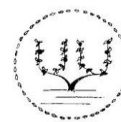


THE GARDENZETTE



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 Club, Inc., District III; and Southern Atlantic Region, Virginia Federated Garden Clubs, Inc., Piedmont District



Volume 65, Number 2

October 2026

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General Meeting

October 15, 2026 – 10:00 am

Little Falls Presbyterian Church

Lower Level

6025 Little Falls Road

Arlington, VA 22207

Keukenhof Gardens

Sharon Davis, landscape designer and RSGC member will present on her visits to the unforgettable and innovatively landscaped gardens of the world famous Keukenhof, also known as the Garden of Europe. It is one of the largest flower gardens in the world, situated in the municipality of Lisse in the Netherlands. Keukehof's spring gardens feature over 7 million blooming flowers including 800 varieties of tulips.



An additional article on the Keukenhof is included on page 4.

CONTENTS

President's Message	2
Budget Report	2
Board Meeting	2
Design of the Month	3
Keukenhof Gardens	4
Youth Activities	4
NCAGC Flower Show	5
Holiday Fundraiser	8
Photo Gallery	9

By Cheryl Atkinson

October may be my favorite month—sweater weather and fall colors against the blue sky. It's cool enough to do some gardening again: maybe divide some perennials, plant some bulbs, and cut back foliage after the first frost. It's also time to get back into our garden club activities. Our committees have kicked off a new year of community services, and we are gearing up for the Holiday Fundraiser in November,

After seeing Sheila Moore's fabulous demonstration of ideas and how-to's for decorating everlasting wreaths in September, there will be a "bring and buy" opportunity at the October meeting to select decorative items for making your own custom wreaths. A special table will be set up at Ways and Means for these items. Please bring whatever you have to donate to the table and find something different to take home for your own wreath. Think of both fall and Christmas/winter holiday items. Appropriate items include, but are certainly not limited to: ribbon, pinecones, pods or other dried materials, faux foliage, fruit or berries, and small Christmas ornaments.

We're in for a treat at the October meeting when the program features Sharon Davis who will share with us her visit to the famous Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse, Netherlands. You don't want to miss it, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Year to Date Budget Report

Beginning Balance: \$18,876.30

Revenue: \$257.00

Expenses: (\$1,833.40)

Net: (\$1,576.40)

Ending Balance: \$17,299.90

Next Board Meeting

November 5, 2026

4:30 pm

Hosted by Kate Abrahams

Design of the Month - Angular

By Kate Abrahams

October's floral design assignment is a creative, angular design. Since it is a creative design, minimal plant material is used. As expected, the angles in the design should dominate the other components. Angles should be the first thing you notice about the design. A few photos of angular designs are shown here.

This design is "A Creative Design emphasizing strong angles that may be acute, obtuse, reflex, right angles or a combination of angles."

(*Handbook for Flower Shows* page 73).

Positioning of the angles should create depth in the design so it doesn't look like a flat surface and should create a path for your eyes to follow through the design. Likewise, positioning the plant material should create another path of interest but not as strong as the angular one.

The frame of reference (space allocated for your design) is 25 inches wide by 20 inches deep with unlimited height. Foamboard cut to match the frame of reference dimensions will be supplied to the designer to use for the design's underlay. The foamboard underlay may be altered to coordinate with the design by covering it with cloth, paper, painting or other techniques or you can use it as is without alteration.

In Flower Shows, a design usually has an underlay and a staging back panel under and behind it. We're going to introduce using an underlay with the monthly designs to get everyone used to it and practice enhancing the design with a suitable underlay. Just let me know if you need the foamboard underlay for October's design and I'll deliver it to you! Have fun trying another National Garden Club design type!



The Keukenhof Gardens

By Sharon Davis

The history of Keukenhof dates back to the 15th century. Countess Jacoba van Beieren [Jacqueline of Bavaria] (1401-1436) used 'Keukenduyyn' [kitchen dunes] as hunting ground for the kitchen of Teylingen Castle. Country house Keukenhof was built in 1641 and the estate grew to encompass 500 acres.

They commissioned the addition of six towers, transforming the country house into a castle named Keukenhof Castle. The gardens were also redesigned in 1857 by the renowned landscape architects Jan David Zocher and his son Louis Paul Zocher.

In 1949, a group of 20 leading flower bulb growers and exporters decided to use the estate to exhibit spring-flowering bulbs, which resulted in the birth of Keukenhof as a spring park. The park opened its gates to the public in

1950 and was an instant success, with 236,000 visitors in the first year alone. Each year the garden bulb growers divided the Park into multiple "garden rooms," where they plant 7 million bulbs. A world-famous attraction, the garden opens from mid-March to mid-May and welcomes 1.5M visitors a year.



Youth Activities

By Lynda Martin

The Youth Activities group met with the second graders at Tuckahoe on Tuesday September 22. Those volunteers attending were Debbie Czarniecki, Joyce Fall, Mary Garnett, Lea Alice Parker and Lynda Martin. We provided the children with a plastic pot which was covered with paper so the children could decorate the pots prior to planting. Then each child was given a pansy plant to put into the pot. They were instructed on how to care for the plant and encouraged to plant the flower in their gardens at home. The children seemed excited to work with our volunteers and we all had a good time.



National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. (NCAGC) Flower Show By Anita Brown

On the last weekend of September 2026, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. (NCAGC), one of the state organizations we belong to, held a flower show at the US National Arboretum. The flower show was titled “Shining Through the Years” and it celebrated the NCAGC’s 75th anniversary. It was a beautiful flower show with lovely designs, stellar Botanical Arts jewelry and photography, and pristine horticulture specimens. Rock Spring Garden Club contributed tremendously to the success of this flower show both by supporting its execution as well as having the distinction of “having the most entries.” I had the honor of being one of the general chairs, and Deneen Wilson co-wrote the engaging flower show schedule. Tina Foutz had the busy task of the staging/signage chair which ensured a well laid out and beautiful show floor. Connie Richards took care of horticulture placements and Thea McGinnis secured the judges. There was also a wonderful exhibition of Horticulture, Design, and Botanical Arts. Our Rock Spring Garden Club excelled in all these fields, and we had the largest number of horticulture exhibits (16) and designs (6) of any other garden club in NCAGC. Kate Abrahams won a blue ribbon for her Illuminary Design, and our new member, Laurie Grant, received a score of 90+ for her tray in the Novice category. Maryam Zolecki received the Top Exhibitor Award in Botanical Arts for her necklace, and in horticulture, both Janis Gunel and I received blue ribbons with Janis’ dahlia receiving the Award of Merit and Award of Horticultural Excellence. Our members Sharon Davis, Thea McGinnis, Connie Richards, and Joan Hession also submitted exhibits that added to our club’s outstanding contribution to this flower show. Rock Spring Garden Club certainly celebrated our club’s dedication to the purposes of a National Garden Club flower show through conversational exchanges with the public that stimulated interest in horticulture and design and expression of creativity in our work. I hope you are all as proud of our Rock Spring Garden Club as I am.





Kate Abrahams



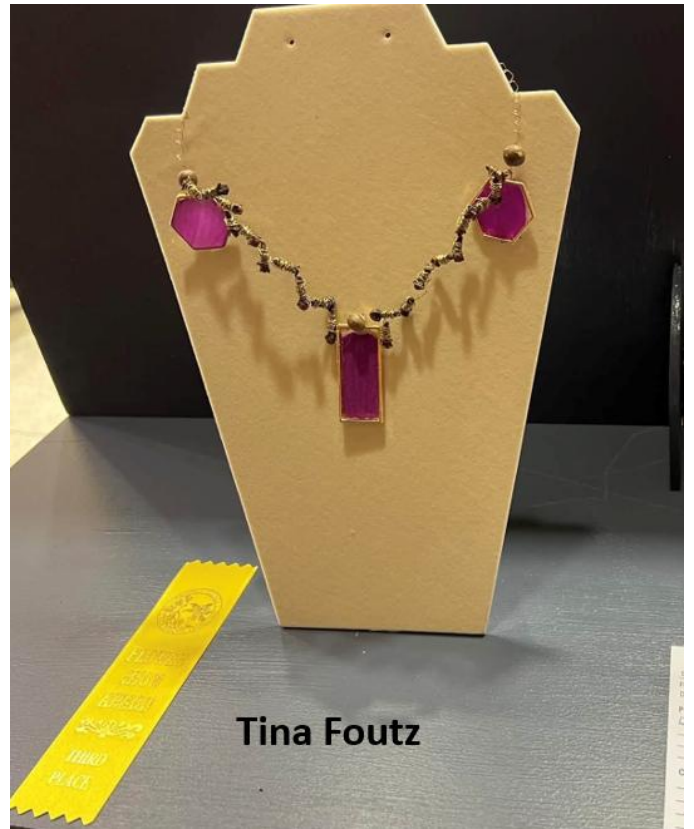
Thea McGinnis



Sharon Davis



Connie Richards



The Ways and Means to our Holiday Fundraiser!

By Janet Nuzum

October is here... which means November is around the corner... which means the Rock Spring Holiday Fundraiser is going to be upon us before you know it! Last year's "Harvest Fundraiser" is expanding this year to be a "Holiday Fundraiser" with an even bigger and better variety of offerings of pumpkin designs, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holiday floral designs and everlasting wreaths. We will need LOTS of volunteers to create and donate these beautiful creations that are more and more in demand each year. Last year we sold out in ONE HOUR and had to turn customers away! Please sign up to donate some creations on the volunteer sign-up sheet that will be at the October meeting, or contact Janet Nuzum, Fundraiser Chair.

Also at the October meeting, we will have a special section at the Ways and Means table with wreath-making materials. Before then, please go through your boxes of holiday decorations and donate to Ways and Means things that you no longer need or realistically won't get around to using that could be incorporated into a seasonal wreath. We'd love your unusual tree ornaments, berry picks, pinecones, colorful ribbons and other treasures that can be used to create unique wreaths. Your old or excess décor may be someone else's inspiration!

Those of you who may be unable to personally attend the event in November due to travel or visitor plans can nevertheless help make the event a success by donating a lovely wreath or floral design in advance.

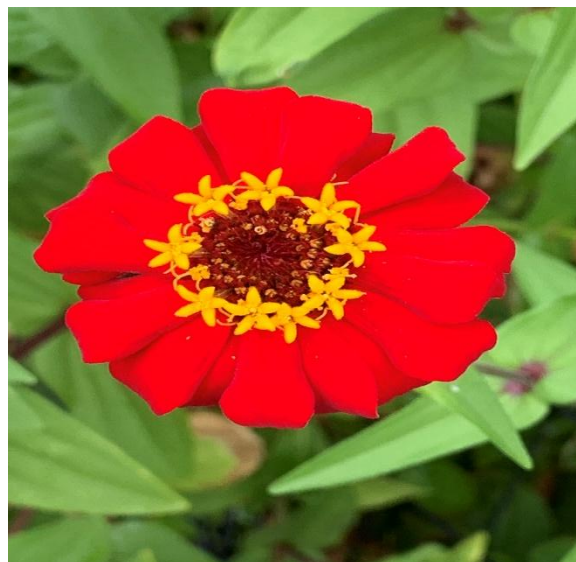
This year's Holiday Fundraiser event will be on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 24, at the Little Falls Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall (where we hold our general meetings). We will have more space this year than we did last year, which means we also need more designs and offerings to make the room full, festive and enticing.

Finally, looking ahead to our November meeting, the Ways and Means table will feature objects that help celebrate any of the December holidays. So put some festive items aside to bring in November, too.



PHOTO GALLERY

**From George Ruppert's Garden: Stunning
Zinnias and Cleomes**



From the September General Meeting:

Sheila Moore demonstrated wreath making



Functional Tray for One Designs



