

# T<sub>h</sub><sub>e</sub> D I G E S T



On Thursday, December 20, 45 Third District members from Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Schoharie, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Ulster counties joined Director Reneta Benenati at her home in Kinderhook for a holiday tea. Guests snacked on delicious cookies, cakes and hot tea. The house was festooned with candles, holly and an outstanding collection of antique dolls, and featured a tall Christmas tree, which glittered with over one thousand ornaments. It was a delightful day. Pictured are attendees from Greenbush Garden Club (above) and the Garden Club of Kinderhook (below).



## Director's Message

Zillions of exquisite icy creations are silently falling and forming a white blanket on the landscape. It's almost midwinter, and the hustle and bustle of the recent holidays are now memories. The year 2012 has passed. Third District clubs were active, with many diversified activities and projects. There were flower shows, luncheons, dedications, plantings and trips. All these show what a great organization this is and how it nurtures and encourages our appreciation of our environment. Last May, the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. (FGCNYS) hosted the National Garden Clubs Convention in Buffalo and attracted twice as many registrants as were anticipated. It was certainly gratifying to see the interest and the vitality generated at the conference.

Third District had a busy year. Our Spring District Meeting, "Springtime Splendor," was held at Birch Hill in Schodack in April, with Julie Lapham as the presenter. It was followed by a Board meeting in May and "Tea with Roses in the Garden" during National Garden Week in June, as well as a bus trip to the Newport Flower Show "Salsa." There were day trips to the Schenectady Rose Garden and the Pine Hollow Arboretum during the summer, followed by a Board meeting in the Director's garden in August and a Dried Flowers Workshop in September.

The Fall District Meeting, "Autumn in New York," was held at the Holiday Inn in Kingston in October. There were vendors and the District's emporium at both events. In November District members were invited to come to a workshop meeting held in Hurley. This



## Note:

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. office email address has changed. It is now:

**fgcnys@verizon.net**

Please incorporate this information in your next yearbooks.

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meeting offered members information presented by the awards, flower shows, pressbooks and yearbooks chairmen. In December, the Director's Holiday Tea brought approximately 45 members to just enjoy each others' company in a social atmosphere. So it was a good year, 2012 - a busy one, with an activity in almost every month.

Now the emphasis is on Spring. In April, the Spring District Meeting will be held Thursday, April 18, at Birch Hill, where there is much room, easy access, great parking and delectable food. "Spring Fascination" should prove to be a wonderful day, with the very personable and talented Carl Lemanski doing his latest creations. Members are invited to wear fascinators.\*. These creations are worn on the head (like the movie stars wore in the '40's). They can be embellished with birds, bees, butterflies, flowers or whatever you desire. It should be entertaining!!! Incoming FGCNYS President Gail McGee has been invited, and Olive Felio will begin her term as Third District Director that day.

My stint as a recycled Director was a frustrating one (Complain! Complain!). Since I am not online, I found it to be very difficult to communicate. I tried to keep in touch by mail and phone, but it didn't always work out, so I must apologize. Also, one needs to be informed in order to be informative, and that hasn't always been the case.

Your Director will, once again, participate in New York in Bloom at the New York State Museum in Albany on February 22-24 (*see below*). There will be other Third District members participating as well, so please come and see how different exhibits and areas are interpreted by your peers. This show acts as a harbinger of spring, with fresh flowers in each display.

On a sad note, Past President Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine's husband Stan passed away. Please send her a message of condolence (12 Clarks Mills Rd., Greenwich, NY 12834).

These are difficult times with a repressive economy, but people, meetings, gardens, flowers, etc. enhance our days, so we should stay dedicated to enriching our lives by being active participants. Encourage friends and neighbors to join garden clubs and benefit. The County Days held by Columbia and Green-Schoharie counties were so successful. Hopefully, the other counties can do something of that sort this coming year.

Thank you to all who extended invitations to your luncheons and celebrations. This Director enjoyed meeting you.

*Renate Benenato*

(Editor's note: Wikipedia has an interesting article on fascinators; there are a number of other internet sites about these creations as well.)

Looking for an early sign of spring? Visit **New York in Bloom** at the New York State Museum. The show will be held February 22-24, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day. Over 100 floral arrangements will be displayed throughout the museum, including a display created by members of the Guilderland Garden Club which will be prominently located next to the moose in the Adirondack Hall. Admission is \$5, with proceeds going to the museum's Club and Discovery Squad After-School Programs. It's a great cure for those winter blues!

*Merril-Lee Lenegar*



## SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

This year's Spring District Meeting will take place at Birch Hill, One Celebration Way in Schodack (Rensselaer County) on Thursday, April 18. The theme for this meeting is "**SPRING FASCINATION**," and our program will feature well-known designer **CARL LEMANSKI**. Carl is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers and works as a freelance designer from his gallery in Berkeley Heights, NJ. He has served on the design committee for five different U.S. Presidential Inaugurals and has given programs on previous occasions to members of our District.

In keeping with the theme, attendees are invited to adorn their heads with fascinators, either self-made or purchased. These decorative relatives of hats were very popular during the Victorian era and in the 1940's and are enjoying a revival in the present day. (*see editor's note, page 2*) Put your thinking caps on and come up with a fascinating idea to add a smile to everyone's face.

Menu choices, price, times and directions will be provided to each club president by way of a detailed flyer no later than March 1.

Please come and join the unique program and enjoy the nice atmosphere.

*Marge Lansing,  
Second Assistant Director*

## A Very Successful Convention

The Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. hosted the 83<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the National Garden Clubs on May 18 & 19, 2012 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York. The theme was "Explore the Wonders," and indeed many opportunities to explore the Buffalo area, including Niagara Falls, were offered to those who attended.

The convention was very successful, both program-wise and financially. The financial success will be shared among the 10 Districts in the State organization. Each District will be asked to submit an outline of a proposed project, conforming to the educational and/or beautification mission of the Federated Gar-

den Clubs of NYS, Inc. Upon review of the project, each District will receive \$2,200 to defray the cost of the proposed project.

It is the hope of the State to begin this endeavor as soon as possible and that there will be 100% participation by all of the Districts.

### Reading Matter

National Garden Clubs publishes an interesting quarterly online newsletter called ***Keeping in Touch***. Access it at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) from the publications list at the bottom of the page.



## In Our Clubs

### Germantown Garden Club Hosts Community Holiday Activities

This holiday season the Germantown Garden Club held two of its annual community activities, a Gingerbread House Contest for children and a competition for seniors at Palatine Manor Senior Residence. The Gingerbread House Contest was held at the Palatine Parsonage in Germantown. The participants were to use their imaginations in decorating the gingerbread house kits they were given. As usual, the results were outstanding, with many entries expanding upon the basic house. All entries were awarded a ribbon. The top winners were the Mollo children, the Flandreau children and the Kahle grandchildren. Pictured at left is the blue ribbon winner.



As part of the Garden Therapy program of the garden club an Adorn-A-Door competition was held at the Palatine Manor Senior Residence in Germantown. Residents decorated their apartment doors for the holidays, and a panel of judges from the garden club used a list of criteria to judge them. Of the 20 plus doors that were judged, the top winners were Mildred Oram, Jeanne Molino, Frances Lasher and Ethel Klein.

The Germantown Garden Club is busy planning its programs for 2013. The 85<sup>th</sup> consecutive flower show is in the works, as are several field trips, speakers and a hands-on workshop. We will once again have community involvement in our holiday celebrations and various gardening activities with our local school and youth organizations. We are looking forward to an exciting 2013!

*Fran Buñí*

### Greenbush Garden Club Activities

The club held a workshop in August and made autumn wreaths and arrangements. On Saturday, September 8, there was a really good cleanup of the garden at Fort Crailo in preparation for the Harvest Faire on September 15. The faire was lots of fun and very interesting, with many demonstrations of colonial life and local history. A table was set up with club membership information and the wreaths and arrangements were sold.

At the October meeting Christine Young, Director of Rensselaer Land Trust, gave an informative Power Point presentation on the bucolic areas that have been preserved, and hopefully will be preserved in the future, in Rensselaer County...all the beauty you never realized is so close to home.

Just in case President Obama's health care program doesn't work out, November's presentation on 18<sup>th</sup> century herbal medicine featured Stuart and Ruth Lehman, colonial re-enactors





pirated from the Harvest Faire. "Doctor" Lehman and his wife showed up fully decked out in handmade colonial regalia, from the buckles on their shoes to Ruth's corset. They gave an outstanding presentation, displaying samples of medicinal herbs, antique books and tools, all the while entertaining and educating the audience with tidbits of history.

On December 1, the club held a raffle and membership drive (We never give up!) at Becker's Farm. Six beautiful themed baskets were raffled, the contents donated by our members and local merchants. Hopefully we made some new friends.

The Holiday Dinner on December 7 was held at Moscatiello's restaurant. The food was delicious, the private room beautifully decorated and everyone, including our significant others, had a great time.



Of course, a good number of our members attended the Holiday Tea on December 20 at Director Benenati's beautifully decorated home. The tree was absolutely breathtaking! The hospitality she has offered over the years has encouraged a sense of camaraderie and communication among clubs in District III which is truly appreciated!

The most recent club meeting in January featured a presentation by the Albany Audubon Society on local bird life. The guest speakers were Chairman of Education, Larry Deyss and President, Lois Gundrum. The Power Point presentation focused on bird identification. The meeting room in the East Greenbush Library was filled to capacity, with over 80 people in attendance. The speakers answered as many questions from the audience as possible in the allotted time period, but the meeting could have gone on until the next morning if it was allowed to do so. Who knew there were so many bird lovers!

*Diane Madden*

## Greenport Garden Club Decorates The Home for the Holidays



**I**t's all about giving, and annually the Greenport Garden Club decorates The Home at 620 Union Street in Hudson for the holiday season. The garden club's committee for The Home, chaired by Joann Concra, hangs garlands and bows on mantels and stairways to enhance the Victorian ambiance of The Home.

*Maria Kolodziej-Zincio*

**P**hoto: Garden Club committee members Angela Rapp, Joanne Concra, Kathy Bucholsky, Marie Sherman and Dorothy Brown



## The Garden Club of Kinderhook

**Holiday season activities included decorating Lindenwald National Historic Site, the home of President Martin Van Buren, for its annual Candlelight Night (left) and a tour of the Governor's mansion in Albany to see the decorations and learn about the history of the house, its public activities and staffing (right).**



## New Paltz Garden Club: Coming Up

The New Paltz Garden Club has many wonderful activities planned for 2013. We welcome all members of other garden clubs to join us at any of these events. Refer to our website: [www.NewPaltzGardenClub.org](http://www.NewPaltzGardenClub.org) for more information about any of these programs. Refreshments are served after all meetings.

On April 15, Laura Wilson, who launched the Hudson Valley Garden Calendar, will present a program "Design for Gardeners," tips to help you turn your landscape into the gardens of your dreams.

On Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Ninth Annual Community-Wide Plant Sale, Swap and Garden Yard Sale will take place at Deyo Hall, 18 Broadhead Ave., New Paltz. This is a very popular event, anticipated by gardeners from far and wide. There will be hundreds of plants of every kind to choose from. We also have a great array of plant-related items such as books, tools, flower pots, vases and bird houses. Stop by for some great bargains!

On May 20, "Prevention and Early Detection of Tick-borne Illnesses" will be presented by Stacy Craft, Public Health Education Coordinator at the Ulster County Department of Health. This is sure to be an educational program for all of us who spend time outdoors. The program will take place at Deyo Hall, at 7 p.m.



On June 17, our Table Carousel will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the BOCES Conference Center, 175 Route 32N. This event is open to the public and is our primary fundraiser for the \$ 1,000 scholarship we award yearly to a graduating senior majoring in horticulture, agriculture or environmental sciences.

Our members design beautiful and creative table settings with sumptuous desserts and gorgeous flower arrangements. A real treat to see! Guests are seated and served dessert and tea or coffee. There will also be an extensive collection of raffle items! Come with friends or other garden club members for a special evening and support of a great cause.

*Shelly Ottens*

Below are some of the decorated tables from previous years:  
(note fascinators table, bottom left)



# Clematis Garden Club



**Clematis** officers for 2013 were installed by County Chairman Carole Garvar at the November 2012 luncheon. Pictured from the left are Mary Lou Nahas, president; Chairman Garvar; Clara Potter, corresponding secretary; Marie Hennings, treasurer; Cathy McEneny, vice president. Not pictured is Jeanne Strausman, recording secretary.

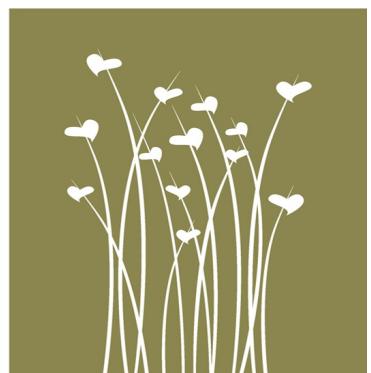
After taking off the month of January, the club will resume monthly meetings with a program on terrariums and fairy gardens at Story's Nursery, on February 8.

On March 8 Fred Breglia, head of horticulture and operations at Landis Arboretum, will speak on pruning trees and shrubs.

Also planned for 2013 is the annual tea at the Greenville Library on April 12 at 1 p. m. Sue Pezzoli who heads the Albany County Master Gardener Program will present a lecture/slide show "From the British Point of View," based on a trip she took to England. This program is free and open to the public.

Other highlights of the year are a bus trip to Wave Hill on April 25; the installation of a Blue Star Memorial Marker in Greenville on Memorial Day; the annual plant sale on May 25 at Bryant's Country Square when the club will once again offer clematis as well as plants from members' gardens; and the fourth annual garden tour on June 19 in the Climax area.

Guests are welcome at all events. More information is available by emailing [mlnahas@aol.co](mailto:mlnahas@aol.co).





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

*cordially invites you to:*

## Our 89th Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers

*March 16-18, 2013*

Pam Foehser, State President  
Anne Dyet, Chair

## Garden Clubs... A Growing Movement

**Millennium Hotel**  
240 Walden Ave.  
Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY 14225

Gail McGee, *President-Elect*  
Pat Wania, *1st Vice President-Elect*  
Monica Hansen, *2nd Vice-President -Elect*  
Tony Antes, *3rd Vice President-Elect*  
Anne Doherty, *Corresponding Secretary-Elect*  
Lynn Arnold, *Recording Secretary-Elect*  
Charlotte Spiers, *Treasurer*  
Carol Anderson, *Assistant Treasurer-Elect*

### **Registration and Information: Maryann Jumper**

2703 Colvin Blvd.  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
Phone (716) 435-3412; E-mail: [mjump50@gmail.com](mailto:mjump50@gmail.com)



## 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 with other clubs. Unlike in print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color. Pictures don't cost extra either, and they can be saved, downloaded and printed whenever you wish.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Maryann Weber, snail mail 2300 Spruce Drive, Valatie NY, 12184; or email [junco@fairpoint.net](mailto:junco@fairpoint.net). Unformatted copy and jpeg pictures are easiest to work with.

Maryann

## Calendar Girl Report

### Blue Creek Garden Club

Feb. 7 - Garden Therapy program presented by Merilyn Niles and Cindy Campbell, 40 Glendale Road, 7 p.m.

March 7 - The Basics of Design, presented by Flower Show Judge Nancy Stahl, Pryun House, 7 p.m.

April 4 - Annual Luncheon and installation of officers, Wolfert's Roost Country Club, 12:30 p.m.

### Community Garden Club of Marlborough-on-Hudson

Mar. 6 - Terrariums, presented by a Master Gardener

April 3 - Succulents "Living Wreath" presented by Marian Dolan from Butterfly Botanicals Farm

### Garden Club of Kinderhook

Feb. 12 - Let Cupid Strike of Valentine's Day! - make a Valentine's Day arrangement, McNary Center, Sylvester St., Kinderhook, 1 p.m.

March 12 - Ooh La La Fleurisa!- Isabelle Bosquet-Morra, owner and designer of Fleurisa, a floral design business in NYC, will present the latest techniques in flower arranging. McNary Center, 1 p.m.

April 9 - Annual Spring Mee34ting and Installation Luncheon, Winding Brook Country Club, Rte. 203, Valatie, 11:30 a.m.

### Garden Explorers

Feb. 13 - Prince Charles' Garden: High Grove House (DVD), 227 Juniper Drive, Schenectady, 7 p.m.

March 13 - Practical Tips for Downsizing Gardens, presented by Kerry Mendez, Rexford Fire Station, 7 p.m.: other garden clubs welcome

### Helderview Garden Club

April 4 - "Historic Iris," presented by Kathryn Mohr of Capital Hudson Iris Society

*Please send a copy of your club's yearbook to Marilyn Ryan, 72 Wilderness Lane, Valatie, NY 12184 (518) 758-7625.*