

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Spring 2015

[www.nydistrictIV.org](http://www.nydistrictIV.org)



## Message from Incoming District IV Director Judy Esposito



Ah, the challenge of gardening in the North Country! As I watch the snow slowly melt away from the house, the matted down beds and grass look like they have some kind of disease. Yet, in just a few more weeks, we will see the green. We will see the tulips pushing through and the green returning to the rose bush canes. Such are the cycles we get to experience here in New York.

In addition to seasonal flower cycles, we have our seasonal club cycles and we are about to embark on the busiest time of our club activities. Our clubs maintain gardens in our villages which have to be composted, pruned, weeded, divided, etc.. We have our meetings and our outings, our design shows and our luncheons. The hours that we spend on civic improvement, working with youth and seniors, and education represent our underlying desire for beauty through service. Our outgoing Director, Laurie Tompkins highlights these achievements for the past year in her message. We thank Laurie for her hard work in our district and we know that even though she is no longer on the board, she will be active in her club and district.

As I write this, two weeks have passed since the installation of Pat Wania as FGCNYS President for the 2015-2017 term, Laurie Tompkins as FGCNYS Recording Secretary, and myself as District Director. WOW! It was a great meeting to attend and the installation ceremony was touching. Mr. On Thai of Albany gave a design demonstration that was outstanding with twelve arrangements assembled. By far, the most outstanding part was our own Carillon Club member Pat Wania being installed as FGCNYS President. We want her to know that District IV will support her theme "Linking Community Gardeners to Protect Our World."

### **The Garden Gate**

Pamela Relyea, Editor  
[lakelonly@yahoo.com](mailto:lakelonly@yahoo.com)  
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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

As I begin my term as District Director, I look forward to learning more about your club activities and I would love to be able to join you in various events. Many of the events involve the community and I want to encourage you all to reach out and hopefully attract more members. Thank you for all of the encouragement I have received so far. I congratulate the new club presidents that have been installed by Laurie. They are: Lenore Lanka & Lyn Liuzzo of Glenville Hills Garden Club, Betsey Sutton of Heritage Club, and Liz Gee of Schuylerville Garden Club.

Lastly, I want to give a big 'Thank You' to the former & incoming District Board members and District Committee members for their service. The new board consists of Mary Dame, Assistant Director, Elizabeth Rossi, Recording Secretary; Martha Van Patten, Corresponding Secretary; and Barbara Millington, Treasurer. There is a need for a First Vice President and for club members to join District committees. I urge the club presidents to share the committee list information with their members and to encourage them to help fill the vacancies.

I am hoping that many of you will have attended the District IV Spring Meeting and Luncheon on May 5th at the Holiday Inn in Lake George. We came together as fellow gardeners, met old and new friends, and shared our club events with reports given by the club presidents. We formally installed District IV Officers and we were honored with FGCNYS board members in attendance. David Siders of Experience & Creative Design in Schenectady was the afternoon presenter. The Ballston Spa House & Garden Club hosted this event and I thank them for all of the work that went into making this a beautiful day. These events serve to bring club members together to learn about the many worthwhile activities in other clubs that are going on each and every day, and to encourage one another to bring beauty, education, and honor to our communities.

*- Judy Esposito, District IV Director*

### **District IV Calendar of Events**

*May 12-18* 2015 National Garden Club Convention, Louisville, Kentucky

*June 10* FGCNYS Summer Board Meeting, Guilderland Office



## Message from Outgoing District IV

### Director Laurene Tompkins

Dear District IV club members,

I want to send a most sincere thank you for your hard work, dedication, support and friendship. It has been an honor to serve as District Director these past two years. I decided that my last Garden Gate message to you should be an open letter. I want to share with you the message I brought to the FGCNYS at each and every meeting. Please take a moment to read it and know that your achievements are a source of pride and inspiration for this past Director. I thank you all!

*As I prepared to write what would be my final report as Director for District IV, I found myself feeling very proud. Throughout my two years as District Director, I have emphasized that District IV is a small district, but that we are mighty! The accomplishments that these six clubs have attained are remarkable. District IV club members exemplify tenacity, hard work and dedication.*

*The members of District IV over the past two years have shown me how hard they work to beautify their local communities. They all selflessly gave their time, effort and energy to establish and maintain gardens, baskets, barrels and pollinator gardens. They volunteered for Community Clean Up Days. They identified areas that had otherwise been left unattended around their local post offices, libraries and walking trails. They rolled up their sleeves and did the backbreaking work required to turn a neglected or overgrown area into one that brings beauty and enjoyment to the residents of their community, and sustenance to local birds, bees and butterflies. Members volunteered for community projects such as replacing walkways around community gardens. Holiday displays for public buildings were made and donated, and Blue Star Memorials were maintained.*

*The garden club members of District IV are committed to supporting and engaging residents within their communities. Clubs worked on educational programs with local Boy Scout and Brownie troops, held open educational seminars for residents and worked in local schools to promote a passion for gardening and stewardship of our planet. They supported the elderly by hosting teas and lunches, and planned hands-on therapeutic gardening programs. District IV clubs marched in community parades, collected food and clothing for the needy, sent local children to Camp Colby and gave scholarships. They collected monies for Water for Sudan, participated in Wreaths Across America, hosted patriotic tree plantings, rededication ceremonies for their Blue Star Memorials, and flower shows – all, as the joke goes, funded by bake and plant sales.*

*As this will be my last District IV report, I would be remiss if I did not say that I owe the members of District IV a debt of gratitude. I am thankful to have been blessed with the opportunity to work with and support these amazing individuals. They truly give of themselves unconditionally to ensure the success and continuation of garden clubs while upholding the values of promoting a love for gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental education; and aiding in the protection and conservation of natural resources and promoting civic beautification. We may be a nonprofit organization, but being a member has shown me a substantial profit!*

*- With deep respect and gratitude, Laurene Tompkins, Outgoing Director District IV*

*FGCNYS Annual Conference (March 16-18, 2015)*





## Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

The April club meeting entitled “That’s for the Birds!” featured a discussion by club member Barb Fasake about birdbaths in the garden. Barb pointed out that homeowners should consider the needs of the birds first, before aesthetics. There are many websites and videos available on the internet for creating a beautiful and functional bird-bath. At the May club meeting, a program on soil preparation will be presented by local soil expert Laurie Griffin of Saratoga Sod Farm. Ms. Griffin will discuss the essentials of improving garden soil for good plant growth and beautiful, lasting blooms. The June meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the American Legion in Ballston Spa will feature a presentation by Rick Green of Ballston Lake Apiaries entitled “Everything You Wanted to Know About Bees but Were Afraid to Ask!” This program is open to the public.

The club has awarded a Camp Colby scholarship to a Ballston Spa 8<sup>th</sup> grader, and also awarded a \$100 scholarship to a Ballston Spa senior who is entering the field of horticulture/environmental science.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, club member Pat Burnham manned a club information table at a forum in Ballston Spa entitled “Ballston Spa – This is Who We Are!” This was a great way to meet with fellow residents, distribute literature about the club and its activities, and encourage new members to join. In May, club members will be busy getting the club-sponsored gardens ready for the growing season: the Pink Garden and the Garden of Learning at the Ballston Spa Public Library and the upper garden at the James Tedisco Fitness Trail at the Old Iron Spring. Club members will be cleaning, weeding, planting annuals and putting down soil with the assistance of a local Boy Scout troop.

- *Pamela Relyea, Correspondent*

## Carillon Garden Club

The club’s March program featured Malinda Chapman speaking on “Wildflowers of the Adirondacks”. Malinda and her husband have been hiking in the Adirondacks for years and collecting information on wildflowers. The program inspired the members to go out and look for wildflowers when they start coming up in the early spring, and they may organize a short wildflower hike with Malinda to do just that.

Club members are currently planning a flower show entitled “Let the Games Begin” for September 25-26 (one week later than previously announced). Club members are excited about the possibilities for designers to be creative! The show will be at the Hague Community Center from 2-4 PM on September 25, and from 10AM – 4PM on September 26.

- *Jackie Viestenz, President*

## Glenville Hills Garden Club

The April meeting and luncheon at the Cock n’ Bull Restaurant in Galway was highlighted by the installation of new officers. The club has a new theme: “Gardening for the Soul and the Environment”.

With its new theme in mind, enthusiastic members look forward to the club’s gardening projects. One of these is the Village of Galway clean-up day. This effort is headed by club member Phyllis Sleeper. With the help of Galway students, parents and teachers, the members spruce up the village for spring. On the same day, club members also plant twelve flower barrels along the roadside throughout the village and at the fire house. Club members Amy David and Darby Neahr will be working with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students of the Galway School to plant marigold seeds. When the seedlings sprout, the club members and teachers will help the children plant them in the school circle. The club’s popular Memorial Day Plant and Pie Sale at the Galway Village Park will be in full swing.

Club members are very proud this year to send four 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to Camp Colby in the beautiful Adirondacks. The students will be spending one week having fun and also learning about the environment.

The club is planning some interesting programs such as the speaker from The Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sue Pezzola, who will give a presentation on 'Monet the Gardener'. Also, a field trip is planned to an English garden St. Ambrose Church in Latham to visit an English garden which is kept by Rev. Anthony Barratt.

- *Lyn Liuzzo, Co-President*

### **Heritage Garden Club**

The members of the Heritage Garden Club invite all District IV club members to two special events this spring. One program will be a presentation about "Millionaire's Row" on Lake George given by Carol McCarthy of the Lake George Community Garden Club. This presentation will take place at the club's annual spring luncheon to be held at the Prime in Saratoga Springs on May 11th at 12 noon. On June 8<sup>th</sup> at noon, there will be a special program featuring the famous Rose Garden in Schenectady. This will be held at the club's regular meeting location, Woodlawn Commons in Saratoga Springs, located on Lawrence Street.

The harsh winter weather this year caused the club members to cancel one of their favorite meetings, the Pot Luck Luncheon. This was cancelled due to a snow storm, of course. Club members were very anxious for spring, and with that in mind, a spring garden therapy program for the residents of Woodlawn Commons is scheduled for the May meeting. The program will be led by club member Heather Cushing who will direct the residents in planting annual flowering plants in small pots, to be cared for in their apartments.

Club members are very pleased to welcome three new members to the Heritage Garden Club, and happily anticipate spring gardening activities.

- *Martha Van Patten, Correspondent*

### **Lake George Community Garden Club**

A workshop for the "First Day of Spring" greeting card project was held before the January meeting. Using lovely materials from baskets on the worktables, club members created 100 beautiful cards that were delivered to the Westmount Nursing Facility in early April.

The meeting was a tasty pot-luck luncheon for which club member Annette Newcomb created a beautiful centerpiece. Club member Dorothy Burt demonstrated how to make a lovely long lasting indoor terrarium.



In January, club members were pleased to receive thank you notes for their end-of-year giving: a donation to the Lake George Nature Conservancy; the mite box donation to the Lake George Youth Commission which allowed a youth to attend basketball camp over the Christmas holiday; and the holiday luncheon collection for Wiawaka. The proceeds from a raffle for a Russian doll, which club member Ann Marie Jetter donated, was given to Women in Need.

- *Nancy Boericke, Correspondent*

## Schuylerville Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club always begins the new calendar year by setting a date and choosing a title for its annual flower show. This year's show "Home Is Where the Heart Is" will be July 11-12. A highlight of the show is the member challenge which this year will be the pelargonium plant. In anticipation, club members will be busy planting plugs in May.

Sue Beebe of the Saratoga County Cooperative Extension spoke at the club's February meeting about invasive plants and insects, a topic she made interesting and relevant to everyone, even the squeamish! New officers were installed at the March meeting by District IV Director Laurene Tompkins. The April meeting speaker was David



Forbert, a professional photographer who has shot over 1,000 covers for

Reader's Digest. Club members gained many ideas for taking beautiful photos which will be a great help in planning the photography for the club's flower show.

Club member Liz Gee and other club members worked together to make floral table designs for the FGCNYS Annual Meeting in Albany in March. Lovely luncheon topiaries and creative designs for the "Meet, Mingle and Munch" event were made by the group.



- Kathy Turcotte, Correspondent

### INVASIVE PLANTS IDENTIFIED

**Did you know that NYS now has a list of invasive plants that are illegal for nurseries and garden centers to sell?**

You can access it at:-

<http://ccesaratoga.org/environment/partnerships-for-regional-invasive-species-management-prisms>

Once you have opened the link scroll down until you see: Japanese Barberry Harbors Deer Ticks. It is now illegal to sell or propagate these plants. This has implications for our garden club plant sales as well. You will notice that Japanese Barberry is one of the plants on the list. Japanese Barberry is one of the invasive plants that is taking over large tracts in our woods and wild places. Most alarmingly, besides suppressing our native plants, its low growing structure provides a perfect humid habitat for the growth of deer ticks. The research of Ward & Williams has shown that Japanese Barberry-infested forests have approximately 120 ticks infected with Lyme disease bacteria per acre compared to approximately 10 per acre in uninfested forests. White footed mice, a known apex host for Lyme disease, also like to live under Barberry bushes and compound the problem. If you are under the impression that your Japanese Barberry is not invasive in your garden, remember that it is the birds who are spreading your seeds and dropping them somewhere that you are not aware of that is wild and not heavily cultivated. To learn more, and about how to eradicate this plant go to:

<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/more-findings-on-the-link-between-japanese-barberry-and-lyme-disease/>

-Liz Gee , Herb & Vegetable Chairman

## BALLSTON SPA HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB 5th Annual Plant Sale



Available: Wave Petunias in Purple, Red & White,  
Green Sweet Potato Vines,  
Geraniums in Pink, Red & White

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

Order by: May 11

Pick up on: May 15

To order: 791-3479

### District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

[www.bshgc.org](http://www.bshgc.org)

Carillon Garden Club

[www.facebook.com/carillongc](http://www.facebook.com/carillongc)

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

[www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org](http://www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org)

Heritage Garden Club

[www.heritagegardenclub.org](http://www.heritagegardenclub.org)

Lake George Community Garden Club

[www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org](http://www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org)

Schuylerville Garden Club

[www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org](http://www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org)