



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

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

November 2023

## *President's Corner*

Dear Richmond Council Members,

Happy Fall to everyone! The leaves are slowly turning into beautiful colors. The maple trees are definitely saying fall. It is a lovely time of year.

Our first two Richmond Council meetings were fabulous and I know that Cross Creek Nursery will give us great ideas to plan how to design our outdoor winter planters. And, they will have plants for sale. Cash or check only. There will be a gift certificate from Cross Creek as a door prize. Look forward to seeing everyone!

Many thanks to West Hanover Garden Club for their wonderful fall pumpkin designs for sale at our October meeting. Chester Garden Club and Hanover Towne Garden Club will have sale tables at our November meeting. Cash or checks, please.

Judy Durant asks those of us who enjoy Oui Yogurt to please save the jars for her. She uses them at the Richmond Council's booth at the State Fair to encourage folks to do some flower designs.

Fashion and Flowers is scheduled for April 5 at First Baptist Church. Pat Merson is hard at work on the program. Just put the date on your 2024 calendar!

This is a short newsletter, but please read all the attached reports and share with other members. November and December will be busy months and I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

I know everyone is busy preparing their gardens for winter, but please take some time to come to our meeting on November 3 at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. We will have some coffee and refreshments starting at 10 am. You are all most welcome.

Sincerely yours,  
Judy Erdman  
President of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs



## November 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.**

**Creating Outdoor Containers  
with Winter Interest  
Cross Creek Nursery**

**Refreshments provided by  
Stonehenge Garden Club**

**Open to All Members of  
Our member Garden Clubs**

## Program for November 3, 2023 meeting

### Creating Outdoor Containers with Winter Interest - Cross Creek Nursery

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#### OCTOBER CONTAINER EXTRAVAGANZA

Thanks so much to everyone who donated containers and design elements for our Container Extravaganza Fundraiser in October. David Pippin chose 7 of the containers and some design elements for his wonderful design program, and the rest of the containers were sold except for a few that were given to Midlothian GC for their sale later that week. We raised a total of \$247!! We had such a great turnout for the October meeting (100+) that our Properties Chairman has ordered an additional coffee urn that will hold 50 cups. We already have two 25-cup urns that can be used for decaf or water, etc. The coffee urns stay in our storage drawer at the church so they are readily available for hosting garden clubs to use.



## Habitat for Humanity

There is a new 5-home Habitat for Humanity neighborhood in Ashland known as STAR in which the infrastructure is now underway and plans are to start building in the next 2 months. This is a great opportunity for several garden clubs to take on a Habitat landscaping project for the spring or sometime next year. It's a great feeling to be able to see a family move into the house of their dreams and have the front yard landscaped. Habitat recruits volunteers to help with the digging! And our own RCGC Habitat Fund reimburses up to \$300 for the cost of the project! It's a WIN-WIN situation! We need 5 garden clubs to be willing to draw up a landscape plan for a house and see that it is accomplished. It's not too early to be thinking about this as a project! I'll be glad to answer any questions you might have. Email or call Jean Fender at 804-730-2256 or [jean.fender@comcast.net](mailto:jean.fender@comcast.net)

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## Life Membership

Please consider giving a member of your club a Lifetime Membership. For a donation of \$50, the recipient will receive a pin and a membership card. The donation of \$50 goes to Nature Camp. I know the campers as well as the camp administrators would welcome the extra support. For more information, please contact Kay Rafner at [krafner@comcast.net](mailto:krafner@comcast.net) ~ Thank you, Kay Rafner, Committee Chairman

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## School Gardening

Hello Friends,

I would like to share a few notes from the Thank you letters we have received from the Extension Offices for our donations to Youth-School Gardening Program. With the funds provided good things are happening. "...continue our work with local area schools on projects such as early childhood engagement programs on honeybees, Crestwood Elementary School's Nature Fair, Tomahawk Creek Middle School's Pollinator Education Days..." "...we are working with Peter Paul Youth, some private youth participants, at 4 Richmond Public School programs and Jack's Garden at Maymont..." "assisting with 2 summer learning programs with local library called Literature in the Garden and provide plants, pots and supplies for participants..." These are just a few of the examples of how the funds you provide help our youth in local communities. To date, we have received only one donation to the Youth-School Gardening Program. I encourage each club to help with this very worthwhile program. If each club participates with their donations, then the children are the winners. With your help we extend the schools and extension offices, resources to educate, encourage, and promote passion for horticulture. The children are our future. Please feel free to contact me at [luv2plyndrt@gmail.com](mailto:luv2plyndrt@gmail.com) with questions or concerns. Bright Beams, Janice Beatty, School/Youth Gardening Chair

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## Sales Tables

The Chester Garden Club will be selling Baked Goods and homemade jams and jellies with flavors including Spiced Cherry Conserve, Fig Jam, Beauty Berry Jelly, and Blueberry Jam. Our baked goods will include pound cakes, pies, cookies, cakes and dessert bars. All items will be sold on vintage plates that have been donated by Club members. The dish is part of the item for sale. –Melissa Ray

Hanover Towne Garden Club will have dried plant materials for floral design, hand painted yard signs, custom plant markers, handmade oyster shell nativity displays, as well as some fun holiday gift items and goodies for sale at their table in November. – Donna Hohman

Dear Members of Richmond Council of Garden Clubs,

The Board would like to implement a new fundraiser- "Our Jewelry Boutique"

This will cost us nothing, and will create pure profit which will help to defray the shortfall in our budget since we will not be permitted to have the silent auction this spring at Fashions and Flowers. It will be a fun event for our members and guests!

We are asking that each club collect gently used or new costume jewelry from our friends, our family members, our neighbors, and of course ourselves. Please have one or two members of your club be the contact for your club.

Pierced earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings sell the best. We do not need clip earring or watches. Pendants and pins sell if they are really nice. The jewelry should be free of damage and with minimum wear, separated into clear plastic bags and sorted according to type.

Please start bringing donations to our November meeting. They may be given to Jane V. or Erica G. (Program Co-chairs). The sale of this jewelry will occur at our February meeting... but the sooner we receive the donations it will give

us time to assess the amount of space needed for the display to sell these lovely items! You may bring donations to the February meeting that were collected during the December holidays and January.  
Thank you for helping to make "Our Jewelry Boutique" a success!

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## Horticulture Therapy

Please remember to submit your requests for reimbursement to committee chairman, Cheryl Williams, 9418 Kenna Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-3964. If you have questions, please contact Cheryl, [cherylandtim@verizon.net](mailto:cherylandtim@verizon.net), or 804-385-3086. The revised form is on the RCGC webpage: <https://rvagardenclubs.com/ServiceProjects.html>.

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**SAVE THE DATE ~~ FRIDAY - APRIL 5, 2024**

**Fashion with Flowers XXV  
Silver Anniversary Celebration**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
2709 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA  
10 AM

Program presented by floral designer, Kathy Ward. Mark your 2024 CALENDAR for FASHION WITH FLOWERS XXV. LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. ~ Pat Merson, Chairman

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*Ginter Park Garden Club  
Presents  
Holiday Designs starring  
David Pippin*

*Thursday, November 9, 2023  
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church  
3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond  
9:30 am - Hors d'oeuvres  
10:30am - Program  
\$15.00 - by Reservation Only  
Limited Seating*

*Daffodil Bulbs will be available for Purchase  
Contact:  
Millie Proffitt 804-840-8539  
Lee Lythgoe 804-690-3041*

## **RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS**

Minutes of October 6, 2023

The October meeting was held at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church and President Judy Erdman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chaplain Joyce Williams gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Karen Patterson, Hospitality committee, thanked Old Ivy GC for the refreshments.

Bonnie Parker reported on attendance: 105 members from 25 clubs, with 5 guests, four who are planning to join RCGC.

The minutes were sent in the online newsletter and there were no corrections. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Jean Fender gave the checking account balance as \$36,015.54 with disbursements of \$1,345.16. The balance as of Oct. 6, 2023 was \$34,670.38.

Jean reported that River Road GC completed a Habitat project this summer and a \$300 check waits for them to claim. Hanover Habitat will be building five homes in the Ashland area. These homes will need landscaping in the spring so there will be opportunities available for clubs that are interested.

Conservation chairman Evelyn Klumb reminded members that leaves make good mulch, fertilizer and weed killer need to be stored or disposed of safely. Don't forget seeds and nuts for birds and even small animals such as raccoons and groundhogs.

Horticulture Therapy spokesperson stated that four clubs indicated they plan to complete an activity in this area. The form that was in the newsletter needs to be submitted.

Life Membership chairman, Kay Rafner, reminded members that a Life Membership is a way to honor members of your club and supports Nature Camp.

Carole Hopkins, Ronald McDonald House Tab Tops collector, reported that a number of clubs left their tab tops at the last meeting but one package didn't have a club name which Carole will be recording. If you bring tab tops, put the garden club's name on the bag.

Sandra Walker, chair of Nature Camp, read a thank you from Nature Camp for the second donation from RCGC.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Erdman reported that Crown Grant GC has gathered a team for the Alzheimer's Walk in honor of Past President Linda Hardwicke. RCGC would like to contribute \$100 for this walk. President Erdman made the motion and Jeanne Stigall seconded. The motion passed

1st VP Millie Profitt presented four new individual members. There was discussion about by laws including individual membership without voting right or ability to hold office. The motion was made and seconded and members present voted to accept the new members.

2nd VP Erica Gilliam reminded members that the November program will be Cross Creek Nursery. They will be "Creating Outdoor Containers with Winter Interest" and will have plants to sell. A gift certificate to Cross Creek Nursery will be given as a door prize.

Erica introduced David Pippin, our guest arranger, who accepted the challenge to create designs using containers, line materials, and other components donated by members. The "Container Extravaganza" concluded at 12:10p.m. The arrangements were the door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Fritter, Recording Secretary

*Calendar of Upcoming Events!*

**November 3, 2023: Creating Outdoor Containers with Winter Interest** Cross Creek Nursery will inspire us to decorate outside our homes using containers with hardy plants that will survive our cold winters. Speaker TBD. **\*\*\*Plants will be for sale\*\*\*** Cash or check (made out to Cross Creek Nursery) only. A gift certificate to Cross Creek Nursery will be given as a door prize!

**December 1, 2023: Holiday Designs with NGC** - Frances Thrash of Virginia Beach, NGC flower show school instructor, will create beautiful holiday designs which conform to the NCG flower show requirements. Her designs will go home with the holders of the lucky door prize tickets.

**February 2, 2024: Plant It and Forget It** by Donna Cottingham, Virginia Master Naturalist. A plant is successful if it not only thrives over time but reproduces. Donna will teach us several approaches to gardening that can save us time, money, and water. She will share some tools that help determine plant selection that go beyond whether a plant needs sun or shade. We will talk about specific plants, specialists and generalists, and weeds

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



*RCGC Newsletter*  
Jeanne Stigall  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: