



Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. **Richmond, Virginia**

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

February 2023

President's Corner

Happy New Year!

Spring is trying to sneak in, camellias buds are opening, and daffodils are popping up, but typical of Richmond in winter we may be in for snow and ice in the next few weeks.

Sadly, as many of you may know, Gladys Bowles, our wonderful Chaplain died just before Christmas. She will be hugely missed. The family will celebrate her life at a later date. Burial will be private.

We are so sorry to learn that our wonderful Bonnie Parker has just lost her husband, Jim. I am sending Bonnie's address with this announcement so that you can extend your sympathy to her. There will be a service for Jim on February 3 at the Northside Baptist Church, 7600 Studley Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23116 at 1 pm. A reception will follow. Please keep Bonnie and her family in your prayers.

Mrs. Jim Parker
8510 Hanford Drive
Henrico, VA 23229-4720

We are looking forward to our February 3 program on Terrariums presented by Janet Minock. This is a wonderful program that can be shared with children and grandchildren indoors in chilly February weather. See you at 10 in the morning for some refreshments at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church.

Millie Proffitt, our First Vice President in charge of membership and I have been trying to visit different Garden Clubs to hear from members why our Richmond Council programs are not well attended these days. We have heard that some members are not getting notified by their clubs and others are asking for fewer meetings...perhaps 4 or 6 meetings a year. We are asking club presidents to poll their members and let us know if they would like a change. Let me or Millie know your thoughts and if we want to make a change, we will have to have a vote on a bylaw change.

Presidents, please send this newsletter to your members. We are looking forward to seeing you all on the 3rd!

Judy Erdman
President



February 3 Meeting



Ginter Park Presbyterian Church
3601 Seminary Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

Registration and Coffee 10:00 a.m.

Business Meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

Terrariums
Janet Minock
Thomas Jefferson Garden Club
and Richmond Designers Guild

Refreshments provided by
Clay Springs Garden Club

Open to All Members of
Our member Garden Clubs

Program for February 2023 meeting ~ Terrariums ~ Janet Minock

SAVE THE DATE

THE RCGC ANNUAL MEETING AND FASHION with FLOWERS XXIV will be held on Friday, May 5 2023 at First Baptist Church, 2700 Monument Ave., Richmond, Virginia. The event will showcase floral designs as well as spring fashions. Look for details and the registration form in the March RCGC newsletter!

Thank you for your support of this event! ~ Pat Merson, Fashion with Flowers XXIV Chairman

Tab Tops

Thanks to their spirit of giving, the Tab Top elves of the clubs of Ginter Park, Greenfield, Hanover Towne, Hilliard Park, Midlothian, Old Ivy, Oxford, Sleepy Hollow, Thomas Jefferson, and Woodland Park brought in 14.96 lbs. in December. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to keep this wonderful support up in 2023.

Happy New Year!!! ~ Barbara Covington and Tricia Kreynus

Ginter Park Garden Club enjoyed a pajama party wreath making in December that included boxed lunches from Sally Bell's, Christmas music and a classic movie, Holiday Inn. A wonderful time of fellowship! We also made 2 wreaths to donate to the Ginter Park residents association for the historic neighborhood signs located on Chamberlayne Avenue.



SAVE THE DATE: Ginter Park Garden Club's annual Spring Market will be held on Saturday April 15, 2023 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Free and Outdoors with 40-50 juried vendors and food truck/s. Rain date will be Saturday April 22, 2023 same times. Hope to see you all there!

Piedmont District Spring Meeting

Piedmont District spring meeting will be held Monday, March 20, 2023 at the Doubletree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd, Richmond, VA 23235. The registration deadline is March 10. **The registration form is attached to this newsletter.** ~ Johanna Gilbert

Hanover Towne GC is having Peggy Singlemann as speaker of their Feb 11 meeting and would like to invite any RCGC members who are interested. ~ Donna Hohman



How to Grow a Pollinator's Garden

Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 AM

Where: Covenant Woods, 7090 Covenant Woods Dr., Mechanicsville, VA 23111 in the Multi-Purpose Room (in Manor building)

Speaker: Peggy Singlemann, Director of Horticulture Emeritus for Maymont. Recently retired as Director of Horticulture and Park Operations after 38 years with Maymont. Also, the host/co-producer of VPM/PBS *Virginia Home Grown*.

Please RSVP by Friday Feb 3 to Donna Hohman m.hohmans4@verizon.net or 804-746-1907

Parking: Visitor spots only along Laurel Bay Dr., and in circle in front of Manor building.
Sponsored by Hanover Towne Garden Club

Attendees are requested to bring non-perishable food in lieu of admission to benefit the Food Pantry of the Mechanicsville Area Churches Emergency Fund (MCEF)

Open Call for Daffodil Exhibitors!



Virginia Daffodil Society invites You to exhibit at the 2023 ADS Mid-Atlantic Regional Daffodil Show

March 25-26, 2023

**Open to the Public
Free to Exhibit & Free to Attend**

Open to ALL Daffodil Growers. VDS Membership not required.

Bring your Daffodils – complimentary exhibition materials and assistance with entries will be provided.

Entry Submission Times: March 24, Noon-6pm & March 25, 7am-10am.

Show Hours: March 25, 2pm-5pm & March 26, 10am-3:45pm.

**Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228**

Questions: Email vdsdaffshow@gmail.com
Follow our Facebook Page: [Virginia Daffodil Society](#)

RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS
MINUTES OF
December 2, 2022

The RCGC December meeting was held at Ginter Park Presbyterian church. President Erdman called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. Jean Fender led the Pledge of Allegiance and read a poem entitled "Memories" written by a past member of RCGC.

Julie Proctor thanked Powhatan Garden Club for their lovely 90th birthday refreshments and announced that Clay Springs Garden club will provide refreshments at the February meeting.

Johanna Gilbert reported 74 people in attendance from 24 clubs and with one guest.

President Erdman reminded members that the minutes are printed in the newsletter. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved.

Jean Fender gave the Treasurer's report which was approved. Canterbury Garden Club received funds to create floral arrangements for Feed More.

Sleepy Hollow GC completed landscaping a Habitat for Humanity House on November 19. There will be two more Habitat houses ready for landscaping in the spring.

President Erdman recognized past presidents Judy Durant and Barbara Hollister. Mary Francis Gravitt, new member of the Awards and Grants committee, was introduced.

Kay Rafner, Life Membership chair reminded clubs that giving a Life Membership honors the person receiving it and supports Nature Camp too.

Conservation chair, Evelyn Klumb, reminded members to use bags for Christmas gifts and reuse them to conserve.

Nature Camp applications begin January 1st.

Pat Merson reminded members that Fashion with Flowers will be held at First Baptist Church in Richmond on May 5, 2023.

Barbara Covington thanked members for collecting tab tops for Ronald McDonald House and asked clubs to continue this project.

Mary Jo Whipple read a history of RCGC (1932-present) compiled by Jean Fender. Jean will make this available online.

Barbara Hollister shared that Tim Tebow's "Night to Remember" would be held this year but silk corsages and boutonnieres would be used. In the past RCGC members have helped make these with real flowers.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Erica Gilliam introduced Sally Harrison, floral designer from River Road GC and President of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. Sally will be sharing "Holiday Decorations".

RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
HISTORY 1932 – 2022
90TH ANNIVERSARY

It was 1932. Our Country was still staggering under the blows of the depression years. Looking ahead to brighter days were ladies in Garden Clubs. Conservation and beautification were the goals of these Richmond ladies who met at the Richmond Woman's Club for an organizational meeting to unite the Richmond Garden Clubs into a Council. A total of eleven clubs were enrolled.

Noteworthy council projects during this time were plantings at McGuire Veterans' Administration Hospital, re-landscaping the grounds at Pine Camp, and the plantings of scores of dogwood trees at Dogwood Dell in Byrd Park. There were 32 clubs in the Council on December 7, 1941.

In 1942, members were planting victory gardens on vacant city lots to raise vegetables for the hungry. Memorials to the United State veterans of World War II were being placed on the Blue Star Highway from Maine to Florida.

There were 68 garden clubs in the Council by May 1953. The J. Malcolm Pace award was established in memory of the former director of Recreation and Parks in April 1955.

In January 1956 membership had increased to 86 clubs. In April 1957, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Council, an herb garden was planted at Maymont Nature Center. Featuring a sundial in its center, the garden was presented to the City of Richmond in appreciation of the cooperation given the Council by City officials.

There were 103 Council clubs by December 1959. In the spring of 1961, The Council realized the need for a Garden Center for meetings, classrooms, flower shows, library, and other activities. The clubs agreed to start raising money to purchase a building to serve as the permanent home of the Council. Soon, club members were enthusiastically involved in ways to help finance the purchase of a Center. Bazaars, benefit card parties, plant sales, House and Garden tours, Holiday Shows, Fashion Shows, and life memberships became the "order of the day."

By 1968 the Garden Center fund had reached \$61,974. In 1969, the banner year of the 1960's, a nine-year old dream came true for the 100 member clubs of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs. The purchase of the property for the Garden Center located at 4015 Hermitage Road known as "Holly Lawn" was made for \$45,000.

In February 1970 members began scraping and steaming wallpaper, scrubbing floors and woodwork, washing windows, making repairs. After this came a parade of carpenters, roofer's, plasterers, painters, electricians, plumbers, decorators, and paperhangers. By September, the Center was ready to receive the Council library of over 1,000 volumes, the nucleus of which had been donated by Miller & Rhoads. The first floor of the Center was completely renovated, to provide a gracious setting for Council luncheons, club meetings, bridge parties, small flower shows, and other activities. Future plans would include an adjoining 250 seat auditorium which was completed in 1973.

The seventies were filled with developments and activities and many projects for Richmond Council. School gardening and junior clubs kept our youth involved in useful and meaningful activities. "Keep Virginia Beautiful" was our goal and a "Bi-Centennial Cleanup" to dispose of used and rusting automobiles and large discarded home appliances was in effect. At the Garden Center the development of a bicentennial garden took place and brought much pleasure and enhancement to the Center.

Master gardening programs blossomed, and gentlemen joined the ladies in sharing labor, plantings, and skilled judging of plants. "Operation Wild Flower" brought more beauty to new areas. Thirty-three dogwood trees were planted on Monument Avenue.

Now income for the Council depended upon bazaars, rummage sales, meals at the Center served by the Food Service Committee, flower shows, house tours, and the rental of the Center's auditorium for social events. The membership slowly decreased to 70 clubs with dedicated people to accomplish the countless tasks for these projects.

At Richmond Council's 50th anniversary in 1982, the burning of the mortgage on the Center was a joyous event. In 1983 "Holly Lawn" was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Landscape design schools and artistic design workshops were held often. Interest in and support of school gardening programs continued. Bus trips, sponsored by Council to the Washington Flower and Garden Show were preludes to future trips by plane to Europe.

With the role of women changing as more became full-time career oriented, our clubs sought new vision for emphasis, projects, and schedule flexibility for the old and the young.

In March 1992 it was with regret that the membership voted to sell the Garden Center. With increasing repairs and much maintenance inside and out, selling became a reality. The Garden Center was sold in June 1993 to an individual for \$225,000 and the funds were invested to provide income to the Council. After 26 years of meetings, flower shows, luncheons, bazaars, and all business related to Council, it was hard to say goodbye to such a "Victorian Lady." Furnishings donated by clubs were returned and other items were sold. The books from the library were donated to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. We then moved on to rent a new home for our meetings in the Ginter Park Woman's Club building at 3016 Seminary Avenue. Lunches were no longer served by the clubs. It was decided to have a "Hospitality Time" before our meeting each month. Clubs were called to serve refreshments from 10:00 to 10:30.

While at the Woman's Club, we held many events including Fashions with Flowers starting in 1997 which continues to this day. There have been flower shows held, house tours, and other fund-raising events by individual clubs as well as the Council. Our investment income paid off and in 1997 we added the Metropolitan Landscape Grant to our budget to give \$500 to 4 different areas where a club or clubs would propose a worthy landscape project. In 2007 we celebrated Council's 75th Anniversary at our Annual Meeting. In 2008 we added the Meals on Wheels project to our budget which has now become the Horticulture Therapy project. Along the way we started collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. We have also landscaped 23 Habitat for Humanity houses since 2011.

Council continued meeting at the Woman's Club through April 2019 when the building was sold. We then met at the Church of the Epiphany from September 2019 through March 2020 when our meetings stopped because of the Covid pandemic. We held a few Zoom meetings over the next 18 months including our annual meeting in June 2021, and we made videos on several topics for our members to enjoy from their computers at home. We were not able to meet at the Church of the Epiphany again, and in October and November 2021 we met in a library until we were able to start meeting in December 2021 at our current location at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church.

Our membership has dropped during all this time to 34 active clubs but we are still going strong, and clubs are once again increasing their membership and expanding their projects. Attendance at our Council meetings is increasing.

We are truly blessed today to be celebrating 90 years of this wonderful organization known as Richmond Council of Garden Clubs.

(The above is taken from previous history write-ups with additional information added for the 90th Anniversary celebration on December 2, 2022. Jean Fender)

Pictures from the 90th Anniversary Meeting and Program



RCGC President Judy Erdman



RCGC Silver for Sale - (All Sold)



Historical articles, documents, scrapbooks, yearbooks, newsletters, applications for awards



Some of the delicious refreshments provided by Powhatan Garden Club



Seventy-five in attendance

Sally Harrison presenting her Holiday Design Program





Piedmont District Meeting Registration Shopping, Luncheon, and Design Program Monday March 20, 2023

Doubletree by Hilton 1021 Koger Center Blvd Richmond, VA 23235

Registration Deadline: March 10

Registration Process Steps – please review before registering

- 1) **Via email:** Club Contact sends registration info to the Registrar via email. Include: club name, club contact, number of seats requested (*no registrations by telephone*)
- 2) **Via mail:** Club contact submits the completed registration form and one check covering all registrations. Make check payable to VFGC/ Piedmont District
- 3) **Registrar will confirm** registration(s) via email once the form and check are received
- 4) **Table assignments** will be made in the order in which checks are received
- 5) **Refunds cannot be made.** Club contact is responsible for managing substitutes

Club Contact Information

Club Name _____

Contact Name _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Registrant Information

Name (print neatly please)	√ Voting Status if applicable *	Circle Choice: Chick, Salmon, Vega/GF
	CP <input type="checkbox"/> VD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> DC <input type="checkbox"/> FDP <input type="checkbox"/>	Chick Sal Veg
	CP <input type="checkbox"/> VD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> DC <input type="checkbox"/> FDP <input type="checkbox"/>	Chick Sal Veg
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*Voting Status Codes: CP= Club President VD= Voting Delegate (up to two delegates per club)
DO= District Officer DC = District Committee Chair FDP = Former District President

Total # of Registrations @ \$40: _____ **Total Check Amount:** _____ (one check)

Mail form and check payable to VFGC/Piedmont District to Registrar Johanna Gilbert:
8423 Shannon Green Court Henrico, VA 23228-1876 email: omagilbert@aol.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events!

February 3, 2023 – RCGC meeting, Terrariums, presented by Janet Minock of Thomas Jefferson Garden Club and Richmond Designers Guild will demonstrate how to make a terrarium which with little care will last for years.

March 3, 2023 – “It’s All about Color” Designs by Betty Ann Galway. Betty comes to us from northern Virginia to create some of her amazing flower arrangements. She is a floral design artist, instructor and speaker -VA.

AIFD Certified Floral Evaluator/Judge, NGC Master Judge, and Member Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

April 7, 2023 – Capital Trees – Trail – Capital Trees is a non-profit urban greening organization. Speaker to be determined.

May 5, 2023 – Fashion with Flowers XXIV and Annual meeting, First Baptist Church, Monument Ave., Richmond

Learn about the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ their history, goals, calendar, newsletters and more. Visit the website - <http://rvagardenclubs.com/>



RCGC Newsletter
Jeanne Stigall
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: