
Potpourri

News and Information

The Garden Club of Montclair, Inc.
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60 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042
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President's Letter

Dear Members and Provisionals,

I can honestly say that our **Small Standard Flower Show** was simply fabulous and was executed flawlessly! What a way to start the GC season! Make sure you look at the photos on the website...not quite the same as being there but next best.

The Club will be buzzing with activity this month. two informative workshops for floral design, October floral, botanical and horticultural competitions, work on our Scarecrow entry, Garden Therapy at Oasis, shopping fundraisers at local shops, the CAR-SGC conference and more! Check the website for details and join in on the fun. There's something for everyone!



As we turn our thinking to Fall, I ask you to remember that Fall is not for cutback or leaf removal from your garden beds. Wildlife needs those seeds and seed heads make great winter interest. Those leaves are critical habitat for animals, as well as one of the main ways that plants cultivate the soil.

As noted by Rebecca McMackin, "Leaving the leaves also benefits us. Leaves slow down water from extreme storm events and allow it to percolate into the soil. And a study in Maryland found that, by leaving leaves on landscapes, soils held on average 32% more carbon!"

Our next program meeting will take place on October 21 at 1pm and will feature Yuliya Bellinger, a local landscape designer who will talk to us about naturalistic planting. We will be meeting in the auditorium at 60 S. Fullerton St.

See you there!
Sarah

Club and Community Partnerships

The Ways and Means Committee has organized a fundraising project that builds on our positive relationship with our community. Three stores in Upper Montclair are showing their appreciation of our organization's work: **J. McLaughlin** (event held on September 26), **Moss & More** and **Barbara Eclectic**. Each of these stores selected a day when they will donate a percentage of sales to the Garden Club of Montclair *if the purchaser mentions they are associated with the club*. Remember to say the Club name when you buy. Please support these stores and tell your friends.

Moss & More Botanical Boutique will host a shopping event on Tues., October 15. Located at 42 Upper Montclair in the shopping center behind Starbucks, they are offering 15% of sales as a donation to GCM of ALL in-store purchases except gift cards. If you purchase over \$75 you will be entered a raffle for a \$100 gift card. They will honor the donation to GMC for anyone who mentions the GCM for purchases on October 16 and 17.



Barbara Eclectic will host a Shop & Sip event on October 30, 2:30-8pm. Located at 594 Valley Road, Upper Montclair, it is also known as Village Vogue. This boutique carries the latest trends in women's fashion, from workwear to transitional pieces. Barbara Eclectic carries bold prints and striking colors suitable for women of all ages. The owner encourages us to bring our friends and have some fun. No worries if you can't make it on the 30th because the shop is graciously extending the Garden Club of Montclair fundraiser to apply to purchases made on Monday and Tuesday of the same week, October 28 and 29! Just don't forget to mention the Garden Club of Montclair!



Provisional Get-Together on October 24th at 7:00PM

Cheryl Slutzky, our Membership Chair, will be hosting a get-together for Provisionals at her home located at 218 Fernwood Avenue in Upper Montclair. This is an opportunity for new members of our Club to meet and greet one another as well as a variety of committee chairs. Snacks and drinks will be served. Please RSVP to cherylslutzky@gmail.com.

September Serenades

Flower Show Results

The music may have faded, but our September Serenades small standard flower show lives on in our fond memories and glorious pictures. In less than three months, a dream team of members Debbie Moran, Florence Leyssène, Heidi Muschick, Celia Radek, Fran Ackerly, Karen Fricke, Florence Sinofsky orchestrated a beautiful flower show. Thirty-two members exhibited 100 entries across Horticulture, Flower Design, and Botanical Arts and around 60 people came to view the show during the public opening. Please convey your congratulations to our participants! Let these pictures sing to you in their creativity and beauty.





Karen Fricke's Sunflower 'Evening Sun,' Michele Tomasik's Coleus, and Karen Fricke's Dahlia 'Thomas Edison' received blue ribbons and Awards of Merit. Karen's Sunflower won the Award of Horticultural Excellence as well.



Karen Fricke's Caryopteris 'Beyond Midnight,' Barbara Meyer's Hybrid Tea 'Octoberfest,' and Sarah Olson's herb Rue, won blue ribbons and Awards of Merit. Additionally, Barbara Meyer won her eponymous Barbara Meyer Rose Award and Karen Fricke won the Amy Hatrak Herb Collection Award.

Overall, Horticulture presented 19 classes with 80 entries in total. Members were awarded 27 blue ribbons, 25 second places with six receiving a score of 90+, 21 third places with one receiving a score of 90+, and 7 honorable mentions. Karen Fricke scored the most overall points with 20 while there was a 3-way tie for second most overall points at 19: Donna Karanja, Barbara Meyer, and Debbie Moran.

The Flower Design division stunned visitors with traditional designs, creative designs, petite designs, and a petite challenge class inspired by classical and operatic themes. Sixteen designers across 4 classes used their imagination to produce works of art.



Patricia Rodio won the blue ribbon for her traditional design while Cynthia Corhan-Aitken won the blue and Best in Show for her creative design. Heidi Muschick's petite design and Celia Radek's petite challenge designs both won blue ribbons as well.

Botanical Arts drew some “oohs and ahhs” with fascinators using fresh and/or dried materials. Karen Fricke won the blue ribbon with her amazing use of Brussel sprout leaves and fresh plant material to create a showstopper (at right).

An orchestra of talented players made this flower show a success. Thank you to Debbie Moran, Schedule and Staging Chair and her marvelous mentoring, for her original concept, writing the schedule, and creating beautiful signage on colorful cubes to make the room festive.

Thank you to Celia Radek, Horticulture Chair for handling 80 entries and patiently offering help to fill out entry cards correctly. Our Classification and Placement Chair, Heidi Muschick has incredibly deep knowledge of horticulture and generously educates us all. Her placement skill showcased the horticulture specimens beautifully.



Thank you to Fran Ackerly, Design Chair who handled every bump in the road smoothly and filled in to do a design at the last minute. Our Botanical Arts Chair and Judges Chair, Florence Leyssène recruited six judges to spend a gorgeous Saturday morning judging our show.

Karen Fricke, Awards and Clerking Chair continued to set a standard of excellence in everything she touches, and her introduction of clerking satchel bags will make the job a breeze in the future. Our Hospitality Chair, Florence Sinofsky, single-handedly served breakfast, judges lunch, and snacks for 60 people after arriving back from France a few days before the show.

Without Karen Whitehaus, Pamela Turre, and Melody Brown overhauling the properties room and setting up our space beautifully organized, the show would not have been a success – thank you. Sue Young and Sue Yu took some wonderful pictures, and we are always grateful for the way they memorialize our activities.

Finally, thanks go to Sarah Olson who supports all our endeavors with her unlimited energy, encouragement, even-temper, and generosity of spirit.

—With gratitude, Floss O’Sullivan, Flower Show Chair

PROGRAMS

Cynthia Corhan-Aitken, Chair

Karen Fricke, Vice-Chair

Wild and Free: The Art of Naturalistic Planting

60 S. Fullerton Avenue, Auditorium

Monday, October 21, 2024, 1PM

Glen Ridge resident, former Co-Chair of Brookdale Park Conservancy, host of the popular [YouTube channel Y Garden](#), and landscape designer, Yulia Bellinger will discuss how to achieve a wild, yet aesthetically pleasing garden that supports biodiversity. She doesn’t consider herself to be a native purist, but she does incorporate many native plants into her own gardens. She is excited to share this approach with us, and present some “gateway” native plants that we can use to begin our own journeys towards more ecological gardens.

WORKSHOPS

Karen Fricke, Chair

Tova Narrett, Vice-Chair

Basics of Flower Design Workshop for Provisionals and Novices

Tuesday, October 1, 5-6:30PM

60 S. Fullerton Avenue, Garden Club Room

This demonstration will provide a solid foundation to kick off your first (or second) year of Floral Design competitions. Join Debbie Moran and Florence Leyssène, NGC accredited Master Flower Show Judges, as they demonstrate and explain the basics for creating show-worthy arrangements. This is a great refresher for any level of membership. Open to all levels.

Daffodil Workshop

Monday, October 7, 10-11:30AM

60 S. Fullerton Avenue, Garden Club Room

Heidi Muschick, NGC accredited Master Flower Show Judge and Instructor, and American Daffodil Society Judge, will show us everything we need to know about planting, growing, and caring for daffodils. She’ll discuss the many varieties available, and share her knowledge about selecting and grooming daffodils for competition. Heidi will walk us through the steps of choosing and purchasing early blooming daffodils to enter into the March Horticulture competition, which will include a special class: A collection of five different daffodils, qualifying for the Estelle Leibrecht Horticulture Award. Open to all levels.

American Traditional Mass Design Workshop, Step-by-Step
Thursday, October 17, 10AM-noon
60 S. Fullerton Avenue, Garden Club Room

This hands-on-workshop will walk participants through the process of creating an American Traditional Mass Design. This is a wonderful class for Provisionals and Novices, but also a great refresher for designers of all levels. We'll provide supplies and lots of floral and plant material, but please bring your own pruning shears or snips and a container. Florence Leyssène and Debbie Moran, NGC accredited Master Flower Show Judges, will walk us through, step-by-step, the process of creating show-worthy creations for participants to take home. Advanced designers will be on hand to assist, so the room will be brimming with knowledge! Size is limited to 20 participants due to space restrictions, so register early. Open to all levels. \$20 materials fee can be paid by cash or check made payable to Garden Club of Montclair and brought to the workshop. Payment and registration are two different steps. Be sure to do both!

FLOWER DESIGN

October 21, 2024

- Tea Table: Charlene Connelly
- Designs may be eligible for the [Kay MacLane Van Deusen Rose Award](#).
- All tables are covered with ivory tablecloths.
- All plant material used must be fresh. *No green or black floral foam can be used in any designs but AgraWool or TerraBrick is permitted.*

Provisional

An American Traditional Mass Design

See [Handbook for Flower Shows](#), pp.70-71. Staged on a shelf 43" from the floor. Allowable space 14"W x 12"D.

Novice

An American Traditional Design in the Form of a Triangle

See [Handbook for Flower Shows](#), pp.70-71. Staged on a table 30" high. Allowable space 24"W x 18"D; no height restriction. Underlay required.

Intermediate

An American Traditional Vertical Line Design

See [Handbook for Flower Shows](#), p.71. Staged on a table 30" high. Allowable space 24"W x 18"D. Underlay required; staging panel optional.

Advanced

A Grouped Mass Design

See [Handbook for Flower Shows](#), p.78. Staged on a table 30" high. Allowable space 24"W x 18"D; no height restriction. Underlay and staging panel required.

Advanced Plus

An American Traditional Diagonal Line Design

See [Handbook for Flower Shows](#), p. 71. Staged on a 42" H dark green pedestal with a 14" square dark green top. Underlay and staging panel required.

Invitational

An American Traditional Mass Design

Using **no** floral foam but employing alternative mechanics. Open to Club designers who are nationally accredited judges. To be exhibited for educational purposes. Staged on a 42” high dark green pedestal with a 14” square dark green top.

HORTICULTURE

October 21, 2024

Register with [Susan Straten](#) by Thursday, October 17.

Class 1: Annuals: 1 cut specimen if large; 3 specimens if small.

Class 2: Perennials: 1 cut specimen if large; 3 specimens if small.

Class 3: Ornamental Grasses: 1 cut specimen exceeding 30" but no longer than 42" (freshly cut, not dried).

Class 4: Vegetables or Fruit: 1 specimen if large; 3 if small.

BOTANICAL ARTS

October 21, 2024

Register with [Florence Leyssène](#) by Thursday, October 17

Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts

A Ghostly Mask. A mask provided by exhibitor and embellished using fresh and/or dried plant materials and other components. Staged on a styrofoam head 11” high and 20” in circumference covered with black hose, provided by committee and placed on a table.

Botanical Arts Photography

A Color Photograph of Fall Foliage. Must be 8” x 10”, matted in white, with a maximum size of 11” x 14” including the mat provided by exhibitor. Staged on a table using an easel provided by exhibitor.

OUR CALENDAR

<https://www.gardenclubofmontclair.com/calendar>

*Board Meetings will take place at 60 South Fullerton Avenue. For the year 2024-2025, in person Program Meetings accompanied by **Flower Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts Competitions** will be held at: 60 S. Fullerton Ave Montclair, NJ 07042.*

October

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| 1 | Tu | Workshop: Basics of Flower Design for Provisionals & Novices, 5:00–6:30 pm, Garden Club Room |
| 7 | M | Workshop: Daffodils, 10 am-11:30 am, Garden Club Room, 60 S. Fullerton Ave. |
| 15 | Tu | Potpourri Deadline for November |
| 15 | Tu | Shopping Event @ Moss&More, 42 Upper Montclair Plaza , Montclair, All Day |
| 15 | Tu | Avis Campbell Gardens: Fall Clean Up, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, 60 S. Fullerton, Montclair |
| 16 | W | Board of Trustees Meeting@60 South Fullerton, 9:30 am-10:30 am |
| 17 | Th | Workshop: American Traditional Mass Design Step-by-Step |

- 18 F Van Vleck: Scarecrows in the Garden
- 19 Sa Civic/Environment: Clean Up Upper Montclair Business District
- 21 M Competition: Drop off Designs/Specimens
- 21 M Program: Wild and Free: The Art of Naturalistic Planting
- 22 Tu CAR-SGC Conference: Wonders of the Garden State
- 22 Tu Avis Campbell Gardens: Fall Clean Up
- 23 W CAR-SGC Conference: Wonders of the Garden State
- 24 Th Social: Provisionals Meet & Greet
- 28 M GCNJ Board Meeting by Zoom
- 28 M Triangle Gardens Clean Up
- 29 Tu Shopping Event: Barbara Eclectic
- 30 W Shopping Event: Barbara Eclectic

November

- 4 M Triangle Gardens Clean Up: 8:45am – 10:45 am, Church Street, Montclair
- 5 Tu Avis Campbell Gardens: Tulip Bulb Planting, 9:30 am – 12:30 am
- 12 Tu Avis Campbell Gardens: Tulip Bulb Planting, 9:30 am – 12:30 am,
- 13 W Board of Trustees Meeting, 9:30 am – 11 am, Club Room, 60 S. Fullerton Ave, Montclair
- 14 Th Workshop: Tips & Tricks from Our Top Tier Designers 2 pm – 4 pm, Garden Club Room
- 15 Tu **Potpourri** Deadline for Dec/Jan/Feb
- 18 M Competition: Dropoff Designs/Specimens, 8:15 am – 9:15 am, Club Room
- 18 M Program Meeting: Stoneleigh Garden and Using Natives in a Formal Setting: 1-3 pm, Auditorium, 60 S. Fullerton Ave, Montclair

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***Potpourri* Staff**

Terri Breen – Editor

Sarah Olson – President

Sue Young – 2nd Vice President for Communications

Marilyn Zaret, Barbara Baletti, and Ragna Sloane – Committee