



April 2025

The Garden Line

Volume 21 Issue 1



Directors Message By Suzanne M Quinn

Greetings,

I am hoping this newsletter finds you healthy and working in your gardens and yards as the weather warms.

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for an incredible four-year journey filled with learning, camaraderie, and wonderful memories. Serving as your District Director has been a privilege and a joy.

My tenure began during the challenges of COVID, yet all of you rose to the occasion, ensuring that our meetings continued – whether on Zoom, in the park, or even in our own yards. Despite the obstacles, our district has flourished, growing both in membership and ideas.

Over these four years, I have had the honor of representing First District at the FGCNYS Conventions/Meetings and at CAR-SGC Conferences in Corning, NY and Basking Ridge, NJ. I was often accompanied by Graceann, Jo-Anne and occasionally Carol Berardi. Imagine trying to be a safe chauffeur with three navigators all at one time... it was interesting to say the least! This past fall, our district was exceptionally well represented at the CAR-SGC Conference, with myself, Graceann, Carol, Evelyn, Teri, Susan, Mariann, Denise, and Peggy all in attendance... members from all of our four clubs. Our state president, Donna Sessa was impressed by this attendance from the smallest district in the state.

Our fall luncheon, was a resounding success – especially with many members embracing the Halloween spirit in festive attire! Carolyn and Bonnie always go above and beyond to make our luncheons successful and fun...no small feat!

Installing the club officers was a very rewarding part of my duties. It was enjoyable to spend time with each of the clubs and everyone was welcoming... I will never forget these events.

Let's not forget the District Flower Shows...how we had to push to bring them back after COVID but once we got everyone going, they really took off. Our flower shows are an important part of our District, all clubs work together, learn together and keep us grounded as a larger group.

Our dedicated Awards Chairs, Graceann and Jo-Anne, are updating the Awards Manual. I highly encourage everyone to take the time to learn more about awards and utilize this manual as a valuable resource to foster greater club participation.

Meanwhile, our Blue Star Chairperson, Evalia, has remained steadfast in her commitment to honoring our veterans and Blue Star families over the years.

A fun and informative Facebook page was created to keep us connected even when we have our break times especially Foto Fridays. The website has been keeping us up-to-date as well.

I'm looking forward to my new position on the FGCNYS Executive Board but will continue to be involved with our fine District.

It has been your support that has helped our District reach many of our accomplishments. Thank you for the support and friendships along the way.

Fondly,
Suzanne





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District Officers 2023-2025

Suzanne M. Quinn Director

Carolyn Pinto Assistant Director

Graceann Morawek Corresponding Secretary

Carol Boylan Recording Secretary

Bonnie Rogers Treasurer

Lynne McNamara Assistant Treasurer

Betty LaFemina Healing Garden Treasurer

Incoming District Officers 2025-2027

Carolyn Pinto Director

Carol Berardi Assistant Director

Josephine Fedele Corresponding Secretary

Carol Boylan Recording Secretary

Bonnie Rogers Treasurer

Susan Santiago Assistant Treasurer

Betty LaFemina Healing Garden Treasurer

Club Presidents

Castle Manor Evelyn Koehler

Great Kills Graceann Morawek 23-25
Margot Russell

Richmond-Evergreen

Carol Boylan

Staten Island

Josephine Fedele
Marianne Brunner

Don't Miss First District's Upcoming Flower Show!

Jane Austin's 250th Birthday Celebration

Saturday June 6, 2025 1 to 4PM

New Dorp Moravian Church

Open to the Public- Free Admission

Contact Teri Torsney for additional information

or

go to www.sigardenclubs.org

(trifold and schedule available on website)



Anemone
Fragility,
anticipation,
protection



Primrose
Youth, first love,
devotion



Lilac
First love, spirituality,
remembrance



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Upcoming Events

- April 10 District Meeting, Luncheon and Installation of Officers 2025-2027 Term
- April 22 New York Botanical Gardens Bus Trip - Staten Island GC
- April 30 Flower Bingo - Castle Manor GC
- May 24 Memorial Day Ceremony - Blue Star Memorial
- June 1-3 FGCNYS Convention and Installation of Officers
- June 6 Flower Show Setup - New Dorp Moravian Church Parish Hall
- June 7 Flower Show - New Dorp Moravian Church Parish Hall
- September 13 Annual Tea - Richmond Ever-Green GC
- October 15 Gift Card Bingo - Castle Manor GC
- October 18-19 St. Paul's Flower Festival
- October 19-22 CAR-SGC Conference
- October 23 District Meeting, Fall Luncheon
- November 8 Veterans Day Ceremony - Blue Star Memorial
- December 1 District Meeting and Holiday Party
- December 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and Wreath Laying Ceremony - Blue Star Memorial

Important Resources - Web and Facebook Links

National Garden Clubs: <https://gardenclub.org/>

Central Atlantic Region: <https://www.car-sgc.org/>

Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.: <https://fgcnys.com/>

Staten Island Garden Club: <https://sigardenclubs.org/index.html>

Facebook First District: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sigardenclubs.org/>

Castle Manor GC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139711013857985>

Richmond-Evergreen:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1004882943323569/?>

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Staten Island Garden Club:

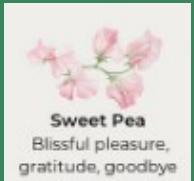
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/380076344914694>



Dogwood
Resilience, rebirth, endurance



Forsythia
Anticipation, optimism, vitality



Sweet Pea
Blissful pleasure, gratitude, goodbye



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Club News

Castle Manor

Castle Manor Garden Club's 85th Anniversary Dinner Dance, 'Celebrating 1939' at the Old Bermuda Inn on Friday, September 27th, 2024, was a blast, just the best ever! CMGC members worked super hard to make this event so successful, a testament to our club's vivacity. We had a full house, and everybody got their party on! A memorable event indeed!

After a long winter, CMGC members were ready to experience sunshine, warmer weather, and the joy gardening brings. What an exciting year is ahead!

In February some of the group carpooled to attend the Philadelphia Flower Show. The theme of the Flower Show, "Gardens of Tomorrow" displayed many stunning exhibits and inspiring futuristic designs.

The first CMGC meeting in March kicked off the year with the theme "St. Patrick's Day Green!" Members were bedecked in green attire, and tasty goodies filled the refreshment table - the iconic shamrock took center stage. Medina Gandy's Flower of the Month Presentation on Daffodils was well received, and Ann Nora Conte presented a very interesting, detailed, and informative Shamrock Program. Who knew that the Shamrock is not native to Ireland?

CMGC is looking forward to a flurry of fun and exciting events in April. On April 9th, Evelia Foster will give a Presentation on Daisies, The Flower of the Month. Guest Harold Kozak, Adjunct Professor, Wagner College, is scheduled to give his highly anticipated Carnivorous Plants Program. On April 22nd several members will join the Staten Island Garden Club to visit the NY Botanical Garden. April ends with a bang when CGMC hosts one of its most popular events, Flower Bingo, on April 30th!

Medina Gandy, reporting

Great Kills

Great Kills Garden Club enjoyed a creative and productive 2024 and we look forward to our new program for 2025. Some highlights....

We celebrated Arbor Day with our annual tree planting at Seaside Nature Park, as usual a cold and windy April morning warmed by a congenial lunch at Annadale Terrace. We arranged seasonal potted plantings at historic Biddle House and, in appreciation of their service to the community, at the Nelson Ave firehouse. This year we will do plantings at historic Richmondtown and the Hylan Blvd. police station.

At Tottenville Library last May we arranged a children's seed planting event and a follow up date where children and parents alike were delighted at their healthy seedling cherry tomato plants now ready to take home. This year the program will move on to the Dongan Hills Library.





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Great Kills - cont.

We also enhanced our skills this year thanks to our members expert demonstrations on succulent, tea cup and formal flower arrangements. Our ongoing member talks each month on environmental education covered Staten Island lakes and ponds and this year we will focus on global warming and our changing environment.

Our annual fundraising trip for 2025 is in the late planning stages. Stay tuned!

Margot Russell, reporting

Richmond-Evergreen

Richmond Ever-Green Garden Club continues to include educational reports and updates on horticulture each month to keep our members current with new garden practices.

Our club's community plantings include Garibaldi Meucci Museum, St. Nicholas Chapel and Fr. John C. Drumgoole Council Knights of Columbus Hall. We also maintain and seasonally plant at Van's Garden, a memorial to our deceased member, Van Katasoris. We planted alongside the Brownies of Troop #5312 to encourage these young ladies to become mindful of the earth. They always seem to have a lot of fun.

Twice a year members volunteer to put together a small decorative piece or a plant to be included in food baskets provided by the Knights of Columbus which are donated to families in need.

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of NGCNY, Inc we discussed planting a pollinator garden, bees and pollination and its importance in our lives. Members met at Carolyn Pinto's home and garden.

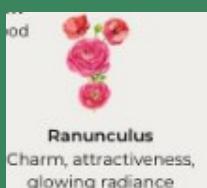
In June we visited Blue Heron Park for a question and answer class followed by a guided walking tour of the Park.

Many of our members participated in our District flower show, entering horticulture, design and worked behind the scenes for this great event.

Along with other District club members we attended the CAR Conference in Basking Ridge, NJ. An educational and fun time was had by all! As always, we enjoy attending the St. Paul's Annual Flower Festival decorating window sills of the Church. This year Jo-Anne Schiffner along with Betty La Famina from GKGC were honored.

We opened 2025 with a fun and interesting meeting. Sean Somas was the guest speaker. Member Connie Galifi presented a spectacular program on the Monark Butterfly. We are looking forward to the exciting programs in 2025.

Carol Boylan, reporting





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Club News

Staten Island

Spring is finally appearing and showing her pastel colors. Daffodils and tulips are blooming everywhere. The bulbs that Staten Island Garden Club had planted in the Fall at Gaeta Park, at the Healing Garden and at Alice Austen House and Museum are making a statement. All the efforts of our members are shown in the fragrance and color of Nature.

On May 22, 2024 the Staten Island Garden Club celebrated the 110th year anniversary with a Gala at The Historic Old Bermuda Inn. Members and Guests enjoyed a Power Point Presentation on how the gardens of Europe inspired the painters of the Renaissance.

Staten Island G.C. theme was “110 years and still blooming.” and Staten Island Garden Club certainly is still blooming.

The memories of the Holiday party are still vivid in our memories. SIGC celebrated with holiday games and gift giveaways and our palate enjoyed a delicious meal at Nino’s Restaurant.

February came and Cynthia Turpin-Friday, a member of Castle Manor GC, showed us an easy way to prepare for Spring planting.

Soon March arrived and SIGC opened the new calendar year with Flower Arranging Workshop. This is a yearly event for Staten Island Garden Club members. It inspires creativity and shows understanding of Flower Show Criteria for personal enjoyment and Flower Show Competition.

On Earth Day, April 22 we will all enjoy a motorcoach trip to New York Botanical Garden. The Orchids will be the main characters in the Show.

The 250th Anniversary Birthday Celebration of Jane Austen is the highlight of First District of FGCNYS. Teresa Torsney, the General Chairman of the “Flower Show 2025” of First District, has coordinated the event in detail.

The Show will take place on June 7, 2025. Teresa Torsney is an accredited floral show judge and a Member of Staten Island Garden Club. We are proud to call Teresa Torsney, one of our own.

Happy Spring to everyone and happy gardening!

Josephine Fedele, reporting



Magnolia
Mobility, dignity,
perseverance



Snowdrop
Purity, hope,
consolation



Foxglove
Sincerity, strength,
courage



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The Blue Star Memorial

The Blue Star Memorial Program honors all men and women that serve in the U.S. Armed Services. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the N.J. Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to Veterans of WWII and has expanded to a National system of Memorial Markers along the highway system and in other appropriate locations. The Blue Star Memorial located at Fort Wadsworth is a District one project. Several times during the year, First district members get together for maintenance and upkeep of the site. The location of the memorial allows enlisted men and women in the different branches of the military to see that they are never forgotten as they enter and leave the base.



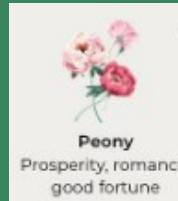
The Healing Garden Rose Registry

Anyone who would like to register "A ROSE BUSH" in recognition of someone special in "THE HEALING GARDEN LIVING MEMORIAL" Call Carolyn Pinto, Healing Garden Chairman, (718) 987-5759

Book of Recognition

If you would like to honor a member by recognizing their ability and dedication to your club, you may do so by adding his/her name to the FGCNYS, Inc. Book of Recognition.

This can be done individually or by your club. You can download a form from the FGCNYS.com website in Applications and give it to Suzanne M Quinn, the Book of Recognition Chair for District with a check, payable to FGCNYS, Inc. for \$10..





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Castle Manor GC 85th Anniversary



St Paul's Flower Festival 2024



District Holiday Party 2024



Blue Star December 2024



Staten Island GC 110th Anniversary



Richmond-Evergreen GC at
District Halloween Luncheon



District Halloween Luncheon



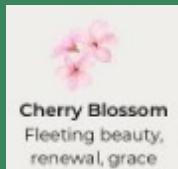
Castle Manor GC Bingo



Staten Island GC Cleanup at
Alice Austin Burial site



Great Kills GC Teacup
Floral Design Workshop



Cherry Blossom
Fleeting beauty,
renewal, grace



Daffodil
New beginnings,
hope, joy.



Lily of the Valley
Sweetness, purity,
happiness