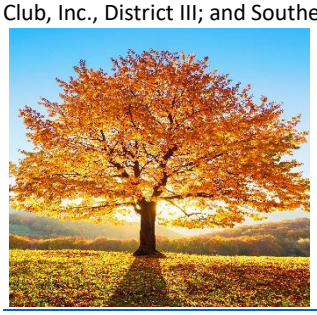
THE GARDENZETTE

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 3 **November 2026**

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General Meeting
November 19, 2026 – 10:00 am
Little Falls Presbyterian Church
Lower Level
6025 Little Falls Road
Arlington, VA 22207

Touring Gardens of Oregon
Thea McGinnis

Our own Thea McGinnis will introduce us to several notable gardens in Oregon that highlight the flora of the northwestern United States. Thea has traveled extensively locally and abroad, visiting gardens and their surroundings in the process. We have been fortunate recipients of past presentations by Thea where she shares both the flora and local history of the areas she has visited, and we are certainly in for another treat!



By Cheryl Atkinson

November is a busy month at home and in the garden club. It's the beginning of the holiday season and the time of our club's premier fundraising event. If you are planning pumpkin floral designs for the fundraiser, be sure to secure your pumpkins right away. They are sometimes hard to find after Halloween. Of course, floral designs in other-than-pumpkin containers, as well as wreaths, are certainly welcome. If you haven't already pledged one or more designs for the event, please do so right away by letting Janet Nuzum know what you plan to contribute. I'm looking forward to hearing from Thea McGinnis at our November meeting when she will highlight notable gardens she has visited in her travels in the northwestern US. Having the opportunity to see these gardens through Thea's discerning horticultural eye is sure to be a treat. Also, don't forget to bring a bag of recyclable plastic film with you for a group photo at the meeting to illustrate our environmental/recycling initiative. Finally, I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. One of the things I am most thankful for is the camaraderie that we enjoy and the hard work that you all give to our club, and through our club to the community. Warm wishes and Happy Thanksgiving.

Year to Date Budget Report

Beginning Balance: $17,320.64

Revenue: $228.66

Expenses: ($790.58)

Net: ($561.92)

Ending Balance: $16,758.72

Next Board Meeting

January 7, 2027

4:30 pm

Hosted by Maryam Zolecki

No December Meeting

Membership

By Maryam Zolecki

We are excited to welcome our newest member, Regan Lynn Larroque. Regan grew up in Darien, CT, and spent much of her professional life in New York City before moving to McLean, VA in 2024 with her French husband and their three children, who attend the French immersion program at Kent Gardens Elementary School. Regan has spent her career in the art world, specializing in contemporary art. Her professional experience includes senior leadership roles at international auction houses and museums. She now runs an independent consultancy working with artists, collectors, and cultural institutions. Most recently, she collaborated directly with artist James Turrell on his monumental land art project, Roden Crater, in the Arizona desert. Her work has cultivated a particular appreciation for the intersection of art, architecture, landscape, and the natural environment. A lifelong lover of art, design, and beautiful spaces, Regan has recently discovered a growing passion for gardening. She enjoys learning about plants, experimenting in her own garden, and exploring the creative possibilities of landscape design. Regan is delighted to join the Rock Spring Garden Club and looks forward to learning from fellow members, contributing to community projects, and making new friends in the area.

Show

By Kate Abrahams

This month's Show Committee design challenge is creating a petite, traditional, teacup design with a 10-inch square frame of reference with a provided underlay and back staging panel. You'll find this design type in many flower shows since using a teacup and saucer is an easy container and the plant material needed is less than a full-sized design. If you don't have a teacup, please use a mug instead. The teacup design should fit easily within a space that is 10 inches tall, 10 inches wide and 10 inches deep. The provided underlay and staging panel will match the 10-inch square dimensions to provide a visual frame. The teacup, saucer and flowers need empty space around them so plan for a design that will be several inches shorter than the 10-inch square. Usually, the height of the plant material is 1 ½ - 2 times the height of the container. So, the design should not be so small that the design looks undersized for the amount of space provided nor so large that it crowds the space. It should be in proportion to the frame of reference.

A traditional design means that the flowers and greens are all fresh and create a closed silhouette form of massed plant material. So, your flowers and greens should form a defined shape above the teacup rim which can be a sphere, triangle, oval or rounded triangle. Unlike creative designs, traditional designs use lots of different plant material to create a solid "mass". So, no big empty gaps in the plant material and stems should look like they emerge from one point in the center of the teacup radiating outward. The back of the design is also completed with plant material to provide depth visually. Petite refers to the design's height, width, and depth being less than twelve inches in all directions.

The last thing to consider is the plant material should be in scale to the teacup. This means the size of the flowers, leaves, etc. should be smaller in line with the small container. The different materials should be integrated throughout the design rather than grouped together. Colors and textures should complement the teacup pattern, shapes, and colors to create visual harmony and balance. So, no monstera leaves, magnolias, etc. and more boxwood, little spray roses, dainty flowers and leaves. Please email me for any questions and to get your underlay and staging panel if you want to cover/paint/ decorate the foamboard to coordinate with your design.





Garden Therapy
By Pat Getz

The Garden Therapy committee met with 15 preschoolers at Glebe School for our first program of the school year in October. Our theme was pumpkins. Kate Abrahams and Susan Scotti led the children in singing "Five Little Pumpkins". In addition to the singing the children got to roll pumpkins back and forth to Kate and Susan, following the lyrics of the song. Then we moved onto the hands-on craft – making floral designs in hollowed out pumpkins that were filled with oasis. The children first decorated the pumpkins with Halloween stickers and then created their own floral designs with colorful flowers and greenery. The children (and the adults) had great fun with this, and the children were all excited to have their creations put into orange shopping bags to take home.







Holiday Tea - Home for the Holidays

By Maryam Zolecki

The Holiday Tea will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2026 at the home of Cheryl Atkinson from 2pm to 4pm. As in years past, it should be a wonderful time together as we celebrate the holidays with drinks, bites, and festive cheer. We have a number of talented and creative members who have signed up to provide designs to adorn Cheryl's home. If you are one of those members, please pick up your containers on Wednesday, December 2, 2026 from 10am-12pm, and then plan to drop your arrangements at Cheryl's home the following Wednesday, December 9, 2026 from 10am-12pm. There are still a few designs left for signup, so please look for that information at the November 2026 general meeting or reach out to Maryam Zolecki to sign up. Hope to see you there!

NexTrex Recycling Challenge Program

By Maryam Zolecki

As many of you are aware, one of our club projects is the NexTrex Recycling Challenge Program where we ask club members to collect their soft film plastics and packaging for recycling. The visual below notes allowable items, and to support an award application for an environmental club project, we are asking that you please bring one or more bags with you to the November 2026 meeting for a photo op in order to illustrate our group's environmental efforts.

Throughout the year, to partake in this club project, collect your plastic and packaging at home and then take it to a local grocery store to recycle. Take a picture of your recycling in the recycling bin available at the store, and email/text the picture to Maryam Zolecki. I do hope this information is useful and encourages folks to participate in this project. Any and all submissions are much appreciated!



Senior Outreach for October

By Joan Hession

We started our year off at Mary Marshall the first week in October with our fall planting. It was wonderful to see that they had watered the spring plantings and still had the "Old Glory" petunias in the front Georga Shaw Memorial Garden.



We welcomed everyone and had a small art project of artificial flowers on a wooden board.



We cleaned up the deck and courtyard planters and added soil. Some of the residents helped as we planted pansies and chrysanthemums. Jody Goulden, Helen McMahon and Mary Kudless show off the upper deck plantings.



Youth Activities
By Joyce Fall & Lea Alice Parker

On October 27th, twelve Tuckahoe School second graders enjoyed a fun and creative Garden Club project by making beautiful flower arrangements inside pumpkins. With colorful autumn blooms, fresh greenery, and plenty of enthusiasm, each student created a unique arrangement to celebrate the fall season. The classroom was filled with smiles, laughter, and excitement as the children carefully arranged their flowers and proudly admired their finished creations. This hands-on activity gave them an opportunity to explore their creativity while making wonderful seasonal memories together. Thanks to Lea Alice Parker, Debbie Czarniecki, Joyce Fall, Mary Garnett, Pat Getz, and Lynda Martin who helped make this special experience possible.









Senior Outreach Annual Gift Drive
By Joan Hession

We are asking for your support to give gifts to Mary Marshall Assisted Living residents. For the past 5 years we have supported the residents with gifts of socks, caps, gloves, and personal care products during the holiday season. This year new items have been added. Davina Alston, Executive Director at Mary Marshall, has asked for help with art supplies. This will be a targeted gift with Davina putting art supply requests on a donation wish list. This will be the only place for art supplies. The advantage of using the link is that the list will show what is needed (by number of) and also what is purchased (by number of). The address for delivery will be my house. There will not be a drop off box at my house this year.

Items needed:

1. Socks: all types of male and female, mostly medium and large sizes: athletic and crew socks, trouser socks, warm weight walking socks, diabetic cotton socks, slipper socks with safety grips on the soles.
2. Personal Products: body wash, shampoo and conditioner -preferred is the large containers which contain combinations of the products.
3. Caps and gloves: Large-sized gloves (not mittens) and caps that cover the ears.

You can participate by bringing items to the November meeting or Holiday Tea or by using the link to purchase items which will be sent to my house.

1. You can bring them to the Holiday Tea at the home of Cheryl Atkinson 819 Ridge Dr. McLean, VA 22101 on December 10 at 2:00. There will be boxes in which to place your donations. Divina Alston, Executive Director at Mary Marshall, and Teia Brown, the Life Enrichment Coordinator, will be at the Tea. They transport the donations back to Mary Marshall and match the items to specific residents.
2. Use this donation wish list: https://a.co/07SBnHVk to order on Amazon. The list is a good look at what they need.

Liaison

By Maryam Zolecki

Every month, the liaison section of the newsletter will keep you informed about dates and events happening related to garden club activities, as well as some other events related to gardening, floral design, and horticulture. Please email Maryam Zolecki to share events for publication. Here is what's happening in the new year.

- RSGC Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to identify prospective candidates for the 2027-2029 Executive Board. We need one more member to join us and please reach out to Maryam Zolecki if you are interested.
- The Haymarket Garden Club is holding a Holiday Shoppe on November 20 & 21, 2026 at Community Hall at Evergreen Fire Station 15 in Haymarket, VA.
- The Acorn Garden Club invites other garden club members to its upcoming programs in November, January, and February. All of the meetings will be at St. John's Episcopal Church,6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA. Please join at 10am for coffee and conversation and programs will begin at 10:30am after a few minutes of business and announcements. Monday, November 9, 2026: From Working Gardens to Intelligent Gardens: Living Canopies, Green Infrastructure, and the Future of Ecological Design, Monday, January 11, 2027: The Orchid Collection of the British Embassy, Washington, DC, and Monday, February 8, 2027: Garden Design and the Established Garden Lecture via Zoom. RSVP to Bentley Andrews at 44bentley08@gmail.com.
- Cornell University's School of Integrative Plant Science is offering online classes on Plant Propagation. Their online classes on Plant Propagation have been a big success in the past 3 years. Dr. Mark Bridgen, Professor of Horticulture at Cornell University, will be teaching these online live propagation classes via Zoom. There are 3 modules consisting of three 2-hour lectures. The first module is about Seed Propagation, the second module is about Vegetative Propagation, and the third module is about Plant Micropropagation. Attendees can take one, two, or all three modules. Each module is $150 or if you register for all three modules, there is a $50 discount. Live lectures (with time for Q&A) are held in January and February 2027 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4pm (EST). Lectures are recorded for future reference. Everyone is welcome! Registration can be found at: https://cupropagationpay.securepayments.cardpointe.com/pay
- NCAGC will host the CAR-SGC Conference in 2027. CAR-SGC stands for Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs. NCAGC hopes you would consider helping create a wonderful experience for **October 2027** that also involves members from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. NCAGC is looking for connections to fabulous speakers or secret gardens that would be a special treat for this conference. Please reach out to volunteer with our committee (CAR2027chair@ncagardenclubs.org). There will also be many opportunities to volunteer closer to October 2027.

- CFAA is moving to Alexandria, VA with their annual seminar on June 17-19, 2027. They are still finalizing the program and workshop details, and you can get more information here: 2027 CFAA Seminar, 'Transplanted & Growing,' with focus on hands-on learning, fresh design ideas, and practical techniques rooted in the art of floral arranging.
- **NGC Schools** - Visit the link (https://gardenclub.org/our-schools) and click on "learn more" and then "find a course" for each of the respective schools: Flower Show, Gardening, Landscape Design, and Environmental. There are a number of virtual options that are convenient and cost effective.
- On **Sunday, December 6, 2026**, Renee Bayes granddaughter will be performing in her very first solo performance in The Nutcracker at Capital One Hall. There will be two performances that day at 1pm and then again at 6pm. Click here for ticket information:https://www.ticketmaster.com/centre-company-presents-the-nutcracker-tickets/artist/3837739

Ways and Means
By Janet Nuzum

The Ways and Means table at this month's general meeting will focus on holiday gift-giving. In addition to buying from the "Tools of the Trade" table, we invite members to donate new or gently used items that would make a nice holiday gift for someone. It's a great time to clean out your closet and re-gift that cute item you received but never got around to using. Let's recycle, regift and reuse during this holiday season!

Holiday Fundraiser

By Janet Nuzum

SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER!

It's not too late to pitch in to help make our fall fundraiser a bigger success! This year's Holiday Fundraiser is on Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 3:30 – 5:30 pm, at Little Falls Presbyterian Church. Due to the crowds that came last year, we are moving this year's event to the more spacious Friendship Hall. We appreciate all who have already made a pledge, but we still need more floral designs (either pumpkin designs or non-pumpkin floral designs or both). We also will be selling festive wreaths made of dried, fresh or artificial materials, as well as amaryllis bulbs. To make a pledge, just contact Janet Nuzum at janet.nuzum@gmail.com.

If you would like to create your pledged floral design in the company of fellow club members, join us on Monday, Nov. 23 between 2 – 4 pm at the home of Kate Abrahams for a floral design work party. Remember to clean your pumpkin the prior day (Sunday), and bring your own conditioned fresh flowers and greens. We will provide oasis and some greens. Both new and experienced designers will be there to share encouragement and support. Come join in the fun and camaraderie.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I DROP OFF MY DONATION?

If you are donating a wreath, please bring it to the Nov. 19 general meeting and hand it over to Sheila Moore. If you cannot bring it then, drop it off at the church between 1 – 2 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

If you are donating a fresh floral design of any type, please drop it off at the church between 1 – 2 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the check-in desk with Kate Abrahams.

WHEN CAN WE SHOP?

The sale will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 24 ONLY from 3:30 – 5:30 (no presales!). Friendship Hall will be closed from 2:00 – 3:30 to finalize setup, and only volunteers with specific assignments will be able to stay during that time. Everyone will be welcome to shop beginning at 3:30 pm until we are sold out.

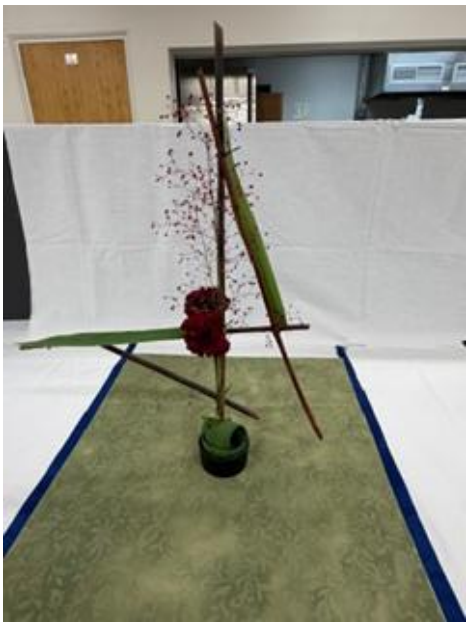
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?
We need everyone, whether or not you attend on Nov. 24, to help spread the word about the fundraiser. Please talk it up and send e-mails to all your friends, neighbors, colleagues, networks! We know you know lots and lots of people who value your advice – please urge them to come!

Any other questions? Want to volunteer? Contact Janet Nuzum.

PHOTO GALLERY

From the October General Meeting

Angular Designs







Sharon Davis presented a program on the Keukenhof Gardens





Connie Richards at the Falls Church Farmer's Market promoting RSGC



Christina Foutz and Thea McGinnis represented RSGC at the Fine Arts and Flower Exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Their design interpreted a Chippendale-like mantelpiece from the 18th century.



