

**The Federated Garden Clubs of  
New York State, Inc.**

**2025 Annual Convention and  
Election of Officers**

**“Bee The Change”**



**June 1 - 4, 2025**

**CROWNE PLAZA ALBANY – THE DESMOND HOTEL**

**660 Albany Shaker Road**

**Albany, New York, 12211**

**518-869-8100**

# **The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.**



## **Welcomes you to the 2025 Annual Convention and Election of Officers**

**“Bee the Change”**



**June 1-4, 2025  
CROWNE PLAZA ALBANY – THE DESMOND HOTEL  
660 Albany Shaker Road  
Albany, New York, 12211  
518-869-8100**

**FGCNYS, Inc.  
President: Donna B. Sessa  
2023-2025**

**National Gardens Clubs, Inc.  
President: Brenda Moore  
2023-2025**

**CAR-SGC  
Director: Monica Hansen  
2023-2025**

**Convention Chairman: Cheryl Kopyt**

# Convention Schedule of Events

## Sunday, June 1, 2025

- 2:00p.m. SHARP      Carpool if needed leaves the Hotel Lobby  
3:00p.m. - 5:30p.m. Dutch Apple Boat Cruise (Optional Activity)  
4:00p.m.              Hotel Check-in Officially Opens  
6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. Convention Registration Open  
Vendor Set up; Floral Designs completed  
**Dinner on your own**

## Monday, June 2, 2025

- 8:00a.m. - 6:00p.m. Registration  
8:30a.m. - 7:30p.m. Vendors Open (Koi Pond Atrium)  
10:00a.m. - 11:30a.m. Board of Directors' Meeting (Fort Orange Ballroom)  
12:00p.m. - 1:15p.m. Lunch (Koi Pond Atrium)  
1:15p.m. - 2:30p.m. Floral Design Speaker: Dot Chenevert, Design Raffle  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)  
2:30p.m. - 3:00p.m. Free Time: Break/Vendors  
3:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. FGCNYS Judges' Council Meeting (CLOSED)  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)  
4:00p.m. - 5:15p.m. Speaker: NGC Judge and Flower School Instructor  
Gina Jogan on Botanical Design (OPEN to ALL)  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)  
5:15p.m. - 6:00p.m. Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar) (Fort Orange Courtyard)  
Free Time/Vendors  
6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. Dinner (Koi Pond Atrium)  
7:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. Speaker: Ellen Federico: "Monarch Butterfly  
Conservation & The Power of Survival"  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)



# Convention Schedule of Events

## Tuesday, June 3, 2025

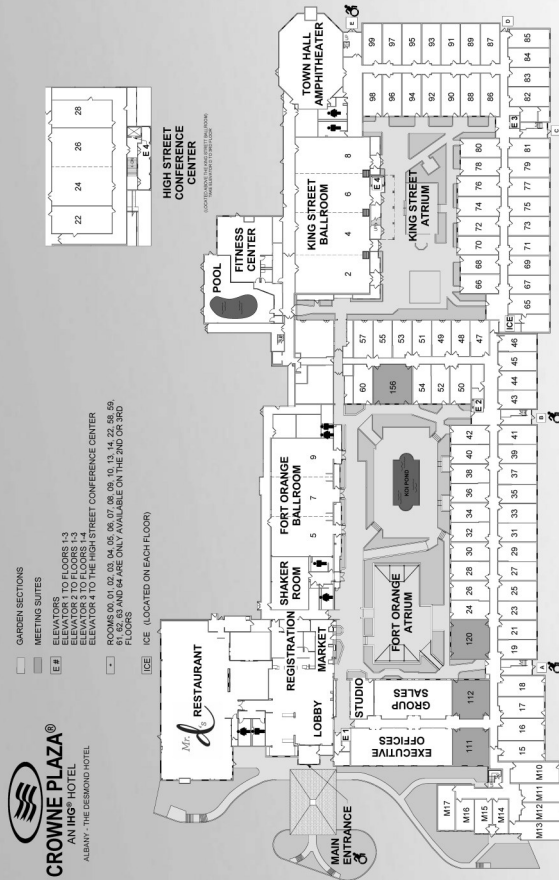
- 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. Registration and Vendors Open
- 8:00a.m. - 10:15a.m. Leadership Breakfast and Forum (registration required)  
Breakfast (8:00-9:00) Panel of Speakers (9:00-10:15)  
Followed by Q and A (Shaker Room)
- 10:15a.m. - 10:30a.m. Free Time: Break/Vendors
- 10:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. Annual Meeting with Election for Officers  
FGCNYS Awards Presentation (Fort Orange Ballroom)
- 12:30p.m. - 1:30p.m. Lunch (Fort Orange Ballroom)
- 1:30p.m. - 2:30p.m. Installation of FGCNYS Officers and Directors  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)
- 2:30p.m. Raffle Winners Posted
- 2:30p.m. - 3:00p.m. Advisory Committee Meeting (CLOSED)  
(Shaker Room)
- 2:30p.m. - 3:30p.m. District Directors Meeting (2023-25 & 2025-27)  
(CLOSED)
- 3:30p.m. - 4:30p.m. Speaker: Joellen Marie Lampman:  
Cornell Coop Ext, Albany Co.  
“Lawn for Bees? Yes, Please!”  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)
- 4:30p.m. - 5:00p.m. Free Time: Break/Vendors
- 5:00p.m. Reception: Courtesy of the President’s Home District III  
Food & Beverages (Owners’ Suite)  
**Dinner on your own**

## Wednesday, June 4, 2025

- 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. First 2025-2027 Board Meeting and Breakfast Buffet  
(Fort Orange Ballroom)

Thank you for joining us in Albany to usher in the  
FGCNYS’ 2025-2027 Officers and Board Members!  
Safe Travels!

# Hotel Layout



## **Helpful Hints for our Conference**

- Please turn off all cell phones during meetings and presentations.
- Please bring your colored meal ticket to each meal.
- Please wear your name tags to all functions.
- When leaving the Conference, PLEASE place name tags in “Name Tag Box” at the Registration desk.

## **Annual Convention Committee Members**

Donna Sessa, President

Elizabeth Walker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Nancy Kalieta, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Registrar

Cheryl Kopyt, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, Event Chairman

Jane Madis, Corresponding Secretary

Gail Berti, Parliamentarian

Graceann Morawek, Protocol

Lynn Pezold, Policy and Procedures

Dorothy Grant, DEC Chairman, Vendor Chairman

Kim Thomson, Judges Council & Assistant Chairman  
Flower Show School

Betty Jessup, Program/Speaker Chairman

Gary Barrack, District 3 Director, Directors Liaison

# **Our Presenters**

## **Dot Chenevert, AIFD June is Bustin Out All Over**



Dot has been a flower person all her life....going back to childhood and picking flowers for her mom. Fast forward, she had the opportunity to work for several florists before purchasing her own shop (The Green Oak Florist) in 1981. During this time

and before, Dot became the florist to the Culinary Institute of America. Because of this experience, she was able to test and pass the certifications to become a member of AIFD, The American Institute of Floral Designers. Since there are only about 1500 members in the world, it is a very prestigious membership and must be maintained. She is currently serving as president of the Northeast Chapter of AIFD. Dot also continues to learn, grow and share her knowledge and experience. It is with a great deal of pleasure that she will be sharing some of her knowledge and experience with you.



# **Gina Jogan on Botanical Design Plaques and Collages**

Gina Jogan is a National Garden Club Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, an NGC Flower Show Schools Instructor in Design



and Flower Show Procedure, as well as an NGC Symposia Instructor in Design and Allied Topics. As a member of the NGC Flower Show Schools Committee, she served as a chair of Student Schedules, New Designs, and FSP Instructors. She is a member and presenter for CFAA (Creative Floral Arrangers of

America) and OFAD (Organization of Floral Arts Designers).

She is also an active member on the regional, State, and local levels holding numerous positions and receiving prestigious awards including, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs': Hall of Fame, Calendar Girl and Guardian of Gardening. Her designs have been published in articles, magazines, calendars and on-line.

Gina Jogan will be presenting on the Botanical Arts Division's Botanical Design Section, specifically College and Plaque Designs. The Botanical Arts Division in a Standard Flower Show or Specialty Show allows for additional types of Horticulture, Design and other art-like exhibits (including Photography) that are not included in regular Horticulture and Design Divisions. This allows for more opportunities for exhibiting and creativity within a variety of sections.

Within the Botanical Designs Section, there are five design types. Gina will be focusing on Bonded Designs, designs affixed to a surface. The two designs within this type are Collages and Plaques. Collage Designs are abstract designs. These are opposites to Plaque Designs which are created in a more natural manner.

These two distinctive designs provide an interesting contrast of styles which also have the advantage of capitalizing on vertical space, a real plus when staging a flower show.

This is an FGCNYS Judges Council presentation and open to all FGCNYS Convention attendees.

# Ellen Federico

## Monarch Butterfly Conservation and The Power of Survival

Ellen Federico, founder and president of The Event Group Inc., an event planning firm based in Manhattan 1986-2017. She is now a writer, speaker, and certified Monarch Butterfly Conservationist, who maintains sustainable habitats on Fire Island, New York. Ellen has been featured on “NBC Today Show” and “The New Yorker” magazine as The Butterfly Lady of Fire Island. She offers workshops, private appearances, and is available to teach school groups.

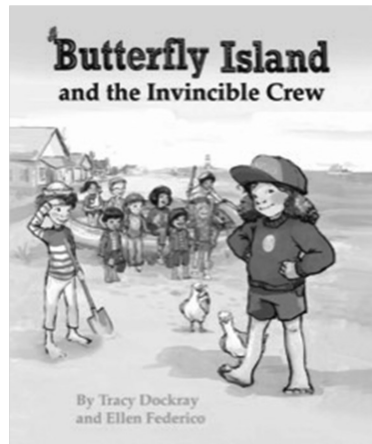
[Butterflyladyoffireisland.com](http://Butterflyladyoffireisland.com)



### **“Butterfly Island and the Invincible Crew”**

“Butterfly Island and the Invincible Crew” for ages

5-9, when a group of island children band together to restore washed-away dreams they explore nature's wonders in a kid-sized adventure, finding strength in unity. Young readers will discover the extraordinary connection between milkweed and monarchs in addition to recovery efforts following environmental storm losses, replacing despair with hope.



# Joellen Marie Lampman

## Creating a Pollinator-Friendly Lawn

Joellen Lampman is the Community IPM Extension Support Specialist with the New York State IPM Program at Cornell University. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Science Communication from Stony Brook University, Joellen is a lifelong environmental educator. At



the New York State IPM Program, she utilizes the clear knowledge-based, decision-making process of IPM to teach ecology and make a difference, one property at a time. She is a regular contributor to the NYS IPM Program blogs, *Think IPM* and she has also collaborated on research projects related to turfgrass pests, ticks and pollinators.



# Leadership Forum

**When: Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**Time: 9:00a.m. - 10:15a.m.**

**Where: Shaker Room**

**Who: Presidents, Vice Presidents, Directors, and other Leaders**

A Panel of three FGCNYS members will share their knowledge and experience as leaders of our Federation.

The topics and presenters will include “The Benefits of Belonging to a Federated Garden Club” presented by Monica Hansen, CAR-SGC Director and Former FGCNYS President; “Building and Maintaining Membership” presented by Rosemary Eshghi, FGCNYS Membership Chairman; “Money Matters”, presented by Deborah Francis, FGCNYS Treasurer.

Detailed bios on following pages.

One newly revised “FGCNYS President’s Manual” will be given to each attendee.

Join us for a breakfast buffet and a chance to socialize, make new friends, share common concerns, and exchange ideas prior to the forum.

Prior registration is required.

# Leadership Forum Speaker

Monica Hansen

## Benefits of Belonging

Monica Hansen has served our National, State and Local



Garden Clubs honorably for many years.

She is a Life Member of the National Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State and the Central Atlantic Region-State Garden Clubs. She was President of the FGCNYS 2017-2019. She has held Executive office, in all three Organizations.

Presently, Monica is the Director of the CAR-SGC 2023-2025 and on the

Executive Board of the National Garden Club as Recording Secretary, 2021-2027. She is a member of the FGCNYS Advisory Committee and the Finance Committee.

Presently, Monica is the Director of the CAR-SGC 2023-2025 and on the Executive Board of the National Garden Club as Recording Secretary, 2021-2027. She is a member of the FGCNYS Advisory Committee and the Finance Committee.

Monica is an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge and an NGC 4-Star (Environmental School, Flower Show School, Gardening School, and Landscape School).

Prior to joining her garden club (and before being thrown out) Monica was in management at HSBC, in charge of the branch banking system. Her membership in Orchard Park Garden Club in District VIII has given her many opportunities to support her Club and District in their many extraordinary projects.

# Leadership Forum Speaker

Deborah Francis

Money Matters



Deborah Francis, MBA is the owner of Integra Accounting and Bookkeeping Services, LLC, which provide forensic/financial/fund accounting, tax preparation, payroll, bookkeeping, notary and consultation services for small to medium sized businesses, nonprofits and individuals

Deborah has more than 30 years of experience working in the private and public sectors, as an accountant; financial professional; consultant and coach.

Consistent with her nature, Deborah is a volunteer in several nonprofit organizations. Cornell Cooperative 4H Clubs of NY; Artful Gardeners Club; FGCNYS, Inc; Goshen NY Lions Club; NYS Career Development Opportunities, Inc; Professional Women of Sullivan County NY; NYS Women Inc, ARC of Sullivan, Orange and Dutchess Counties. She is the president of Goshen NY Lions Club, treasurer of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, and the ARC of Sullivan, Orange and Dutchess Counties.

# Leadership Forum Speaker

Rosemary Eshghi

## Increasing and Maintaining Membership



Rosemary Eshghi was invited to the Chappaqua Garden Club Holiday Party in December 2010 and was introduced to a lovely woman who became her sponsor when she joined the Club a few months later.

At the time, she knew nothing about gardening but has since taken a few courses in landscape design and

environment, and one course of the flower show school. All NGC Schools are well worth the time, with the dividend of getting to know more fellow gardeners.

Two years later, Rosemary became the Club president and eventually got to know many women in District IX by attending District meetings.

In 2015, she became Assistant Director of District IX for two terms under Carol Della Femina and after that, Director for two terms. She now serves as the Membership chairman in the FGCNYS.

**Historical Highlights**  
**Federated Garden Club of New York State**  
**By Nancy Kalieta**

Under the direction of Mrs. John Paris, 43 people representing 20 organized garden clubs met in February 1924 to discuss forming a federation. The federation was formed with 12 charter clubs (12 more joined 3 months later) for the purpose of supporting its members. The first Annual Meeting was held at the Roosevelt Hotel in NYC in 1925. In 1929, the National Council of State Garden Club Federation, Inc. was formed. (The name was later changed to National Garden Clubs, Inc. in 1999). New York was a charter member with 12,500 members.

A New York state seal designed by Frederick LeRoy Sargent of Harvard was used for the first time on the cover of the 1927 yearbook. It features the rose, the state flower of New York, surrounded by laurel and olive branches symbolizing fame and achievement. For many years, presidents have worn a solid gold replica of our seal. The incumbent president is the only person who may wear this pin which is presented at the installation. A Federation Former President pin, a much smaller version, is presented to each outgoing president.

In 1931, FGCNYS hosted the first course in judging flower shows with 153 people from 11 states in attendance. The federation published pamphlets on “Notes for Judging Amateur Flower Shows” to use in the judging. The pamphlets were used as a basis for the “Handbook for Flower Shows” published by NGC in 1942. As NGC began to add courses such as gardening/horticulture (1950), landscaping (1958), and environmental (1976), the federation was quick to become involved. Over the years many of these schools have been offered and enjoyed. As the clubs under the leadership of the federation became more involved in various activities, an award program was established (1937). Awards are given in a variety of areas. NGC began a scholarship program in 1952. The FGCNYS also established a scholarship program for students entering college to study in a field related to gardening or the natural world. Blue Star markers, began in 1946, have been placed all over the state to honor our fallen service men and women. Numerous markers exist in all ten districts.

**Historical Highlights cont'd**  
**Federated Garden Club of New York State**  
**By Nancy Kalieta**

Community involvement became as important a focus as educating its members. Youth Programs were started in the 1930s and are continued today. The goals being to teach children basic gardening skills, instill a deep appreciation for the natural world, and a real concern for the environment. World Gardening was started in 1959 to build bridges of friendship to the less fortunate. Today the clubs of the FGCNYS donate generously to “Water for South Sudan” or “Dig Deep”. The concept behind Garden Therapy (1959) is to work with patients in an activity related to gardening or horticulture. Although the program was originally planned for veterans’ hospitals, its scope has been extended to include the blind, handicapped children, and those in homes for the elderly.

The FGCNYS survived through difficult times in history. During World War II, garden clubs across the country educated people on how to produce food for a nation at war. Victory Gardens became prevalent to not only provide food but to offer hope for a better future. Perhaps one of the most difficult times for New York was 9/11. The FGCNYS was meeting at the Otesaga Hotel for their fall conference. After the initial shock of the disaster, Donna Pair, President, said that they should continue with the meeting on schedule as it was important to keep things as normal as possible. That same call for normalcy was evident during the Covid-19 crisis in 2020. Vikki Bellias, President and Linda Zell, the office manager, learned how to use Zoom to create a site for meetings and lectures, and quickly taught us all. Clubs also met outdoors, some sewed masks, and others had food drives. The federation survived another crisis.

The FGCNYS presently includes 181 clubs with over 6,000 members. It is divided into 10 districts. There have been 47 former presidents of the federation. A few have been willing to share their thoughts on what it was like to be part of the FGCNYS:

## **Historical Highlights cont'd**

### **Thoughts from Former Presidents**

#### **Joan Corbisiero (1991-1993)**

I remember very fondly my trips to the Albany Office nearly every week, accompanied by my friend and then Treasurer, Connie Bishop. The special project of my administration was a horticulture one, which I'm sure is no surprise to anyone who knows me. It was the planting of Elm trees in the State, in an attempt to fight their extinction by the Dutch Elm disease. I wonder today if any of those trees are still around.

#### **Patricia Cargnoni (1993-1995)**

My theme for my two years was "TOGETHER WE CAN"... and together WE DID! The NCSGC (later changed to NGC) project for State Presidents was to develop a project under the auspices of Shell Oil Co. to educate the public and implement safe environmental practices in our communities. Ours was INTO THE SEWER drawing attention to contaminating ground water. We won the very generous monetary award. I am honored to have been a part of our Federation leadership during this time of development and dedication.

#### **Barbara Campbell (2005-2007)**

"Many things happen in a term. One program was to honor relatives of those serving by giving them red geraniums on Memorial Day. We contributed \$12,000 to the World Gardening project in Haiti. A manual was written for "Officers and Chairman". Great memories."

#### **Monica Hansen (2017-2019)**

"Being president made me realize that without our garden clubs there would be no need for our state organization. And as I traveled around our state and met so many of our members (putting 34,844 miles on my car in one year) I felt it even more strongly. As we join to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Federation, I am so proud to be a part of our history."

#### **Vikki Bellias (2019-2021)**

"During my term Covid hit. The experience necessitated a shutdown of our activities. But our very smart garden club members were resourceful and adapted to the situation. It sure was rewarding to see how everyone pulled together."

#### **Lynne Arnold (2021-2023)**

"When I began my road to the presidency, it fulfilled one of my most pleasant past times, that of travel. I stayed and visited many gardens and historic homes across NY, when I attended state meetings and symposiums. When I became president, I enjoyed meeting the other state presidents from CAR-SGC. I felt proud to represent NY state at the National Convention."

In conclusion, the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State has been fortunate to have dedicated, hardworking, creative leaders and members over the past 100 years. It takes all of us to work together to keep this organization viable and effective now and in the future. The future depends on you.

# **Supplemental information:**

## **Historical Firsts:**

New York was one of the first states to form a federation, to have books in Braille, to establish Judges' Schools, and the first to print a Handbook for Flower Show Judges. The Federation cooperated with Gardens on Parade at the 1939 World's Fair and has taken part in the International Flower Show.

## **Charter Clubs of FGCNYS:**

Staten Island Garden Club; Community Garden Club of Garden City-Hempstead; Douglaston Garden Club; Port Washington Garden Club; Garden Club of Kinderhook; Katrina Trask Garden Club; Ithaca Garden Club; Rochester Garden Club; Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry; Garden Club of Larchmont; Garden Club of New Rochelle; Scarsdale Woman's Club, Garden Section; Garden Club of Nyack,

Special thanks to Barbara Campbell and Victoria Bellias. Your input was invaluable.

NJK



As I come to the close of my term as President, I want to express my deepest thanks to our Board, and every member of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. What an incredible journey this has been.

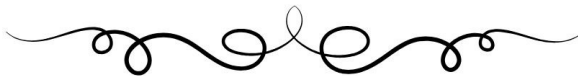


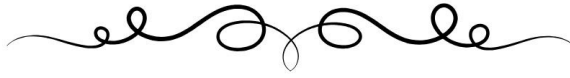
What a privilege it was to celebrate with you, as your President, our milestone 100 Anniversary and I salute our mascot Polly Pollinator for carrying the flag so proudly.

Together we have promoted Pathways through New York State and Beyond. With every step, every garden and every Bee we made a difference. Your support, encouragement and passion has meant the world to me.

I appreciate you for walking this path with me.

**Donna Sessa**  
**2023-25 FGCNYS President**





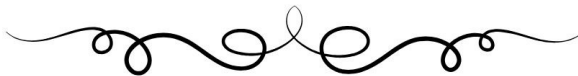
It is an honor to be your new FGCNYS President. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you during previous conventions or at District events and I'm looking forward to meeting many more members of this wonderful organization as I travel to each of our districts throughout the next two years.

As many of our environmental protections are stripped away or are no longer enforceable due to lack of resources, members of organizations like ours are on the front line in terms of protecting the environment, even it is only in our own garden or the gardens in our local communities.

For that reason, my theme for the next two years is Planting New York: Pollinators, Wildlife, and The Seeds of Growth. We will focus on initiatives that encourage the planting of gardens that help sustain our beloved pollinators as well as other forms of wildlife. We will support the designation of our gardens as pollinator pathways or wildlife havens. And we will plant the seeds of club and organization growth through engaging with other organizations, with schools, with like-minded people. Some of these seeds may not mature, others may lie dormant for years before sprouting, others may blossom in a far shorter period of time. But it's up to us to sow those seeds.

Together we can accomplish a lot and I'm looking forward to working with you.

**Beth Walker**  
**2025-27 FGCNYS President**



# FORMER PRESIDENTS OF

## NEW YORK STATE

1924-1928	Mrs. John W. Paris* (Founder)
1928-1930	Mrs. Fred Joel Swift*
1930-1932	Mrs. Samuel A. Brown*
1932-1934	Mrs. James Baird*
1934-1936	Mrs. Ralph Pratt Hinchman*
1936-1939	Mrs. William Crocker*
1939-1941	Mrs. Brice P. Disque*
1941-1943	Mrs. Clement G. Bowers*
1943-1945	Mrs. Charles Doscher*
1945-1947	Mrs. Jack Beck*
1947-1949	Mrs. Wirt Darrow*
1949-1952	Mrs. Charles Hoffman*
1952-1954	Mrs. Wallace B. Lydecker*
1954-1956	Mrs. John R. Lane*
1956-1958	Mrs. Herbert H. Land*
1958-1960	Mrs. Robert Crosby*
1960-1963	Mrs. Otto H. Langhans*
1963-1965	Mrs. Frank L. Walton*
1965-1967	Mrs. Edward C. Madison*
1967-1969	Mrs. Gerson T. Hirsch*
1969-1971	Mrs. George Dalziel*
1971-1973	Mrs. R. Reydel Pelicone,
1973-1975	Mrs. Kenneth B. Robinson*
1975-1977	Mrs. Cari Arend, Jr.*
1977-1979	Mrs. A. Roland Wheeler*
1979-1981	Mrs. Edwin A. Duryea*
1981-1983	Mrs. Wilton J. Gates, Jr. *
1983-1985	Mrs. John Maybee*
1985-1987	Mrs. Harry C. Baden
1987-1989	Mrs. Henry J. Sandlas III
1989-1991	Mrs. Vincent DeSomma
1991-1993	Joan Corbisiero
1993-1995	Patricia Cargnoni
1995-1997	Adrienne Langan
1997-1999	Jeanne T. Nelson
1999-2001	Phyllis Besch
2001-2003	Donna Pair *
2003-2005	Phoebe L. Hunt-Fontaine*
2005-2007	Barbara M. Campbell
2007-2009	Jean Beryl Metz*
2009-2011	Elaine DiPietro*
2011-2013	Pam Foehser
2013-2014	Gail McGee
2014-2017	Patricia Wania
2017-2019	Monica Hansen
2019-2021	Victoria Bellias
2021-2023	Lynne Arnold
2023-2025	Donna Sessa

\* Deceased

# **FLORAL TRIBUTES**

## **FLORAL DESIGNERS**

**Donna Sessa**

**President 2023-2025**

Gail Berti

**Beth Walker**

**President 2025-2027**

Barbara Campbell

**Monica Hansen**

**CAR-SGC Director 2023-2025**

Beth Walker



# Vendor List

## **Spear Head Spade: Hugh Mura**

**hugh@spearheadspade.com 732-297-9240**

Spades designed for 85-year-old man to enable him to easily penetrate his tough New England soil.

## **Catalpa Lane Pottery**

**jlpolito1@verizon.com 802-373-4200**

Floral design containers. Their inspiration comes from nature of course; spring wildflowers, Caribbean coral and desert rock formations, pure distilled forms. The potters believe that any good arrangement needs a good base - stable containers with openings and textures that invite artistic expression.

## **Debbie Labombard**

**ddlabbomb@yahoo.com 518-798-3198**

Must-have jackets, bags, scarfs, and jewelry

## **3rd Eye Illusions: Chary Robbins**

**716-532-1367**

Chary's table offers a delightful assortment of one-of-a-kind hand painted objects. Choose from exquisite glass ornaments, paintings, handbags, picture frames and trinket boxes!

## **Magpie Glass: Jen Kuhn**

**magpieglass44@gmail.com 607-661-0330**

Jen has been flameworking glass for 13 years. She started out making glass beads and jewelry, then expanded to sculptural work.

## **Ken Swartz Sculptures**

**www.bentandtwistedstudio.com 414-258-7902**

Unique garden and floral design sculptures.

## **Lilac Hill Designs: Connie Snyder**

**lilachilldesigns@gmail.com 845-853-6068**

Cross body gardening bags and upcycled Milk bags and accessories.

## **Hudson Valley seed company**

Crimson Krier-Gading-seeds, Artist-designed seed packs, Japanese garden tools, and more

## **Emily Barbour Jewels: Emily Barbour**

**esbarbour@comcast.net**

Eye Candy Jewelry

# **With Gratitude, We Salute Our Outgoing President Donna B. Sessa**



**On behalf of the Board of Directors of District 3, we thank you for your outstanding service as our President. Your leadership and dedication have been truly remarkable and an inspiration to current and future leaders of FGCNYS. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve on your Board.**

**Gary J. Barrack, District Director**

## **OUR CLUBS:**

**Athens Community Garden Club  
Blue Creek Garden Club  
Clematis Garden Club  
Community Garden Club of Marlborough  
Garden Explorers of Niskayuna  
Germantown Garden Club  
Greenbush Garden Club  
Guilderland Garden Club  
Helderview Garden Club  
New Paltz Garden Club  
Saugerties Society of Little Garden Clubs  
Schoharie Valley Garden Club  
Shawangunk Garden Club  
Tioronda Garden Club**

# **Federated Garden Clubs of NYS**

## **District 3**

Host to the 2025 Annual Convention

***"Bee the Change"***

Congratulates our member and former District 3 Director

**Elizabeth Walker**

in her new position of President  
Federated Garden Clubs of New York State

Your extraordinary service to FGCNYS charts a path of  
Dedication and commitment that will inspire  
other members and leaders for years to come.  
We pledge our support to you as you assume your new position.

---

**Gary J. Barrack**  
**District Director**

### **Executive Board**

Linda Levitt - 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director  
Treasurer - Marie Celeste  
Recording Secretary – Terry Buel  
Corresponding Secretary - Carol Demicco  
Assistant Treasurer – Kim Gurney

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED

**2025-2027**

# **DISTRICT X**

## **OFFICERS**

DIRECTOR: BETTY JESSUP  
 ASS'T DIR: SUE TRAGER  
 TREAS: ARLENE DESOCIO  
 REC SEC: JANE MADIS  
 CORR SEC: ADRIANE DILLARD



## **CLUB PRESIDENTS**

Artful Gardeners	Jane Madis & Sue Trager
Clarkstown GC	Helen Delargy & Ann Kinney
Community GC of Liberty	Judy Brennan & Dana Schelin
Community GC of Pine Bush	Lucy Bojsiuk
Cornwall GC	Nancy Faust & Robin Portelli
Garden Lovers' Club	Fran Wittman & Toni Sardella
Roscoe-Rockland GC	Karen Bowers
Warwick Valley Gardeners	Patricia Reinhardt

**THANK YOU DONNA SESSA & YOUR TEAM**  
**FOR TWO INCREDIBLE YEARS**



**BEE THE CHANGE** *VISION*

*COURAGE* *RESPECT* *PROBLEM-SOLVING*

*COMMUNICATION* *INTEGRITY* *EMPATHY*

*GRATITUDE* *ADAPTABILITY* *DELEGATION*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BETH WALKER**  
**& ALL THE INCOMING FGCNYS OFFICERS**



*Staten Island GC  
Josephine Fedele, Co-Pres.  
Marianne Brunner, Co-Pres.*

*'111 years and still  
blooming!'*



*Richmond Ever-Green GC  
Carol Boylan, Pres.*

*'Growing and thinking  
green for 40 years'*



*First District,*

*Acknowledges and expresses gratitude to  
Donna Sessa, President, for her unwavering  
leadership and commitment to Federated Garden  
Clubs of New York State over the past two years,  
and*

*Congratulations to Elizabeth Walker, the newly  
appointed President of Federated Garden Clubs of  
New York State for 2025-2027. Wishing you a  
successful term ahead!*

*Carolyn Pinto  
District Director  
2025-2027*



*Great Kills GC  
Margot Russell, Pres.*

*'We plant our seeds of  
friendship through our  
gardens'*



*Castle Manor GC  
Evelyn Koehler, Pres.*

*'Coming together to plant,  
staying together to blossom  
for 86 years'*

*Saugerties Society  
Of Little Gardens  
Congratulates Our  
Esteemed Club Member  
Beth Walker  
Federated Garden  
Clubs NY State  
President 2025*



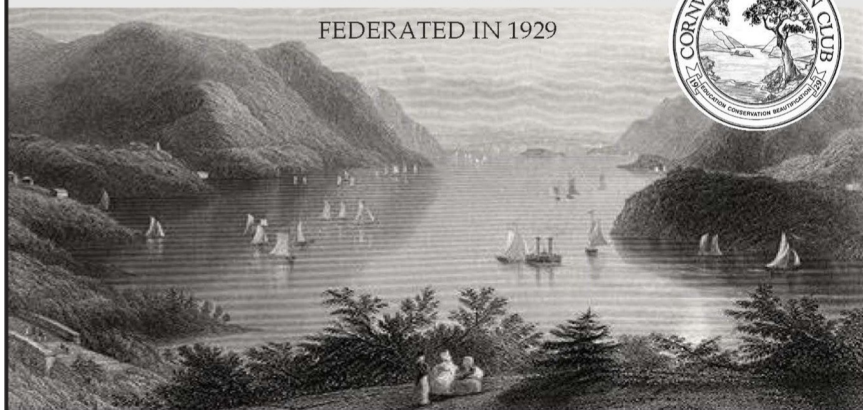
# Congratulations

TO:

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.  
*From the heart of the beautiful Hudson River Valley, home of the*

## Cornwall Garden Club

FEDERATED IN 1929



LAKE GEORGE  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN CLUB

is proud to be the home club of



CHARLANNE McDONOUGH

FGCNYS BOARD SECRETARY



Thank You, FGCNYS!  
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# Ward's

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*The Shawangunk Garden Club,  
Located in Ellenville New York  
and a member organization of the FGCNYS Third District  
is proud to welcome our own  
Elizabeth Walker as the new FGCNYS President.*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
ELIZABETH!**



*The Shawangunk Garden Club  
is celebrating its 98th year  
and is still growing!*

**Congratulations to  
Elizabeth Walker  
FGCNYS, Inc. President-elect  
and**

**Thank You to President  
Donna Sessa for her leadership  
during our Centennial year.**



**from  
Guilderland Garden Club  
District III**

**9th District  
Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.  
*Thank You!* to  
Donna Sessa, '23-'25 President FGCNYS, Inc.  
& 2023-2025 Board  
*Great Job!***



***Welcome!*  
Elizabeth Walker, President FGCNYS, Inc.  
& 2025-2027 Board  
*Wishing you a successful term!***

# Brewster - Carmel Garden Club



Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of the month at - 1 Fair Street, Carmel, NY

Find us on Facebook or [brewstercarmelgardenclub.org](http://brewstercarmelgardenclub.org)



*Rosemary Eshghi*

The Garden Club of New Rochelle is grateful for your leadership and perseverance to save our club. We are renewed and continuing the legacy established in 1911.

Thank you

To: Donna Sessa & Our Officers and Board of 2023-2025,  
Thank you for your dedication and leadership. We appreciate all you  
have done for our members and our Federation.  
You win the Blue Ribbon!

To: Our Incoming 2025-27 Officers and Board Members,  
We pledge our support and our respect for your time and efforts.  
We are on your Team!

District IV Judges	District V Judges
Liz Gee Chair	Cheryl Kopyt Chair
Carol English	Michelle Snye
Renee Rosch	Karen Batt
Heidi Muschick	Ellen Webster



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## **DUTCH APPLE CRUISES**



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## ***Proud to Support***

**the Federated Garden Clubs of  
New York State!**

**And Congratulations to Beth Walker,  
incoming FGCNYS President.**

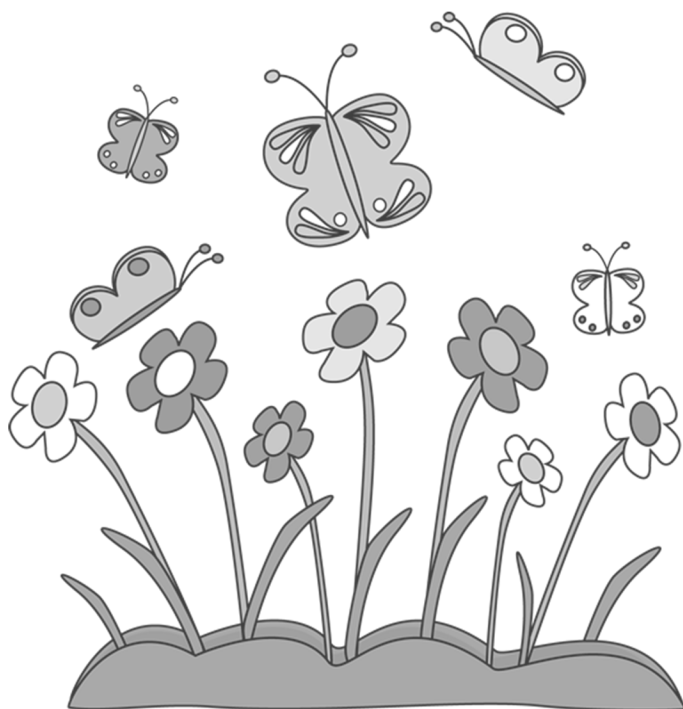
**From The Germantown Garden Club,  
Member, District III**

**Organized 1928–Federated 1933**

***“And congratulations to Club Member  
Linda Levitt, for her new roll as  
District III’s First Assistant Director.”***

**Irene Clum, President**

Proven Winners  
welcomes members of  
the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
to the 2025 Annual Convention  
and Election of Officers



# Notes

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# Notes

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*Thank you for attending our  
Annual Convention.*

*Hope to see you next year!*

*Please watch our website*

*[www.FGCNYS.com](http://www.FGCNYS.com)*

*for more information*

*on dates and place*

