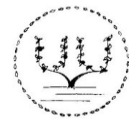


THE GARDENZETTE



The newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, VA 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; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District



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**CALLING ALL ROCK SPRINGERS
COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE**



**HOLIDAY TEA
THURSDAY DECEMBER 14
2:00 – 4:00 PM
HOME OF SANDY WADE**

President's Message

By Maryam Zolecki

I do hope everyone had a lovely and fun Thanksgiving holiday! Our club held its annual floral design pumpkin fundraiser on the Tuesday prior to the holiday weekend, and boy, it was one for the books. The weather was not optimal and it was quipped in jest that it was "the craziest thing we've ever done", and perhaps it was a little bit! I am happy to report that the preliminary reports indicate a rather successful fundraiser, we all indeed made some memories that day. Thank you to the

co-chairs, Dianne Simmons and Imelda Rowe, and everyone else who helped make the fundraiser a success. This month, we thankfully will be cozily tucked away indoors at the home of Sandy Wade for one of our other annual events, the Holiday Tea. I do hope you all can join in the festivities, and I am again looking forward to seeing everyone's talents creatively displayed with the floral designs and arrangements that will adorn Sandy's lovely home. See you then!

Next Board Meeting

Thursday January 4, 2024 4:30 pm

Attendance options are via Zoom or in-person at Dianne Simmons' home

November 2023 Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$18,949.95

Revenue: \$2,517.42

Expenses: (\$1,018.29)

Net: \$1,499.13

Ending Balance: \$20,449.08

In Memoriam: Paul Gibert

By Renee Bayes

Our dear Rock Spring Garden Club member, Paul Gibert, was laid to rest in a beautiful ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Paul served with the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and was given a military burial with a 21-gun salute, a military bugler playing Taps, and the formal folding of the flag.

The Floral Outreach committee provided the lovely arrangement shown here for the burial reception.



Senior Outreach

By Mary Kudless and AnnMarie Fay

Annual Gift Drive for Residents of Mary Marshall



Once again, Terry Holmes is taking on the leadership of the annual gift drive, with the generous help of Sheila Moore. The club is celebrating its fourth year of coming together at the holiday season to support the basic needs of the deserving seniors who reside at the Assisted Living Community at Mary Marshall, the location of RSGC's Senior Outreach efforts. These 52 men and women live on very fixed incomes and have few funds for personal purchases, after their rent and medical expenses. Most have no living or local family in the area. Loneliness and isolation are major concerns. There is great delight and gratitude when they receive a small bag of gifts on Christmas Eve. This year the Senior Outreach Committee will also be bringing a holiday musical program to the residents, following the delivery of the donations to the staff who will gift wrap them, and distribute to each person on Christmas Eve. Here is what Katrinia Holmes, Life Enrichment Director has advised on needs:

1. Socks - All types of male and female socks in mostly medium and large and a few extra-large sizes: athletic and crew socks, trouser socks, warm weight walking socks, diabetic cotton socks, slipper socks with safety grips on the soles. A few need support hose, but the clubs organizers will take care of these, as it is very person specific.
2. Full Size Personal Products – A preferred style are the large containers that carry a combination product that includes body wash, shampoo, and conditioner, all in one bottle. (There is a link to an example below; many options are available at Amazon, Target, and Walmart.)
3. Caps and Gloves - This year there is a new request for knit caps and gloves for the residents who can get outdoors and/or travel to appointments. The staff have indicated large-sized gloves and roomy knit caps will fit most of these ambulatory residents.

The donation period will take place from Dec 6th-16th. There are 3 ways that you can assure that the seniors will receive your gifts:

1. Drop off at Sheila Moore's home. Sheila has a covered porch and will have a weatherproof bin, available at the front door to receive your donations.

2. Bring them to the Holiday Tea at the home of Sandy Wade. The Tea will take place on December 14th, from 2:00-4:00. There will be bins present for your donations.
3. Mail your gifts directly from a vendor (e.g., Amazon, Walmart, Target) to:

Katrina Holmes, Life Enrichment Director,
 Mary Marshall Residence
 2000 5th St South
 Arlington, VA 22204

If you select the third option, it is critical that Katrina Holmes be the addressee, as the home receives many packages each day; Katrina will track and assure the inclusion of your purchases into the RSGC effort. Donations will be organized ahead and delivered to the residence Monday December 18th at 1:00 pm. All Senior Outreach Committee members are invited. Delivery will be followed by a Musical and Sing Along program, being planned by Carol Froehlich. Our thanks to Terry, Sheila, and Carol for their leadership, and to each of you for your generosity. This great club initiative puts us all in touch with the true spirit of the holidays.

https://www.amazon.com/VO5-Mens-Shampoo-Conditioner-Fresh-Energy/dp/B00K0IJMWY/ref=sr_1_2?crid=12AE1LKQXEVBA&keywords=combination+product%3A+shampoo%2C+conditioner+and+body+wash&qid=1701291459&srefix=combination+product+shampoo%2C+conditioner+and+body+wash%2Caps%2C72&sr=8-2



Last year's gift delivery at Mary Marshall

Garden Therapy By Mary Kudless

Autumn in All Its Splendor

The 13 special needs pre-K students at Glebe Elementary celebrated autumn leaves – the color, the variety, the texture, the cascading, and most of all their own creativity, in making and donning, Leaf Crowns! The Leaf Kings and Queens even cooperated with a “facing away” photo so that we could share their efforts with you. One exciting feature in this year’s classroom is a full-length mirror, which many of the children approached to get a vision of their majesty. Following our tradition, we offered an engaging story, a show and touch experience, and singing a song, creating the autumnal mood and an opportunity for learning. This terrific program was devised by Pat Getz, and the following members came out to help: Kate Abrahams, Margi Melnick, Mary Sliwa, Mary Garnett, Susan Scotti, and Mary Kudless.



Annual Floral Design Pumpkin Sale – was held on Tuesday November 21. Committee members persevered through a day-long driving rainstorm!





Liaison Focus - Youth Programs

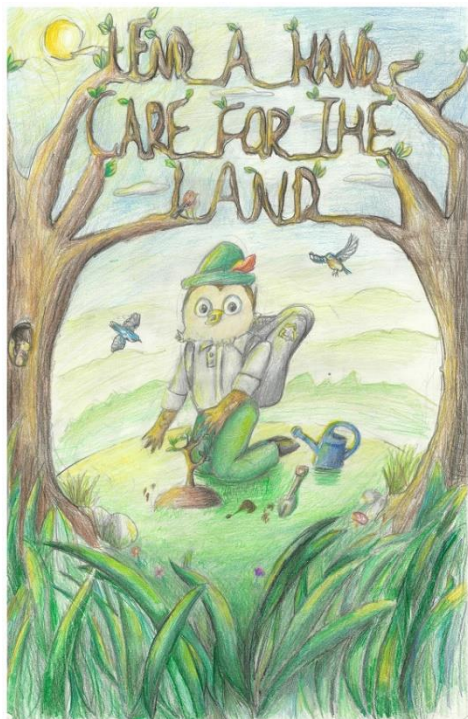
By Tina Foutz

Continuing with summaries of RSGC's programs through both Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and National Capital Area Garden Clubs, all under the National Garden Clubs, Inc (NGC), Thea's reminder of the poetry contest last month was a wonderful introduction to the tip of the iceberg of youth programs offered through NGC.

Our own youth program involved preschoolers at Glebe Elementary School and the wonderful article last month showed its great formula for success and amazing impact.

And it bears repeating from last month's meeting that RSGC provided 4 youths scholarships to attend the Arlington 4-H Camp.

Youth Contests



Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster contest

The 2024 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday.

Smokey Bear is recognized both nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention, with his motto being "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires"! Since 1944, Smokey Bear

has taught people how to help prevent wildfires and how to be careful with campfires, barbecues, matches, and more. The 2024 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday.

In 1977, Woodsy Owl teamed up with Smokey Bear to help encourage personal responsibility

in caring for our environment. Woodsy Owl's motto is "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land"! 1st through 5th grade students are invited to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of fire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles. The Grand Prize National Poster Contest Winner will win a free round trip airfare and accommodations for four to Washington, DC. A \$100 U.S. Savings Bond will also be awarded to the First Place National Winners from each grade level sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Youth Sculpture Contest

This contest encourages students to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. Students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible to create a sculpture of recyclable, reused, and reduced materials. The sculpture is limited in width to 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches. Height should be proportional to width.

Youth Garden Clubs

All clubs of National Garden Clubs may organize and/or sponsor a Youth Garden Club to introduce the art and science of gardening using fundamental math, reading and writing skills, as well as practical applications. It also serves to increase awareness of the environment, natural resources, ecology, conservation, composting, and recycling and help raise standardized test scores, especially in science while encouraging creativity through observing the cycles of life. The programs anticipate the development

of leadership skills that will provide opportunities for participation and recognition with nationally sponsored contests and awards. Each established Youth Garden Club is registered annually with the state garden club, in turn automatically registering the club as a member of National Garden Clubs. As mentioned above, club members also work with youth in settings other than a Youth Garden Club. Youth Gardening Programs by NGC clubs can be affiliated with a school, church, neighborhood, day-care centers, or established youth organizations such as Scouts, 4-H, science and ecology clubs, Master Gardeners, and Future Farmers of America.

Native Plant Patch for Girl Scouts

Discover, connect, and take action by earning the National Garden Clubs Native Plant Patch for Girl Scouts. This program encourages partnerships between Girl Scouts and local National Garden Clubs to teach Girl Scouts about native plants in their area. Girl Scouts of all age levels are eligible to earn this patch. The purpose of the Native Plants Patch is to encourage Girl Scouts and the National Garden Clubs to work in collaboration by:

1. Promoting girl-to-girl, adult-to-adult, and girl-to-adult discussion about the National Garden Club initiative and partnership.
2. Encouraging Girl Scouts to go to experts when they have questions while earning related badges, Try-its, Interest Projects, or STUDIO2B® charms.
3. Showing girls a way to focus their earned awards when working toward the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

College Scholarships

NGC is also proud of its college scholarship program which offers financial aid to students majoring in fields of study related to horticulture and the environment.

The number and amount of scholarships will be determined annually. Up to 45 one-year NGC Scholarships are available, each in an amount up to \$4,000. They are available to juniors, seniors, and graduate students. The college/university must be accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education.

Youth Grant Opportunities

Another exciting opportunity for working with youth clubs or groups is planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators. Youth will learn the

importance of providing appropriate food sources, nesting areas, shelter, and practicing sustainable gardening practices for pollinators by planning, planting, and maintaining these pollinator gardens.

In addition to also recognizing young gardeners and the adults who teach them there are free resources for youth, which are available at <https://www.gardenclub.org/kids-publications-and-activity-books>

<https://gardenclub.org/contests-and-activities>

<https://www.car-sgc.org/youth-programs>

<https://viriniagardenclubs.org/youth/>



George Rupert's two-year-old Christmas Cactus in full bloom

PHOTO GALLERY

From the November General Meeting:

Parallel Designs





Horticulture





RSGC welcomed new member Deneen Wilson, with sponsors Thea McGinnis and Anita Brown, and VP Tina Foutz



**Guest Speaker Nancy Ross Hugo and her
Windowsill Art**



Trip to the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC



Jo Ella, Dianne, and Kate go on the road

