

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



FEBRUARY 2019

The Digest Online is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month before each issue (January, April, July, and October).

Please send news of your club's activities, events, and plans—it's a great way to share what you are doing with other clubs. Unlike print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color, so send in your photos. Articles on various gardening and flower arranging topics are especially welcome.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Karin Janson via email at kjanson@aol.com.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.

CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

Columbia: Germantown, Greenport, The Garden Club of Kinderhook

Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens Community, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

Rensselaer: Greenbush

Schenectady: Garden Explorers, Country Garden Club of Clifton Park, Glen Oaks, H. Gilbert Harlow, Hugh Plat, Western Hills

Ulster: Community Garden Club of Marlborough, Hillside Acres, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk, Ulster, Woodstock

From the Director



It is hard to believe that my term as your Director is nearing an end. It seems like yesterday that I was installed as Third District Director at the State meeting in Buffalo. And here we are, two years later, ready to welcome our new Director Elizabeth Walker.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve such a great group of dedicated garden club members. I have been overwhelmed by the support and dedication that you have shown me during the past two years.

I focused on three goals to accomplish during my directorship: increase membership, streamline administrative processes, and improve District communications. I am pleased to announce that during the past two years, our clubs have added a total of 61

new members to our rolls. We have cut the number of yearly Board meetings, eliminated some board positions through attrition, decreased the number of reports, and shortened meetings, thereby making the entire operation more efficient. By lessening the administrative burden and eliminating outdated policies and practices, it is my hope that more members will consider a position on the Board of Directors. The expanded use of email to all club presidents has greatly improved our ability to get vital information to our membership quickly and effectively. E-mails and phone messages are responded to immediately and issues quickly resolved. Our financial position continues to be strong as we enter year 2019.

My one regret has been the loss of 3 clubs in our District that have either left the Federation or have disbanded. Although we tried to reverse their decision, our efforts were unsuccessful. On the bright side, we are left with fewer clubs (24) but more effective and vibrant ones. These clubs are managed well, and are actively engaged in conducting world-class Flower Shows, Civic Beautification Programs, and Scholarship and Educational Programs to name a few. This is evidenced by the fact that during my tenure in office, the Third District continued to receive the most State and National Awards and Citations for Garden Club excellence.

The limited format edition of this February *Digest* is another way we have tried to streamline operations. Since most clubs do not meet during the winter months, we have lessened the burden on clubs to provide content for a February edition. Our full edition of *The Digest* will resume for the months of May, August and November. Once again, thanks to Karin Janson for her extraordinary talent in the publication of *The Digest*.

On April 25, 2019, we will meet for our annual Spring District meeting and installation of officers. I know I can count on you to support our new Director and her board in the same manner that you have afforded me. Should she make a request for you to serve as a member of her Board, please give it careful thought and consideration with a view toward acceptance. I accepted the nomination two years ago when asked to be your Director. In retrospect, it was a very good decision indeed. Sure it seemed overwhelming at first, but the reward of working with and meeting so many wonderful people, both at the State and District level made it all worthwhile. Thank you all for such fond memories.

In closing, I would like to see as many members as possible coming to our annual Spring District meeting to welcome and show support for our new District Director and Executive Board members. Details and registration forms for this meeting can be found on the following pages. Hope to see you there!



SPRING DISTRICT MEETING:

SPRING FORWARD!

Gary Barrack, Director, Third District, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

Warmly invites you to the Spring District Meeting

April 25, 2019

The Polish Community Center,

225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY 12205 | 518-456-3995

REGISTRATION: 9:30–11:30 a.m.

**VENDORS, WAYS AND MEANS, RAFFLES,
AND EXHIBITS:** from 9:30 a.m.–Noon

BUSINESS MEETING: 10–11:30 a.m.

LUNCHEON: Noon–1 p.m.

\$30 (prepaid by April 6)

Menu: Quiche Lorraine, Spinach Quiche,
Seafood Quiche, or Pasta Primavera. Potatoes,
ham slice, dessert, and coffee/tea.

RESERVATIONS: due April 15. Send names of
attendees and menu choice with one check per
club to **Cindy Teator, Registrar;**
PO Box 290, Kinderhook, NY 12106.
cteator3@gmail.com or 518-755-7086. Make
checks payable to Third District, FGCNYS, Inc.

DIRECTIONS: I 87 (Thruway) to exit 24-I 90 to
Albany. Take Exit 2 towards Washington Ave.
Turn right onto Washington Ave. Turn right
onto Rapp Road and then left onto
N. Frontage Rd. Polish Community Center is
immediately on the right.

**PROGRAM: INDIGENOUS PLANTS,
POLLINATORS, AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

Carolyn Summers, author of *Designing Gardens
with Flora of the American East*, is an experienced
native plant landscape designer. Throughout her
career, she has been acutely aware of the need for
clients, DIY homeowners, and designers to be able
to see how lovely native plants are when used in
garden settings.

She is an adjunct professor at Westchester
Community College (WCC) and is the co-founder
of the Go Native U educational program at WCC.
She is a Steering Committee member of The
Native Plant Center. The Native Plant Center was
established in 1998 under the auspices of the
Westchester Community College Foundation as
the first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.

Ms. Summers is a graduate of the Landscape
Architecture program at CUNY and has more than
20 years of experience in the environmental and
landscape design field, working for non-profits and
government agencies.

She created and maintains two demonstration
gardens that display indigenous plants, one at her
family's suburban home and the other at their
300-acre Flying Trillium Garden & Preserves in
Sullivan County, NY.

