



Figure Eight

April, May, June 2025 Volume 70 Number 2

1957—2025!

Congratulations!
Cheektowaga
Garden Club
on
your 68th
Anniversary!



Garden Clubs engage in many meaningful community service projects.

Here are TWO of the members of the Garden Club of the Tonawandas who gather each February to make pillows for Breast Cancer patients.

Photo submitted by: Cathi Ullenbruch, President



The topic: Bugs:
The Good news/The Bad News
Facts: 97%: beneficial
3%: not so much
The dessert:
Good Bugs cookies
Bakers: Elizabeth Campbell & Peggy Hassey

*Submitted by Doreen Albee,
Lewiston Garden Club*

FIGURE 8 EDITORIAL STAFF

Mrs. W. Brian Blyth (Linda)
Editor

939 Delaware Road
Buffalo, NY 14223
873-5447
songnbird@aol.com

Myretta Zimpfer
Circulation Editor/Membership Chair
67 Hessland Court
Elma, NY 14059-9601
716-983-1686
myrron@bluefrog.com

Mrs. Frank Weinstock (Judy)
Advertising Editor
234 Main Street
Hamburg, NY 14075
648-6669

Susan Loughran
Web Master
535 Meadowbrook Dr.
Lewiston, NY 14092
284-0987
sjloughran@hotmail.com

Carol Jo Pope
Cover & Center Editor
13 Timberlake Drive
Orchard Park, NY 14127
662-7763
bobpope5@hotmail.com

FIGURE 8 DEADLINES

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

(Articles received after 6/1/2025 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.

Director: Nancy Kalieta

3166 Clearview Way, Blasdell, NY 14219

email: nancyk212@aol.com phone: (716) 826-7462

Director's Message



It is a great honor to return as District Director. While I enjoyed my four years on the state board, I learned that my heart is really in District VIII. I am so excited to be back!

My theme for 2025-2027 is "Communication is Key". If you remember, I have always encouraged you to read the Figure Eight to find out what is going on in the district. During my years on the FGCNYS

Board I have learned about other avenues of communication. National Garden Club and CAR-SGC put out quarterly online magazines jam-packed with ideas and information. Look for them in your email. To further keep you informed the "Email Reporter" will be sent to you each month from the district via your club president. This will contain links to workshops, lectures, grants, and loads of useful information. Watch your email for this, too. There is so much information available to us.

My executive board really does not need to be introduced to you because most of them have played a role in the district already. Dorothy Julius is returning as my First Assistant Director. She has filled many roles over the years. Most of you know her through her gardening lectures. Dawn Seggio, Second Assistant Director, is a new face in the district. She is president of Eden Garden Study Club and is filled with enthusiasm and ideas. We are finally letting Debbie Adams give up the job as treasurer and take on a load of responsibilities as Third Assistant Director. You know Sharon Low as the chairman for World Gardening. She has agreed to fill both the Recording and Corresponding Secretary roles. Anne Dyet, Treasurer, has also served the district in the past in a multitude of roles. We are an experienced and talented team. And we are excited about the next two years.

I am thrilled to be working with a great group of people. All of us on the executive board and all the section chairmen and all the committee chairmen are involved for the same reasons: to give back, to contribute, and to enjoy making a difference. But, to do this we will need all of you to help. I hope that you will want to join us on our journey. We need you!! Remember: *"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."* (Jane Goodall)

Nancy Kalieta



**EIGHTH DISTRICT
SPRING 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

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.

Buffalo and Erie County

Botanical Gardens

Exhibits and Events

Open Daily: 10am-4pm

Floral Spectra Exhibit: June 1 - August 5

Pints in the Park: June 27 and July 21

716 Day: \$7.16 Admission on July 16, 10am-4pm

Open Art Nights: July 9, August 13, September 10, 4-8pm

Nature Journaling Workshop: July 11, 6-8pm

Kids' Terrarium Workshops: July 13 & 20, 11am-12pm

Sun Printing Cyanotype Workshop: July 27, 2-4pm

Boozy Book Fair: August 4, 10am-4pm

NEW! FREE Community Nights

Free admission the first Wednesday
of each month in 2024

Sponsored by NYS Assemblyman Pat Burke

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Getting Ready for the Gardening Season

I would like to share a few hints and tips that have worked well for me. Keep in mind that I am not an expert, but I DO have a lot of years of gardening under my belt and my fingernails.

1. To keep critters like rabbits and mice from nipping off your newly planted seedlings, cut off the bottom from some of your larger saved plastic pots (4 ½ “to 8” pots work well); place them over the plant and work them down into the soil a bit to keep them in place. The plants still get plenty of sunshine and water, but most critters won’t reach inside to destroy your plant. Pots can be removed when your plants have gotten sturdy or the critters have lost interest.

2. For larger planting areas that you have seeded (sunflowers come to mind), keep those nibblers from snipping off the newly sprouted seedlings by placing a floating row cover or cheap netting (available at fabric stores and elsewhere) over the entire area. This lightweight covering rises with the growing seedlings and can be removed when the rabbits have lost interest in this area.

3. I like to create my own planting mix for containers by combining equal parts of compost with ProMix and a generous amount of slow release fertilizer such as Osmocote. If you have a huge container, consider putting some blocks of Styrofoam in the bottom before adding your potting mix. (Just avoid packing peanuts.)

4. Don’t forget to divide your perennials just as soon as you can get into the garden... June is way too late! Plants that are divided early will benefit from the cooler, wetter conditions of spring, so... get out there and get it done!

SAT JUNE 7



9AM-2PM

YOUNGSTOWN GARDEN CLUB

PLANT·O·RAMA 2025

**PLANT SALES - KID ACTIVITIES
FOOD - LIVE MUSIC - FUN**

**YOUNGSTOWN VILLAGE CENTER
240 LOCKPORT STREET**

2026 Vision of Beauty Calendars

Ellie Foster, Chair

Orders are now being taken for the 2026 Vision of Beauty Calendar, an annual publication of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Creative designs as shown in the Calendar are submitted by garden clubs across the nation.

Prepaid orders will be accepted through June 15, 2025.

Cost per calendar is \$10.00. Please use the order form below.

The calendars will be available at the fall luncheon/meeting.

Name of Club: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail form and club check payable to

District VIII FGCNYS, Inc
2026 Vision of Beauty Calendar
c/o Ellie Foster
84 Bridle Path

Orchard Park, NY 14127

For more information, please contact Ellie Foster lefoster84@verizon.net

ARBORICULTURE

Lyn Chimera,
Lessons From Nature

Primrose, A Sign of Spring

The primrose is one of the very first signs of spring even before they show up in our garden. I know spring is coming when I see displays of primrose in the supermarkets. It's always impossible to resist. The word primula means "little earliest one". Primrose are suitable for use in garden beds and borders as well as in containers, or for naturalizing areas in a woodland setting.



The most common primrose, *Primula polyantha*, is just one of the many flowering plants in the species Primulaceae which is native to Eurasia. There are around 400 species of primrose, most available only through specialty mail order catalogues. Each year it seems more unusual varieties are available in local nurseries. There are varieties with double flowers that look like mini roses and others with tall stems that have an extremely long bloom. Most common low growing varieties stay under 6-8 inches in height including the flowers, while the tall, stemmed varieties can grow over 2 feet tall.

Given the right spot primroses are easy to grow and will spread. Most prefer partial shade to filtered light with moist to wet soil. They will not survive in dry conditions. Primroses prefer cool temperatures, a rich humus soil (lots of compost and leaf mold), slightly acid soil (pH 6.5) and partial shade. They appreciate full sun in the spring but must have semi-shade to shade as the temperatures warm. Planting under deciduous trees is often a good site as they grow naturally in woodlands. Primrose may go dormant in a hot, humid summer and they often start to regrow in a prolonged warm fall and even develop a few blooms. Neither of these developments will harm the plant.

While primroses are easy to grow, they do have some issues. Snails and slugs are one of the biggest pests. Using an environmentally safe slug bait in early spring can really help. Spider mites and aphids may also attack primroses but can be sprayed with soapy water. If primrose plants are not getting enough drainage, they may also be prone to crown rot and root rot. This can be easily fixed by amending the soil with compost or relocating the plants to a well-drained site. One issue primrose doesn't have is being eaten by deer. I've been growing a few varieties of primrose for years and never had a problem.

69¢ PERENNIAL SALE

OVER 100 Varieties

Sold ONLY in packs of four plants

April 25 - May 3rd

2025 Perennial Sale List available on-line at

www.mischlersflorist.com



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Horticulture

Birds, Bugs & Butterflies

Marilee Farry, Chairman

I have been a member and supporter of the XERCES SOCIETY for many years. Xerces focus is invertebrates which include most pollinators, bees, butterflies and many insects. This Society is against pesticides and is supportive of planting native gardens and meadows, among other methods of conservation.

I enjoy garden flowers and especially want to learn about native plants/flowers for pollinators. I live in the suburbs and have a regular backyard garden, focusing on perennials and roses. One of my weed-like natives has found a place in my garden and blooms with tiny white daisy flowers. It is bushy and the flowers open in late fall. It is full of bees until late November. I have my coffee in my November garden and enjoy the bee activity until I retire.

Xerces offers lists of information on native plants for pollinators and beneficial insects according to areas. I chose the Great Lakes area with its various flowers, grasses, sedges, trees and bushes. The list is coded and mentions bloom time, perennial or not, larval host, deer resistance and if it a plant can function as an insect nest site. It lists both the common and scientific names of the plants.

I encourage all to investigate the Xerces Society as it has informative articles, garden projects, Bumble Bee Study, children resources and accomplishes positive invertebrate conservation research.

Xerces.org/pollinator.resource-center;
BringBackthePollinators.org; Xerces.org/pesticides

From the Desk of the Director



1. Sunshine Chairman Needs Help

Esther Kopp, the District VIII Sunshine Chairman, needs your help. Esther loves to send cards to our members who are ill, have recently had surgery, or have lost a loved one. But she can't do this without you. Please notify Esther if you know of a member who would benefit from receiving a card. List the name, address, and reason for the card in either an email (estherkopp@aol.com) or a phone call (716-652-4985). Our members need to know that we care about them.

2. Speaker Resources

One of the ongoing tasks of a garden club is locating qualified and interesting speakers for a club meeting. Dorothy Julius, our First Assistant Director, has agreed to act as a clearing house for speakers. If your club has had a great speaker, please email Dorothy (dorothymjulius@gmail.com) with the name and contact information of the speaker, a very brief description of the topic, and the charge. She will maintain an ongoing list of speakers and post the new speakers in the Figure Eight.

3. Something New: Email Reporter

A list of upcoming events, lectures, zoom meetings, and activities that relate to gardening will be provided for you to take advantage of if you are interested. Every four to six weeks an email will be sent from the district to the club presidents which should be forwarded to all club members. We will try to inform you of the many exciting opportunities for learning available.

Youth Report

Dorothy Julius, Chair

E.B. White once said, "Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder".

The wonders of nature can take your breath away. A beautiful sunrise, snowdrops popping out of the snow, and a butterfly landing on your flowers are just a couple. We should all learn to see the world thru the eyes of a child.

This gardening season why not convert everyday items into planters. A great idea is to use a pair of the child's old shorts or pants. Sew the bottom edge closed. Fill it up with some soil. Have the children plant some seeds or plants in it and hang it on the fence. The kids will love seeing their old clothes filled with flowers. Old purses and empty bird seed bags are great to use.

You are never too old to see the wonders of nature. Once I made a flower arrangement for a party using cut flowers from my gardens including some French marigolds. I left it on a table in the yard for a couple of weeks. When I went to remove and replace the marigolds, I was amazed to find that they had rooted in the oasis. The roots started to form where I had removed some leaves.

*Remember the seeds we sow today
will become the flowers of tomorrow.*

Life Membership- Now is the Time to Think About It!

Your one-time donation of \$100 goes toward the FGCNYS membership fund. Benefits of membership include:

- Support and maintenance of scholarship awards
- Horticulture, design, conservation and landscape projects
- Education

Applications are available on the FGCNYS website, and we will have them at the 8th District meeting on April 10th.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions:

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

UPCOMING PLANT SALES & FLOWER SHOWS

May 2 & 3	Holland GC Flower Show, Holland Community Center, 3 Legion Dr., Holland
May 10	Orchard Park GC Community Plant Sale, OP Railroad Depot 8am – 2 pm
May 10	Evans GC Plant Sale, Evans Fire Hall 9am
May 17	Countryside GC Plant Sale, 1910 Bowen Rd. corner of Rice Rd., Elma, 9 to noon
May 17	Smallwood GC Plant Sale - location & time TBD
May 17	Lewiston GC Perennial Sale
May 22-23	Kenmore GC Plant Sale, 939 Delaware Rd, Town of Tonawanda 9am -5pm
May 31	South Towns Gardeners Plant Sale, Birchfield Nature and Art Center, Union Rd. 10am - 2pm, with raffle at 1pm
end of May	Cheektowaga GC Plant Sale, Stieglmeier Park, 10am - 2pm.
June 7	GC of Tonawandas Perennial & Tomato Plant Sale, Niawanda Park 10am – 5pm
June 7 & 8	Orchard Park GC Small Standard Flower Show, OP Railroad Depot
June	Eden Garden Study Plant Sale Eden Farmer's Market
June 7	Lancaster GC Plant Sale, Lancaster Senior Center
June 7	Youngstown GC Plant-O-Rama & Plant Sale, Youngstown Village Center, 240 Lockport St. 9am-2pm.

The African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Western New York
presents

2025 JUDGED FLOWER SHOWS
MAY 3 - 4, 2025

MUSICAL VIOLETS
&
GESNERIADS



JOHN JAMES AUDUBON LIBRARY

350 John James Audubon Parkway, Amherst, NY • 716-689-4922

Saturday, 5/3 12:00-5:30pm

Sunday, 5/4 12:00-3:30pm

SHOW FEATURES:

Large Variety of Violets & Gesneriads • Designs Using Violets & Gesneriads - Cut Flowers and Live Plants • Underwater Designs - Terrariums • Natural Plantings

Free Admission • Plant Sales - Violets - Standard, Miniature and Trailing Varieties

• Large Selection of Assorted Gesneriads • Free Information on Growing

TIP of the HAT from Nancy
with THANKS & APPRECIATION to



→ Melissa Marcus, Garda O'Keefe, Dorothy Romanczuk, Debbie Adams, the Section Chairs, and Committee Chairmen who fulfilled their duties so well the past two years. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

→ **And thanks from Melissa to:** Garda O'Keefe: 3rd Assistant Director, Dorothy Romanczuk: Recording and Corresponding Secretary, and Debbie Adams: Treasurer. It has been a pleasure working together.



AWARDS UPDATE

Jeannie Burke, Awards Chairman

Spring is right around the corner and after a long, very snowy and bitterly cold winter it's time to apply for awards. For 8th District Awards please study the online criteria including format and deadlines which can be found on the 8th District website. Print and fill out the application and just mail to me with all the pertinent information. The 8th District Awards year runs from January 1st to the deadline of December 31st. For State Awards, which include your flower show schedule and/or flower show achievement citation, the deadline is September 30th. Please refer to the FGCNYS awards website for the criteria to apply for State Awards. All award applications **MUST** be sent to me. Thank you and good luck!

Jeannie Burke, Awards Chairman

PO Box 70, East Concord, NY 14055 cell 716 949-5133
or email jeanburke1950197410@gmail.com



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In Remembrance of Maria Gerbracht

(edited from articles submitted by Babbidean Urban Huber and Linda Anscombe)

District VIII of FGCNYS and gardening enthusiasts everywhere lost our good friend and “walking botanical encyclopedia”, Maria Gerbracht on December 31. Maria arrived in the USA from Germany in 1952 under the Displaced Persons Act and became a citizen in 1956, met her husband Elmer in College and they married in 1961. Together they have four children – all residing in NYS. Earning degrees in Chemistry and Biology and having inherited a “green thumb” from her mother, Maria proceeded to follow her intense interest in botany. How fortunate for all of us – her friends and cohorts – that Maria was always happy to generously share her knowledge.

Maria was a garden club member for 58 years. She joined Buffalo Garden Club in 1967, then joined Town & Country Garden Club where she served as president from 1977-1980 and served the club in many other leadership roles including Program Chair, Horticulture Chair, Civic Projects Chair and Flower Show Practices Chair. Maria joined the WNY Iris Society in 1979. She often entered floral designs at flower shows and the Erie County Fair, winning numerous awards.

Additionally, she was on the District VIII Board of Directors, Judges Council (as a National Flower Show Judge), the Iris Society, or Maria's long association with the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens (as board member, President 1998 to 2000, and Docent program coordinator), Maria excelled with her commitment and enthusiasm.

We will long remember and be grateful to Maria. The last paragraph of her obituary says it all. “Maria was creative, intelligent, generous, hardworking, artistic, kind, compassionate... sharing her time, energy and knowledge....”

Rest in Peace Maria. We will all miss you



The Lord's Garden
9998 Clarksburg Rd., Eden, NY 14057
Mary Jane Bolo
Master Gardener

Plan your Spring, Summer and Fall “Teas” now
Call (716) 992-9456 for more information



Spring
Fling!

Orchard Park Garden Club
Presents:

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Time: 8 AM—2 PM

§

A Time to Bloom!

National Garden Club Standard Flower Show

Saturday § Sunday: June 7 § 8, 2025

Time: 10 AM—4 PM. Free event.

Location:

Orchard Park Historic Train Depot

395 South Lincoln Ave.

Shut the door! Not that it lets in the cold ,



February Chill Chasers.

Debbie Tabaczynski sent along her photographs and these words covering Amama Garden Club's February meeting featuring Lori Brand.

Lori is standing next to her floral design called "Fire and Ice". In this design she was to use a lighting feature and shades of white and silver. Lori incorporated Lunaria seed pods, dried allium spray painted silver, anthurium leaves and flowers with a string of lights above the leaves. The effect was breathtaking, .

Lori shared micro greens she grew: radishes, peas and sunflowers. Members did a taste test and declared them delicious.

Definitely a cozy meeting,.



Centerpiece Left

but that it lets out the cozyiness.

Mark Twain , 1876

Meanwhile ... Nancy Schettler, Orchard Park Garden Club's evening Seedlings member... ran away to:

Cedar Keyes, Florida!

Here are a few pictures of "not-winter" which Nancy sent to her homebound friends to chase the blahs away.

Check out the pictures on this website:
<https://www.cedarkeycommunitygarden.org./garden-in-pictures.html>



Overlooking Cedar Key.. Check out the website to appreciate the work of an entire community



Nancy going Native. *Wink wink*

Shots of color!
It's a tussy mussy area. Wild and free.. Growing in gay abandon.





District VIII Summer Meeting
Forum & Luncheon
Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Amherst Presbyterian Church
151 S. Youngs Road
Amherst, NY 14221

10:00 District Summer Meeting
10:30 Forum
12:00 Lunch & Trivia
1:00 Surprise Raffle (think green!)

Forum Topics

Benefits of Membership
Using the District VIII website
Email Reporter (new)
Handouts

MENU

Pizza & Salad
Assorted Desserts
Beverages

Cost: \$16

Everyone is Welcome

Please join us for comradery, learning, & lunch

Mail your \$16 check payable to
“District VIII FGCNYS”

by June 27, 2025 to

Debbie Adams

5410 Roberts Road
Hamburg, NY 14075





March 24, 2025 marks the 100th birthday
of a Holland Garden Club Member.

Alice Joyce is an active member of the
Holland Garden Club who grew up on
a farm in Arcade, NY, married the late
Rod Joyce and moved to Holland, NY
where they raised their three sons. She still
resides independently in their home.
Alice has touched so many with her kindness,
wisdom, and unwavering spirit.
Truly a treasured friend and member.

Our wishes go out to her, "Happy Birthday, Alice Joyce!"

Civic Beautification/Development

Jolaine Houghton, District & State Chair

Apply for an Easy Award!

Attention Garden Club members! Do you know that you can
receive recognition for your civic beautification project by submitting
just three pages?

Some examples are community gardens, youth education, historical
preservation or gardens and roadside beautification.

1. Fill out the application form available on the
District website.
2. Include one page describing your project.
3. Add one page of photos.

So that's all you have to do. The deadline for your application is
October 1st. Any questions? You can contact me at 716-432-3319.

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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.



19th Annual LEWISTON GARDENFEST

**Saturday,
June 21
and
Sunday,
June 22,
2025**



**10 a.m.
to
5 p.m.
Located on
Historic
Center Street
(25 Minutes North
Of Buffalo)**

Lewistongardenfest.com

Welcome Summer at the Lewiston GardenFest!

Visit over 80 booths featuring nurseries, landscapers, garden artists, and garden/yard vendors. Get expert advice from Master Gardeners. See presentations, enter the container garden contest and view open gardens.

Please come and enjoy! Free to attend.

Sponsored by the Lewiston Garden Club

A District 8 Member of the NY State Federated Garden Clubs

Please attend the Lewiston Garden Club Annual Perennial Sale

May 17th, 2025





Club activities for April, May, June 2025

Erie I Peggy Koppman, Section Chair

Cinderella Isle GC (President, Pat Fabin) *Meetings – third Thursday at 7:00 pm* John and Bonnie Vitale from the WNY Rose Society will speak on growing roses at the April meeting of the club. In May, we will meet at the Grand Island Library to continue our work on the Pollinator Garden, which is our civic project. A plant exchange will follow the work session. Member Peggy Koppmann will present a program on monitoring for the invasive Boxwood Tree Moth and potential controls at the June meeting. A “White Elephant” exchange will follow the presentation.

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.* On April 10th, Robert Poczik, an avid world traveler, will give a presentation about the Law Olmsted Park System in Western New York. Garden Club members will participate in the annual statewide Canal Clean Sweep at Long Homestead in Tonawanda on April 12th. In May, our members will plant geraniums at the Historical Society of the Tonawandas. Our members also water and maintain the gardens throughout the summer. We will enjoy a picnic along the river at Niawanda Park following our planting. On Saturday, June 7th, we will hold our annual perennial plant sale at Niawanda Park located on Niagara Street in the City of Tonawanda. The sale is part of the "Weekend on the Niagara" craft show (10am- 5 pm}. All perennials are from Garden Club Member's gardens. Once again, this year we will have heirloom tomatoes grown from seed by one of our members. If you are looking for a particular perennial, stop by early. They sell out fast! We will be touring the Richardson Olmstead Campus grounds June 19th. led by horticulturist, Nell Gardner, with dinner following our tour.

Kenmore GC (President, Carole Zeiher) *Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 am, Kenmore Methodist Church* Our April Program is "Elmlawn Arboretum", presented by Elmlawn Memorial Park President, Michael Austin. Elmlawn is the only cemetery in WNY to have an accredited

continues on next page

arboretum. Our club will sponsor a tree for the Town of Tonawanda annual Arbor Day planting. May welcomes the cofounders of the Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival who will speak on the Japanese Gardens in Delaware Park. May is also our annual plant sale. In June we will hear from Kathy Burke who will tell us about the history of Canalside.

Ken-Sheriton GC (President, Therese Malchioro) *Meetings-2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, St. Mark Lutheran Church, 576 Delaware Road.* April's meeting will be a luncheon meeting and a trip to Mischler's to plan for the annual Perennial sale for our Civic gardens. May's meeting will be a discussion about what to do in the garden now. We will review the Erie County Fair choices to determine our entries. Growing Luffa is the club project this year. The June meeting will be a working meeting conducted at St. Marks in the gardens- weather permitting.

Erie III Dorothy Romanczuk, Section Chair

Eden Garden Study (President, Dawn Seggio) *Meeting 2nd Thursday - 7:00 p.m.* April's club project is taking care of town planters in greenhouse until they are placed throughout the town in May. We are also planning a field trip to the Cherry Blossom Festival followed by lunch. In May we will be doing our garden clean up and planting in Chamber Park and Blue Star Memorial. June is our annual perennial/bake sale at the Eden Farmers Market. Throughout the summer, we'll be planning a float for the Eden Corn Fest in August promoting "Come Join a Local Garden Club".

Evans GC (New President Candace Mayer) *Meeting 2nd Tuesday - 7:00* In April we will have our installation dinner at JP's in Lakeview. May is our annual Plant sale at the Evans Center Firehall on Rt 5 at Bennett Rd at 9:00 am on the Saturday before Mother's Day. A representative from the Town of Evans will discuss ideas for the grants received for the marina and the pool at our June meeting. The newly elected executive board will get together to discuss programs for the upcoming year and welcomes all ideas from members.

Hamburg GC (President Paula Gober & New Co-president Cheryl Steffan) *Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 10 a.m.* April's Installation Luncheon will be held at JP's Pub. In May, Thomas Mitchell, a horticulture instructor at Niagara County Community College with extensive qualifications, will deliver a presentation titled "Common Mistakes to Avoid in Landscaping". June's tour of Dirt Rich Farm in Springville will highlight their organic growing methods on their 3-acre farm. They sell their produce at the Hamburg Market and some local businesses and have a farm stand which will be open when we tour. Also, the farm has a seedling sale of vegetables, herbs and a few flowers every year. This year it will be May 16-18. More information is available on their web site and on Facebook. On Jun 18th, we'll tour Antler Ridge Reindeer Farm.

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Hamburg House & Garden Club (Executive board, TBD)

Meetings: 4th Tuesday The April Installation Dinner Celebration at the Village of Hamburg Community Center includes member sign-ups for standing committees! In May, the program “Want More Plants Without Spending Money - The Benefits of Dividing Plants and Perennials” with Carol Harlos will be informative. “What is an Iris Presentation?” by the Western NY Iris Society will be the June presentation.

Erie IV Evelyn Mietlowski, Section Chair

Amherst GC (President, Evelyn Mietlowski) Our guest speaker for April will be Tom Mitchell, Horticulture Instructor at NCCC. The topic will be “Preparing Your Garden for Spring and Summer”. I will conduct a little play entitled “Violets on the Couch”. Let's listen to what our plants are saying about us to their therapist. Member, Eleanor Wolford, will demonstrate a table setting for one. Our order from Henry's Greenhouse will be delivered and herbs will be distributed to members to plant and grow over the summer. We will bring in cuttings of our herbs in September to make Tussie Mussies at our meeting. Members will bring in various table arrangements for other members to see.

Cheektowaga GC (Co-Presidents, Cindy Zaborowski and Eileen Beiter) April: Our speaker will be Mike Shadrack of the Western NY Hosta Society. He will give a talk on all aspects of Hosta growing and breeding as well as tips on how to get the best from your Hostas. May: members will be making baskets for our plant sale at the end of the month. We also hand out plants to the members for our plant competition. June: Our meeting will be held at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. Ken Parker a grower & manager for a local landscape company will give a lecture. His focus has been native plants. We will also be going on a field trip to Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Smallwood GC (Catherine Barthel, President) On April 21, Steve Janis from the Town of Amherst Senior Center, will present a program “Ethnobotany of the Iroquois People of WNY.” April will also focus on preparations for our “Plant Sale & More,” scheduled May 17, from 8:00am to 2:00pm. In addition to the pass-along perennials, unusual annuals, and rummage sale, this expanded event will feature Estate Sale quality items for purchase, and live presentations. May 19 Doreen Notaro, SGC member, will present a program “Dried Floral Talk and Technique.” This will be tied to SGC's horticultural gift of annuals suitable for drying. On June 16, Sandra Notaro, Erie County Sustainability Specialist, will discuss the County's Urban Community Forestry Partnership Project, which focuses on improving the quality of open spaces. All events take place at Faith UCC, on the northwest corner of Maple & Hopkins, Williamsville. Meetings start at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

Forest Stream GC (Co-Presidents, Nancy Trimble and Joann Puccio) April 17th -Presentation by the WNY Iris Society held at the

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Williamsville United Methodist Church. The lecture subject is "Everything we ever needed to know about growing this easy care, beautiful perennial" presented by Marilee Farry. MAY14TH -a visit to The Botanical Gardens located at 2655 South Park Avenue. JUNE 18TH - Club visit to Lockwood's Garden Center. Presenter Suzanne will provide all members with instructions on planting and caring for Mixed Patio Containers.

Erie V Carol Ottaviani, Section Chair

Bowmansville GC (Executive Board: Kathy Kwiatkowski, Lynne Lowery and Sue Maue) On April 7th, members will meet at the Bowmansville Fire Hall at 6pm. Peggy Tyrell, Owner of Country Cottage, Darien Center, will lead the group as we make a seasonal door decoration using stencils and paint. On May 5th, at 7:00 pm, we will meet at the Fire Hall for the following programs: Make your own Vanilla Extract with Cindy Sunderlin, baker; Electroculture Gardening as explained by Kathy Kwiatkowski, Horticulture Chair; and a brief talk on pass-along plants by Judy Visco, Member. On June 2nd, we will meet at Lockwood's Nursery to make a porch planter.

Lancaster GC (new President Kailyn Crone) *Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster.* Guest are welcome. The next meeting will be April 9th. In May members will pick up their horticulture plants at Jenny Friedman's house. The club will hold a plant sale tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 7th at the Lancaster Senior Center.

South Town Gardeners (New Co-Presidents, Janine Watson & Kathleen Gallson) *meetings at the American Legion Post, 5684 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park.* April 11th they will be creating painted flower pots to use at their plant sale. May 16th they will have a speaker. No meeting in June because they will have a plant sale on May 31st at Birchfield Nature and Art Center on Union Rd.

Town & Country GC of Williamsville, NY (President, Ricki Gormley) Members will meet April 17th at the Eagle House for their Installation Luncheon. Plans for May and June are underway.

Erie VI Esther Kopp, Section Chair

Amana GC (Marie Taber, New President) *Meeting 2nd Wednesday- 11:00 AM* April - Connie Trawinski will be speaking about "Exotic Plants". Members will be critiquing a design called "Easter Parade" and for the program, members will be creating the Dish Garden centerpiece for the April luncheon. May - We are very excited to have Annette Kuhn speaking to members about the color wheel in floral design. Also, one of the members will be making an arrangement called "Spring Fling" using monochromatic colors. June – The club's annual Plant and Container Auction. Janice Frasier will also be speaking about "Herbs and their Habits". Members will be

continues on next page

critiquing an arrangement called "Stars and Stripes"

Countryside GC (President, Annette Walter) *Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.* April Program: Members will be meeting at a club member's home for the Installation of Officers followed by a Potluck luncheon. May - Members meet at a club member's home to discuss the upcoming plant sale to be held, Saturday, May 17th at 1910 Bowen Rd. corner of Rice Rd., Elma, NY from 9am to noon. June – Members will be going to Hurd Orchard at Holly, NY, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

East Aurora GC (Marty Mummery, New President) *Meetings 2nd Monday of the month at 12 noon..* April Program: "Primroses" a presentation by Club member, Lyn Chimera. May – Field Trip to Buffalo Botanical Gardens. June Program: "Shade Gardening with Hostas", presented by Master Gardener, Peggy Koppmann.

Holland GC C (Sarah Tobin, New President) *Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM.* April Program: Club workshop on creating planters for next year's flower show. May – No program, members will partake in an overview of their May Flower Show, being held on May 2nd from 7-9pm & May 3rd from 10am-5pm. The Flower Show theme this year is "On Broadway", to be held at The Holland Community Center, 3 Legion Dr., Holland, NY. The show is held during the Holland Tulip Festival. FYI: If you want to beat the traffic on Saturday, plan on attending Friday evening. Everyone is welcome! June Program: Club workshop, making a simple arrangement with everyone bringing in their flowers and greenery.

Orchard Park GC (President, Pat Leach) *Meetings 1st Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM.* April Program: Presenter Marina Goody, owner of Goody Girl Flower Farm, who will share how she transformed her horse farm into a flower farm, plus tips on how to maintain gardens without pesticides. May Program: "Interactive Horticulture" Members are asked to bring spring flowers and flowering branches for judging by club member accredited judges. June Program: "Growing Roses in Western New York" presented by club member Claudia Kolbe-Hawthorne who is also a member of WNY Rose Society. OPGC is busy this Spring: In MAY bringing back their Community Plant Sale, after a 5 yr. hiatus, on Saturday, MAY 10th. The sale will be held at the historic OP Train Depot, 395 S. Lincoln Ave., OP, NY from 8am-2pm. In JUNE they'll be having a Flower Show "A Time to Bloom", a National Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show, on Saturday, June 7th, 12 - 4pm and Sunday, June 8th, 12 - 3pm. held at the O P Train Depot, 395 S. Lincoln Ave., OP, NY. The flower show & basket raffle will be held in both historic buildings on the property (both are handicapped accessible).

OPGC Evening (AKA: The Seedlings): April 24: 6 PM in the OP Library: a workshop to create really clever seed containers that you then

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plant in your garden. Please pre-register either by phone or in person at OP Library (4570 S. Buffalo Street). May 10th we'll be busy selling perennials during the return of OPGC Plant Sale!. Saturday, June: 7th see us at the OPGC Standard Flower Show At the Historic Train Depot (395 S. Lincoln Ave.). Before or after the show walk across to the OP Library to view the new Library Garden featuring perennials mentioned in various literary works: From Shakespeare to your favorite Childhood Books.

Niagara I Barbara Stafford, Section Chair

Lewiston GC (President, Sharon Low) In April, the Lewiston Garden Club will host a pot luck supper meeting at 6:00 pm at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Lewiston. David O'Donnell, owner of the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm in Clarence, NY, will speak on this iconic endangered species, sharing his expertise and insights in what can be done to help the monarchs. May brings Lewiston's annual Planting Day, when members clean up and plant annual beds and containers at Hennepin Park, the Lewiston Historical Museum and the Library. On May 17 the club will hold their annual Perennial Sale, offering a wide variety of plants from members' gardens. June is devoted to Lewiston Garden Club's premier event of the year, GardenFest 2025! This year's theme is "Welcome Summer at the 19th Annual Lewiston GardenFest," and as always there will be a wide variety of garden-related vendors, speakers, a container competition, activities for all ages and of course open gardens. The event takes place June 21 and 22 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Center Street in Lewiston. For details and updates, please visit www.lewistongardenfest.com.

Youngstown GC (President: Consortium of Past Presidents) The April program, A Cup of Spring, will be a hands-on workshop facilitated by Garda O'Keefe, a talented and creative member of our club. She will guide us in creating charming, old-fashioned teacup bouquets. These sweet, small arrangements will be given to residents of a local facility to brighten their day with the beauty of fresh flowers. We will participate in a Beach Sweep early in May collecting litter & debris along the coastline of Lake Ontario at Old Fort Niagara and Four Mile Creek State Park. In addition, members will be cleaning up and planting at the three civic gardens throughout the month. An Introduction to Home Gardening and Vegetable Gardening will be presented by Joseph Baschnagel from Cornell Cooperative Extension at our May meeting. This June we will be busy getting ready for our third annual Plant-O-Rama which will be held on Saturday the 7th from 9 am to 2 pm outside the Youngstown Village Center, 240 Lockport Street. This will include a perennial plant sale, family-fun activities, food vendors and more. In collaboration with the Environmental Science department at Niagara University, Alexis Dellinger (a senior at N.U. & YGC intern), will present a report on the Miyawaki Forest Method for our June program.. Her discussion will revolve around the history and evolution of this residential-sized forest and the feasibility of planting one in the Town of Porter using

plants native to this area, specifically Carolinian deciduous species.

Cayuga Island GC (President, Kathleen Hesson) In April the club will hold a flower arranging class. Arrangements will be critiqued and judged, and photos will be taken. In May club members will clean and plant the flower beds and pots at the historic LaSalle Library in Niagara Falls. There will be no June meeting, but the club's summer watering and weeding schedule will be established. Members continue to care for the LaSalle Library planting beds throughout the growing season.

Chautauqua Marcia Becker, Section Chair

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

Fredonia GC (Co- Presidents, Debbie Messere & Annabell Hahn) April incorporates a special craft project by creative artist member, Barb Lehnen in addition to a field trip to Buffalo Botanical Gardens and a social event at member Kathy Buckley's Fredonia home. Installation of 2025-2026 Officers will take place in May at the historic reopened White Inn, Fredonia, in addition to a Spring Wreath project. In June, members will visit the Royal Fern Nursery in Fredonia for an educational tour and speaker presenting on native plants.

Jamestown GC (President, Sharon Reed) no report

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



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May 25, 2025 is the deadline for submissions to appear in the summer issue. Honor Roll grants are awarded at the District Spring meeting on April 10th. 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.

Yearbooks

Kathy Massing, Chair



Any Clubs interested in entering the District and State competition for Yearbook judging please submit 4 books to me by May 15th. Or bring them to the District luncheon on April 10th.

Kathleen Massing
50 Stahl Rd. Apt 245, Getzville, NY 14068
Phone: 716-689-2084

Remember to provide a copy of your yearbook to District Director, Nancy Kalieta, your section chairman and Figure 8 editor Linda Blyth.

SouthTowns Gardeners Annual

PLANT SALE SATURDAY MAY 31, 2025

Variety of Potted Annuals, Perennials, & Veggies
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Victorian Christmas at the TR Site

Judy Cavagnaro and Adrienne Pasquariello, *TR Site Chairmen*

We would like to express our gratitude to all the garden clubs who participated in decorating for “Home for the Holidays” at the TR Site this last year. We look forward to giving garden clubs the District cash awards and information pertaining to registration for 2025 at the April 10th District Meeting. Please have your club's representative available to receive the award at the 10:00 am meeting.

Again, much appreciation for your continued enthusiasm for this annual project.

Sincerely,

Judy Cavagnaro and Adrienne Pasquariello

CHECKLIST FOR PRESIDENTS

- Send a copy of your club's membership list and Figure 8 mailing list to Nancy Kalieta, District Director and Myretta Zimpfer, Membership/Circulation Chair.
- Send the name, address, phone number and email address of your club's 2025-2027 president to Nancy Kalieta and Myretta Zimpfer.
- Send a copy of your yearbook to Nancy Kalieta, your Section Chairman, and Linda Blyth.
- Figure 8 subscriptions of \$5.00 are due to Myretta Zimpfer by June 1st.
- Submit \$10 per member for state dues to FGCNYS by April 1st.

Calendar of Events 2025

April 2	Erie County Fair Sign Up Day
April 10	District VIII Spring Meeting
May 18-22	NGC Convention Charleston, South Carolina
June 1-4	FGCNYS Annual Convention & Installation Desmond Hotel Albany, NY
July 9	District VIII Summer Meeting, Forum, Luncheon Amherst Presbyterian Church See information in this issue
July 11	Erie County Fair entry deadline
August 6-17	Erie County Fair
October 9	District VIII Fall Meeting
October 19-22	CAR-SGC Conference & Tri-Refresher Chesapeake Bay, Maryland

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EIGHTH DISTRICT DIRECTORY 2025-2027

Director: Nancy Kalieta

3166 Clearview Way, Blasdell 14219-1302

716-826-7462

nancyk212@aol.com

1st Assistant Director: Dorothy Julius

3770 Bowen Road, Lancaster 14086-9699

716-681-1473

dorothymjulius@gmail.com

2nd Assistant Director: Dawn Seggio

3915 Eckhardt Road, Hamburg 14075

716-545-5957

mseggio@verizon.net

3rd Assistant Director: Debbie Adams

5410 Roberts Road, Hamburg 14075-5729

716-627-5461

windrush421@verizon.net

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Low

5251 Bronson Drive, Lewiston 14092-2033

716-297-5925

sharonglow@gmail.com

Treasurer: Anne Dyet

3240 Love Road, Grand Island 14072-2428

716-812-4850

annedyet@gmail.com

SECTION CHAIRS

CHAUTAUQUA I (Bud & Bloom, Enchanted Mountain, Fredonia GC, Jamestown)

ERIE II (Cinderella Isle, Kenmore, Ken-Sheriton, GC of Tonawandas)

Peggy Koppmann

2460 Timberlink Drive, Grand Island 14072-2182

716-773-5451

pkoppmann@roadrunner.com

ERIE III (Eden, Evans, Hamburg, Hamburg House & Garden)

Dorothy Romanczuk

3921 Monroe Avenue, Hamburg 14075-3724

ERIE IV (Amherst, Cheektowaga, Forest Stream, Smallwood)

Evelyn Mietlowski

523 Longmeadow Rd., Amherst 14226-2449

ERIE V (Bowmansville, Lancaster, Town & Country, South Towns Gardeners)

Judy Cavagnaro

70 Hanwell Place, Depew 14043-1109

716-683-4306

jecavagnaro@yahoo.com

ERIE VI (Amana, Countryside, East Aurora, Holland, Orchard Park)

Esther Kopp

779 Martin Road, East Aurora 14052-1909

NIAGARA I (Cayuga Island, Lewiston, Youngstown)

Barbara Stafford

4561 Lower River Rd., Lewiston 14092-1061

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisory: Past Directors

Awards Co-Chairs:

Jeanne Burke

11179 Pratham Rd, East Concord 14055-0070

Dorothy Julius (see 1st Assistant Director)

716-949-5133

jeanburke1950197410@gmail.com

Arboriculture: Lyn Chimera

190 Pine Street, East Aurora 14052-1812

716-652-2432

lyn@lessonsfromnature.biz

Birds/Bugs/Butterflies: Marilee Farry

103 Towers Blvd., Cheektowaga 14227-3140

716-688-1789

Book of Recognition: Nancy Pankow

33 PacecrestCourt, West Seneca 14224-3837

716-341-1984

njpankow@roadrunner.com

Calendar/ National Gardener: Ellie Foster

84 Bridle Path, Orchard Park 14127

716-566-0876

lefoster84@verizon.net

Civic Beautification: Jolaine Houghton

146 Southwood Dr, Buffalo 14223-1055

Directory: Linda Blyth (seeFigure 8 Editor)

Environmental: Anne Dyet (See Treasurer)

Erie County Fair Liaison: Monica Hansen

21 Henning Dr., Orchard Park 14127-2816

Figure 8 Editor: Linda Blyth

939 Delaware Rd., Buffalo 14223-1007

Assistant Editor/Advertising: Judith Weinstock

234 Main Street, Hamburg 14075-4917

Assistant Editor/Circulation: Myretta Zimpfer

67 Hessland Court, Elma 14059-9601

Cover/Center Sec. Editor: Carol Jo Pope

13 Timber Lake Drive, Orchard Park 14127-3569

Heartline/Sunshine: Esther Kopp

779 Martin Road, East Aurora 14052-1909

Historian: Eileen Carrier

120 Milford St, Hamburg 14075-4753

Honor Roll of 8th District: Terry Skura
4331 Berkley Place - bldg. N - 2, Hamburg NY 14075

Horticulture: Marilee Farry (see **Bees/Bugs/Butterflies**)

Insurance: Anne Dyet (see **Treasurer**)

Judges Council: Karen Stephens-Mace 716-537-2657
9648 Phillips Rd., Holland 14080 kmace@hughes.net

Life Membership Co-Chairmen: (National, C.A.R, State):
Jolaine Houghton (See **Civic Beautification**)
Dianne Sippel
1175 Youngs Road Apt. A, Amherst 14221-8017 716-428-3281

Meeting Coordinator: Eden Garden Study members

Membership Recruitment: Dianne Sippel (See **Life Membership**)

Parliamentarian: Babbidean Urban Huber 716-839-9185
325 Roycroft Rd., Amherst 14226 babbidean@hotmail.com

Programs: Executive Board

Raffle Coordinator: Dawn Seggio (see 2nd assistant director)

Reservations: Milissa Jurewicz 716-572-6494
30 E Home Rd., Bowmansville, 14026 milissajurewicz@gmail.com

Scholarships (High School and DEC): Babbidean Urban Huber
(see **Parliamentarian**)

Section Chairman Coordinator: Dorothy Julius (see 1st assistant director)

Special Events/ Fundraising: Debbie Adams (See 3rd assistant director))

State Advisory: Monica Hansen (see **Erie County Fair Liaison**)

Speaker Resources: Dorothy Julius (see 1st assistant director)

Theodore Roosevelt Site: Co-Chairs
Paula Gober 716-553-3992
6836 Heltz Rd. Lakeview, 14085 paulamgober@gmail.com
Jean Errington 716-941-3225
6183 Wildwood Drive, Hamburg 14075-7337 jeanerrington@yahoo.com

Vendors: Dawn Seggio (see 2nd assistant director)

Ways & Means: Kathy Kwiatkowski
5100 Elmcroft Dr., Clarence 14031-1614

Website Manager: Susan Loughran

35 Meadowbrook Drive, Lewiston 14092-1936

World Gardening: Sharon Low(see Recording/Corresponding Secretary)

Wreaths: Dorothy Romanczuk

3921 Monroe Avenue, Hamburg 14075-3724

Yearbooks: Kathy Massing

50 Stahl Rd., Apt. 245N; Getzville, 14068-1569

Youth: Dorothy Julius(see 1st Assistant Director)