



Figure Eight

January, February, March 2025 Volume 71 Number 1

Oregon* friends called November 30 to tell me that *Orchard Park was having a lake effect snow storm . But Worse news: the storm might cancel the Bills Game the next day!*

Simultaneously, my inbox received this photo.

*Portland, Oregon, the Rose City's slogan is :
"For you a rose in Portland Grows.."
Not today:
"For you a Rose in Orchard Park Grows"



Nancy Schettler, OPGC/The Seedlings, emailed this photo of a rose picked from her garden November 30.

*Nancy's message: ... picture of my last rose.
It's going to spend its final days inside with me.*

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FIGURE 8 DEADLINES

Deadline for next Figure 8... March 1, 2025

(Articles received after 3/1/2025 will be saved for the next issue)

FIGURE 8 ADVERTISING

(Donations as listed)

1/4 page - Garden Clubs	\$25 per issue	\$80 for 4 issues
Other	\$30 per issue	\$100 for 4 issues
1/2 page - Garden Clubs	\$50 per issue	\$175 for 4 issues
Other	\$60 per issue	\$200 for 4 issues
Full page - Garden Clubs	\$100 per issue	\$350 for 4 issues
Other	\$125 per issue	

Back Cover Full Color \$80 per issue
2½" wide by 3 inches high at the left side or 1" high x 8 inches long

PLEASE BE SURE TO PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!

Club Presidents, plan ahead, make sure that you use this newsletter to advertise your upcoming events and fund raisers. All copy must be camera ready.

Deadline for advertising is the same as for editorial copy.

Judy Weinstock, Advertising Editor; 648-6669

Figure 8 is published four times annually by the Eighth District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. 28 Clubs. Member of Federated Clubs of New York State, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Director's Message



There are special features of each season. Spring brings anticipation of growth in the gardens. Check out the schedule for Plantasia 2025 “Welcome to the Jungle” in this issue. There are exciting entries in Horticulture and Design to enter.

We enjoy the abundance of plants and garden walks in the Summer. This area had a lovely, long-lasting, colorful Fall. The snow cover in the Winter insulates the plants in the garden. Winter is the time that the Garden Clubs plan programs and create yearbooks for the new year. There is a speaker’s list with ideas for topics and speakers available on gardenclubsofwny.com. There are also yearbook ideas and requirements on the website. There is also information on fgcnys.com and gardenclub.org.

Many clubs in 8th district have or will soon celebrate noteworthy anniversaries. Please let our district director know and we will publish your special news!

Happy Holidays,

Melissa Marcus



Proclamation Presentation!

Honoring Eden Garden Study Club

At the December 11, 2024 Eden Town board meeting, members of the Eden Garden Study Club received recognition for 90 years of community involvement and educational enrichment.

The Eden Town Board proclaimed the week of December 8th - 14th, 2024, as Eden Garden Study Club Appreciation Week.

Among the club’s many projects are town beautification plantings in conjunction with the Eden Growers Association, the landscape and design for the Blue Star memorial marker and maintenance of the Chamber Park. Also included is Eden Heights garden therapy program, and planting and maintaining the Eden Welcome signs.

Most recently, in October, the club celebrated its 90th anniversary, by hosting an award winning standard flower show, “Cheers to 90 Years”. This two day event was free and open to the public.



**EIGHTH DISTRICT
FALL MEETING & LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025
THE COLUMNS BANQUETS**



2221 TRANSIT ROAD, ELMA, NY 14059

9:00 am	Registration (coffee and tea)
10:00 am	Business Meeting
12:00 pm	Installation of Officers; Lunch immediately following \$33 per person

MENU

All entrees include Caesar salad, rolls and butter, twice-baked potatoes, green beans, rice pudding with whipped cream, and regular/decaf coffee, tea.

Entrée choices are:

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Chicken breast stuffed with ham and Swiss cheese, topped with gravy

Oven Roasted Salmon

Salmon with a lobster dill cream sauce.

Special Dietary Requests

Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Dairy free, etc.

AFTERNOON DESIGN PROGRAM

Sharing their Expertise

District 8 Judges Council members will demonstrate and explain NGC Flower Show designs along with tips to wow the judges with your entry at your next Flower Show.

TABLE DESIGNS

Please create a dish garden with the theme "Waking up to Spring" as the centerpiece for your table. Designs should be in place by 10:30 am.

REGISTRATION FORM

Spring Meeting and Luncheon – Thursday, April 10, 2025

Registration Deadline is March 21, 2025

- 1. Make one check from each Club payable to "District VIII FGCNYS."**
- 2. List names of those attending and their menu choices.**
- 3. Forward check and information to: Melissa Jurewicz, 30 E Home Road, Bowmansville, NY 14026 Email: milissajurewicz@gmail.com Phone: 716-572-6494**

CLUB NAME: _____

CLUB PRESIDENT: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____

LIFE MEMBERS: _____

(Please specify if they wish to sit at the Life Member Table.)

Please attach a list of attending member names and menu choices.

Winter...



a time to sit back by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate and dream of your spring and summer gardens. Gather the plant and seed catalogs that have inundated your mailbox and start writing down what you want, what you wish you had and what you can afford. Prices on plants and seeds have skyrocketed like everything else, and shipping costs add to those prices. (Brick and mortar local nurseries will probably have larger and better quality plants than online stores- so check the pot size of what you plan to order.) Try to narrow down that wish list with this in mind or just say "The heck with it; I want it" and it's probably your only vice – right?, Linda.

An Opportunity for District Eight Members

Have you ever wanted to know more about flower shows and judging? How about design and horticulture? Learn what balance and contrast are in a design? Members of District Eight have an opportunity to gain this knowledge and work towards becoming a judge with financial assistance from District Eight Judges Council.

Federated Garden Clubs of New York is offering Flower Show School course 1 April 1st-3rd at Cornell Cooperative Extension Center, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, New York. A Flower Show procedure zoom will be held March 29 from 9-11 a.m. Course 2 will follow in October from the 7th-9th with a zoom on October 4th.

Becoming a judge is a way to increase your knowledge of design and horticulture through course work and exhibiting. To become a judge involves taking four two-day courses with procedure and point scoring exams, exhibiting in flower shows, and being a student judge. You must have a copy of the Handbook for Flower Shows which is available to everyone to download from National Garden Club's website for free! All the steps are there to read through. Being a judge gives you opportunities to meet others throughout the state and your district that you may not have.

Eighth District Judges Council will reimburse two students who take the course and the exam for credit for the registration fee. Take the course with your garden club buddy and enjoy the chance to challenge yourself. The reimbursement will not exceed \$300 and will be given to the first two who apply. Contact any judge in the council or susansuchak@gmail.com.

ARBORICULTURE

Lyn Chimera,
Lessons From Nature

Dim Those Outdoor Lights!

In the September/October issue of Horticulture Magazine there was an interesting article titled, “The Garden Goes Dark” by Phyllis Gricus, a landscape designer. It was about the trend to have outdoor lighting around homes, trees and gardens and the effect it has on plants, animals and insects. Why are we doing this? Sometimes it's for safety like lighting on walkways and entrances. Often, it's for the esthetic effect of seeing a backlit tree or landscape feature.

With the popularity of landscape lighting, we are disrupting much more than the ability to see the night sky. All life exists with a natural circadian rhythm, a balance of day and night. Just what effect is this garden lighting having on plants, animals and people?

Let's start with trees. Lighting into the night extends the day length for trees and can cause all sorts of problems like postponing dormancy which weakens the tree going into winter. Other problems are extending shoot growth, larger leaf size and can even affect flowering and fruiting. The foliage of trees grown in continuous lighting may be larger in size and more susceptible to air pollution and water stress during the growing season because the stomatal pores in leaves remain open for longer periods.

Insects, especially moths that fly and pollinate at night, are greatly affected. They are drawn to the light and can stay there until exhausted or eaten by predators like bats and spiders that are also attracted by the light. This attraction to light also means they aren't doing their pollination jobs which decreases pollination and affects plants reproduction along with seed and fruit production.

Birds are drastically affected by light pollution often referred to as “Sky Glow”. Millions of birds each year are killed when they are confused by night lighting and fly into buildings. Light pollution also affects their migratory routes when they get confused by the bright night sky. The Cornell Ornithology Lab suggests, “The color of light can also affect birds, with LED lights emitting blue light that can negatively impact wildlife.” This same color spectrum is more harmful to plants and insects as well.

What can we as homeowners do to help mitigate this problem? Turn off the lights at night!!!

1. If you use lighting along walkways and entrances turn them off at 10 or 11 PM unless you're expecting company.
2. For entrance and walkway lights use motion detector lights that only turn on when needed.
3. Eliminate lights on trees, shrubs, plants and decorative garden features. They are only for show.
4. Timers and dimmers can also be used to reduce nighttime lighting.

continues on next page

5. Close curtains, blinds etc. to eliminate home indoor lighting from glaring through windows.

Yes, the lights may look attractive but at what cost to nature!?

Spread the Word about Lesser Celandine, by Connie Oswald Stofko

Don't be fooled by the dainty yellow flowers, lesser celandine can destroy your lawn. This invasive plant isn't good for wild areas, either. Will you help to spread the word?

In February, Connie will post an article about lesser celandine. You can read the article now at: <https://buffalo-niagaragardening.com/lesser-celandine-wny/>

Connie has also created handouts to help you spread the word. They are printed two to a page. Find them here: <https://buffalo-niagaragardening.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/lesser-celandine-handouts-2025-jpeg-scaled.jpg>

Please let her know how she can help you spread the word about lesser celandine.

Buffalo-NiagaraGardening.com

connie@buffaloniagaragardening.com

Exhibits and Events

NEW! Unwind Wednesdays: Every 3rd Wednesday from 10am-8pm, relax and unwind in the Botanical Gardens for just \$10 Admission all day long!



BUFFALO AND
ERIE COUNTY

Botanical
Gardens

Open Daily: 10am-4pm



Orchid Exhibit / Orchids After Dark

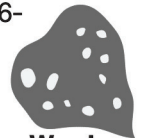
January 23 - March 9, 10am-4pm /
Select nights Jan 24 -March 8, 6-9:30pm

Orchid Fest: Niagara Frontier Orchid Society will be the grand finale to our Orchid Exhibit, nearly doubling the number of orchids to see!

February 28, 6-9:30pm

March 1, 10am-4pm and 6-9:30pm

March 2, 10am-4pm



Love Week:

Celebrate all things love with this special week of events for family, friends, and date nights!

February 6-15

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buffalogardens.com

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— OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK —



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WORLD GARDENING

Sharon Low, Chair

Reminder:
District 8 is still sending
donations to World Gardening.

Checks should be made payable to FGCNYS and sent to

Sharon Low, District 8 Chair
5251 Bronson Dr.
Lewiston, NY 14092

Please mention in the memo section
where the donation should go,
either Water for South Sudan or Dig Deep.



8th District HONOR ROLL

Terry Skura, Chair



In Remembrance:

Honoree

Maryann Jumper
Maryann Jumper
Maryann Jumper
Maryann Jumper

Donor

Amherst GC
8th District Judges Council
Kenmore GC
Terry Skura

Terry has a new mailing address and phone number:

Terry Skura
4331 Berkeley Place - Bldg. N - 2
Hamburg NY 14075
New landline: (716) 648-4073

February 26, 2026 is the deadline for submissions to appear in the spring issue. Honor Roll grants are awarded at the District Spring meeting in April. Please know that all funds stay in the District. Remember to honor someone for the contributions and hard work done to further the success of your club. Consider submitting names to the Honor Roll with a \$10 donation. See the district website for more information.

NEWS from the



Monica Hansen & Nancy Kalieta, Fair Superintendents

Yes, it is time to be thinking about the Fair. We are hard at work on the schedule for 2025. We will let you know when it is complete and where you can find it.

This year we will meet in person on **Wednesday, April 2nd at 10:00** in the Creative Arts building where the woodcarvers are set up. We will again use the same lottery system we used in the past to give each club a chance to sign up for the designs which their members would like to do. Two or three representatives from each interested club should come prepared with a list of members' wishes. Individuals who want to register on their own will become part of the lottery process. **Please notify us by March 15, 2025** if you as an individual or if representatives from your club are planning to attend. nancyk212@aol.com

Youth Report

Dorothy Julius, Chair

Spring is right around the corner. Now is the time to have the kids make things for your gardens. Some examples are making seed balls, seed tape and painting rocks as plant markers for your gardens.

Here is a new idea - making Mason Bee houses. All you need is a clean tin can, some squares of paper, a pencil, scotch tape, scissors, and a hanger for your house. Have the kids roll a piece of paper around a pencil. Slip it off the pencil and tape the end to secure it. Put the rolls of paper into the tin can. If the paper rolls extend out in the edge of the can, trim them. Now hang the can in the trees and bushes. Hang the Mason Bee house in a sheltered area facing South or East at least 3 feet from the ground.

Mason Bees are solitary bees who build their nests between the cracks in stone structures or in small dark cavities in nature. They pollinate a variety of native and non-native flowering plants especially fruit bearing plants and trees. Very important in the food chain.

If we still have snow, you can make maple syrup snow candy/taffy. Pour boiling hot maple syrup onto clean fresh snow or shaved ice. Insert a popsicle stick. It will cool in seconds. Enjoy. (A favorite in Canada).

Let's open our children's eyes to see the beauty of nature by taking them on a trip to Montezuma Wildlife Refuge or the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge. Make learning fun and memories to treasure.

Email: dorothymjulius@gmail.com, Phone #: (716) 681-1473

***Remember the seeds we sow today
will become the flowers of tomorrow.
Happy Holidays! Let's make some memories!***

Beware of Yellow Iris

submitted by *Annette Kuhn*



The Yellow flag iris (yellow iris pseudacorus) typically blooms profusely from late spring through early summer (May to June). Exhibiting great eye-appeal with its bright yellow flowers.

It is a perennial, aquatic invasive plant. It is native to Eurasia and North Africa. It was introduced to North America in 1911 and has escaped cultivation and is a problematic invasive plant in a variety of aquatic, semi-aquatic a wet terrestrial environments. It spreads aggressively both by seed and by rhizomes. The

seeds float on the water in spring and fall, causing them to spread quickly. In addition, several hundreds of plants may be connected underwater due to the extensive root system. Some of the negative impacts of yellow iris include:

- It forms very dense mats of vegetation that decrease bio-diversity and displace desirable native plant species
- It can alter hydrology and can covert aquatic habitats such as wetlands to wet meadows and forest
- It can clog irrigation, drainage ditches and storm water management ponds
- All parts of the plant are toxic if ingested and contact with the plant's sap can cause skin irritation

From: <https://bcinvasives.ca> and Native Plant Alternatives to Iris pseudacorus (Yellow Iris) (gardenia.net)

Yellow iris is an *Iris pseudacorus*. There are pseudacorus hybrids that are not invasive and can replace the yellow iris in gardens.

***Iris pseudacorus* 'Sushi' foxcroft full moon**

In addition, there are *Iris pseudacorus* crosses:

- ***Iris pseudacorus* X *Iris ensata*: (Pseudatas)**
'Chance Beauty' and 'Pixie Won'
- ***Iris pseudacorus* hybrid X *Iris versicolor*:**
'Appointer' and 'Roy's Repeater'

We also have Louisiana irises. They are worth a try if you have a boggy area.

- **Louisiana Copper iris:**
'*Iris fulva*' or 'Black Gamecock'

For those who wish to keep the imagination fresh and



The Cheektowaga Garden Club made holiday favors to place on trays of the Cheektowaga Meals on Wheels. Pictured: some of members making favors. L to R Maria Hutton, Cindy Roy, Eileen Beiter, Sally Beiter.

Photos and info submitted by Denise DeNisco



Denise DeNisco and Pat Cudel delivered dinners to the Kevin Guest House for patients and their families. A volunteer at KGH stands in background.



Sneak Peek: The TR Site Front Hall and Stairway decorated by East Aurora Club Members: Sue Toft, Lori Britton, Gayle Almeter, Mary Ann Kopp, MaryLou Stevens .

Photo and info: Esther Kopp



Fall District 8 Meeting: By Popular Vote, Fredonia GC won Second Place! Club members: Illa Merryweather, Robin Carr, Kim Woodward, Pamela White, Annabell Hahn stood happily behind their Table Arrangement .

Photo and info submitted by Roxanne Fisk

Centerpiece Left



vigorous, chocolate is the beverage of beverages.



~Maud C. Cooke, *Breakfast, Dinner and Supper*, 1897

The Lewiston Garden Club met November 18th to prepare holiday wreaths for Center Street lamp posts and to purchase and decorate a Christmas Tree for the Gazebo in Hennepin Park.

As a service project, club members are working to meet the holiday requests of four families from the Community Mission in Niagara Falls.



Photos to left: Michael Flan dressed for the occasion. Club members preparing holiday wreaths (l-r) Susan Loughran, Linda Lambert, and Charlotte House.

Photos and info submitted by Doreen Albee



Photo: Margaret Woolatt



Submitted by Esther Kopp

Just Desserts: East Aurora GC Small Standard Flower Show, November 16: Shirley Marshall won first place design for Class 1: *Sweets for the Sweet*, a functional table for 2.

In OP Library's Holiday Corner: OPGC/The Seedlings: Wendy Zebehazy, Carol-Jo Pope, and Rachel Wach add finishing touches to Osage Orange ornaments.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maclura_pomifera



Centerpiece Right



Club activities for January, February, March 2025

Erie I Peggy Koppman, Section Chair

Cinderella Isle GC (President, Pat Fabin) *Meetings – third Thursday at 7:00 pm* Members will sign up for hostess duties and committee assignments as we kick off the new year at “Taco Night”, our January meeting. In February, member Melissa Marcus will present a tribute to the gardens of our members featuring photos she has collected. At our March meeting, member Peggy Koppmann, will present 'Math in the Garden', a look at the many ways gardeners use math skills in their gardens to calculate area, ensure correct fertilizer application, and plant spacing among many others.

East Park GC (President, Rose Mary Madejski)

Erie II Lily Zendano, Section Chair

GC of the Tonawandas (President, Cathi Ullenbruch) *Meetings -3rd Thursday at 6:30pm, Tonawanda City Hall.* For January, we are privileged to help one of our members decorate gift bags for Hearts in Bloom-Buffalo. This is a "heartwarming" project for Valentine's Day, where a variety of items, including flowers are presented to widows and widowers whose names have been submitted. Catherine hopes to reach 100 recipients this year, while last year (her first) she touched the lives of 41 participants. February finds us stuffing pillows for breast cancer patients. This is our Therapy Project, which we have participated in since 2018. In March, we have our annual banquet and installation of officers.

Kenmore GC (President, Carole Zeiher) *Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 am, Kenmore Methodist Church.* In January, Albert Gilewicz will present a program called "Garden Revolution: A Call to Trowels". Practical advice on climate change actions to take while saving money and maintaining our current lifestyle. Joseph Ham, President of "The English Gardener" will share unique designs for our gardens in February while promoting the use of native plants. Our annual Awards Luncheon will be held in March at Sean Patrick's Restaurant. Linda Blyth, our Historian, will present "The Year in Review".

Ken-Sheriton GC (President, Therese Malchioro) *meets on the second Tuesday at 7:00 pm at St. Mark Lutheran Church at 576 Delaware Road.* January is our Holiday Party to celebrate our successes in 2024 and start planning for 2025-2026. No meeting at the church. February - Complete planning for the upcoming 2025-2026 gardening year at a member's home. A Valentine activity is planned. March - Our club will bring a place setting, with a coordinating floral design and explore the basic principles of table setting. Members will enjoy a light potluck supper.

Erie III Dorothy Romanczuk, Section Chair

Eden Garden Study (President, Dawn Seggio) *Meeting 2nd Thursday - 7:00 p.m.* Eden Garden Study - President Dawn Seggio. mseggio@verizon.net. January's agenda at their potluck dinner will be planning programs for the new gardening year. The flower arranger is Lana Gardner. A mystery design class will be presented by Lana Gardner and Dawn Seggio in February. Planting of the town's baskets and planters will be in the mix. For March, the club will have a flower and card making class for Roswell Park in honor of Patty Steinmetz & Connie Szal. New officers will be installed at the March luncheon.

Evans GC (President, Kathy Connolly) *Meeting 2nd Tuesday - 7:00* January's program will be discussing the pros & cons of winter sowing. Member Heidi Dizer will present a program in February, "Understanding how Color can Make Your Beds Even Better". Heidi's background is in design. March is all about committee reports and deciding the new programs for the upcoming year.

Hamburg GC (President, Paula Gober) *Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 10 a.m.* January's program features David O'Donnell, talking on the eastern monarch butterfly and how climate change issues effect the monarch. The Membership Tea in February has members enjoying tea sandwiches and desserts, along with gardening tips. Master Gardener Carol Harlos will speak in March on "Perennial Success" with tips on keeping your perennials happy. Members will enter Plantasia with exhibits and horticulture. HGC will host the March District Board meeting in March.

Hamburg House & Garden Club (President, Michelle Hietanen) *Meetings: 4th Wednesday* January's program is "Successful Seed Starting" with Master Gardener, Carol Ann Harlos. General Membership 'Yearly Planning will be after the program. February is "Native Plant Pollinators" with Master Gardener, Paula Malesa. March meeting topic is "Critter Proofing & Minimizing Critter Damage to Your Garden" by Lyn Chimera.

Erie IV Evelyn Mietlowski, Section Chair

Amherst GC (President, Evelyn Mietlowski) January is our election of officers and put luck lunch. February is Amherst Garden Club's birthday month. We will be 96 years old. Our meeting in February will feature a presentation by Francis Kowsky, historian and author of "The Best Planned City in the World: Olmstead, Vaux and the Buffalo Parks System". Our installation of officers will take place in March. After the installation there will be a catered lunch at our regular meeting site, St. John Lutheran Church in Williamsville.

Cheektowaga GC (Co-Presidents, Cindy Zaborowski and Eileen Beiter) The Cheektowaga Garden Club does not meet in January. In February, we will have a cake to celebrate our 78th anniversary. We will plan our programs for the rest of 2025 at this meeting. March meeting program plans are yet to be finalized.

Smallwood GC (Catherine Barthel, President) January: Most members will enjoy SGC's Winter Break snug at home with their seed catalogs, but various committees will meet to plan for the new year. February: Taking a cue from the groundhog we emerge from hibernation. The meeting on the 17th features Club member Susan Kusneske's presentation "Discovering Monet's Garden." If you would like to learn about Susan's visit to Giverny France, and the gardens that inspired Claude Monet, please join us at Faith United Church of Christ (corner of Maple & Hopkins in Williamsville) at 7:00 pm. The new program year begins in March with our Installation Luncheon.

Forest Stream GC (Co-Presidents, Nancy Trimble and Joann Puccio) JANUARY 15th - Ladies Luncheon Meeting at Sean Patrick's to begin our New Year's Plans. FEBRUARY 20th - FSGC Installation Dinner at My Tomato Pie to welcome our new officers that begin their terms in March 2025. MARCH 20th - Meeting at the Williamsville United Methodist Church where we will host a Speaker from NYS Attorney General's Office who will speak on Identity Theft and Pitfalls of Scams.

Erie V Carol Ottaviani, Section Chair

Bowmansville GC (Executive Board: Kathy Kwiatkowski, Lynne Lowery and Sue Maue) On Monday, February 3, members will meet at the Bowmansville Fire Hall for dinner at 6:00 pm and a Business Meeting at 7:00. Members will bring a dish to pass and their place settings to include a placemat and table service as well as a decorative unit of fresh and/or dried plant material. Gail McGee, accredited Flower Show Judge will provide pointers for table setting competitions. February and March meetings TBD.

continues on next page

Lancaster GC (Co-Presidents, Diven Fialkowski and Debbie Page) No meeting in January. On Wednesday February 12th, members will meet at St John's Lutheran Church on Pleasant Ave. at 7:00pm. The community service project will be a hands on valentine making activity. Valentines will be distributed to residents of the Lancaster area who receive Meals on Wheels. On March 12th, there will be a Pot Luck Supper, plus a presentation of awards and installation of officers. Members are asked to bring a place setting and miniature fresh or dried flower arrangement.

South Town Gardeners (President, Nancy Pankow) There will be a meeting in January to discuss future club activities and projects.

Town & Country GC of Williamsville, NY (President, Ricki Gormley) A planning meeting to discuss programming and activities for the upcoming Garden Club year will take place at Ransom Oaks Clubhouse on January 9th from 1:00-4:00 pm. On February 13th, Jason Henry, son of Kenneth Henry of Eden, will do a presentation entitled "From Seed to Sale", a behind the scenes look at the family greenhouse operations. During the month of March, members will meet at The Olive Garden restaurant in Blasdell before attending Plantasia at the Fair Grounds.

Erie VI Esther Kopp, Section Chair

Amana GC (President, Janice Frasier) *Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM.* **January** – No regular meeting. **February** - Lori Brand will be discussing "microgreens." Also, members will bring a houseplant, houseplant leaf or cutting to share with members. The design theme for this month will be "Fire and Ice" using a candle or lighting feature with shades of white and silver throughout. We will also be discussing our program for the following year. **March** - Marie Taber will be discussing the "Lenton Rose". Members will also talk about a flower from the fragrance garden. The design theme is called "March Winds" arranged by Marie Taber. The members will also celebrate the installation of new officers with pizza and a salad bar.

Countryside GC (President, Annette Walter) *Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.* With many members basking in the sun in a much warmer climate, during the 1st quarter of 2025, not much scheduled for the members of CGC. **January** - no scheduled meeting. **February** - no scheduled meeting. **March** - A road trip with destination TBA after input of the members still in WNY; lunch will follow, location will also be determined at a later date.

East Aurora GC (President, Ellen Moomaw) *Meetings 2nd Monday of the month at 12 noon.* In November the club presented their very successful small standard flower show with well over 100 visitors attending. **January** – No Meeting. **February** – “Birds in

continues on next page

Your Garden and the Great Backyard Bird Count” presenter, Danielle Pecoraro, Wild Birds Unlimited. A power-point presentation on identifying and attracting local birds and our role in Cornell's Backyard Bird Count. **March** – The annual potluck salad luncheon, followed by the Installation of Officers for 2025-2026.

Holland GC (President, Barbara Brant) *Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM.* **January** – No scheduled meeting. **February** - Project with houseplants, creating planters with multiple varieties of plants. Nominating committee will present the slate of officers to be voted on. **March** - Luncheon at Holland Willows with the installation of officers for 2025-26, installation by Esther Kopp, Erie VI Section Chair.

Orchard Park GC (President, Pat Leach) *Meetings 1st Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM.* – During November a group from the club decorated the outside of the Jolls Mansion in the Orchard Park village. They made our own garlands and swags and one very creative member made two 8ft. nutcrackers!! **January** - "Wildlife in Winter", presenter Nicole Klimowicz, Erie County Park Ranger. **February** - "Iron Chef Flower Design" select members will create interesting and beautiful designs, in competition. **March** - “45 gardening tips in 45 minutes” presenter Connie Oswald Stofko.

OP Seedlings, evening branch of the Orchard Park Garden Club (Liaison, Carol-Jo Pope) *meeting 2nd Tuesday at 6 PM.* The Seedlings were busy with Fall and Holiday activities; creating their annual Osage Orange Ornaments for Christmas in at the Depot. 2023 which was a sellout. They planted a perennial test garden at their "club" home: the Orchard Park Library, which will provide the presentations during the growing season. February is our first annual Founder's Day gathering.

Niagara I Barbara Stafford, Section Chair

Lewiston GC (President, Sharon Low) January's meeting of the Lewiston Garden Club will feature a program by master gardener John Farfaglia of the Niagara County Cornell Cooperative Extension. He will speak on “Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs: Healthy Gardening.” In February, members and guests will have the opportunity to participate in a terrarium making workshop led by Rachel, the owner of the Plant Shack in Lewiston. Participants are asked to bring their own empty terrarium. They may bring plants or purchase them from Rachel at the workshop. She will also bring soil and stones. March is the Lewiston Garden Club's annual Installation Luncheon, when members will gather to install officers for the coming year and recognize outgoing officers for their service to the club.

Youngstown GC (President, Rose Livingston) January is all about organizing and planning for the new year and setting up the 2025-2026

continues on next page

yearbook. The club will be drafting ideas for programs, workshops, field trips and community events. The Executive Board will meet on January 29 to discuss revisions to the Club's constitution and by-laws. On February 5, officers and committee chairs will meet at the Hill of Beans Coffee Spot for the annual budget meeting and audit. We have a joint meeting with the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary on February 12 where YGC members Garda O'Keefe and Sue Andrezczyk will present a workshop on how to make nosegays. On March 13 newly-elected officers will be welcomed with a special ceremony at our Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner which will be held at the Ontario House, a.k.a. The Stone Jug. We will review highlights of the past year and celebrate all we have accomplished as a team in pursuit of the Club's mission.

Cayuga Island GC (President, Kathleen Hesson) Cayuga Island Garden Club will be on a winter hiatus for January and February. The club next meets in March, when they will have a Garden Chinese Auction and plan for their spring planting at the LaSalle Library.

Chautauqua Marcia Becker, Section Chair

Enchanted Mountain GC (President, Stacy Seip) no report
Check their web page: alleganygardenclub.com

Fredonia GC (Co- Presidents, Debbie Messere & Annabell Hahn)
After enjoying a very busy Summer and Fall schedule of events, the Fredonia Garden Club will have a calmer winter schedule. January and February bring the members to meet, plan, discuss and put into action goals, events and speakers for 2025 starting with the Yearbook. March will kick off with hosting a representative from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation followed by attending Plantasia and Turnbull Nursery's Bare Root Barn. Members are looking forward to 2025 and beyond!

Jamestown GC (President, Sharon Reed) no report

Bud 'n Bloom GC (Judy Wilcox, President) no report



Tribute to Mary Ann Jumper



"Those were the days my friend
We thought they'd never end
Those were the days, oh yes,
those were the days"

Mary Ann Jumper and I met over updating the New York State Roster of districts, clubs, members, and offices.

It was daunting! Our cause then became visiting the districts in New York State to see what the State could do to help the 8 districts as some were lack luster at that time. So I was the driver, Mary Ann was the navigator; we drove from district 8 to district 2 attending conferences, state meetings and reporting information from the districts. We drove about 1500 miles collecting and collating the information.

Mary Ann became president of Willow Ridge Garden Club about that time and shortly, 8th district director. When Willow Ridge Garden Club disbanded, Mary Ann joined Kenmore Garden Club.

Mary Ann was a founder of the Central Atlantic Region State Garden Clubs Inc. along with several great ladies from New York, me included. Well, that took us to Ohio, Pennsylvania, the Capital District and Delaware conferences and meetings.

Mary Ann also drove the Food Shuttle and helped in a food pantry.

" True friends are like diamonds precious and rare." Bruce Lee

I thought of you today
But that is nothing new
I thought about you yesterday
And the days before that too
I thought about you in silence
I often spoke your name
All I have is memories
And a photo in a frame
Your memory is a keepsake
From which I'll never part
God has you in his arms
I have you in my heart.

Author Unknown

Rest in Peace, dear friend!

Dianne Sippel



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March 7th-8th Mischler's Spring Preview

Calendar of Events 2025

- March 13** District VIII Committee Meeting - Hosted by Hamburg Garden Club - VFW Post #1419
2985 Lakeview Road, Hamburg
- March 12** Entry day for Plantasia
- March 13-14** Plantasia- Presented by District VIII Judges Council-
Erie County Fairgrounds. See Flower Show Schedule in this issue
- March 29** Flower Show School Course 1 Zoom, more information available soon on FGCNYS website. See article in this issue entitled *An Opportunity for District Eight Members*
- April 1** Flower Show School Course 1, Voorheesville, NY
- May 18-22** National Convention North Charleston, South Carolina 5055 International Blvd.
- June** First week in June: FGCNYS Annual Convention, Desmond Hotel Crown Plaza, Albany, NY
- August 7-18** Erie County Fair
- October 4** Flower Show School Course 2, Zoom
- October 7-9** Flower Show School Course 2, Voorheesville, NY



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