



# The Garden Line

December 2025

Volume 21 Issue 2



## Directors Message By Carolyn Pinto

First I want to start off thanking Suzanne Quinn past District Director for continuing with "THE GARDEN LINE" keeping us informed of all our garden club events and accomplishments. You should be proud to be part of this outstanding organization as I have been for 35 years!

The attendance at the Annual Spring and Semi Annual Fall Luncheons 2025 was well attended. These luncheons are our district fundraisers and a good time to connect with fellow members. Please continue to attend our 2026 luncheons and bring friends!

In June our district held a Flower Show "Jane Austen 250 Birthday Celebration". A huge success chaired by member Teri Torsney. This upcoming year members Denise Solomon and Teri Torsney will co-chair a patriotic flower show. It is my intention to provide as much information, workshops, instructions, etc. in order to get as many members as possible to enter and have a fun and stress-free time.

I am extremely proud of our FGCNYS, Inc. Blue Star Memorial Marker at the foot of Fort Wadsworth. Evalia Foster and now Suzanne Quinn are responsible for keeping it dignified and also holding observances in honor of our veterans and fallen soldiers.

I want to thank my board and committee members for all their support. It means so much. I especially want to thank Susan Santiago for creating our website, [district1fgcnys.com](http://district1fgcnys.com). Please refer to this very informative website for everything garden club.

Not only is 2026 the 250th year of our nation but also 25th anniversary of the terrible attack on our nation September 11, 2001. It is also the anniversary of The Healing Garden Living Memorial which I spearheaded with the garden club 25 years ago. This upcoming year I am hoping for a committee to observe the anniversary of 9/11 at The Healing Garden which we have been doing as a district every 5 years.

I just received a call from a young lady I have known for some time. She said she wanted to join the garden club! She works a full time job but needs a hobby and wants to try gardening. I was her age when I joined and it has been a blessing for me. Please outreach and get these younger people in our lives so we can teach them there is more than just material things in life.

The garden club has so much to offer. Please keep on keeping on with all your events and accomplishments.

I feel so honored to know all of you.

Thank you,  
Carolyn



FIRST DISTRICT  
FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, Inc.



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## District Officers 2025-2027

Carolyn Pinto Director

Carol Berardi Assistant Director

Teresa Torsney 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 Margot Russell

Richmond Ever-Green

Staten Island

Carol Boylan

Josephine Fedele

Marianne Brunner

## Editors Note

As winter approaches and the holidays draw near, our gardens remind us of the beauty in every season. Though blooms may rest, the spirit of growth and community continues to flourish. This year, let's celebrate not only the joy of gardening but also the friendships and shared moments that make our clubs so special. May your holidays be filled with warmth, peace, and a touch of green inspiration.

Suzanne - Editor

P.S. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter



## **FOLLOW US ON**

New District Website: [district1fgcnys.com](http://district1fgcnys.com)



District Facebook:

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





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## Congratulations to Teri Torsney and the entire First District on a successful Flower Show

The show was exciting and educational as it honored Jane Austin's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the many classes were a true representation of that time period. The gloves, fans and embroidery hoops added a touch of class while picnic baskets represented the simpler times. The photo entries were exceptional and as usual members are not at a loss for horticultural entries. First District is fortunate to have so many talented members...

Congratulations to  
Bonnie Rogers and Peggy Cullimore-Klein  
as honorees at the  
23rd Annual Flower Festival  
at St. Paul's Memorial  
Episcopal Church.



## Don't Miss First Districts Upcoming Flower Show!

### “Oh Beautiful!”

Saturday June 13, 2026

Location St. Adalbert's RC

Open to the Public-Free Admission

Chairs: Denise Solomon and Teri Torsney

Additional information will be posted on the District Website as it becomes available

go to [www.district1fgcnys.com](http://www.district1fgcnys.com)





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## Upcoming Events

### 2025

- December 1 District Meeting and Holiday Party
- December 6 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and Wreath Laying Ceremony -Blue Star Memorial

### 2026

- February 2 District Meeting
- March 5 Great Kills Garden Club -Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip
- April 16 Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon - LiGreci's Staaten
- May 23 Memorial Day Ceremony -Blue Star Memorial
- June 13 Flower Show - "Oh Beautiful"

Check out the website for additional events as they are updated

### Along the Garden Path

#### **TIP #1**

Finish any remaining cleanup. Clean, repair and sharpen gardening tools.



#### **TIP #2**

Even though many Zone 7 plants are winter hardy, newly planted or tender plants may need additional protection like mulch or plant covers.

## Important Resources - Web and Facebook Links

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

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

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

First District Garden Club: <https://www.district1fgcnys.com/>

Facebook:

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

Castle Manor GC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1397111013857985>

Richmond Ever-Green: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1004882943323569>

Staten Island Garden Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/380076344914694>





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## Club News

### Castle Manor

April was a whirlwind of activity for CMGC. April, the club welcomed Special Guest Harold Kozak, who delivered a fascinating program on carnivorous plants. CMGC was well represented at the First District's Spring Luncheon, honoring outgoing Director Suzanne Quinn and celebrating the installation of Carolyn Pinto and the new officers. Members joined a bus trip to the NY Botanical Garden hosted by the Staten Island Garden Club. On this beautiful day members enjoyed the Orchid Show with others exploring spring blooms on the Tram Tour, capped off with lunch at Mario's Italian Restaurant on Arthur Avenue. Rounding out the month, CMGC's annual Flower Bingo 30 drew a lively crowd of members and guests, who laughed, applauded, and groaned as "Bingo!" was called, leaving everyone a winner by the end of the afternoon.

May brought more excitement, beginning with a program on Petite Flower Design conducted by First District Director Carolyn Pinto. She showcased seven exquisite petite arrangements, which she raffled to delighted attendees. Evelia Foster, dressed in cheerful daisy motifs, followed with an engaging F.O.M. presentation on Perennial Gerbera and Montauk daisies. Members attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Blue Star marker, officiated by Evelia Foster in her role as Interim Chairperson.

June continued the momentum: Members enjoyed a garden walk at Snug Harbor before gathering for the club spring luncheon at Blue Restaurant. Cynthia Turpin-Friday presented the F.O.M. Gladiolus, gifting bulbs and care instructions to attendees. Earlier that month, President Evelyn Koehler proudly announced CMGC's outstanding performance at the First District Flower Show, where the club earned fourteen

### Castle Manor-cont.

blue ribbons (seven in horticulture), one red ribbon, four yellow ribbons, and five honorable mentions.

The summer and fall were equally eventful. August saw members participate in the Conservation Celebration at the Staten Island Zoo alongside other First District clubs. September marked CMGC's traditional 9/11 Ceremony at All Saints Church's memorial garden, where President Koehler's poetic reading and members' recollections offered a touching tribute. The meeting that followed featured Phyllis Caputo's detailed F.O.M. presentation on the Aster and President Koehler's program on the Rose, highlighting its medicinal, cosmetic, and nutritional uses, complete with samples of her handcrafted rose hip iced tea.

Club members attended the REGGC's Annual Tea Luncheon and St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Flower Festival, Concert, and Afternoon Tea. Rounding out the year, CMGC was well represented at the First District's Semi-Annual Fall Luncheon, where Phyllis Caputo was honored with a Flower Show Award ribbon and a Certificate recognizing her exceptional contributions, including the prestigious Sweepstakes Award 2025 and achievement of the highest points in both horticulture and design.

Medina Gandy, reporting for CMGC

### Great Kills

Cooler, shorter days signal autumn on Staten Island. As outdoor gardening work lessens, GKGC members can reflect on having been committed to participating in community activities.





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## Club News

### Great Kills-cont.

Members helped fill bags and folded T-shirts for Tunnel to Tower runners under the guidance of Betty LaFemina. They participated, along with Kathy Gaine, in St. Paul's Flower Show where we are proud to say our own Peggy Cullimore-Klein was one of this year's honorees.

Several club members worked to winterize the Tommy Monaghan garden in Bloomingdale Park. Maintaining the garden this year had been a challenge due to stubborn overgrowth but at the end of the season Bess Cordella and her stalwart team (Sue Moller, Roz Smith, Nancy Sollazzo and Dolores Sollitto) were blessed with unsolicited help from a dedicated Parks Dept staff person to whom they are so grateful.

Our members are also committed to participating in other Garden Club activities and enjoyed attending Richmond Ever-Green's Tea.

Members continue to enhance their learning through in-house presentations on floods, droughts, hurricanes, insects and birds. Did you know that world-wide, over one billion birds have been lost this year? Horticultural Hints presenter, Marilyn Curcio, has instructed us on drought-tolerant gardens, wet places in our gardens, and has even given hints on what to do with our "flopping over" plants. Our fundraising trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March 2026 is filling up quickly, and should be a fun time for all!

We've benefitted from programs presented by Northwell Hospital's Rehabilitation Department on preventing physical problems while gardening, Floral Design on dealing with cut flowers, and Edible Herbs with a quick lesson on how to make crystallized flowers.

### Great Kills-cont.

With the District holiday party and GKGC's festivities in-house and at Patrizio's, members can end the activity-filled year with pleasant memories...on to 2026.

Gloria Floridia, reporting for GKGC

### Richmond Ever-Green

Richmond Ever-Green Garden Club started their club meetings in March 2025 as we prepared for the new year ahead. In-club awards were discussed. Connie Galifi gave us a wonderful presentation on the Monarch butterfly. In April Lenora Mauch, Past President spoke about raised beds for gardening. Lenora brought pictures and information back from her trip to Australia about this topic. A program showing how to make paper flowers was presented by Jill Folino, decorator, designer and member. In June Bernadette Sullivan, Past president described cooking with our herbs and baked a tasty rosemary bread for us. Another program demonstrated how to decoupage paper pumpkins by Toni DiMartino.

Members continue to take care of and plant at our community projects at Fr. John C. Drumgoole Council, Knights of Columbus Hall, Garibaldi Meucci Museum, Saint Nicholas Chapel and Silver Mount Cemetery. Along with District members we help with The Healing Garden Living Memorial and St. Paul's Memorial Church.

Each month a club member volunteered to give an educational report discussing the butterflies, birds, bats and bees which inhibit Staten Island.

Many members participated in June's Flower Show and were happy to provide the Judges with breakfast and to receive the fabulous awards they deserved.





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## Club News

### Richmond Ever-Green -cont.

During the summer along with maintaining our own gardens, we started to prepare for our annual fund-raising Tea. We had many guests who reported enjoying the day at our Tea, chaired by Jill Folino and Rosina Kiley.

We continue to maintain Van's Garden which is in memory of long-time member, Evangeline Katsoris. This garden is presently on the grounds of Knight's of Columbus Hall on Clarke Avenue.

Linda Conlon, past president has relocated to South Carolina. We wish her luck in her new home. Linda will be missed by all.

Prior to our annual Christmas celebration at Osteria Santina, we will prepare to decorate Garibaldi Meucci Museum for the holiday season.

We look forward to gathering with our sister club members at our District Holiday party. It's a joy to have so many wonderful and interesting peers to associate with.

Carol Boylan, reporting for REGGC

### Staten Island

In April the spring season kicked off with a bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden. "The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism" featured colorful flower walls inspired by Mexican modern architecture.

Lunch followed at Mario's on Arthur Avenue and I must say many of the people shopped in the local bakeries along the Avenue and went home very happy.

### Staten Island -cont.

The month of May we had a lovely luncheon at Cafe Bella Vita. In June we had our annual picnic and plant swap on the lawn of Alice Austen House.

Staten Island Club's Teresa Torsney, Accredited Flower Show Judge, chaired the Flower Show on June 7th. The show was in celebration of Jane Austen's 250th Birthday. It was a beautiful display of all the talent in Staten Island's First District. Jim Reeves, Master Gardener at the Staten Island Zoo shared his favorite tools, flowers and catalogs at our September meeting. October Professor Harold Kozak had an interesting presentation on the Venus Fly Trap and other carnivorous plants. Things you would never know, including they eat lantern flies!!

Bonnie Rogers SIGC long time member was an honoree at the 23rd Annual Flower Festival at St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church. Where we enjoyed a concert and tea. Staten Island Garden Club has gone all out planting daffodils in our borough's green spaces. You will see the results of our efforts in the Spring at The Healing Garden, Clove Lake Park, Gaeta Park, Faber Park, Alice Austen House and at the Blue Star Memorial. Thanks to New Yorkers for Parks we have added blooms to these public spaces for the enjoyment of our communities.

Marianne Brunner, reporting for SIGC



*\*Feliz  
Navidad!\**





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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 planning 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 First District 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 contribution 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 First District with a check, payable to FGCNYS, Inc. for \$10.



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Spring Luncheon 2025-2027 Board



Spring Luncheon SIGC & Suzanne



Spring Luncheon CMGC & Suzanne



Spring Luncheon GKGC & Suzanne



Spring Luncheon REGGC table



CMGC Spring Lunch at Blue



SIGC at Gaeta Park



SIGC at The Healing Garden



REGGC Jill Folino teaching paper flower making



REGGC Connie Galifi & Monarch Butterflies



CMGC Snug Harbor



GKGC at Tommy Monaghan Garden



Richmond-Evergreen GC Annual Tea

