



Figure Eight

October, November, December 2025 Volume 71 Number 4



Town and Country Garden Club honored Maria Gerbracht with a statue depicting the love of reading and the sharing of knowledge. The statue is in the garden created and maintained by the Club at the Clearfield Library. It is a fitting tribute to Maria who shared her knowledge of Horticulture with all of us. She will be missed.

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FIGURE 8 DEADLINES

Deadline for next Figure 8... December 1, 2025
(Articles received after 12/1/2025 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



Aristotle said, "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." Everyone's definition of marvelous was addressed this summer in WNY. Cool and rainy gave way to hot and dry which in turn gave way to chilly and wet. Mix in sunny, cloudy, partly cloudy, windy and no breeze and I believe we covered it all. It is amazing that our gardens have survived!

Our summer meeting and pizza luncheon was well attended. Information was shared about our district website by Susan Loughran, membership by Monica Hansen, and awards and websites to visit by Dorothy Julius. Babbidean Huber entertained us with notes that she received from our scholarship winners. Packets filled with information including the updated FGCNYS President's Manual were distributed to club presidents in attendance. Food was good and the conversations even better. If you have never attended a summer or winter meeting, try to attend one or both in 2026.

I was honored to speak at the dedication of a statue in honor of Maria Gerbracht at the Clearfield Library in Amherst. The statue symbolizes Maria's devotion to education surrounded by a beautiful garden tended by her club, Town and Country. Maria and her knowledge will be missed.

Looking to the Fall. Our district meeting/luncheon will be held on October 9th. We have a great speaker, Robert Poczik, who will speak about Teddy Roosevelt's ill-fated journey to the Amazon. Check out this issue for clubs that will be having holiday celebrations open for all of us to attend. We need to support each other's fundraisers. Also, check out the ad for the Wreath Sale. This is a small fund raiser for the district. If you have never seen the Christmas decorations at the TR Site, you are missing a great experience. Plan on going this year.

Our winter meeting in February will be held at the TR Site with Spenser Morgan as our speaker. This will bring to a close our focus on the TR Site and Teddy Roosevelt.

With the busy holiday season approaching, take time to enjoy the beauty of the season. Enjoy the family time, the decorations, the music, and the food. Enjoy each day. "I believe, every day, you should have at least one exquisite moment" (Audrey Hepburn). Take the time to look for that moment.

Happy fall and happy holidays!

Nancy Kalieta



**EIGHTH DISTRICT
FALL MEETING & LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 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 Lunch

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Robert Poczik returns

If you enjoyed Robert Poczik's lecture, "The Food Explorer", you will enjoy "River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey" which was Roosevelt's ill-fated expedition to an unexplored part of the Amazon rainforest. It is a tale of adventure and misadventure. Robert is sure to entertain and mesmerize us again.

TABLE DESIGNS

A creative design incorporating the colors and flowers of fall.

The design must be in place by 10:30am.

**8th District
HONOR ROLL** Terry Skura, Chair

With Appreciation:

Honoree:

Doris Proud Johnson donor East Aurora GC
Kathy Massing donor Sue Suchak
Karen Stephens-Mace donor Sue Suchak
Connie Dutcher donor Terry Skura
Dawn Seggio donor Sharon Baur



In Remembrance:

Honoree:

Hope Harvey donor Terry Skura
Maria Gerbracht donor Sue Suchak
Joanne Olszewski donor Lancaster GC

December 28, 2025 is the deadline for submissions
to appear in the winter issue.

Honor Roll grants are awarded at the District Spring meeting.

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.

Attention District 8 Garden Clubs and Gardening Enthusiasts:



The Master Gardeners of Erie County are pleased to announce new offerings from our Speaker's Bureau. Our updated list includes engaging topics such as:

- *Using Color in the Garden*
 - *Women in the Garden*
 - *Eco-Friendly Gardening*
 - *Transitioning to a Low-Maintenance Garden*
 - *Seed Saving Tips*
 - *Growing a Chocolate-Scented Garden*
 - *Flowers from Grandma's Garden*
 - *Caterpillars Munched Your Boxwood? How to deal with Box Tree Moth*
- ...and many others

We are very excited about these new offerings and also welcome special topic requests tailored to your interests.

Master Gardeners is part of Cornell Cooperative Extension, which is a rich source of research based information. Additionally, many of our speakers are former educators who look forward to the opportunity to share their knowledge with your group.

To schedule a speaker, please contact Jane Vohwinkel via the Master Gardener Hotline at (716) 652-5400 ext. 202. We look forward to hearing from you!

From the Editor's
PESK
by Linda
Blyth



"Autumn Thoughts"

by John Greenleaf Whittier

Gone hath the Spring, with all its flowers,
And gone the Summer's pomp and show,
And Autumn, in his leafless bowers,
Is waiting for the Winter's snow.

I said to Earth, so cold and gray,
An emblem of myself thou art.
Not so, the Earth did seem to say,
For Spring shall warm my frozen heart.

I soothe my wintry sleep with dreams
Of warmer sun and softer rain,
And wait to hear the sound of streams
And songs of merry birds again.

But thou, from whom the Spring hath gone,
For whom the flowers no longer blow,
Who standest blighted and forlorn,
Like Autumn waiting for the snow;

No hope is thine of sunnier hours,
Thy Winter shall no more depart;
No Spring revive thy wasted flowers,
Nor Summer warm thy frozen heart.

*The very hands
that grow and nurture
are pleased to pass along
to you...*

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GARDEN CLUBS

TICKETS & MORE INFO:

TRSite.org

Two Common Fall Tree Problems

Two common fall tree issues are Tar Spot of Maple and Guignardia blotch on Chestnuts. Both may look horrible, but the good news is they don't damage the trees. They're both considered cosmetic problems.

Let's look at Tar Spot on Maple first. This fungal disease arrived with the influx of Norway Mapes (not native). Tar spot is caused by the fungus *R. acerinum*, also not native. While tar spot can affect many species of maple, it is commonly reported on Norway, Silver, and Red Maples.



Norway Maple, (*Acer platanoides*) is the most common maple to have tar spot in our area. The initial infestation begins in May and June after leaves attain full size. The spores winter over on the previous year's leaves and spread with the spring winds. Moisture is needed on the leaves for the pathogen to take hold, so rainy springs tend to have more tar spot in the fall. During wet springs, like the one we just had, it usually enables more pathogen. The spots begin with pale yellow/cream rounded blotches which eventually grow into large black patches that do resemble tar spots. (See Photo) When trees are heavily infected, premature leaf shedding can occur. When leaves are shed in the fall, they tend to land with the fruiting structures facing up, allowing for effective spore release the following spring.

Guignardia blotch fungus in Chestnuts affects many *Aesculus* species, including some Buckeyes. The leaves of affected plants first develop water-soaked irregular areas which grow to reddish-brown blotches. These areas enlarge quickly and in a few days are reddish-brown to brown spots with clear bright yellow margins. The blotches vary in size and may frequently grow together, covering large areas of leaf tissue often causing the foliage to curl and brown. In severe cases, leaves may fall prematurely in late summer. Wet weather promotes the growth of Guignardia blotch. In the United States, this fungal disease only occurs east of the Great Plains, perhaps because of the drier conditions of the West. The Guignardia fungus overwinters on fallen *Aesculus* leaves and will reinfect the trees during wet weather in June. Since the foliage is usually not badly damaged until after the tree has completed much of its annual growth, the disease is primarily cosmetic.

The best way to prevent the spread of both these fungal diseases is to rake up all the fallen leaves in the fall. This removes the source of the infection. It's also helpful to thin the tree canopy to improve air circulation. Chemical treatment is not recommended since these fungi don't harm the trees.

DISTRICT VIII WREATH SALE

22” FRASER FIR WREATH

\$19.50

LOCAL VENDOR - UNDECORATED

PICK UP: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

2 Saturdays **BEFORE** Thanksgiving

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m..

Notify chair if not convenient.

3921 Monroe Ave, Hamburg, NY 14075

Detach order below with CLUB Check
payable to: District VIII FGCNYS.

Mail to Dorothy Romanczuk Wreath Chair
3921 Monroe Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075
Questions: droman13@verizon.net//Cell: 716-481-1405
DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 8, 2025



2025 DISTRICT VIII WREATH ORDER

GARDEN CLUB: _____

Member Responsible for Order: _____

CELL Phone _____

E-mail _____

OF WREATHS _____ @ \$19.50 = \$ _____

DEADLINE: November 8, 2025

droman13@verizon.net

ONE check per club: CHECK payable to DISTRICT VIII FGCNYS
Mail to: D. Romanczuk, 3921 Monroe Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075



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Life Membership

Dianne Sippel

Reminder

Friday, October 3rd, 2025
Life Member Luncheon AT Cornelia
In AGK Art Museum
12:00 noon
Open Menu

After Lunch Enjoy the Northern Lights Exhibition and Shopping

Reservations:

Dianne Sippel 716-428-3281 or denrose185@live.com or
Jolaine Houghton 716-432-3319 or jolainehoughton1@yahoo.com

From the Desk of the Director



1. Subscription Price

A subscription to the quarterly Figure 8 costs \$5.00. That breaks down to a \$1.25 per issue. This is an exceptional bargain because it keeps you informed as to what has happened and what will happen in our district. Reading the Figure 8 is the best way to be in the know. Please consider getting a paper copy to refer to and read.

2. Update Club Information

Updating your club information is crucial to recruiting new members and is easy to do. All you need to do is to send an email to Susan Loughran with the changes you want to make. Then she makes the changes for you. Easy! If your club has its own website, Susan can link that into the district website. Just let her know. Susan is multi-talented but she is not a mind reader so you must tell her what you want. Keeping your club information current keeps our website user friendly.

3. District Communication

If "Communication is key," then club presidents are essentially important. You or someone you designate must forward all emails to your members that come from the district, the state, the region or national. That flow of information is critical to keeping your members linked to the other organizations.



NEW! Topiary Tales Exhibit: Open September 19-Nov 2

A storybook adventure come to life! Peacocks and turtles and bears, oh my! That's right— we have an entire cast of characters set in botanical scenes that inspired a series of short stories for you to read as you adventure through this picture book come to life.



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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 Chairman
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.



Have you noticed a rise in our energy bills, specifically electricity? Electricity demand is growing, but what about electrical supply? Quick economics refresher: if supply is stagnant and demand grows, prices increase!

I read everything I can find from a variety of sources on this topic and other environmental issues. It is not practical to say that we can substantially reduce our electrical consumption beyond what we have already done. Most of us have purchased energy-efficient appliances, LED lights, and many have installed solar panels.

Understanding electrical supply and the prices charged by suppliers helps us all make informed decisions. One of the most interesting writers on the topic is Ned Ford, an activist, educator, and unapologetic supporter of wind and solar energy. His style is quite salty, and he is obviously biased against fossil fuels. But his writing is well-researched. I encourage you to check him out for yourself.

<https://www.quora.com/profile/Ned-Ford>



Youngstown Garden Club Presents:

Holiday Tours '25 - Santa's Search

Visit our beautifully decorated rooms
at the historic Ontario House (aka
Stone Jug) 358 Main Street in
Youngstown, NY 14174

Preview Nights December 11 & 12

Be the first to view the decorations
and check out "Santa's Search" and
enjoy a festive cocktail and more!

\$25 per person

Call Colleen for reservations

716-531-6701

Community Tours

December 13 - 24

1pm - 7pm

Open & FREE to the public
Every room a festive theme
Family Holiday Fun!!!

TIP of the HAT from Nancy with THANKS & APPRECIATION to



- Babbidean Urban Huber for writing personal notes to our scholarship winners. Great idea!
- Susan Loughran for her exceptional breakdown of our website at the summer meeting
- Monica Hansen for explaining the benefits of membership at the summer meeting
- Dorothy Julius for giving us multiple places and websites to find out information along with information on Awards.
- Everyone who entered, judged or worked at the Erie County Fair this year. It was a great success!

Youth Report

Dorothy Julius, Chair

The holidays are coming!

The holidays are coming!

When I was a young girl my parents use to take me to the State Fair each year. One year I learned how to make cards out of wax paper, Kleenex tissue, Elmer's glue and pressed plant material. Since then I have applied that same technique on cards, gift tags and glass ball ornaments.

First separate a Kleenex tissue into single layers. Cut two pieces of wax paper - one the size of the card or gift tag and one larger. If you are going to fold your card in half, fold the wax paper in half now to make it easier find the center of the card later. Open up the smaller piece and lay it on top of the larger piece.

Mix up a solution of Elmer's Glue and water. The more glue you use will make the card stiffer. Using a toothbrush apply a little glue mixture on back of flower and place it on the card. Don't worry if there are extra drops of the glue mixture. They will be covered up. Now lay a single layer of tissue extending over the card edges. Completely cover the card with the glue mixture. If you tear the tissue just cover the hole with a small piece of tissue and add more glue mixture. Tomorrow you will never see your mistake. Place a ruler along the edges of the card and remove the excess tissue away. Add glitter if desired. Let it dry overnight. The next day use a knife to separate the 2 wax paper pieces and remove card. If the card is not flat, you can iron the inside of the card. Insert piece of paper and add some ribbon to hold it together.

NOTE: A pressed fern leaf makes a great Christmas tree. If you don't have enough pressed flowers, you can add cutout images from last year's Christmas cards.

The cards and gift tags look great on your Christmas trees too.

For future Youth Contests check out FGCNYS websites.

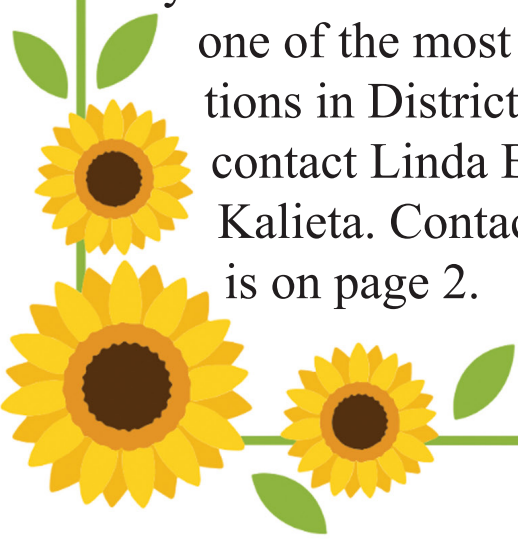
Remember the seeds we sow today will be the flowers of tomorrow.

*Let's make memories.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*



This issue of the Figure Eight will not have a centerfold of pictures. After many years of dedicated service, Carol Jo Pope had to resign for personal reasons as Cover/Center Section Editor. Please hold all photographs until we have a new editor in place.

Thank you, Carol Jo
for your hard work.



If you are interested in working on one of the most read publications in District VIII, please contact Linda Blyth or Nancy Kalieta. Contact information is on page 2.

Benefits of Belonging to Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. www.fgcny.com

Club members can take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities offered by NGC and often sponsored by the FGCNYS.

The schools offered are Flower Show School, Landscape School, Gardening School and Environmental School. These courses are taught by instructors from National Garden Clubs or instructors who have been approved by NGC. Courses may be taken in any order. They can be either picked up when a new FGCNYS school begins or taken in another state.

Clubs benefit from their FGCNYS Membership by participating in regular District meetings, District events, and FGCNYS Annual Conference. This is true with any organization. The more you participate, the more you get out of your membership.

The FGCNYS website, www.FGCNYS.com, provides up-to-date information for its members on planned FGCNYS activities, such as District and State Meetings, Schools, Awards and Scholarships available, program ideas and links to NGC and CAR-SGC resources.



The public declared that the show was a success! We are unusual in putting on our show because we not only need to follow NGC rules, but we need to excite and interest the paying public. The comments and questions were non-stop among all age groups. The kids and even adults enjoyed the "Touch and Smell" table. There were many great discussions about the characteristics of the plants with emphasis how each plant was unique. Many budding gardeners and environmentalists asked thoughtful questions.

Many thanks to the clubs who participated in the outdoor gardens, the designs, the tablescapes, and the horticulture. Add on the judges, clerks, and workers and you have many people who contributed to the success. We appreciate and thank all of you!



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Mary Jane Bolo
Master Gardener

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From the Treasurer Anne Dyet

annedyet@gmail.com 716-812-4850

Club liability insurance is due October 1, 2025.

The cost per member is \$6.00. No rate increase this year!

Make checks payable to District 8 FGCNYS, Inc.

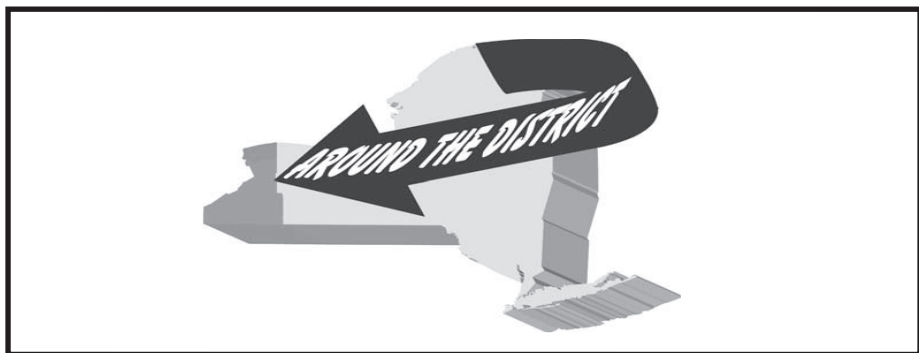
Mail to:

Anne Dyet (DO NOT WRITE TREASURER ON ENVELOPE)

3240 Love Rd.

Grand Island NY 14072





Club activities for October, November, December 2025

Erie II Peggy Koppman, Section Chair

Cinderella Isle GC (President, Pat Fabin) *Meetings – 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm, Trinity Church.* Lex MacCubbin, an Ambassador of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers will discuss the restoration of watershed habitats at our October meeting. In November, club members will enjoy a craft night and create a seasonal wood sign. “Prancing the Night Away” will be the theme of our holiday party at a local restaurant to celebrate the season.

GC of the Tonawandas (President, Cathi Ullenbruch) *Meetings - 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM, Tonawanda City Hall.* Fall brings time for new ideas. Our October meeting will be a general discussion, using a survey to see what our members are interested in for next year: field trip locations, workshop topics, and speaker presentations. November is a holiday lantern workshop. We will be designing Christmas swags for our lanterns. December is focused on decorating the Tonawanda City Hall and enjoying a Christmas dinner celebration. Also, during November and December we will be providing food for the holidays and appropriate gifts for two families in need.

Kenmore GC (President, Carole Zeiher) *Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 am, Kenmore Methodist Church.* Joe Emminger, Town of Tonawanda Supervisor will present "It's the Talk of the Town" at our October meeting. He will bring us up to date on town affairs. In November, Dorothy Julius will make several holiday arrangements which will be raffled off. Our annual December Christmas Party, "A Christmas Carol", will be held at Rizotto's Ristorante. Following a delicious lunch, we will hear from a representative of Children's hospital who will inform us on the Ronald McDonald's house.

Ken-Sheriton GC (President, Therese Malchiore) *Meetings – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, St. Mark Lutheran Church.* In October we will meet at a gardener's home to work on individual, versatile Porch Pots that carry us through the winter. Our November meeting will find us in preparation for the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site decorations. This year we are decorating 12 individual tabletop designs. There will not be a meeting in December; our Holiday Party will be held in January.

Erie III Dorothy Romanczuk, Section Chair

Eden Garden Study (President, Dawn Seggio) A dried floral arrangement in a pumpkin is the activity for October's meeting with Pres. Dawn Seggio and VP Lana Gardner presenting. In November, a webinar from NGC on Single Use Plastics: Problems & Solutions will be viewed at the meeting. Club will be active in Winterscape at Chamber Park for Christmas and a Veteran's Day wreath laying will be held at the Blue Star Memorial. A Christmas party and White Elephant Exchange are planned for December and will be catered by R&R BBQ. Garden Therapy at Eden Heights will be collecting blankets for residents.

Evans GC (President Candace Mayer) October brings a guest speaker from the Botanical Gardens who will talk about upcoming events at The Gardens and will educate our membership on what it's like to care for their indoor plants. Wild Birds Unlimited will join us for our November program, speaking about how the weather and temperature variations in WNY affect our birds and what we can do to support them. I'm sure some Christmas shopping will get done at that meeting too! We will share a meal in December at Pegasus to celebrate Christmas and all the beauty the season brings! There will be a voluntary gift exchange, donations collected for a local charity, and other holiday activities.

Hamburg GC (Co-Presidents Paula Gober & Cheryl Steffan) October's program on "Putting your Garden to Bed" features Rosie Cross, a long-time Mischler's Greenhouse gardener sharing her expert advice on perennials and preparing them for their long winter's nap. Woodland Beach water quality is featured in November when Carley McMullen of the Woodland Wetland Enhancement project says, "It enhances the habitat for fish and wildlife" A wreath will be laid on the Blue Star Memorial on Veteran's Day. The annual Christmas luncheon will be at a local restaurant in December featuring "Flora for the Season".

Hamburg House & Garden (President Susan VanTine) The October meeting will be at the Hamburg Community Center, on Tuesday, October 28 from 12pm to 2:30 pm. Peggy Koppman, Master Gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension, will be discussing "Women in The Garden". The contributions of women in gardening, landscaping, beautification and science have often been overlooked. We will learn about some of the legendary figures who have shaped our understanding of plants, garden design and conservation. For November we are making individual Holiday Kissing Balls with one of our members leading the workshop. A Christmas luncheon in December is at the home of one of our members.

continues on next page

Erie IV Evelyn Mietlowski, Section Chair

Amherst GC (President, Evelyn Mietlowski) Steve Sypniewski, Arboretum Manager at Buffalo State, will give a presentation on “Pruning in the Garden.” National Recycling Day is November 15th. Members are going to bring excess holiday ornaments and ribbons to share with each other and possibly make some new decorations out of them. Our slate of officers for the upcoming year will also be presented. Our holiday luncheon fundraiser “Let’s Celebrate the Holidays” will take place on Wednesday, December 3rd at Sean Patrick’s Restaurant in Getzville.

Smallwood GC (President, Catherine Barthel) We have secured a new meeting place: The Well, 995 Dodge Rd. (corner of Hassauer), in Getzville. Monday, October 20th, Kyle Townsend will talk about growing Paw Paw trees and other native plants on his organic farm in Lockport. November 17th, Cathy McGovern, owner of Trillium Florists, will discuss the latest design trends, provide tips for getting the most from our flowers and share some of the challenges encountered running a florist shop. {Programs start at 7:00 pm and are open to the public.) On Saturday, December 6th, members will gather at Rizotto’s on Maple Road for our holiday luncheon. As always, we will collect gifts for Cornerstone Manor residents.

Cheektowaga GC (Co-Presidents Cindy Zaborowski and Eileen Beiter) Our October guest speaker will be Franklin Thompson, Jr. from Davey Trees. In November our club will be making Christmas crafts to be donated to Meals on Wheels. We also collect hats, mittens and gloves for the needy. In December our club will get together for a Christmas party at the Bellevue Hotel.

Forest Stream GC (Contact: Babbidean Urban Huber) October’s meeting features “Dispatches from Daily Heron” Professor Frieda Knobloch will discuss encounters with flora and fauna along our Niagara River. “How to win a blue ribbon” presented by member Babbidean Urban Huber will be in November. The members and their guests will spread tidings of good will at a celebratory lunch in December.

Erie V Judy Cavagnaro, Section Chair

Bowmansville GC (Executive Committee Sue Maue, Kathy Kwia-kowski, Lynne Lowery) October 6th, the topic will be Carnivorous Plants with speaker Steve J Fleck Ph.D. Postdoctoral Associate at UB Naturalist at the Botanical Gardens. On November 3rd, a Mosaic Glass Project will be led by Suzanne Todaro, owner and crafter at Glimmer and Gleam Glass Studio. December 2nd is our Christmas Party at Ripa’s Restaurant. Cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. Gift cards will be collected at the party to donate to the Lancaster Youth Bureau. Members will also enjoy the annual gift exchange game.

South Town Gardeners (co-Presidents Janine Watson & Kathleen Gallson) *Meetings at the American Legion Post, 5684 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park.* Members will have a regular meeting in October at the American Legion Post when we will welcome Jeanne Burke who will do a floral presentation. Our fall cleanup of the Hospice garden and Chestnut Ridge garden will take place in October. At our November meeting Steve Styn, a master gardener from the Rose Society, will be our speaker. We will decorate Hospice and Palliative Care for the holiday season after Thanksgiving. Closing out our year will be our Christmas luncheon at the Dove Restaurant in December.

Lancaster GC (President Kailyn Crone) *Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. Guests are welcome.* Program for October is to be announced. In November club membership will be getting ready for the holidays by collecting canned goods and non-perishable goods for the church's food pantry and decorating the TR site for the holidays. On Nov. 30th during the "Santa in the Park" program at Westwood Park, club members will help the children paint glass ball ornaments for their trees. In December members will gather for the Christmas party.

Town & Country GC of Williamsville (Ricki Gromley, President) October 16: Grassroots Gardens WNY Development Director Justin Baumgarner will share the 30-year history of this nonprofit organization that supports a network of over 100 community gardens in Erie and Niagara Counties. Each member garden is managed independently by their sponsoring organization. GGWNY facilitates five key ingredients: access to land, access to water, providing liability insurance, offering garden education classes (free to the public!) and providing material support in the form of plants, soil and lumber. November 13: Holiday Card Painting Two of our talented artistic Club Members, Debbie Wixson and Sharon Johnson, will demonstrate painting techniques and conduct a workshop for members to create nature focused holiday greeting cards with watercolor and acrylic paints. December 11: Holiday Luncheon Club Members will celebrate the holidays with a luncheon at the Two Nines Kitchen and Bar in the Wehrle Golf dome and a chance to sit back and relax with fellow gardeners. As always, we will take a collection for a local charitable organization.

Erie VI Esther Kopp, Section Chair

Amana GC (Marie Taber, President) *Meeting 2nd Wednesday-11:00...* October - Janice Frasier will talk about Table Settings in Flower Shows. Marie Taber will do a creative line design incorporating wood. The design workshop will be "Pressed Floral Design in a Picture Frame. November - Maggie Patz will give a talk about the variety, color, dispersal and preparation of seed heads. Lori Brand will create a design called "Skeletons of the Past"

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and the workshop will be a "Holiday Table Setting". December 9th will be at the West Seneca Library working on Christmas arrangements for the library and on December 10th there will be a Christmas Party at Chef's Restaurant.

Countryside GC (Annette Walter, President) *Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.* October - Members will be meeting at a club member's home for Nominations of Officers followed by lunch. The members will be doing a craft using modpodge on glass or leaves on gourds. November - Members will be meeting at a club member's home for the Election of Officers and a presentation by Steve Sypniewski on "Do's and Don'ts of Pruning Trees and Shrubs", followed by lunch. December - The members will meet for a Christmas Party at North Star Tavern.

East Aurora GC (Marty Mummery, President) *Meetings 2nd Monday of the month at 12 noon.* October – Program will be a group craft, "The 'Great' Pumpkin Planter Project" led by member, Christine Peruzzini. The members have grown and dried the flowers for this group craft project. November – Program will be "Tablescapes for the Holiday" by Chreyl Giczewicz from Flowers by Nature, EANY. December – The Annual Christmas Party Luncheon and Gift Exchange will be held at The Columns Banquet Hall in Elma, NY.

Holland GC (Sarah Tobin, President) *Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM.* October - The Club will go to Beaver Meadow Nature Center. Members will bring food for a pot luck lunch and the program will be by Tom Kerr on Local Western NY interest and impact of the Beaver Meadow Nature Center. November – Stefanie Cochran will present on garlic cultivation and its uses. December - The Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Holland Willows at 177 Savage Road in Holland. There will be games, gifts and entertainment.

Orchard Park GC (Pat Leach, President) *Meetings 1st Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM.* October – The annual Club Auction with members bringing garden or design items they no longer want/need. All will enjoy a fun bidding "war"! November - The program will be "Homemade Herbal Health Benefits". Presenter, Sherry Stressing, owner of Pack Porch Produce, will share some herbal benefits and her own Elderberry Syrup. December - Annual Christmas luncheon with members bringing a small friendship gift to exchange. There will also be the election of officers and announcement of the member of the year for 2026.

OPGC Evening Group (Carol Jo Pope, leader) *Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.*

Niagara I Barbara Stafford, Section Chair

Lewiston GC (President, Sharon Low) October's meeting of the Club will be a potluck supper at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lewiston. The evening will feature a presentation by a representative of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, topic to be announced. November is "Fluff and Stuff" month when members prepare wreaths and bows to be hung along Center Street for the coming holiday season. Members who wish to may also select a family in need from a list provided by the Community Missions. We will donate items and make wreaths which will accompany holiday gift baskets. Later in November members will help decorate the village of Lewiston by hanging greens along Center Street. In December, the club will hold its annual holiday luncheon. Following lunch we will assemble the gift baskets to be delivered to our "adopted" Community Missions families.

Youngstown GC (President: Consortium of Past Presidents) How and when to prune our trees and shrubs can be quite intimidating. Master Gardner, Lyn Chimera will demystify the ins and outs of pruning for us in her presentation at our October 8th meeting. She will cover pruning techniques, when to prune, the correct tools to use and how to maintain them. At this meeting, the Nominating committee will be selected to find potential members to fill vacancies on the executive board. Later in the month, we will clean up the Civic gardens in preparation for winter. "Native Companion Planting to Support Pollinators & Wildlife" will be the topic of our November program. We will learn best practice methods to ensure our garden environment is healthy for bees and other pollinators. Our guest speaker, Geri Hens, is a retired SUNY college professor and owner of Hens Honey Bee Farm in Pendleton. After this presentation, the Nominating committee will announce the new slate of officers and voted on by the membership. In December, Club members will again create a new holiday experience at the historic Ontario House in Youngstown. This will feature beautiful decorations and a surprise activity which will be open & free to the public starting December 13 and continuing through the season. ** A Special Preview Event will be offered December 11 & 12... Call Colleen at 716-531-6701 for details & tickets ** At some point amongst all the holiday festivities, our members will gather to eat, drink, play games and just be merry!

Cayuga Island Garden Club (President Kathleen Hesson) October is our speaker meeting. We trim and clean up front of the LaSalle library to get ready for winter. November is our wine and cheese meeting. At the end of the month we decorate the LaSalle library by putting up and decorating a Christmas tree and a live wreath for the front door. We also volunteer to decorate a Christmas tree at the Power Vista, one of many trees displayed on the walk bridge. December is our Christmas party with finger food and our annual ornament exchange. We also collect and donate to a needy family at a local school. Gift certificates are purchased for the family.

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Chautauqua

Enchanted Mountain GC (Stacy Seip, President) Check their web page: alleganygardenclub.com

Fredonia GC (Co-Presidents Kim Woodward and Annabell Hahn)

Jamestown GC (Sharon Reed, President) no report

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

Happy Birthday, Doris!

East Aurora GC recently made longtime member, Doris Johnson, an Honorary Life Member in recognition of all her contributions to the EAGC. She has been a member for 46 years and turned 102 on July 15th. She has been active in many ways. She was Vice-President and Recording Secretary. She was chairman of Horticulture, Sinking Ponds, Millard Filmore Gardens, New Member Mentor committees, and editor of the Yearbook and newsletter, New Leaf.

Doris regularly entered club flower shows, including an Educational Exhibit titled "Apple Pie." The apple orchard she and husband Charlie maintained on their property was part of the EAGC's Tour of Gardens.

Doris no longer attends meetings, but remains involved, participating in the annual growing project, supporting fund raisers, and still gardens at home with house plants.



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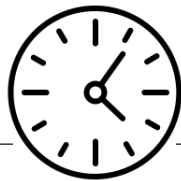
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MINUTES of DISTRICT VIII SUMMER MEETING



July 9, 2025 Amherst Presbyterian Church

The meeting was brought to order by Director Kalieta at 10:05 am.

Marty Mummery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ester Kopp led the Blessing.

WELCOME: Director Kalieta welcomed the attendees and mentioned past directors who were present.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary – Sharon Low. The minutes of the April meeting will be in the Fall Figure 8.

Treasurer – Anne Dyet. The balance in the treasury is \$22,457.38 which includes encumbered funds.

First Assistant Director – Dorothy Julius. Will be speaking on Awards.

Second Assistant Director – Dawn Seggio. There will be vendors at the October meeting. Dawn is hopeful that members will purchase items.

Third Assistant Director – Debbie Adams. The speaker at the October 9th meeting will be Bob Pozak. The price is \$36.00 but it may have to be increased due to unexpected expenses. The information is in the Figure 8.

Director – Nancy Kalieta. Presidents' packets were handed out. She suggested that the presidents share information contained in the packets with members of the club. Nancy mentioned an overnight fall trip is being planned with Scenic Excursions. It is scheduled for October 1st and 2nd. It includes a trip to the Phipps Conservatory and Ikea in Pittsburg on Day one. Day two will be a visit to the Frick Pittsburgh Museum and to Grove City Outlets on the way home. She mentioned that there will be a lot of walking. If anyone is interested, they can contact Nancy by email as she must have a count soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Section Chairs – Dorothy Julius introduced section chairs who were present.

Figure 8 – Nancy mentioned there was a problem with the Figure 8. Not everything was included. The publisher will be sending an addendum.

Scholarships – Babbidean Huber advised that a \$1500.00 scholarship was awarded and \$100.00 merit awards. She received several thank you notes which she read.

Figure 8 – Linda Blyth advised that the deadline for sending information for the next issue is September 1st. Photos should be sent to Carol Ann Pope.

Erie County Fair – Monica Hanson said that there is still space for exhibits. The deadline for sending in applications is July 14th.

World Gardening – Sharon Low advised that donations are accepted year-round. They should be sent to her home address which can be found in the Figure 8.

Life Membership – Dianne Sippel meetings/luncheons are held the first Fridays of the month. Check the Figure 8 for information.

Environment – Anne Dyet will be getting more information due to environment

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changes that are compacting climate change. Nancy suggested information on the giant hogweed that is being found around WNY. Sharon suggested providing information on the fungus that is spreading and killing oak trees.

FORUM TOPICS:

Monica Hansen spoke on the “Benefits of Membership.”

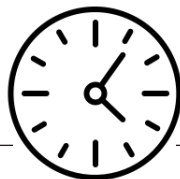
Susan Loughran spoke on “Using the District VII Website.”

Dorothy Julius spoke on the “Award Process” and email reporter.

The meeting was closed by Director Kalieta followed by lunch.

Sharon Low, District VIII Secretary

MINUTES of 2025 FGCNYS DISTRICT VIII ANNUAL SPRING MEETING



April 10, 2025 *The Columns Restaurant in Elma, NY*

District Director Melissa Marcus called the Annual Meeting of District VIII FGCNYS to order at 10:05 a.m. The meeting preceded the Spring Luncheon. The blessing and pledge were given by Nancy Kalieta. District Director Marcus introduced Monica Hansen, past FGCNYS President and past District Directors Babbidean Urban-Huber, Marsha Becker, Adrienne Pasquariello, Nancy Kalieta, and Anne Dyet. Special guests were Carol Stahl, the outgoing District 7 Director and Spencer Morgan, Executive Director of the TR Site.

Executive Board Members Present – Melissa Marcus, Dorothy Romanczuk, Debbie Adams, Garda O’Keefe.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

District Director – Melissa Marcus said how much her office tenure pleased her. She enjoyed visiting the many clubs and meeting the members.

Recording/Corresponding Secretary – Dorothy Romanczuk reported that after a date correction to the Fair sign-up meeting, the minutes of the Spring Board Meeting held on March 13, 2025, at the VFW Post #1419 in Hamburg, and sponsored by the Hamburg Garden Club, were approved as corrected.

Financial Report – Treasurer Debbie Adams. The total of funds as of April 10, 2025, is \$22,575.05. More information upon request.

Third Assistant Director – Garda O’Keefe bid her farewell from her position and wished Dawn Seggio the best.

Section Coordinator – Marcia Becker introduced the Section Chairs present & they in turn introduced their club presidents in attendance.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards – Chair Susan Rudnicki enjoyed being a part of the 58 entries in 14 categories over the past two years. Jeannie Burke will now be the chair. Presenters Babbidean Urban-Huber, Mary Brummer, Sue Rudnicki and Nancy Kalieta presented fifteen awards from District VIII. Information in the Awards Program brochure. Figure 8 – Linda Blyth: The deadline for the next Figure 8 is June 1st. If you have photos for consideration, please email to Carol Jo Pope BEFORE the deadline as she needs time to create the cover and center piece. An updated Directory will be in the next issue.

Honor Roll – Terry Skura presented Honor Roll grant checks to three clubs - Hamburg GC, Eden GS and Lancaster GC.

Judges Council – Evelyn Mietlowski, chair of Plantasia along with Kathy Massing, thanked exhibitors and designers that participated in Plantasia in March.

Scholarship – Babbidean Urban-Huber: Scholarship applicants encompass the 5 counties of District VIII.

(NOTE: I will add to this after I receive B's report).

TR Site – Adrienne Pasquariello and Judy Cavagnaro. Chairs announced they are turning their duties over to Paula Gober and Jean Errington. They have all been meeting with the new Executive Director Spencer Morgan who gave Awards of Appreciation to the eleven clubs that participated in decorating in 2024.

Mr. Morgan stated that the TR Site had 28,000 visitors in 2024 and expects growth by following National Historic designation rules. Changes will affect TR Site decoration; historic rules require interior rooms to remain unchanged. Thus, only eight areas of the Carriage House addition and the exterior will be decorated. By increasing community engagement, the gallery will be available for corporate events, private celebrations, and smaller weddings, and will market the gift shop for local holiday shopping. Partnering with community groups and schools aims to raise visibility within the local area. Decorating the exterior for holiday festivities should attract locals to learn more about the historical site, which currently sees most visitors from outside the area.

The theme for the 2025 TR Site Victorian Christmas is “Christmas at the Carriage House”. The colors are shimmering silver, glistening gold and glacial ice blue. Decorating will be before Thanksgiving this year as a vendor market in the gallery for Small Business will be on Saturday November 22, 2025.

Yearbook Awards – Kathy Massing: Clubs that want their yearbooks judged should submit them to Kathy Massing before the deadline of 5/14/25. Books can be mailed to her address or delivered to the front desk of her residence before that date.

The Spring Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Prior to the luncheon, Monica Hansen installed the new 2025-2026 officers, led by Director Nancy Kalieta, in the Dining Room.

Per Registrar Melissa Jurewicz, 153 attendees from 20 clubs attended the luncheon. The afternoon Design Program by District VIII Judges Council members showcased the principles of NGC Flower Show designs. Each table had creative and beautiful “Waking up to Spring” dish garden centerpieces.

Dorothy Romanczuk, District VIII Recording Secretary

CHECKLIST FOR PRESIDENTS

- ✓ If you have not already done so, please send Nancy Kalieta and Sharon Low the name, address, phone number, and email address for your 2025-2027 president. It is imperative that we have this information.
- ✓ Send in your club's District VIII Liability Insurance check to Anne Dyet by October 1st. See insurance reminder in this issue.
- ✓ Please remember to update your club's website information.
- ✓ Remember to invite our director to a club meeting or function, so she can meet and interact with your members.

Calendar of Events 2025

October 9	District VIII Fall Meeting/Luncheon
October 19 -22	CAR-SGC Conference & Tri – Refresher Chesapeake Bay, Maryland www.car.sgc.org (password:2325@CARegion)
November 15	Wreath pick up (see order form)
November 20-21	Decorate the TR Site
December 3	Amherst Garden Club's Holiday Celebration (see last issue)
February (Date TBA)	Winter Meeting: TR Site Speaker: Spencer Morgan

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