



FIRST DISTRICT
FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.

DECEMBER, 2014

The Garden Line

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

Virginia Bodrate, District Director

Robert Bauer, Editor

Lucille Bauer, Production Asst.



Directors Message
By Virginia Bodrate

The advent of Winter brings club projects to a halt. Now we consider how successful the year has been, what we have accomplished and the contributions we have achieved through our mutual efforts.

The members of the Great Kills Garden Club, dedicated to restoring Seaside Nature Park completed some "cosmetic" planting and erected a tool shed for newly purchased equipment. Future plans are in the works. The Garden Therapy Club continues with many projects and is forming a new horticultural group at Carmel Richmond Nursing Home. The South Shore Garden Club completed its clean up at the Tommy Monahan garden at Conference House Park. The Staten Island Garden Club finished its planting at Gaeta Park and "bedded" down for the year.

Some social events should be noted. My husband and I attended the 60th anniversary celebration of the Great Kills Garden Club where I presented District and State certificates of merit. For many years the combined efforts of the members of District I have contributed to the success of the St. Paul's Flower Festival in decorating the windows of the church. In gratitude, as District Director, I was graciously chosen this year to be one of the guests of honor-a cherished memory.

In September, I attended the Fall Conference of the FGCNYS, Inc. in Geneva, N.Y. I am happy to report that District One received a number of awards one of which a National Flower Show Award for 'Down the Shore', a District Flower Show and a Silver Tray for the Shows' Schedule. Nominations were also held for the 2015-2017 term of the State Board and Lucille Bauer was nominated for the office of Second Vice President of FGCNYS. At the Guilderland State meeting on November 12th, I had the pleasure of introducing District One's incoming Director, Carol Berardi. The early resignation of President Gail McGee was formally announced, due to personal reasons.

In early November I attended the Richmond Evergreen Garden Club Tea Party at the Hilton Garden Inn. This year as District One's Director I presented to Lois and Richard Nicotra, prominent "Islanders", New York State and District One certificates of merit and appreciation.

Our Semi-Annual luncheon this Fall was a resounding success. We were fortunate to secure the creative floral designer John Newman as our guest speaker.

Coming events; District One's Holiday party on December 1st and Castle Manor Garden Club's 75th anniversary celebration at the Staaten on December 15th.

Sadly, I report the passing of our dear friend, former District Director and State officer Mary Piraino. This remarkable lady, a true icon, will be sorely missed and long remembered.

Reflecting on the events of 2014 calls to mind the good counsel and cooperation I received from so many. To all our members my heartfelt wishes for a serene and festive holiday season and a new year filled with many blessings.

Virginia Bodrate
Director

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District Officers

Virginia Bodrate,
Director

Betty LaFemina,
Assistant Director

Lucille Bauer
Corres./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, 217 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

Dec, 15—CMGC 75th Anniversary Party—Staaten

2015

Fed. 2 - First District Meeting

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

District One, FGCNYS: sigardenclubs.org.

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Club News

Castle Manor

Autumn of 2014 was chockfull of activities for our club members. In September, we had a mini-trip to Historic Richmond Town with a wonderful lunch at the tavern followed by a tour led by Helen Sauter through the village visiting several of the homes and the museum. Helen even gathered a history of information on the Island for 1939 in connection with our 75th Anniversary. Needless to say, it was truly a special day for our club!

In October, our club decorated 6 windows for St. Paul's Flower Festival. The Concert and Tea was so nice and we look forward to next year. Our Photo Contest winners were on display at our meeting and card party. Our guests were served a catered luncheon and lots of desserts. It was a lovely afternoon and we want to thank everyone for entering their photos. Our judges had a difficult time because the caliber of photos this year was incredible!

In November, our members were treated to a program by Joseph Adia, a member of Origami USA. Mr. Adia, a very charming young man, helped us to make our own origami flowers. And, he brought his own works of art with him so we could start an early Christmas shopping.

We are now looking forward to our 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance on December 15. We want to congratulate our Club President Lucille Bauer for her nomination to the FGCNYS Board for the position of 2nd Vice President. Well deserved!

Good Health and Blessings of the Season!

Robert Bauer, reporting

GARDEN THERAPY

The Club is at a great loss with the recent passing of Mary Piraino, our first president and dear friend. She will be greatly missed.

We look forward to our holiday party on Dec. 2nd at which Georgie and Eileen will teach a hands on class about Holiday plants and flowers. The club will be participating in Wreaths Across America 2014 to supply wreaths for the graves of our fallen soldiers. Club members have decorated a live tree with hand-made ornaments made of native and recyclable mate-

rial that will be replanted at one of our gardens in the Spring of 2015. Members also made Pine Cone Bird Seed Feeders and Bird Baths from recycled china and soup dishes. Our Jewelry Raffle Fundraiser will be held on Dec. 2nd and we'd like to thank Goff Jewelers for donating the prizes for this raffle. Members took part in local Thanksgiving drives by collecting food, clothes and toys for needy families on Staten Island.

In September the club held an Herbal Tea Party at Community Resources and met with foreign exchange students from Japan at CUNY for an International Day where we made floral pieces with roses and the Japanese students made centerpieces with their national flowers and plants. In October we had a pumpkin decorating contest at IS 51 we also planted bulbs and mums at our memorial gardens at Community Resources, Travis, Christian Pentecostal Church and at IS 57 and made hand Holiday Cards that were sent to our active duty military overseas. In November we honored our disabled veterans by distributing handmade floral gifts at local V.A Facilities. Our members also attended a class a Panera Bread about how wheat is grown and made their individual home-made bread.

We are very proud of our club members received several awards at the Fall District Luncheon as well as from several local, city and state organizations for their work in garden therapy, a total of 122 for 2014 and still counting. We would like to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Holiday Season.

Georgie Hicinbotham and Eileen Torricelli, reporting

Great Kills

Our September meeting was our most popular famous auction. Members brought their old and new possessions to be auctioned off. Joan Junqua was our auctioneer and has developed a great skill and humor at this task. We had our flower show on September 13, it was a great success.

October meeting was very interesting. We had a brief history of paper making, and then a demonstration of how paper pulp can be made in a blender using recycled paper and botanical additives such as leaves and petals. Kathy Trimarco, a park ranger at the nature center and an artist was our instructor.

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In November we had a 60th Anniversary party with our members and several members from other clubs attending. The party was held at Ptrizia's and was a great success. Our November program will be a walk in the woods. Our speaker is John Kilcullen, the Executive Director of the Conference House in Tottenville. He frequently leads walks in the Staten Island Greenbelt. December is one of our most popular meetings. We celebrate our Christmas party with everyone bringing a favorite recipe and a \$10 grab bag gift.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a very Happy New Year!

Lillian Ferrelli, reporting

RICHMOND EVERGREEN

In September members enjoyed a bus trip to Winterthur Museum showcasing the costumes of Downton Abbey. Origami was the topic of our September meeting as Joseph Adia, member of Origami USA discussed the history and demonstrated the art of doing Origami. Members were happy to attend the 60th Anniversary of the Great Kills Garden Club at Patrizia's restaurant. At our October meeting we welcomed back to our group Dorothy Vaccaro. October's speaker was Greg Lord. Greg is Director of Horticulture at Snug Harbor and discussed fall blooming perennials along with a slide show. Bernadette Sullivan made a beautiful window box that was displayed at St. Paul's 15th Annual Flower Festival.

The Hilton was once again the venue for our annual Tea. This year's theme was "Under the Big Top" and the entertainers received a few chuckles from everyone. Sean Psomas proprietor of Wildflowers demonstrated how to create balance while demonstrating how to make a cornucopia for our holiday tables. In December we will be decorating Garibaldi-Meucci Museum for the season. We will end 2014 with a Christmas party at Cielo Ristorante and look forward to spring with so many new ideas for our community.

Carol Boylan, reporting

SOUTH SHORE

Members attended the First District Luncheon at the Staaten Restaurant on October 23 and enjoyed the fabulous floral program given by John Newman, The Singing Florist. Awards were presented by District Director, Virginia Bodrate and District I Awards Chair, Lynne McNamara. A Director's Award was presented to Gertrude Sokolowsky for her leadership, dedication and service to the South Shore Garden Club as president for over 20 years. The South Shore Garden Club won the following New York State awards: Civic Concern Citation-Community Gardens for the Tommy Monahan Memorial Tree at the Conference House Park, NYS State Award for Club Recognition and the State Award for World Gardening. District Awards presented were Garden Therapy Award to Gertrude Sokolowsky for over 20 years of dedicated service with the Down Syndrome Group. Another District Award presented was to the South Shore Garden and the Russo Family for their outstanding dedication and service in the area of garden therapy with the South Shore Garden Club.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Pirano who passed away on October 27. She was such a driving force in First District and on the state level. Mary was a past district director, parliamentarian, accredited horticulture judge, chairman of the judges council, state garden therapy chair and an active member of the Great Kills Garden Club. She was always so supportive to our club. Mary will be sorely missed.

Our club will be having our Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13 at 12:00 noon at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn.

Cost \$45.00. Please come and support our club's annual fundraiser. For reservations, please call 718.966.8164 or email gsokolowsky@gmail.com. Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Gertrude Sokolowsky and Lynne McNamara reporting

STATEN ISLAND

At our October meeting Honorary member Susan Wightman presented a demonstration and workshop. The object was to teach members how to create seasonal and holiday decorations using natural products common in Victorian times.

Our nominating committee has completed the slate of new officers; to be presented at our December meeting. In October Celide Hogan lead her committee in planting Daffodil bulbs at Gaeta Park Memorial.

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Club member Terri Torsney organized a Holiday Decorating Party held at Alice Austen House Museum. On November 21st. the museum was turned into a beautiful display of Victorian decorated trees, windows were lovely adorned with greenery. The dining area displayed beautifully for entertaining. A most enjoyable day included lunch.

Meeting and Holiday luncheon for members and guests will be Wednesday December 3rd at Italianissimo Restaurant on McClean Avenue. Vice President Patricia Harder will chair our luncheon. "Gifts from the winter garden" will be our program presented by Design Arranger, Annie Lee Wightman. She is a member of the Staten Island

Garden Club and Horticulture Committee Chair. February 25th, first meeting of 2015 will be "Flower arrangement workshop". Members will participate in a workshop using fresh cut flowers and garden evergreens. Completed arrangements will be critiqued for educational purposes in preparation for upcoming District 1 Flower Show. Director of First District, Past President of Great Kills Garden Club and winner of numerous flower show designs Virginia Bodrate will be our guest leader. Installation of Officers will also take place at this meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!!!

Vera Oliva reporting

Calling All Poets

The 2015 FGCNYS Poetry Contest "Natures' Wonders" was designed to encourage students to express their thoughts through different types of poetry. Winning entries will be published in a printed booklet for all to see.

Eligibility: Open to all youth pre-school through high school. Judging will be by age/grade categories.

Contest Rules:

- ◇ All entries must be typed and titled and include name, address, age, grade and school.
- ◇ Sponsoring garden club must be identified
- ◇ All entries become the property of FGCNYS, Inc.
- ◇ Poems do not have to rhyme.
- ◇ Poems may be traditional verse, acrostic, blank verse, cinquain, diamond poems, Limerick or Haiku.

Scale of Points: Title 10%, Creativity 30%, Content 40% Style 20%.

All entries must be sent to Lucy Bauer, Chairman, by Friday, Jan. 30, 2015. Any questions call 917-620-1885.

Let's Go Green

To sign up for email delivery of the Garden Line contact the editor, Robert Bauer at rbauer623@hotmail.com.

Photo Gallery



Great Kills GC celebrates their 60th Anniversary at Patrizia's.



Windows at St. Paul's Flower Festival decorated by members of District One.

Visit our website at sigardenclubs.com for more pictures and details.