli and members are teaching a six week continuing education course at CSI on Gardening. They will have an educational exhibit at CSI for Garden Week and will receive an award for the Club's work at CSI at a special picnic luncheon on June 5.

The club is planning several fundraisers in 2014 including "Tee Shirt Sales District I," a jewelry raffle, an Atlantic City & Winery Bus Trip and fundraisers at Applebees, Perkins and Barnes and Noble.

The Garden Therapy Club celebrated its 4th Anniversary on April 24, 2014. We will be holding a special Garden Tea Party entitled "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future" to honor our founders, board members and all those individuals and groups that have supported us these past 4 years. Many thanks to all those who have supported us these past 4 years.

Eileen Torricelli, reporting

### Great Kills

Spring began with a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. It was a great success thanks to Virginia Bodrate. Our March program was about what kind of plants are best started from seeds. Our speaker was Marilyn Curcio an accomplished gardener who has won many awards at in club competition and several flower Shows. Our April program was "Brighten your landscape with flowering Bulbs" we will learn what variety of bulbs to plant" and what to do after they have flowered. Our annual luncheon was April 17th at the Staaten. We held our Arbor Day tree planting at the conference House on April 25th. Members cleaned up and planted for Spring, we later had a small luncheon for members. Bess Cordella, her hus-

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band, and several members met at Bloomingdale park for Spring clean up and planting. May meeting was how to plant and care for roses. The speaker was Mary Lou Neeles, a member of Great Kills Garden Club and a master gardener who received her certification from the university of Connecticut Agricultural Extension Service.

Have a wonderful summer!

Lillian Ferrelli, reporting

## RICHMOND EVERGREEN

The Richmond Ever-Green Garden Club opened up 2014 with Virginia Bodrate, District Director installing our new officers Marge Holton, President; Linda Conlon, 1st Vice President; Lenora Mauch, 2nd Vice President; Suzanne Quinn, Recording Secretary; Carol Boylan, Corresponding Secretary; Maryann Burchie, Treasurer and Connie Galifi, Asst. Treasurer. Many thanks were given to outgoing board members for their dedicated service to the club. Denise Dunphy, Chairperson and Carol Berardi, Co-chair are preparing for the District Flower Show, "Rock Around The Clock" June 7th. Club members are planting at Amundsen Circle Park, The Healing Garden, Garibaldi Museum, Silver Mount Cemetery, South Beach Library and several firehouses. On May 3rd Nina Marra arranged for club members, Marge Holton, Mary Lou Terranova, Connie Galifi, Rosina Kiley, Nicki DiGrazia, Linda Conlon and Mary Vitale-Selznick to mentor teens from across the region and children from PS 18 in the planting of flowers at the West Brighton Housing Authority and PS 18 in the "Books and Flowers Day of Hope" in coordination with Pastor John of New Hope Community Church, West Brighton. Carolyn Pinto was instrumental in advising the Urban Hope Team on plant selection for the gardens. Pastor John expressed the job could not have been completed without the expertise and enthusiasm of the garden club and for improving the quality of life on Staten Island. We are looking forward to a bus trip to Winterthur Museum September 27th organized by Carol Berardi. Committee members are readying for the 11th Annual Tea, "Under the Big Top" November 8th. We said goodbye to Carol Jo Nelson who is motoring her boat to Florida to relocate on Pine Island. Thank you and "happy sailing" Carol Jo!

Carol Boylan, reporting

## SOUTH SHORE

At our April meeting, our club had a Lunch and Learn Workshop. First, we had a delicious lunch at Ciro's Restaurant followed by a trip to the Evergreen Florist where we learned more about floral design. Thank you to Virginia Bodrate for attending our Lunch and Learn. At our May meeting, a floral design workshop chaired by Gertrude Sokolowsky and assisted by designer Josephine McAndrews was held with all members participating. Flower design basics and preparation were reviewed and members made circular designs for the dining room table. Awards Chair Lynne McNamara announced that the South Shore Garden Club won the Luncheon Participation Award at our recent Spring luncheon. Lynne McNamara was presented a Directors Award by District Director Virginia Bodrate at our recent Spring luncheon. Members will participate in the upcoming First District Flower Show "Rock Around the Clock" to be held on June 7 at the New Dorp Moravian Church. A silver bowl in memory of Sue Fink, the founder of the South Shore Garden Club will be donated to First District and will be awarded to the winner of the Table Artistry Award in the flower show.

In honor of National Garden Week, plans were made to fill window boxes with herbs and flowers to be put at the entrance of the Paul Kroon Center at the Messiah Lutheran Church. Members will attend the celebration being held to celebrate the "Life of Damiana Russo" a former South Shore Garden Club member on May 25 at the Russo home. Get well wishes to Arthur Turner, member Joanne Turner's husband for a speedy recovery. Continued get well wishes to Pat Crawford Berg. The South Shore Garden Club will hold a Tea Party on June 10 at noon at the Paul Kroon Center of the Messiah Lutheran Church. Cost \$10. Reservations required. Please contact Gertrude 718-966-8164 Deadline June 5.

Lynne McNamara, reporting

## STATEN ISLAND

Has everyone noticed how beautiful Staten Island appears this spring? I suppose all the rain (and the winter snow storms) really brought out the beauty in the blooming trees, flowers and the lawns are greener than ever.

John Kilcullen, International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist was our speaker at the March meeting.

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"Evergreens in the Landscape." Quite an informative PowerPoint presentation was well received.

Kathleen Ruotti at our April meeting presented a Power Point presentation and lecture on the recreation of a famous Monet painting depicting his pond, bridge and gardens in a residential atmosphere. Kathleen Ruotti a Pratt Institute Master of Fine Arts, Teacher of Domestic Arts, Member of the Staten Island Orchid Society and past president of South Shore Garden Club.

May 4th we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of The Staten Island Garden Club with a luncheon for members and guests at The Historic Old Bermuda Inn. Guest speaker Patricia Salmon, a noted Staten Island historian and writer. Our group was presented with a recognition award from the 1st district, Community service award from the Borough Presidents Office, Certificate of Merit from National Headquarters, National and State Awards of Citation, Billie Jennings Membership award from 1st District, and the list goes on..... The Staten Island Garden Club members would like to thank members from other garden clubs that supported our Centennial Celebration by attending our luncheon. We know a good time was had by all!!

Our members managed to get out in between the rain drops to attend to usual community clean ups and plantings. June meeting-picnic held at Alice Austen House. Program "Alice's Plant Swap". Members are invited to trade favorite plants, and cuttings. No meetings in July, August. Enjoy the summer.....

VeraOliva, reporting

## Happy Plantings!

## Have a Wonderful Summer!



# Photo Gallery



Virginia Bodrate and Joan Junqua at a Castle Manor GC meeting.



Castle Manor Garden Club members at State Meeting in Albany.



Evelia Foster, Chairman, laying flowers at the Blue Star Memorial in Fort Wadsworth.

## Let's Go Green

To sign up for email delivery of the Garden Line contact the editor, Robert Bauer at [rbauer623@hotmail.com](mailto:rbauer623@hotmail.com).

# THE HEALING GARDEN LIVING MEMORIAL

*A ROSE BUSH HAS BEEN PLANTED IN RECOGNITION OF.....*

THE SOLDIERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
GERALD AND MADELINE TENEBRUSO  
JOHN OPULSKI  
MR. & MRS. HENRY SCHMIDT  
MR. & MRS. THEODORE WOYTOWICH  
PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF  
THE STATEN ISLAND GARDEN CLUB  
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ANGIE PUCCARELLI  
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ROSE BRUNO  
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ROSE (DOLLY) COMPETELLO  
EZZAT B. EL-MARAGHY  
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FRANCIS J. RYAN  
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WIFE OLIMPIA DELLE DONNE  
PHILOMENA VESCIA  
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JEAN BENNETT  
JACK GOLDWASSER  
MARY PIRAINO  
BEATRICE NICHOLSON  
BARBARA HOSIE  
(In Appreciation)  
**KATHY & JACK HOLLER**  
(In Appreciation)  
**VIOLET HANSEN**  
**DAMIAN RUSSO**  
**BARBARA KNABE**  
**INGRID HOLSTEIN**  
**THE 26 VICTIMS**  
**ADULTS & CHILDREN OF**  
**THE SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**  
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HEALING GARDEN CALL CAROLYN PINTO, CHAIRMAN AT (718) 987-5759