

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State



Welcomes you to the 2026 Annual Convention

June 14-16, 2026
CROWNE PLAZA ALBANY – THE DESMOND HOTEL
660 Albany Shaker Road
Albany, New York, 12211
518-869-8100

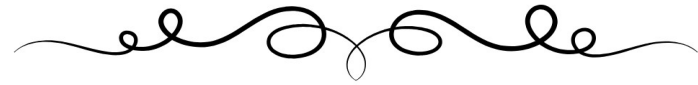
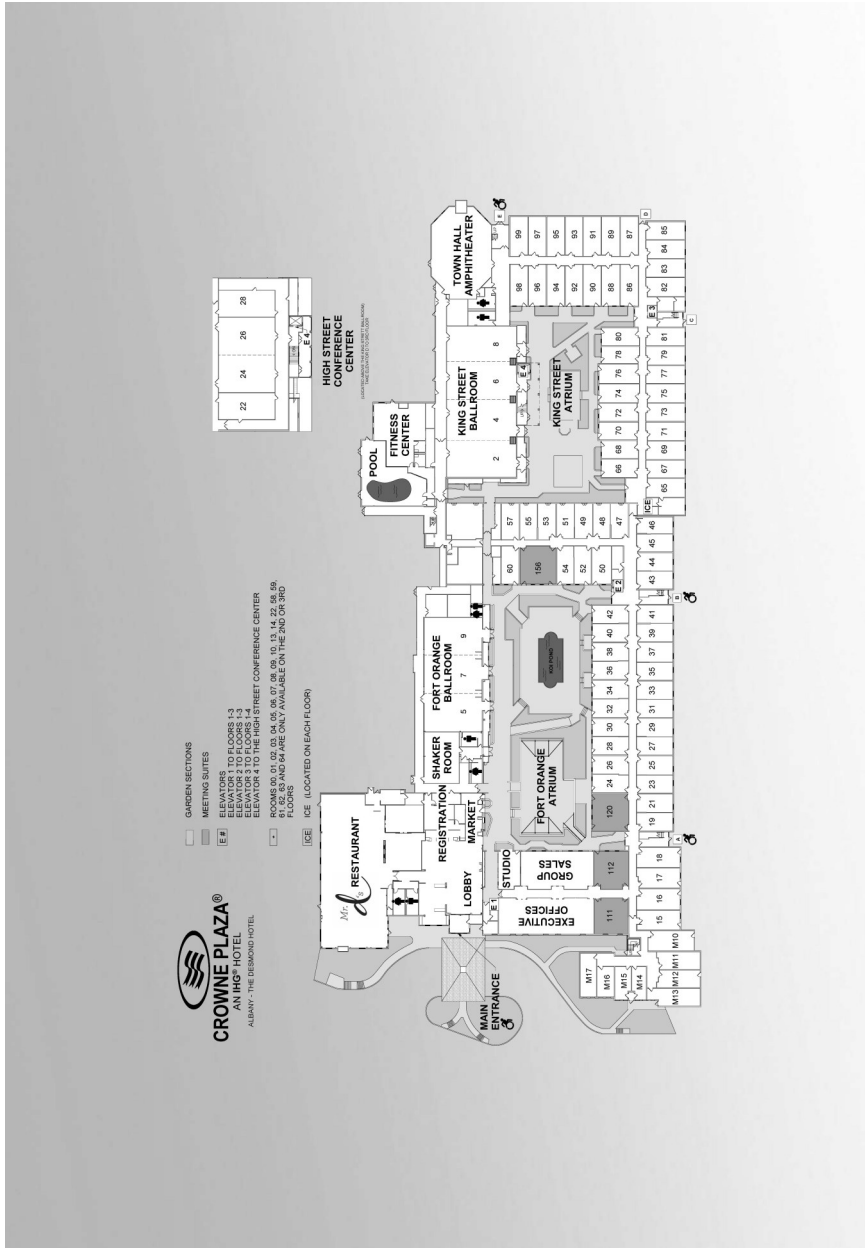
FGCNYS, Inc.
President: Elizabeth Walker
2025-2027

National Gardens Clubs, Inc.
President: Donna Donnelly

CAR-SGC
Director: Beverly Kazickas

Convention Chairman: Gail Berti

Hotel Layout

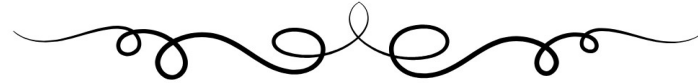


Welcome to the 2026 Annual Convention of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS

It is a pleasure to have you here with us. I hope you will find inspiration in the conversations, value in the sessions, and new energy in the connections you make.

We are especially pleased to welcome Beverly Kazickas, CAR-SGC Director, to our convention on Monday, June 15. She will be with us throughout the day and will also offer brief remarks before the dinner speaker.

Elizabeth Walker
President, FGCNYS



Helpful Hints for our Convention

- 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 Convention, PLEASE place name tags in “Name Tag Box” at the Registration desk.

Life membership Stars

Gold star - NGC Life Member
Blue star - CAR-SGC Life Member
Green star - FGCNYS Life member

2026 Annual Convention Committee

Convention Chair: Gail Berti
Convention Committee:

Gary Barrack
Jane Madis
Sue Trager
Jo-Anne Schiffer
Suzanne Quinn
Grace Morawek
Nancy Kalieta
Anne Johnston
Dorothy Campbell
Kim Thomson

Convention Schedule of Events

Sunday, June 14, 2026

12:00 p.m.	Meet in Hotel Lobby for carpooling if participating in optional tour
12:30 p.m.	Tour of Schuyler Mansion Historic Site and Ten Broeck Mansion (requires pre-registration)
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Registration - King Street Walkway
6:00 p.m.	Vendor Set up - King Street Walkway

Monday, June 15, 2026

7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Registration - King Street Walkway
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Vendors Open - King Street Walkway
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting (closed) - King Street 4, 6, 8
10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Annual Meeting - King Street 4, 6, 8
12:00 p.m.	Lunch - King Street Courtyard
1:15 p.m.	Speaker Kim Eierman “The Pollinator Victory Garden: Winning the War on Pollinator Decline” - King Street 4, 6, 8
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Botanical Arts Pin Workshop (requires pre-registration) - King Street 2
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Judges Council (closed) - King Street 4, 6, 8
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Vendor Shopping - King Street Walkway
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Cocktail Party - Koi Pond
6:00 p.m.	Dinner - King Street Courtyard
7:15 p.m.	Speaker Joseph Bruchac Storyteller - King Street 4, 6, 8

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Registration King Street Walkway
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Vendors open - King Street Walkway
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	District Directors Meeting - King Street 2
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Advisory Meeting (closed) - Suite 156
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Speaker DonnaLee Newsome “Welcoming Native Plants to your Garden” King Street 4, 6, 8
12:00 p.m.	Lunch - King Street Courtyard District Raffle winners posted - King Street 4, 6, 8
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 pm	Floral Design Susan Strauss “Vintage to Vibrant” - King Street 4,6,8
3:00 p.m.	Convention adjourned (approximate)

Prep Room Suite 156

Meet Our Presenters

Keynote Speaker: Kim Eierman, EcoBeneficial

Kim Eierman is the Founder of EcoBeneficial LLC and an environmental horticulturist and ecological landscape designer specializing in native plants. Based in New York, she teaches at leading institutions including the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Native Plant Center, and Rutgers Home Gardeners School.

Kim is a nationally recognized speaker on ecological landscaping, presenting at industry conferences, sustainability programs, corporate events, and environmental organizations across the country. She also provides horticultural consulting and native landscape design services for homeowners and commercial clients, including landscape architects and engineers.

Kim is a Certified Horticulturist through the American Society for Horticultural Science and an Accredited Organic Landcare Professional. She serves on the Steering Committee of The Native Plant Center and is a member of the Ecological Landscape Alliance and Garden Communicators International.

She is the author of *The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening*.

Keynote Speaker: Joseph Bruchac

Writer, musician, and traditional storyteller, Joseph Bruchac is a citizen of the Nulhegan Abenaki Nation. Author of over 180 books, his poems, essays, and stories have appeared in hundreds of anthologies and magazines, ranging from *Highlights for Children* to *National Geographic*. His books include *KEEPERS OF LIFE (Fulcrum)* and *NATIVE AMERICAN GARDENING (Fulcrum)*, both co-authored with Michael Caduto.

A graduate of Cornell University, he majored first in Wildlife Conservation before obtaining his B.A. in English. At Cornell, he was the varsity heavyweight wrestler and editor of the school literary magazine. He earned a Master's degree on a Creative Writing Fellowship from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from The Union Institute of Ohio.

He and his wife Nicola live on a nature preserve in the Adirondacks foothills and are licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

Meet Our Presenters

Speaker: DonnaLee Newsome, Wild Ones

Our presentation "Welcoming Native Plants Into Your Garden" covers why native plants are best for your garden and nature in general. It also introduces specific native plants to add. We will provide files with sample lists of native plants and native garden plans to smooth the path forward to adding natives.

Floral Designer: Susan Strauss

A distinguished National Garden Club Master Judge, Susan Strauss has devoted more than 50 years to the art and education of flower arranging. As a respected lecturer and instructor, she has inspired generations of designers through engaging presentations, hands-on workshops, and a deep passion for horticultural excellence.

Her expertise has been featured as an enrichment lecturer on major cruise lines, where she has shared her knowledge of floral design, judging standards, and botanical artistry with audiences around the world.

In addition to her floral accomplishments, Susan is an experienced antique dealer with a keen eye for history and craftsmanship, as well as a talented botanical artist whose work reflects her lifelong love of nature. Her unique blend of artistry, scholarship, and experience makes her a sought-after speaker and educator in the gardening and design community.

Botanical Arts Pin Workshop

Pre-registration required and additional cost

Discover the beauty of nature through creativity in our Botanical Arts pin workshop! In this hands-on session, you'll learn how to design and craft your own unique, wearable botanical arts pin. This workshop provides all materials needed- just bring your imagination.

Floral Tributes

Beth Walker

President 2025-2027

Designed by Jacqui Bergonzi

Donna Sessa

President 2023-2025

Designed by Lynn Pezold

Lynne Arnold

President 2021-2023

Designed by Cheryl Kopyt

Barbara Campbell

President 2005-2007

Designed by Kim Thomson

Beverly Kazickas

CAR-SGC Director 2025-2027

Designed by Carol English

Arrangements on tables and dais were
designed by Jane Madis and Sue Trager.

FORMER PRESIDENTS OF FGCNYS

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

Our Vendors

Catalpa Lane Pottery

jlpolit1@verizon.com 802-373-4200
Floral design containers.

Debbie LaBombard

ddlaborb@yahoo.com 518-798-3198
Must-have jackets, bags, scarfs, and jewelry

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.

Lilac Hill Designs: Connie Snyder

lilachilldesigns@gmail.com 845-853-6068
Cross body gardening bags and upcycled Milk bags and accessories.

Mary Beth Knowles

www.pamperedchef.biz/marybethknowles 607-562-5494
MaryBeth has ways to simplify cooking with high-quality products.

Emily Barbour Jewels: Emily Barbour

esbarbour@comcast.net
Eye Candy Jewelry

Imagine Native Plant Farm

info@homeearthalliance.org
Wild seeds responsibly collected from, and native plants lovingly grown for, our local ecoregions.

Le Fashion Cottage

<https://lefashioncottage.com/>
Judy Linton at (908) 251-2388 or JudyLinton95@yahoo.com

Front Stoop Gardens

<https://www.frontstoopgardens.com/>
office@frontstoopgardens.com (518) 627-6289

Susan Strauss

Jewelry



SAVE THE DATES

for our upcoming Events

2026 CAR-SGC Conference

October 19-20, 2026

Holiday In Cleveland, Independence, Ohio

“Ohio - The Heart of it All”

2026 NGC Symposium

Sponsored by FGCNYS

November 4-5, 2026

Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond

Albany, NY

2027 NGC Convention

May 14 - 16, 2027

Madison, WI.

“Wisconsin Roots”



Hope to see you next year!

Please watch our website

www.FGCNYS.com

for more information

on dates and location

