

# THE GARDENZETTE



Rock Spring Garden Club  
Arlington, Virginia  
[www.rockspringgardenclub.com](http://www.rockspringgardenclub.com)

Rock Spring Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Atlantic Region, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., District III, South Atlantic Region, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District

## OFFICERS

President  
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President's Message



**Merry  
Christmas and  
Happy Holidays  
to All!**

*Dianne*



You are cordially invited to  
**Rock Spring Garden Club's**  
**“Inspired by Nature's Gifts”**  
**Holiday Tea**

at the home of  
**Renee and James Bayes**

Arlington, Virginia

Thursday, December 8, 2022  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm



## *Announcing Senior Outreach Committee's*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sock Drive for Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence,  
a residence for older, low income adults with special needs**

**Please help us bring some holiday cheer and “stuff the stockings”  
of 22 males and 23 females with these much needed items:**

**trouser/dress socks**

**athletic socks, crew or knee high**

**warm socks for walking in sneakers or boots**

**full sized personal products such as shampoo, conditioner, and  
body wash (these products are sometimes combined as a 2-in-1 or  
3-in-1 container)**

**Terry Holmes is again heading up our project this year and is  
collecting your donations at her home: Arlington, Virginia 22207  
between December 12, 2022 and December 18, 2022.**

**Please place your donations in the bins, or if you order online,  
mail directly to her address.**

**Renee Bayes is also collecting donations at the Holiday Tea (on  
December 8, 2022 only).**

**Thank you so much for your generosity, and wishing Happy  
Holidays to you and your loved ones!**

**Please reach out to Mary Kudless or AnnMarie Fay with any questions.**

## Floral Pumpkin Sale

By Maryam Zolecki

Our annual floral pumpkin sale was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, and the contributions by club members to the sale was awe inspiring. A heartfelt thanks to all club members who designed a pumpkin for the sale. Our tables were filled with gorgeous designs that impressed all who stopped by and lifted the spirits of those who volunteered to work the day of the sale.



The sale festivities began on the Sunday prior at the home of Club president, Dianne Simmons, who hosted a design workshop. It was a lovely gathering of generous and creative members, and it was a great opportunity to hang out and get to know each other better while doing great designs.

Thank you to Mary Lunger and family for again opening up their home to house the sale, and much appreciation to AnnMarie Fay and her set up crew

of Janis Gunel, Kate Abrahams, Marion Hart, Louise Rhoads, Sharon DeAngelis, and Barry Wood (and two helpers). Renee Bayes, Janice Haines, Cheryl Atkins, and AnnMarie Fay gave the majority of their day to help out, and also thank you to Mary Kudless and Susan Scotti who helped finish out the sale.



We had a slower stream of folks stopping by for the sale this year, and we would not have been as successful without the Herculean efforts of club members making phone calls, sending email, and shooting off texts to friends and family the day of the sale, as well as club members contributing by purchasing designs. Your generosity, grace, and good will was much appreciated and did not go unnoticed.

Due to everyone's efforts and generosity, we were able to collect approximately \$2,500 to support club activities and youth scholarships. Although this is a bit modest and did not quite reach last year's sale activity, I am nonetheless grateful that we could hold the sale this year. Thank you again to all of you for your creativity, care, and resourcefulness.



## Committee Reports

### Membership

### Welcome to Our Newest Members

By Carolyn Barone, Membership Chair

Our Club welcomed Nancy Linehan and Imelda Rowe at our November 2022 meeting.

Our recent new member, Mary Sliwa, introduced Nancy to the Club! Nancy has been a Northern Virginia resident since 2018 when she relocated from western Pennsylvania to be near family. While at the family homestead, she had gardens of vegetables, herbs and a variety of both perennial and annual plants. She is glad she has her daughter's yard to "putter in." She is also a Master Gardener. She held a supervisory nurse position for a visiting nurse agency before moving here. She looks forward to being involved in the Club and meeting new friends.

Imelda was born and raised in Ireland. After college, she moved to this area where she has lived for the last 28 years. Now that both her sons are fairly independent, she was reintroduced to the joys of gardening once again. Her friendship with Jody Goulden brought her into the Club. She is interested in community gardening.

### Senior Outreach

## Floral Pumpkin Making

By Helen McMahon



On November 15, 2022, AnnMarie Fay, Mary Kudless, Pat Getz, and Helen McMahon joined with residents of Mary Marshall Assisted Living in creating

beautifully decorated pumpkins. Committee members provided the flowers and pumpkins. Pat Getz was the carver par-excellence of all the pumpkins. Eight of the residents joined in enthusiastically. One resident wanted to make another one, and one resident did not want to take his back to his room but showcased it on the window sill in the activity room for all to share. The residents are such lovely people, and we feel such joy in sharing their pleasure participating fully in the activity designing their own creations. It is truly heartwarming that our garden club supports this very special Arlington County community.



### Garden Therapy

## Pumpkins, Pumpkins and Gourds

By Mary Kudless

On November 10, several of our Garden Therapy Committee members gathered to introduce our wonderful 3 and 4 year old students at Glebe Elementary School to pumpkin floral designs and the magic of gourds.

Mary Sliwa, one of our newest members, came and helped Mary Kudless prepare ten pumpkins the day before. Susan Scotti bought and prepped beautiful flowers in just the right size for little hands. Kate Abrahams provided petite boxwood cuttings from her garden and a fantastic variety of gourds for the children to touch in order to experience the gnarly and interesting character of the gourds. These stayed behind in the classroom with a lovely white pumpkin that all the children contributed to the design of.



Carol Froehlich read a marvelous story about pumpkins and the fall season and read with that wonderful storytelling

inflection that truly captured the imagination of her listeners. Margi Melnick followed the story with a song that got all the children up and marching and dancing.



All this frivolity was followed by each child sitting at their table spot and creating beautiful designs with the help of our members. A special shout out to Pat Getz for her support for this aspect of the program.

The classroom is a very busy place with our teacher, Jeanne Terrill, and two teacher aides and another assistant who provides 1:1 support to an individual student. This offers an environment for learning, safety and enrichment for the precious 3 and 4 year olds that we engage through our Garden Therapy program. Our thanks to all our members who helped to make November's program very special, indeed.



# Chrysanthemum Show

By Maryam Zolecki  
Photos by Kate Abrahams

The Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society held its 47<sup>th</sup> Chrysanthemum Show on the last weekend of October 2022 at James Lee Community Center in Falls Church, Virginia. A couple of our club members participated in the show by exhibiting designs, and our very own club member, Thea McGinnis, was chair of the design committee for the show. In addition to the amazing horticulture exhibits and floral designs on display, Ikebana International, Chapter 1, participated with a special exhibit of different styles of ikebana arrangements.



## November Meeting Recap

The two presenters at our November 2022 meeting were Sarah Dakan and Tom Precht, co-founders of Grateful Gardeners, an organic cut-flower farm in Montgomery County, Maryland. Through their presentation they shared their sustainable methods on floriculture, as well as a how-to on growing dahlias. Grateful Gardeners has a stand at the City of Falls Church Farmers Market year-round, so check them out.

Four new members were formally welcomed during our meeting (for bios on two see previous pages, and for the other two, look back to last month's newsletter).

The horticulture table continues to inspire and impress. The designs this month truly showcased each of our unique creative styles as club members were tasked with interpreting two works of art. It was lovely to see the harmony in the designs as a whole, and the individual touches and elements that made each one a distinctive standout.

