

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter

Fall 2025
www.districtivny.com



Message from District IV Director Mary Lou Baker



This year the District had both a major challenge and a major accomplishment. In February, we learned that we had to rebuild our website, and initially we thought we were going to have to fund it ourselves. Since several of our District clubs depend upon the District site, this was disastrous news. I want to thank the many members (at least 15!!) from various clubs who stepped up on the committee we formed to research our options. In a welcome turn of events, the FGCNYS, fondly known as “The State”, found a way to continue letting the Districts, and the District Clubs, continue to be housed on the State website. We still have to rebuild our website, but we do not have to fund it. A HUGE THANK YOU TO DISTRICT WEBMASTER LEONA BROWNELL AND SCHUYLERVILLE GARDEN CLUB MEMBER (and Club Historian) MARY MALICKI for taking on the project which has resulted in both the

District and several of the clubs having a continued web presence via the State. (Of note, those clubs without websites have a link to their contact information). When you have a chance, please check it out at fgcnys.com!!

I attended the FGCNYS annual convention in June. There are truly so many wonderful and dedicated individuals at the State level. I truly enjoyed being a part of the proceedings, and in particular was impressed by the monarch butterfly presentation. I would love to bring this speaker to a District Wide meeting.

Our Schuylerville Club had a beautiful Standard Flower Show in July, the only one we have in our District. Given our size, it is an amazing feat. I was so pleased to see so many members from all six clubs come to the show.

In addition to rising to the major challenge of our website, we also had another accomplishment. We formed a Trip Committee last winter, and met throughout the spring in order to facilitate our first bus trip since before the pandemic. We had 49 members, equally distributed between the six clubs, ride the bus down to the Berkshire Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on July 17. (continued on page 7)

The Garden Gate

Charlanne McDonough, Editor

Published 3x per year

Copy Due: 1/31, 5/31, 9/30 2026

District IV Officers

Mary Lou Baker, Director

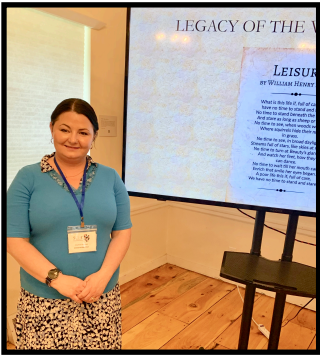
Annette Newcomb, Assistant Director

Sue VanOmmeren, Recording Secretary

Sharon Meyer, Treasurer

Barbara Millington, Corresponding Secretary

Heritage Garden Club



Our June meeting was held at the Saratoga County History Center Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa. Charlene DuBuque, an educator at the museum presented a slide show entitled "Passing the Time in Victorian Saratoga County. What fun they had

back then. For entertainment and enrichment long ago, the Saratogians enjoyed fairs and church socials as well as fraternal groups, casinos and academies. Not so different from what we partake of for pleasure today!

The summer months were spent taking care of our four gardens we maintain throughout Saratoga Springs. Heritage Garden Club is hosting the District IV Fall Meeting & Luncheon. A committee was formed and work commenced, planning, selecting a speaker, and choosing a site. At this point, we are attending to all the little details that help make the event a success.



The September meeting was a potluck lunch and house plant exchange. The dishes were yummy and the plants, made for our winter window sills. Activities for the rest of the year include a presentation on what a community farm does for the

community, garden therapy at Woodlawn Commons, and the holiday luncheon.

- Charlanne McDonough, Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club

LGCGC had our monthly meeting at Victory View Gardens. Our host Jerry took us through the vineyard explaining the various types of grapes, the soil conditions needed for a successful crop, the challenges of a



vineyard and the process of making wine from the harvest. Our tour concluded with a most delicious wine tastings of previous years harvest. Our favorite wine was available to purchase.

July and August meetings were our brown bag and salad and dessert lunches at members' homes. The gardens of Kim and Kathleen were beautiful. The afternoons were both relaxing and a time to catch up with family news. During these months our garden club members were busy tending gardens at the Hyde Museum, the Chapman Museum, and the Ethan Allen Memorial in Shepherd Park, Lake George.



September we were back at Harisena Center to enjoy a lecture of the historic gardens of the Hyde Museum and photos of women artist in the

17th century. Our club has two connections to the Hyde: Carol Whitney is a relative of the Hydies and Charlie McDonough's dad owned the Hoopes house in the fifties and sixties where her dad practiced Ophthalmology. Charlie recalled her days as a youth

exploring the upstairs and sledding down the long steep hill in the backyard.



The Perennial Planter's visited Shades of Green in Carlton. The gardens specialize in numerous varieties of shade plants and trees.

Lunch followed at

Lakeside Farms in Ballston Lake. September brought us to Carol McCarty's home for a program on ferns.

Elizabeth Collins presented a hands on lecture on how to identify ferns followed by a walk through Cannon Point to identify the varieties in their natural habitat.



Our October meeting this year will focus on our plant sale. Our very own member, Theresa Rescorl will enlighten us with what goes into planning and organizing a successful plant sale.

In November we will be decorating wreaths for the community. These wreaths will be for Libraries, Post Offices, Fire Houses and Nursing Homes.

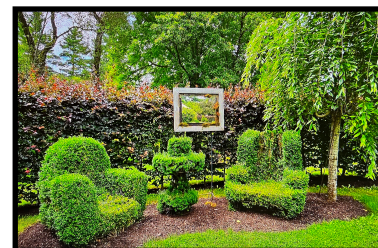
December is our holiday luncheon at the Log Jam Restaurant. We celebrate the holidays at this luncheon. We also donate money and socks to local missions.

In January 2026 we will be learning about Seeds and Basic Botany. We will be exploring the first phase of a plant's life: a seed! Then learn botany basics to strengthen our plant ID skills.

- Michelle Karins, 2nd VP

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

Members gathered for our annual potluck picnic in June at Kiley Gregory's lovely home. The sunny day and delicious culinary creations were enjoyed by all. Members toured owner designed English Gardens on a July field trip to Rogerland in Arlington Vermont. Topiaries, wildflower beds, water features and many other of the owner's handmade architectural elements were displayed.



In August, members experienced the peace that surpasses understanding as they explored the hidden gem of WIAWAKA on the shores of Lake George. This Center for Women is dedicated to enriching and inspiring the women while preserving the property on the shores of Lake George. This Center for Women is dedicated to enriching and inspiring the women while preserving the property on the shores of Lake George. This Center for Women is dedicated to enriching and inspiring the women while preserving the property on the shores of Lake George. This Center for Women is dedicated to enriching and inspiring the women while preserving the property on the shores of Lake George.



Planters made from towels dipped in cement was our September project at Mary Hallgren's home. Her husband, John, our faithful cement maker, made sure

we had enough of his mixture for many original creations!

In October, it will be time to tuck in our town gardens for the winter. Member volunteers will tend to the Galway Post Office, EMS, Food Pantry, and elementary



school.

Later in October, Garden Club member Heidi Muschick will describe her journey as she became a National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge and National Garden Club FFS Horticulture Instructor.

Holiday decorations made from natural greens and other material found in the garden will be our November workshop project. Following the meeting, Tari Lee Muth will be assisted by member volunteers to decorate the Village Park gazebo.

Our annual Wreaths for Veterans will take place on December 6th at noon. Club members will lay wreaths at six sites in the Galway area. The public is invited to participate in simple but meaningful



ceremonies, Members and their guests will gather to celebrate the December holidays at member Nancy Caparulo's home.

- Lenore Lanka, Correspondent

The Ballston Spa House and Garden Club Sacandaga Garden Club

The Ballston Spa House & Garden Club enjoyed another busy and interesting summer filled with exciting activities and memorable outings.

We kicked off the season with our *June Perennial Plant Sale, Plus!* Along with a greater variety of plants, shoppers



enjoyed browsing floral- and garden-inspired treasures, from home décor and art to pots, vases,

and tools. Despite the rainy weather, the sale was a success thanks to the generous support of our members.



Our program committee continued to shine once again this year, planning at least one special outing each month. These trips gave members wonderful opportunities to connect while exploring gardens near and far. Highlights included visits to the Schenectady Central Park Gardens—the Rose Garden and Sustainable Living Center, a tour of Meg and Jim Dalton's five-acre property and gardens, the

Saratoga Soroptimist Garden Tour, and the Schuylerville Garden Club Flower Show.



We, also, continued our

summer tradition of member garden visits, offering a chance to see and be inspired by each other's gardens. In August, we gathered for our third annual *Celebrating Summertime* Ice Cream Social, hosted in the Kanes' shady backyard—a sweet way to cap off the season.

A late-summer favorite was our *Garden to Fork Picnic*, a delightful gathering for members and their partners. Tables draped in fabric cloth and decorated with flowers from members' gardens set the scene for a delicious spread of mains, sides, and desserts, all contributed by attendees. The event was, once again, a resounding success and a true celebration of community and good food.

The Garden Gate

Our business meetings, in June and September, included programs by Tim Emanuel, owner of Native Sun Flowers in Clifton Park demonstrating Creative Container Gardening and Jessica Luse, Manager, Community Horticulture & General Agriculture at CCE sharing ideas about Decorating with Fall Plants.



Throughout the year, we continued our bi-monthly philanthropic activities by collecting for the local food bank and clothing drives.

Looking ahead to fall, we're excited to welcome Fred Breglia of Landis Arboretum for a program on the *Biggest Trees of New York*, enjoy *Two Seasons in One Festive Centerpiece* with florist Jen Fillmore of Market 32, and take in the stunning *Fall Chrysanthemum Show* at the Smith College Botanic Garden.

As the year winds down, we'll decorate the village of Ballston Spa for the holidays, honor veterans at the annual *Wreath Laying Ceremony*, and celebrate the season together at a holiday party hosted in a member's home. To brighten the winter months, we'll step into the warmth and greenery of *Faddegan's Nursery*, where one of their gardeners will introduce us to new plant varieties, pet-friendly options, and tips for caring for houseplants all season long.

- Kathy Kane, President

Schuylerville Garden Club

June

The program for June focused on the preparation of medicinal herbs for the skin. A licensed Esthetician,

Winter 2025 (5)

Alexander Scrivo led the presentations. Member learned the importance of botanical skincare by using herbal infusions, with oil, water, or alcohol infusions. Alex described a long list of possible herbs as ingredients and how to use them in skin applications. The club members are now even more beautiful than before if that's even possible.

On a sad note, a very special member, Mary Seymour, passed away. She was a cherished club member and excellent designer winning several awards in the flower show.

July

Club activities included the plantings at the Fort Hardy Youth building. Graduation baskets for the Schuylerville High School were created and delivered using flowers brought by members. The club's website was restored and up and running. The club continues its efforts in weeding at the Schuylerville House Herb Garden.

July 12-13 was the date of the club's annual Flower Show. This year's theme was "Once Upon a Time", a show based on fairy tales. Over 350 people attended the show which featured a photography contest, plant sale, bake sale, and benefit raffle. Nine local papers provided the pre and post publicity. Youth exhibits featured fairy

gardens. The show was set up like a medieval castle complete with "stone" walls and green drapery. The excellent level of design and horticulture exhibits were exceptional. All club members participated.

August

The Club held a cement cast leaf workshop at a members' home. Members had to bring a large





(Hosta size) leaf with prominent veins, a box to put it in, plastic to line the box, and heavy-duty gloves. Cement was provided. Beautiful garden dishes were

created.

September 10, 2025

The club members went on a field trip to the Schenectady County Cooperative Extension and Central Park Rose Garden. Kathy Adams, Janet Chen, and Angie Tompkins toured the members through the greenhouses and specialty gardens at the cooperative. The Rose Garden was a self-guided tour.



Future activities for the fall include:

October: Several members will be attending Course II Flower Show in Voorheesville, NY. Carol English and Heidi, both club members in the district, will be the instructors.

The club program will feature speaker Sue Kowaleski from Argyle who will teach us how to plant garlic in our garden.

November: a field trip to the Chapman Museum will discuss the evolution of the Victorian Garden by Rebecca Tommell, the Outreach Coordinator of the museum.

December: Once again the club will celebrate the holidays with a luncheon and gift exchange.

- Carol English, Correspondent

Photos from the District IV Meeting & Luncheon, October 6, 2025



Presidents



Web Design Citation

Continued from front page:



The District provided lunch (which we prepared ourselves) and hauled 4 cases of water for hydration on the hot humid day. The reviews I have received from a great number of members are favorable, in fact, I believe there might be enough interest to organize another trip in 2026. We shall see.

(Photos from The Berkshire Botanical Gardens)

“Lily Walk”



“Just a Shed”

The District will hold its third “Roundtable” discussion meeting in November. This is for the District Officers, Club Presidents, Committee Chairs, and frankly, any other member interested in becoming more involved at the District level. We need you, please join us!

Fall is upon us. I hope that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the season.

Mary Lou Baker, District Director

District IV Calendar of Events

2025

Nov 7 District IV Roundtable, Knights of Columbus, Saratoga Springs, 9:30 am

2026

May 4-6 NGC Convention, St. Louis, Missouri

June 7-13 National Garden Week