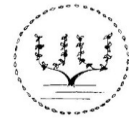


THE GARDENZETTE



The newsletter of the Rock Spring Garden Club, Arlington, VA www.rockspringgardenclub

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



Volume 63, Number 2

October 2024

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General Meeting

Thursday October 17, 2024 – 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level Friendship Hall

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

Design Workshop with Kathy Ward

Kathy Ward, Accredited Life Judge, member of the Richmond Design Guild, and a member of the Salisbury Garden Club, joins us for a Design Demonstration and Workshop. Kathy will design a creative line mass and a creative design, showing us the difference between the two designs. She will also discuss petite designs and monochromatic designs.

We will then break out into our design workshop where you will create your own design. **Please note that club members will receive design credit if you complete a design.** Our Club judges and Show Committee will be there to help. **See Kathy's list of flowers and supplies you will need for the workshop, on pages 3-4.** Don't forget your favorite clippers. Ways and Means will have oasis available as well as wire sheets. Design workshops are always a great way to start our year.

This is a bring-a-friend meeting and if you plan to bring a guest, and they would like to create a design, please email us at:

rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com.

President's Message

By **Maryam Zolecki**

October in the garden usually means the arrival of the plants and bulbs that were ordered in the spring, the putting of passalong plants in the ground, the removal of unwanted shrubs, grasses, and perennials, and the task of dividing and transplanting existing perennials. This past spring I ordered a variety of daffodil bulbs, and they will make their way into the ground at the end of the month, and I cannot wait to see the results of the endeavor when the Earth makes its tilt in March to declare the arrival of spring. A gifted to me understory tree will hopefully be one part of transforming an annoying hard to manage corner in my yard, and the very few dahlias that I have will need to be moved, so I will dig up those tubers and store them over winter (a task I have not before), and hopefully they will survive so that I can then plant them in the spring at a better spot in the garden. There are a couple of perennials that will need dividing, and of course I'll be sure to set aside a few of the divisions to bring with me for the plant sale that we will be holding at the next general meeting in October. I hope that you will plan to do the same, and this way I will have the lovely divisions of my dear club members to add to my happy list of plants (and perhaps bulbs and tubers) that will need to make their way into the garden this fall.

September 2024 Budget Report

(covers June 1- September 30)

Beginning Balance \$19,943.04

Revenue: \$220.00

Expenses: (\$1,778.74)

Net: (\$1,558.74)

Ending Balance \$18,384.30

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2024

At 4:30 pm

Attendance options are:

in person at Cheryl Atkinson's home

or

remote via Zoom

Ways and Means

By **Margi Melnick**

Fall is here and the Ways and Means table is ready! Please donate seasonal items, including vases, books, garden items, and plants that you have been separating or no longer need in your garden. **We are featuring a seasonal plant sale**, so visit the table and buy some plants to add to the beauty of your Fall Garden.

Creative Line Mass Design Workshop

The Week of the Workshop:

1) Choose containers (bring at least two)

- Container can be a tall upright container like a cylinder or pitcher if your line design will be vertical or horizontal, or it can be a low like a bowl if your line is horizontal.
- Just about anything can be a container - a Pringles can, rubber boot or anything!!
 - If lightweight, may need to add rocks to add weight to make it stable
 - Should be waterproof or add plastic container or liner
 - It is usually best that it is not transparent
(so that you don't see the floral foam and the flower stems)
- Salvation Army or Goodwill etc. may have interesting containers
- Color can be neutral (browns, greens, black) or coordinate with flowers.
 - (generally, avoid white and very shiny surfaces)
- **Clean well** (with water, soap and water, or water with small amount of bleach) and rinse

2) Choose/Purchase what type of mechanics you will use – floral foam, kenzan, chicken wire For this design, it is probably easiest to use Floral foam* (OASIS, AquaFoam, Floracraft Wet Foam for fresh flowers, Sahara for dried plant material)

*Floral foam can be found at Michael's, JoAnn Fabrics and some dollar stores.

A Day or two before the Workshop:

1. Choose/buy materials. For creative design, the materials are usually large and bold.

You will need:

3 or more pieces of one type of line material. Line material should usually be at least 1 ½ times as long as your container is tall for a tall container or at least 1 ½ times as wide as a low, bowl-line container. You may have more than one type of line material, if you wish. Remember, your line may be straight, curved or zigzag. It may be plant material or other things

Possible linear materials include Cattails, sticks (if dry they may be painted), straight branches with small foliage, sansevieria (Mother-in-Law's Tongue), iris foliage, yucca leaves, Bells of Ireland, liatris, delphiniums, snapdragons, gladiolus, bamboo, acrylic rods or ribbons, dowels, ribbon - anything with a strong line to it.

3 or more of one type of large forms (number depends on size - smaller size blossom may need 5 or more)

Possible round forms include large mums, gerbera daisies, sunflowers, open roses, carnations, lilies, dahlias, dried locust pods, calla lilies.
Do not use spray flowers for your large form.

5 or more medium leaves or stems of foliage

I sometimes use leaves from my house plants or plants from my yard – camelia, laurel, aucuba, fatsia, philodendron. Anything that will cover the floral foam can be used. Sphagnum moss can also be used to help cover the floral foam.

Note: there is no need to buy expensive flowers. Possible places to get materials: Wegman's, Kroger's, Trader Joes, Fresh Market, Cosco, Walmart, your yard, Strange's

In choosing your materials, think about how the colors and textures look together.

Color schemes can be:

one color (monochromatic)

similar colors (analogous) - for example, yellow and orange, orange and red, or yellow, orange and red),

complementary colors (i.e. - across from each other on the color wheel - for example, purple and yellow, blue and orange, red and green)

Day or more before the Workshop

If using live plant material: Remove the lower leaves, trim at least 1" off the end of the stem and place in clean bucket of water (may add "flower food" (preservative) to water, if desired)

Morning of the Workshop

If using wet floral foam, place the floral foam brick in a bowl (or sink) of water with the holes down (writing up). Allow brick to sit in water at least 5 minutes – the top of the brick will be the same level as the water.

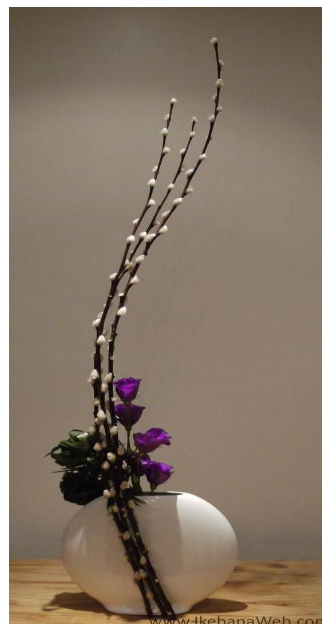
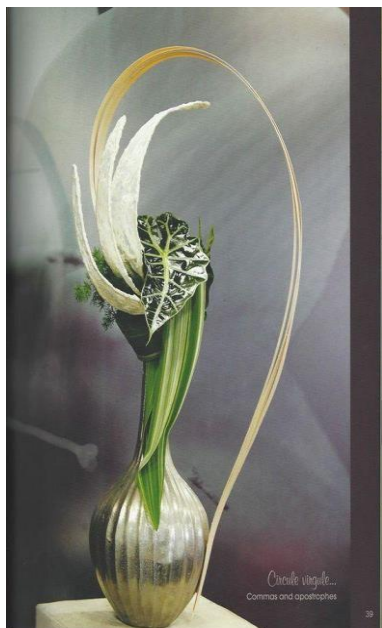
Do not push the brick down into the water to make it absorb water quicker.

Place soaked brick in a plastic bag. Bring to workshop.

Day of the Workshop

Bring: soaked foam in plastic bag (for live plant material) or other mechanics
conditioned live plant material or dried plant material
other selected materials
several possible containers
scissors/clippers to cut plant material
knife to cut foam
large trash bag to use as a tablecloth (makes clean-up easy!)
wire, ribbon, other decorative items (optional)
accessory (optional)

These photos should help you to visualize a Creative Line Mass Design. Let them guide you as you select your materials to bring to class.



Youth Activities

By Lynda Martin

We met with the second graders at Tuckahoe Elementary School on September 24th and planted pansies in the school flower bed. It was a rainy day so we had a backup plan to work indoors where the children planted their pansy plant in a container that they decorated and could take home. After we arrived at school, the rain stopped so we gave the children a choice of working in the outdoor garden or planting inside in pots. Not surprisingly, all the boys wanted to plant outside, and the girls wanted indoors. We instructed those taking plants home how to plant correctly

and how to water them. The children seemed to enjoy decorating the pots as much as working with the pansies.



Congratulations Thea!

Rock Spring Garden Clubs's own Thea McGinnis has authored a holiday romance story titled "A Crooked Dog Christmas" that was just published as part of the anthology shown below, available through Amazon. Autographs available on demand!

[Seasons of Love: A Southern Tier Authors of Romance Holiday Anthology](#)



Seasons of Love: A Southern Tier Authors of Romance Holiday Anthology

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Pumpkin Fundraiser Preparation 2024

By Tina Foutz



We're about seven weeks away from our annual fundraiser on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Thanks to those who have volunteered already. This is going to be a lot (sorry ☹️) but I want to give everyone information as early as possible.

Quick Facts

When: November 26, 2024

3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

**Where: Memorial Baptist Church,
3455 North Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22207**

Large Indoor Activity Space

Parking Lot and direct access

Setup Begins: 2:00 PM

Drop off Designs and Items for Offer: Between 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM

[CLICK HERE](#) to for SignUp Genius to help the day of the fundraiser and pledge to contribute designs or other items.

Also, this year, November's program at the November 21, 2024, general meeting will be a pumpkin floral design demonstration that will certainly get your creative juices flowing and give you a chance to ask all of those burning pumpkin design questions.

Reminders:

- All members are asked to donate two designs or offerings in the fundraiser
- You can drop off your designs and offerings early to: Kate Abrahams, 4727 N Dittmar Road. We will provide further details on this next month.
- Kate will also host a “Pumpkin Prep Party” the afternoon of Sunday, November 24, 2025. We’ll be there for fun, support, tips. I have several arborvitae that desperately need to be trimmed, so I’ll bring that for greenery. Others have brought similar items in the past. Also, if we get enough interest, we can order bulk flowers for about \$1.25/bloom. The quality will be great and that will be less than even Trader Joe’s. The signup to let us know you’re coming or want to pool for bulk flower order click [HERE](#)
- Next month's newsletter will present pumpkin preparation instructions and tips, like conditioning flowers and greens.
- Pick up pumpkins this month! Many have noticed pumpkins can be hard to find after Halloween, especially those popular heirloom varieties.



- Select small or medium pumpkins because that is the size most people can fit into their tablespace. Or, consider the mini pumpkins and create a lovely cluster
- We will make Zeffy available again for fee-free credit card payment processing.
- We will make a website available later this month for your friends and family to pre-order designs. This is a great way for us to collect payments in advance and have a clear idea of what our supporters want to see at the fundraiser. I’ll preview this at the October 17, 2024 meeting!

If you’re going to be out of town or unavailable the week of the fundraiser, consider offering a no-carve decorated pumpkin or other alternative that you can deliver early:

- Dried flower decoupage!! Check out this [YouTube video](#)

- Painted pumpkins!!
 - Like this poured acrylic paint. Check out this [YouTube video](#)
 - Or wonderful fall plaid. Check out this [YouTube video](#)

This video shows a fake pumpkin, but the general grid method is great. Basically, alternate overlapping thick and thin stripes in two colors to get the look. Painter's tape can help you get crisp lines. Just make sure the paint is dry before you peel the tape off.

- Offer amaryllis bulbs that we can sell. Last year sets of three wax coated amaryllis bulbs could be found at the warehouse stores. We split them and added a lovely fall ribbon. They flew off the table quite quickly!!

Shop at such places as [Costco](#) or have [Dutch Bulb](#) ship them to you.

Volunteers as of 10/7	Estimated # needed	Time Commitment	Description
<i>Equipment</i>	Need 1	1-2 hours, before fundraiser day (October)	logistics - organize the collection of the items we'll need the day of the fundraiser (tables, chairs, price tags/stickers, etc.)
<i>Publicity</i>	Filled - Janis Gunel	1-2 hours, before fundraiser day (October)	update signs from last year and promote the fundraiser online and through publicity outlets
<i>Pre-order monitoring</i>	Need 1	3-4 hours, before fundraiser day (November)	work with me monitoring the pre-order website to coordinate with public fundraiser offerings
<i>Designer</i>	Need 60 more 14 Pumpkin Designs pledged, so far	1 hour before 3:00PM on 11/26/2024	design 2 pumpkin arrangements on your own or at the Pumpkin Prep Party - sign up HERE
<i>Design intake</i>	Need 2 2 Filled - Cheryl Atkinson Mary Kudless	1-2 hours on 11/26/2024 2:30PM	receive designs the day of the fundraiser and keep list of members and number of designs – to track “credit” for designs
<i>Setup</i>	Need 2 2 Filled - Cheryl Atkinson Joan Hession	1-2 hours on 11/26/2024 2:00PM	depending on the venue, set up and cover tables, arrange designs
<i>Table attendant</i>	Need 1 3 Filled - Cheryl Atkinson	3 hours on 11/26/2024 3:30PM to 6:30PM	greet donors, help with design selection and answer questions, consolidate tables during the

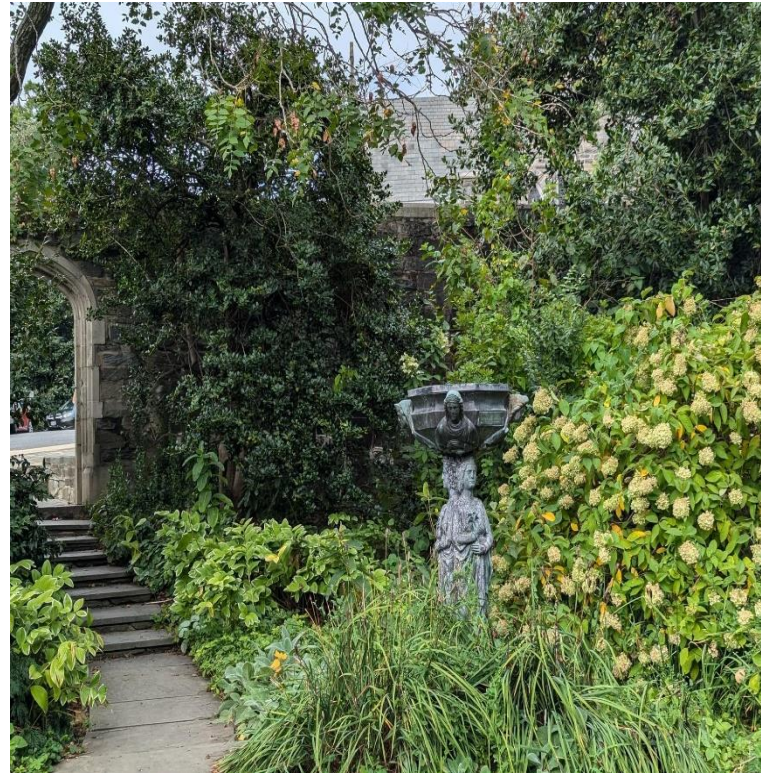
	Anita Brown Maryam Zolecki		fundraiser, and assistance with loading designs in donor's vehicle, if needed
<i>Breakdown</i>	Need 3	1 hour on 11/26/2024 6:30PM	removal of trash and, depending on the venue, take down tables
<i>Cashier</i>	Need 1	3 hours on 11/26/2024 3:30PM to 6:30PM	available during entire public fundraiser time processing cash, check, and Zeffy credit card payments

And, as always, please feel free to contact me with your recommendations, interest in volunteering, or questions and concerns.



PHOTO GALLERY

**From the September Field Trip to
Cathedral Gardens
from Tina Foutz and Maryam Zolecki**



**Photos from the National Capital Dahlia Society Show on September 28
from Connie Richards**



**Tina Foutz's first place creative design
Class: A Garden Hat.**



**Connie Richards entry Crazy 4 Leashia
Made it to "Court"**



**Maryam Zolecki's first place
parallel design Class: A Baseball Cap**



**An interesting mushroom from
Renee Bayes**

Arlington wildlife
from neighbor Christos Liacouris

