

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Winter 2012

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



## Director's Message

**S**now has finally arrived in the Adirondacks. I was thinking we might have a snowless winter! Also arriving are the seed and plant catalogues. Studying the many enticing selections on a cold winter's day offers a promise of warm summer days to come.

Last December I had the honor of installing the officers for the Heritage Garden Club at the Van Patten Golf Club in Clifton Park. It was a beautiful event, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet the club members. In November I had the pleasure of attending Heritage's Annual Card Party and Luncheon at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs.

In reviewing the 2011 activities of the District IV clubs I am impressed with our accomplishments. Outstanding Standard Flower Shows were presented by Carillon Garden Club and Schuylerville Garden Club. Judges Council has offered to provide guidance in planning flower shows. Youth projects involved sponsorship of Youth Camperships to Camp Colby and YMCA Camp Starhitch, poster submissions for the Smokey Bear/Woodsey Owl award, scholarships to graduating seniors and BOCES students, supervision and guidance to students on community gardens and clean-up projects. Garden therapy projects have provided assistance to seniors at nursing homes with planting flowers and making nature-related crafts. Civic beautification projects by all our clubs have enhanced our communities. Charitable donations have been made to food pantries. Holiday decorations have been provided for public buildings in our communities.

Be sure to include in your 2012 schedules the District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon (details on page 6) and the Wildflower Walk organized by Martha Van Patten at the Skidmore College North Woods (details page 2).

The National Garden Clubs 83rd National Convention in Buffalo, hosted by the FGCNYS, provides a unique opportunity for us to attend a national convention which will include a National Flower Show. May 18 and 19 are designated as "Convention Days" with six seminars offered both days. The flower show opens at noon on Thursday, May 17, and outstanding tours are planned for May 16 and 17. See the FGCNYS website [www.fgcnys.com](http://www.fgcnys.com) for details and registration form.

Enjoy your winter, stay safe and warm, and I hope to see you at our District IV Meeting & Luncheon, if not sooner.

—*Patricia Leonard, Director*

### The Garden Gate

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### District IV Officers

Patricia Leonard, Director  
Marjorie King-Martin, Second Assistant Director  
Mary Leonard, Recording Secretary  
Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary  
Sue VanOmmeren, Treasurer

### District Plans Wildflower Walk

Everyone is invited to attend the District's Wildflower and Nature Walk in the Skidmore North Woods in Saratoga Springs, which is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Jackie Donnelly, who will lead the walk, will meet participants at the parking area where North Broadway turns into a dirt road. For more information, contact Martha Van Patten at gmvan5@aol.com or phone 583-0688.

—*Martha Van Patten, District IV Wildflower Chairman*

### World Gardening Needs Your Help

February marks the end of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS 2011 campaign supporting Water for Sudan. Salvi Dut continues his work bringing fresh clean water to remote regions of his native country. Although he has dug many wells, the needs of these impoverished people continue to be just as great if not greater. Many areas remain in a state of war and much of the country is suffering from drought.

In District IV so far this year, five of the eight clubs have sent donations. Clubs are choosing to support charities closer to home, which is understandable. That said, this chairman would ask each club to review their budget and support Water for Sudan with a small contribution so that District IV, as in previous years, has 100 percent participation in the effort to help other gardeners around the world. Thank you for considering this appeal.

—*Catherine Caine, District IV World Gardening Chairman*

### Lake George Community Garden Club



Starting in November, the Lake George club was deeply involved in the community with their preparations to celebrate the holidays. To get started, the November meeting focused on decorations and desserts created to show members' artistic talents.

At the same time, members gathered to make and decorate wreaths of greenery, which were delivered to local firehouses, post offices, libraries, and senior centers in the Lake George area.

Members also participated in Glens Falls' Festival of Trees: an annual area-wide event that supports the Prospect Child and Family Center. The center serves children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Essex, and Hamilton Counties. Each year members of the club decorate a four-foot Christmas tree that is judged and sold to raise money for the center.



In early December the club held its Christmas luncheon at the Log Jam restaurant in Queensbury. Members brought food donations for Family Services of Glens Falls. The supplies on their shelves have been down from prior years and demand is up. The club also made a monetary donation to the Lake George food pantry. Cash allows them to buy supplies at the Regional Food Bank in Albany, making the money go further to help those in need. Food pantry donations continue throughout the year. At the luncheon, members passed around a "mite" box, collecting loose change to support the Water for Sudan project.

—*Nancy Boericke, Correspondent*

### Schuylerville Garden Club

Fall in Schuylerville was a time of transition—clearing away fading color and replacing it with lasting foliage. Garden Club members who planted and maintained flowers in public areas were busy cleaning them out. Several visited a friend's yard to cut evergreen branches to fill the planters (previously emptied of bright floral displays) with greens, painted branches, and dried materials. The lush herbs at the Schuyler House were cut back, thinned out, and otherwise prepared for winter's arrival.

Committees met to decorate wreaths, which were placed on public buildings throughout the village and town, and to make favors to be included in Meals on Wheels lunches for senior citizens. Several members brought cookies, punch, and their voices to Schuyler Manor Senior Housing for a sing-along and social. Member Diane Swartwout organized the decorations for the club's entry in the Festival of Trees sponsored by the Schuylerville Community Theater Group. It was a beautiful concoction of birds and birdhouses, and was a big hit with the public.

After all that work it was time to party, and that they did in December at Longfellows Restaurant. Members brought food donations for the local food pantry and enjoyed a Chinese auction of gifts, followed by a traditional Christmas story read by member Joanna Albertson.

At the January meeting members will share their hopes and dreams for 2012 gardens (and maybe where they'll put the glass and china lawn ornaments they made at the October meeting!). It will also be time to set up 2012 yearbook and flower show committees. Wishing fellow garden clubbers a fruitful and pest-free 2012.

—*Kathy Turcotte, President*

### Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Club President Barb Millington proudly accepted the Pink Glove Award from the National Garden Clubs, Inc., on October 4 at the District IV Fall Meeting at the Georgian Resort in Lake George. This national award was given to club members “in recognition of their ongoing volunteer efforts and commitment to their community through the National Garden Club Plant It Pink Program.” Work on the Plant It Pink garden in front of the Ballston Spa Public Library began in the spring of 2010, and continues to be an ongoing activity for the club. Highlights of the garden include several pink knockout rose bushes and a permanent garden trellis. The trellis contains many plaques donated by club members and others in the Ballston Spa community to honor friends and family members who have dealt with breast cancer.

At the November meeting Barb Millington guided members in making mini-boxwood trees in tea or coffee cups. These fun creations lasted throughout the holiday season. On December 2, club members rode and walked in the annual Village of Ballston Spa holiday parade with a club-sponsored and decorated float. The float carried a sleigh created by club member Laurie Tompkins and a festive Christmas tree. Members who walked carried a brand new club banner (made by members) and tossed candy to the children on the parade route.

On December 3, club members spent the morning decorating the Guardian House for the holiday season. The Guardian House, which is an officially registered NYS historical home, opened its doors to women veterans on October 1. It is the first transitional facility exclusively for women veterans in Eastern New York State and New England, and only one of twelve in the country. Members brought a fully decorated artificial



tree for the front hallway and provided additional decorations for the interior and exterior of the house. Goode Trees of Ballston Spa provided fresh greens from which club president Barb Millington made lovely swags. Club members also donated holiday gift baskets to each of the residents. The baskets included, among lovely personal care items, free haircuts and shampoos from club member/salon owner Janelle Coffey, hand-knitted scarves from Barb Millington, and gift certificates donated by The Factory restaurant. Club members hope to assist the residents in designing a gar-

den of herbs, vegetables, and flowers in the spring.

The annual holiday luncheon was held on December 8 at the home of club member Barb Devlin. Barb's historical home was beautifully decorated with a Christmas tree in every room. Club members enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and donated non-perishable food items to the Christ Episcopal Church Food Pantry in lieu of grab bag gifts.

—Pam Relyea, Correspondent

### Indian Lake Garden Club



Club members had a very busy November preparing centerpieces and decorating wreaths and kissing balls for their fundraiser in late November. The weather cooperated, and the event was very successful. In December club

members held their traditional Christmas Cookie Exchange. The year 2012 will kick off with a March potluck social with the official program for the year beginning in April when the “snow birds” have returned from their southern hibernation!

—Pat Leonard, President

### Carillon Garden Club

Carillon Garden Club members remained very busy during November and December. The annual wreath workshops were held on two days in November enabling many members to use their creative decorating skills to help the club with its major fund raising project. Two hundred sixty wreaths ranging in size from 12 to 36 inches and seven kissing balls were sold. Several garden club members also made baskets of evergreens and bows to decorate the town of Hague for the Holidays. Decorated evergreen sprays were also made for sale.

December was particularly busy starting with youth activities. The local fifth-grade students, coached by garden club members, made fresh greenery arrangements for a town-wide holiday senior luncheon. The youth committee also helped senior high students make centerpieces for the holidays. An area was set up at a holiday festival where youth could purchase items for their families. Proceeds from the sale went to fund the clean-up of a playground devastated by tropical storms this past summer. Garden Club committees also decorated for the holidays at the local nursing home, public library, and Hancock House Museum's Festival of Trees. A very festive “Holiday Magic” reception was also held, organized by Carillon Garden Club members. Many wonderful seasonal displays and collections were set up for attendees to admire while enjoying fantastic edible delicacies following the annual Champlain Valley



Chorale's Christmas Concert. The club's annual holiday luncheon was also held in December, a fitting way to unwind and enjoy one another's company.

The club will resume regular monthly meetings and activities in March but in the meantime much planning and behind-the-scenes activities will continue.

Happy New Year to all!

—Betty Rettig, *President*

### Glenville Hills Garden Club

In October (which seems like a Very Long Time Ago) the Glenville Hills club invited Andy Fyfe, the Stewardship Director of Saratoga PLAN, to speak about the preserves of Saratoga County. Andy is a highly knowledgeable and entertaining speaker, whom clubs should consider when planning their upcoming programs. Contact PLAN's offices at 112 Spring Street in Saratoga Springs (587-5554), or e-mail Andy at [andy@Saratogaplan.org](mailto:andy@Saratogaplan.org). He brings slides and trail maps—and it's just amazing how much work has been done for the benefit of the public. An interesting and valuable meeting.

The garden boxes at the Galway food pantry were finished a bit late in the fall because of the rain, which continued to pour down and delay the adjacent cement work. But a good layer of dirt was put in place by the young Eagle Scout (who built the planters) and his sponsors, and club member Betsy Neal has added a good thick layer of composted sheep manure to work in over the winter. Meanwhile, the club's beautification committee is deciding what good things will brighten the front of that busy community service facility in coming years.

Every club and community member enjoyed the results of the club's latest project: to decorate the gazebo in the very center of the Village of Galway for the holiday season. The club agreed to do it at the meeting in November, and had it completed in time for the Lioness Club Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony held nearby. Even without snow, the decorated gazebo looked bright and pretty and most importantly, as *Though Somebody Cared!* And that brightens the holiday season for everyone. The club has agreed to do it each year, and two other local organizations will take it on in spring and fall.

Spouses are included at the club's annual holiday dinner, which was, as always, fun and so pretty in Mari Fettke's lovely home, and well attended. The support of the club's spouses is always appreciated and having them join in for the holiday celebration is a wonderful way to express this. Even without snow, Santa leaned against a flag pole on the terrace, and Mari and John's wonderful hospitality carried the holi-

day spirit throughout the evening.

The festive season was not without sorrow, however. Just after Christmas one of our active members, Kathie Bryant, passed away suddenly. A member of our beautification committee who also served on the club's board, she had already signed up to be Ways and Means Chairman for the District Meeting next fall. Kathie's enthusiasm for her own gardens and garden club projects and programs will be missed.

—Mary Lynn Kopper, *President*

### Heritage Garden Club



Heritage garden club members Marjorie King Martin, Elizabeth Rossi, Heather Cushing, and Martha Van Patten are feeling a little safer walking across Franklin Street in front of the Gideon Putnam Cemetery where they maintain a garden for the city. After many years of crossing a high trafficked road at their own peril they can now go back and forth to their cars with less fear of an accident. Many thanks to friend of the Gideon Putnam, Gene Corsale, for helping to implement this crossing. The historic cemetery is the burial grounds of the city's founding father, Gideon Putnam, and his family.

The club has had a very busy fall. In October the club hosted its annual Harvest Tea for the residents of Woodlawn Commons. Every year club members prepare their favorite sweet and savory dishes, shine their silver tea service, and welcome the residents to the Community Room to enjoy a warm cup of tea and conversation. The special afternoon is truly enjoyed by all.

In December the club had its holiday luncheon. Jeri Cayan, chairman of the event, did a lovely job with table and room decorations. The luncheon was opened with a candle lighting ceremony conducted by Lee Nelson, Anita Jaenisch, and Martha Van Patten. After lunch, the club's 2011/2012 officers were sworn in by District Director Pat Leonard. Although members didn't sing carols this year, they did sing happy birthday to one of the club's charter members Lottie Winkowski.

2012 is going to be a special year for the Heritage Garden Club; it is the club's Silver Anniversary: twenty-five years and *"growing strong!"* Please mark your calendars and save the date: May 21, 2012, Heritage Garden Club 25th Anniversary Luncheon. Invitations will be going out in April.

—Marjorie King Martin, *Co-President*

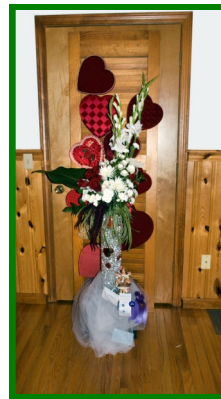
## Carillon Garden Club Standard Flower Show: "Moments in Time"

On October 7 and 8, the Carillon Garden Club held its first Standard Flower Show in more than six years. Although some members professed not to be talented or schooled in the mechanics of design and unfamiliar with the components of a standard flower show, participation was high and the results were fantastic. The theme, "Moments in Time," was carried throughout. The horticultural entries were exceptionally prolific for the season, and the specimens were exceptionally healthy and well groomed. The floral designs were worthy of the highest marks. Workshops were held prior to the show to teach the mechanics of underwater and floor designs. There was no problem filling these places within the schedule. Judges commented on the incredible and sophisticated selection of these floral design types and the unique and modern staging. The best part of doing the show, according to many in the club, was that an amazing level of talent was discovered among its members who really enjoyed working together. Some members, who did not enter floral design or horticulture, showcased their talents with educational exhibits, signage, photography, sale of food, and preparations for the incredible evening reception. Some members of the Carillon GC had such a great experience that they have decided to hold a show every two years. The club thanks all who came and supported their endeavors. —Pat Wania

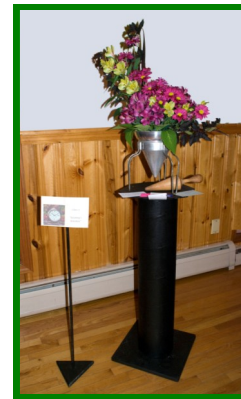
### BLUE RIBBON WINNERS



Mickey Snye  
"underwater design"



Susan Darren  
"verticle floor design"



Vivian Den Bleker "line  
mass pedestal design" (also won the  
"People's Choice  
Award")

Photographs by Nancy Carter

### HELP WANTED First Assistant Director

District IV seeks a well-organized, detail-oriented person who enjoys the company of members from other clubs to fill the currently vacant position of First Assistant Director. This position requires attendance at two District Board meetings per year and a general interest in learning how the District is run. Please contact Nominating Chairman Pat Wania for more information.

### 2012 Plant Sales

- May 12 **Schuylerville GC**, Youth Center in Ft. Hardy Park, Ferry St., Schuylerville, 9–12
- May 19 **Lake George Community GC**, Shepard Park, Lake George, 9–4
- May 19 **Carillon GC**, 1st United Methodist Church, Rt. 9N, Ticonderoga, 10–1
- May 28 **Glenville Hills GC**, Village Park, Galway, 9–1

### Heritage Garden Club 25th Anniversary Luncheon

May 21

Turf Club / Saratoga Springs  
For more information call Sharon at 258-1511

## District IV Meeting and Luncheon

*“A Day in May—The Many Colors of  
Spring”*

May 1, 2012  
Hiland Golf Club  
Queensbury, NY

Presenter: Joan Reilly  
of Henry Clas Florist in Albany

*Hosted by the  
Ballston Spa House and Garden Club*

## The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

**88th Annual Meeting**

*Roses . . .  
“Make Our Souls Bloom”*

**March 28–29, 2012**

Hilton Pearl River  
Pearl River, NY

*For more information, go to:  
<http://www.fgenys.com/AnnualMeeting.html>*

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

*“EXPLORE THE WONDERS”*



## Ballston Spa House & Garden Club 2nd Annual Geranium Sale

Potted geraniums available in red, white, pink & purple  
Taking orders starting April 1  
to be delivered the week before Memorial Day Weekend  
Orders may be placed by phone to Judy Esposito 885-6416

## District IV Calendar of Events

March 28–29	FGCNYS 88th Annual Meeting, Pearl River, NY
April 25	District IV Board Meeting, Lake George Sr. Center, 9:30 a.m.
May 1	District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon, Hiland Golf Club, Queensbury, NY
May 12	Schuylerville GC Annual Plant Sale, Youth Center in Ft. Hardy Park, Ferry St., Schuylerville, 9–12
May 18–19	National Garden Clubs 83rd Annual Convention, Buffalo, NY
May 19	Lake George Community GC Perennial Plant Sale, Shepard Park, Lake George, 9–4
May 19	Carillon GC Plant & Bake Sale, 1st United Methodist Church, Rt. 9N, Ticonderoga, 10–1
May 21	Heritage GC 25th Anniversary Luncheon, Turf Club, Saratoga Springs
May 28	Glenville Hills GC Plant & Pie Sale, Village Park, Galway, 9–1

## District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

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

Carillon Garden Club

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

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

Heritage Garden Club

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

Indian Lake Garden Club

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

Katrina Trask Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

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

Schuylerville Garden Club

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