

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.



FGCNYS Annual Convention

“Sowing the Seeds of Growth”

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

National Gardens Clubs, Inc.

President: Donna Donnelly

CAR-SGC

Director: Beverly Kazickas

Convention Chairman: Gail Berti

Important Dates:

May 22, 2026 - Final day for room reservations

Room reservations must be made using this registration form

June 1, 2026 - Final day for Convention registration

June 5, 2026 - Final day for a refund

Conference 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
6:00 p.m.	Vendor Set up

Monday, June 15, 2026

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

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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

Convention Highlights

Monday, June 15th

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*.

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.

\$10 - materials fee

Pre-registration is required

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.

Tuesday, June 16th

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.

Susan Strauss - Floral Designer

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.

Tour of Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site and Ten Broeck Mansion Optional Activity

Sunday, June 14th

Join us for a memorable afternoon of history, architecture, and scenic beauty in New York's capital city!

🚗 **Meet at 12:00 PM in the Desmond Hotel Lobby for carpooling**

🏛️ **Tour begins at 12:30 PM - Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site**

Begin your journey at the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, home of Revolutionary War General Philip Schuyler. This stately Georgian mansion offers fascinating insight into early American history, politics, and the Schuyler family's legacy—including connections to Alexander Hamilton. Guided interpretation brings the Revolutionary era vividly to life.

🍱 **Bagged Lunch**

Relax and recharge with a bagged lunch, enjoyed on the grounds or at a nearby scenic spot. It's the perfect opportunity to soak in Albany's historic charm and atmosphere.

🏛️ **Ten Broeck Mansion**

Continue to the elegant Ten Broeck Mansion, a beautifully preserved 1797 Federal-style home overlooking the Hudson River. Enjoy a guided tour through richly furnished rooms that reflect the life of one of Albany's most prominent families. Stroll the terraced gardens and take in sweeping views that once captivated early American elites.

🌟 **Trip Highlights**

- Guided tours of two historic Albany landmarks
- Insight into Colonial and Revolutionary War history
- Beautiful gardens and Hudson River views
- Relaxing outdoor lunch included - lunch options to be provided

💰 **Cost: \$35 per person (limit 30 people) - Includes admission, guided tours, and bagged lunch.**

Pre-registration is required



Convention Meal Description

Sunday - Bagged Lunch - For Optional Tour Attendees

- Choice of (all choices include a Cookie and Bottled water)
 - Fresh Garden Salad topped with Grilled Chicken Breast, Balsamic Vinaigrette on the side, Dinner Roll
 - Turkey Breast, American Cheese, Lettuce on Wheatberry Bread, Side of Mayonnaise, Bag of Chips
 - Chicken Salad (chicken, dried cranberries, chopped walnuts and mayo), Lettuce on Wheatberry Bread, Bag of Chips

All below meals come with rolls and freshly brewed coffee, decaf, and tea

Monday Lunch

- Choice of
 - Caesar Salad – romaine, parmesan cheese, croutons, traditional dressing with shrimp **OR**
 - Grilled Chicken Breast Salad – mixed greens, chilled herb oil brushed chicken breast, spinach leek pastry triangle, marinated artichokes, oven roasted tomatoes, fire roasted peppers, balsamic vinaigrette.
- Dessert: Lemon Cake – lemon mousse & Meyer lemon

Monday Dinner

- Soup d Jour
- Choice of
 - Roasted New York Sirloin of Beef (sliced sirloin, demi-glace, potato Provençale) **OR**
 - Oven-Roasted Vegetable Strudel (seasonal herbed vegetables wrapped in phyllo, roasted red pepper coulis, herbed couscous) **OR**
 - Salmon Piccata – Atlantic salmon fillet, lemon caper, beurre blanc, saffron rice
- Dessert: Salted Caramel Vanilla Crunch Cake – caramel cake & cream custard

Tuesday Lunch

- Tossed Garden Salad – mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, croutons, honey mustard vinaigrette
- Choice of
 - Spanakopita Chicken (baked with spinach & feta, kataifi garnish, Mornay sauce, roasted red potatoes) **OR**
 - Penne Mediterranean – penne pasta, seasonal vegetables, kalamata olives, artichokes, roasted red peppers, herbed garlic olive oil
- Dessert: New York Style Cheesecake – raspberry coulis

Registration Form

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone _____ District: _____ Email: _____

Please check all that apply: Former FGCNYS President FGCNYS Board Member NGC Board Member
 CAR-SGC Board Member Club President Club Member NGC Judge or Student Judge
 Guest/Spouse FGCNYS Life Member CAR-SGC Life Member NGC Life Member
 Other _____

Garden club affiliation:

MEAL SELECTIONS (see page 5 for meal descriptions)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SUNDAY, JUNE 14</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lunch - for optional tour attendees only</u></p> <p>Choose from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilled Chicken Breast Salad Turkey Breast on Wheatberry Bread Chicken Salad on Wheatberry Bread 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MONDAY, JUNE 15</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dinner</u></p> <p>Choose from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roasted New York Sirloin of Beef Oven-Roasted Vegetable Strudel Salmon Piccata Special dietary request: _____
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MONDAY, JUNE 15</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lunch</u></p> <p>Choose from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caesar Salad with Shrimp Grilled Chicken Breast Salad Special dietary request: _____ 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TUESDAY, JUNE 16</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lunch</u></p> <p>Choose from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penne Mediterranean Spanakopita Chicken Special dietary request: _____

Hotel Accommodations - For your convenience, a block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel for \$170 per room per night. No taxes apply. A credit card must be presented at time of check-in for incidentals and any surcharges. ***Hotel reservations must be made through the FGCNYS office to receive this room rate.***
 Hotel rate is only available until May 22, 2026.

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Are you sharing a room Yes No

If yes, please list names

Who is paying for the room? Me Someone else _____

Of nights ____ X \$170.00 = Total Due for Hotel: _____

Registration Form

Convention Attendance	Description	Cost	
Full time	Convention fee, 2 lunches, 1 dinner	\$280.00	
Part time options:			
Monday, June 15	Convention fee, 1 lunch, 1 dinner	\$180.00	
Tuesday, June 16	Convention fee, 1 lunch	\$140.00	
Optional Events			
Tour - June 14	Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site and Ten Broek Mansion	\$35.00	
Botanical Arts Pin Workshop	Workshop fee and all materials needed	\$10.00	
Total Due for Convention			
Total Due for Hotel (# of nights X \$170.00)			
Total Due (Convention + Hotel)			
Total Amount Enclosed			

Registration and payment options:

To register on paper and pay with a check, make the check payable to: FGCNYS, Inc. and mail the completed room reservation form, meal selections (page 6) and registration form (page 7) to the address shown below:

FGCNYS
 292 Washington Ave Ext., Ste 104
 Albany, NY 12203

To register electronically and pay with credit card or bank account debit, click the below link or use the below QR code to the right:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-convention--2026>



To avoid paying the "optional contribution" on the Order Summary, click on the down arrow next to "Help keep Zeffy free for Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, INC" and selecting Other and entering 0 as the contribution amount.