

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

www.nydistrictIV.org



Message from District IV Director Charlanne Ryan-McDonough



Dear District IV Members,

This Director, never thought there would be so many dips on this wild roller coaster ride. With the finish line in sight, 18 wheelers filled with the vaccine heading our way, low and behold, another dip appears in front of us. We are resilient and will stay the course. We all know spring is around the next bend and everyone knows gardeners love to watch their flower beds come to life. So to the drawing board we go; making new garden plans with lots of color, waiting for the first daffodil to pop its sweet head, and dreaming of in person gatherings.

District IV clubs have figured out how to carry on and keep the membership busy with innovated ways of presenting topics and projects in their communities. With our own programs and ideas gleaned from the Federal Garden Clubs of New York State (FGCNYS), Central Atlantic Region (CAR-SGC), and National Garden Clubs (NGC), the new year can bring educational, fun programs, and activities for our membership to enjoy. FGCNYS has planned 2 virtual schools: Environmental School Course 1, March 1-4, and Landscape Design School course IV, March 24-25. Both brochures will be available on the website. NGC is offering Zoom courses. Topics include: how to run Zoom meetings and schools, and how to conduct a virtual fundraising event. Refer to the websites for more information and registration.

“Exploring Backyard Memories,” is the theme for the 2021 FGCNYS Youth Poetry Contest. The contest is open to grades pre-school - 12th grade. Details are on the website. Submit poetry by May 5th to Barb Millington. The NYSDEC Summer Camp program is under review. Information will be passed on to the clubs, as soon as DEC determines if they will open or not. Their primary goal is the health and safety of campers, families, and staff.

This Director sincerely thanks each member of District IV for your commitment during these up and down days with twists and turns.

The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Charlanne Ryan-McDonough, Director

Annette Newcomb, Assistant Director

Mary Anne Brown, Recording Secretary

Sharon Meyer, Corresponding Secretary

Barbara Millington, Treasurer

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga

Fall clean-up at Galway School, the Food Pantry, and the Galway Post Office was carried out by member volunteers. Our Postmaster said that a turtle had buried eggs in a particular spot in the gardens. He kept track, and in September found 16 baby turtles! He moved



them to a grassy hill on the property. We're anxious to see how many return next year! Thanks are extended to the

summer crew that helped maintain gardens and barrels in the village.

October's Zoom Meeting, was a presentation on Pickling and Fermentation with Fresh Produce, led by Co-Op Extension Nutrition/Health agent, Diane Whitten. Handouts, via email, were provided for making sauerkraut, beets, carrots, pickles, Kimchi, and Kombucha.

In November, our Nominating Committee worked diligently to select officers and committee members willing to accept the challenge for the unusual year ahead. Our program this month on House Plants was canceled due to illness of our presenter.

We honored Covid-19 protocols and decided instead of our December Holiday party to have a "cocktail hour" via Zoom.

Our annual Wreaths to Honor Veterans was held on December 12th. We placed



wreaths at six local sites. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Veterans, club members, town officials, and local residents gathered to pay respect to those who served. We

sang, prayed, bowed our heads, and shared stories, as we reflected, on the freedoms we enjoy, paid for by the sacrifices of our Armed Forces.

January's Zoom meeting will be a "A Time to Share". Topics can include books we've read, activities we've experienced,



projects we've worked on, programs we've attended, and basically anything members wished to discuss in relation to gardening, conservation, the environment, or their lives. They can describe a flower or nature craft, a growing tip, a favorite house plant, or vegetable. They might recommend a book, read a poem, or tell a story.

In the future, we look forward to enjoying some of our programs that have had to be canceled. Paint a Flower, by local artist Sarah Best, will be a step-by-step lesson in how to paint a flower. Local Landscaper Adam Quist, will demonstrate Pruning Small Trees, Shrubs, and Fruit-bearing plants. An Improving Your Soil presentation will provide information on adding soil amendments to provide a better environment for plant growth. We can't wait until we're back to normal and can physically share our love of gardening with one another!

Lenore Lanka, Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club



Our Garden Club conducted our plant sale in October, as a result we discovered that several of our patrons were looking for house plants.

During the summer months, I planted several of my house plants outside and

they grew rapidly. I brought some of those house plants to the October sale and they sold quickly. Several people asked if we had any spider plants.

When I got back home after the sale, I realized that I had a very large spider plant that had at least 30 babies. At the beginning



of December, I took off ten of those babies and rooted them in water. After about two weeks, I potted them. I will give them two months to establish a good root system and then will plant them in individual pots. They will be all set for our plant sale in May.

I will enjoy watering and watching my new spider plants grow and be reminded of our Garden Club and all we do for our community.

The Festival of Trees was held the last Friday and Saturday of November at the Queensbury Hotel. The Festival was sponsored by the Prospect Center which



has met the needs of individuals with disabilities in our tri-county region for more than 75 years. This year it was a “boutique experience” where people could view and purchase beautifully decorated trees, wreaths, stockings, centerpieces, kissing balls, and wares by local vendors on “pay and take” sales only. Several members donated trees, wreaths, stockings and centerpieces.

Our club decorated 17 wreaths for community organizations around the lake and beyond. The Fire Houses, Post Offices, Libraries, Senior Centers, Chamber of Commerce, and Nursing Homes were very surprised to receive a bit of joy for the holiday season. This year, we recycled the wreaths! Bows and decorations were removed to be used next year. The greens were piled up in my backyard for the wildlife. The frames will be recycled and used to make new wreaths. The community looks forward to our deliveries each holiday season.



After delivering the wreath to the Lake George Library, we were asked if we could maintain the gardens at the library. We gladly accepted the new project and look forward to meeting with the retired gardener in early spring.

- Annette Newcomb, 1st Vice President

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Schuylerville Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club met in October to hear Phillis Chapman present a costumed portrayal of Susan B. Anthony and the right to vote. We met at Easton Town Hall November 11 to make boxwood tree center pieces under the direction of Tim Healy (Award winning designer).



The group cancelled the Christmas dinner and replaced it with a Zoom meeting. President Leona

Brownell read a story about the truce that occurred in 1941 during WW1. "Mountain Nativity", a poem written by a member's grandmother, was read. Christmas carols followed.

Origami tree favors chaired by Cheryl Wood, were given to residents of Morgan's Run senior housing.



In January we are doing a zoom program with Maria Trabka from Saratoga PLAN on land conservation and related activities. Look for Apple blossom 5K on May 9 and Art Day June 27.

The February meeting will be a talk on

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Hudson Crossing Park, an educational destination run by volunteers.

We hope that spring flowers will soon bloom and spread hope and that we can feel safe and meet in person or in our gardens. STAY SAFE.



- Sharlene Pendrak, Correspondent

The Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Though Covid-19 has changed some of our plans, and challenged us to find a new way to meet and do business, we have continued our monthly meetings.

In November, we met again at the Malta Community Park to make pine cone wreaths from the pine cones we collected from beneath our feet in the park. Discovering there was an abundance of white pinecones, it was easy to collect them.



Soaking them and removing the pine needles was another matter. There must be an idea for pine pitch removal we haven't heard yet. Even though many of us have made numerous wreaths, it was still fun to create a wreath with materials found in our meeting area. It was also fun to bake the wreaths and savor the pine scent that was released. Our wreaths have been decorated for fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and maybe Valentine's Day. The ideas are endless.



During the month of November, we donated items to a gift-give away sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church in Ballston Spa. Parents who need a helping hand with gifts at Christmas, can pick out gifts their children will enjoy. Our club focuses on the older children with clothes, books, and gift cards. Early in December, we delivered our donations which were much appreciated at this difficult time.

In November, it was suggested, via email, that we send Christmas cards to our local nursing home. The idea was put out to the membership and was well received. We chose a collection spot and Susan Remy, who heads our Garden Therapy, picked up our cards and delivered them. Hopefully, our efforts helped brighten the season for the residents who are not allowed visitors at this time.

In December, we decided to brave the weather and chance an outdoor holiday get together. We picked two dates and chose the one with the better weather. We each brought a wrapped goodie to share over hot chocolate. Presents were exchanged and a flower version of The Twelve Days of Christmas was sung. A good time was had by all.



The following week, after our party, we met again to place a wreath at the War Memorial in Ballston Spa. We had already purchased wreaths through Wreaths Across America, but

decided to revive our local wreath laying. On a lovely warm day, a large member turn out met to pay our respects with a wreath for those who served. Usually this event is held during cold weather and people leave quickly. It was sad that during these times we could not enjoy the warm day further by going for coffee as a group. We ended up socializing in place, catching up, and exchanging ideas.

January we do not meet. In February, we will try our hand at a Zoom meeting. Covid is forcing us into technology we don't usually use. We shall see.

- Lorraine McPherson, President

Heritage Garden Club

A November meeting of the Club was held at a new location at SPAC, a renovated space called, "The



Pines". Fifteen members held their January meeting on January 11 on Zoom. It was a first for some of the members and it went very well. Business included the announcement by the President that the club has been awarded a \$500 amount by the Solomon Fund this year. The reason for the smaller amount is that \$600 was remaining from last years amount, so there is a total of \$1,100 to use for the three gardens this year. Also, new officers were announced. They had been voted into office at the November meeting. They are: Katie Richman, President; Diane Friedel, First Vice-President; Mariann Gold, Second Vice-President; Florence Wheeler, Recording Secretary; Judy Eastwood, Corresponding Secretary; Anne Hunscher, Treasurer. The club campership was

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discussed. Last year's recipients were not able to use their awards because of the pandemic, so it was decided to give the award to the two girls for this summer.

The program for this meeting was Water for South Sudan. This was an excellent program and was given by Lynn Malooly and Clare McNerney from the office of the organization in Rochester, NY, over the computer, using pre-recorded pictures. Water for South Sudan has been supported by Heritage Garden Club and District IV for many years. Water for South Sudan was founded in 2003. Through this organization, over 300,000 people now have access to good water. Four hundred fifty wells have been drilled since 2005 and 167 wells rehabbed. Lynn told us that 600 to 800 people use one well. Women and girls carry the water from the well and walk 3.7 miles with it in a container on their heads. Women are also trained to repair the wells. One well costs \$15,000. Water from South Sudan is supported only by private funding. Lynn stated that 10 wells have been given by the Federal Garden Clubs of New York State.

The club will meet by Zoom in February.

- Martha Van Patton, Correspondence

Sacandaga Garden Club

Sacandaga Garden Club has not gathered due to the pandemic. Janet Mitchell reports members are well and are looking forward to meeting again in person.

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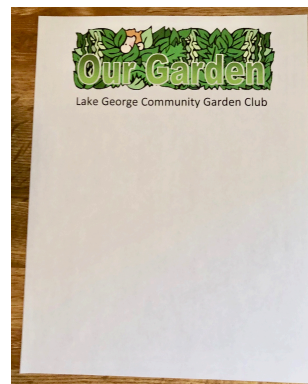


FGCNYS has Zoom for us to use - NO CHARGE!

- Call Linda Zell at the Albany Office: 518-869-6311.
- Pick a day and time you want your meeting.
- Set up a practice session.
- Linda will assist you with all things technical.
- Linda can join the meeting to help with any glitches.

Indian Corn Spray

- LGCGC has a lead on a field in a sunny location.
- Plant seeds.
- Harvest in the fall.
- Assemble and attach ribbon.
- Sell at a fall plant sale.



Stationary Designs

- Go to: Google.
- Type: free clipart gardening.
- Select a design and drag to folder on desktop.
- Print; then crop image with scissors.
- Place on right side of copier for notecard and top center for 8 1/2" by 11" sheet!



District IV Calendar of Events

Save the Date:

District IV Spring 2021 Meeting & Luncheon hosted by Heritage Garden Club

Event cancellation is under review.

March 1-4,2021	Environmental School Course 1 - Virtual
March 24-25, 2021	Landscape Design School Course IV - Virtual
May 3, 2021	FGCNYS Annual Meeting via Zoom
July 2021	Schuylerville Garden Club Standard Flower Show
Oct. 2021	District IV Fall Meeting & Luncheon - Hosted by Ballston Spa House & Garden Club - Event cancellation is under review.

District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club
www.bshgc.org

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County
www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org

Heritage Garden Club
www.heritagegardenclub.org

Lake George Community Garden Club
www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Sacandaga Garden Club
<http://sacandagagardens.blogspot.com/>

Schuylerville Garden Club
www.schuylervillegardenclub.org