



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

Organized 1932

Richmond, Virginia

December 2023

President's Corner

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving with friends and family. I know everyone is now starting Christmas preparations. A busy time for all of us! I wish each of you a blessed and healthy Christmas. Our December 1 meeting will start us in the right direction with a beautiful holiday design program by Frances Thrash and some holiday gift ideas from Oxford, Sleepy Hollow and Hilliard Park Garden Clubs.

Council has decided to supply the coffee cups for our Hospitality time. They will be in our storage drawer at the church. They have tops to make it easier for us carry around the room. We also have a new 50 cup coffee pot. It will take about fifty minutes to brew a whole pot. We also have two twenty-five cup pots if you want to make decaf in one and have hot water for tea in the other. A pound of coffee will be more than enough. You will need to have sugar and creamer and some stirrers.

If you plan to contribute some gently used jewelry for the Council jewelry sale in February, please bring to Erica at our December meeting. And don't forget tab tops!

We will be looking for members to serve on a Nominating Committee. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. We will nominate in March, vote in April and do the installation of new officers at our May meeting.

I look forward to sharing some Christmas cheer with everyone at our meeting on December 1 at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. Please come!!

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



December 1 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.**

**Holiday Designs
Frances Thrash
NGC flower show school instructor**

**Refreshments provided by
Chester Garden Club**

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

Program for December 1, 2023 meeting
Holiday Designs, Frances Thrash, NGC flower show school instructor

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 , or 804-385-3086. The revised form is on the RCGC webpage: <https://rvagardenclubs.com/ServiceProjects.html>.

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 ~ Thank you, Kay Rafner, Committee Chairman

School Gardening

Dear Members and Friends,

In the past several years members of RCGC have given generously to the School Gardening program. Your gift is very important as it allows us to support the efforts of the Cooperative Extension in Richmond, and the counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and Powhatan. The Extension is sponsoring programs such as outlined in our National Garden Club that inspire and educate our youth. The thank you letters received from the Extension Offices shared that the funds were being used for class gardening programs; gardening story books for elementary schools; enhancement of horticulture outreach which includes composting, pollinators, butterfly gardening programs for youth; 4-H clubs hands on horticulture projects to youth at no cost to participants. This is just a taste of where the funds so generously donated by RCGC are being utilized.

In October, I shared pictures of local youth at various educational activities we helped to fund. At the November meeting I shared a letter RCGC received from Virginia Tech thanking us for our donation to help with the cost for programs specifically designed for the children/youth in our communities. The monies we provide make a difference for these children.

In the past 6 years the number of clubs that have donated to this worthwhile program have fluctuated from 3 to 10. The dollar amount collected ranges from \$400 -\$1125. For this coming year, I challenge each club to find funds within their budget to contribute to this very worthwhile program.

To date we have only received donations from two Garden Clubs for the Youth/School Gardening Program. If each club participates with their donations, then the children are the winners.

Please feel free to contact me at luv2plyndrt@gmail.com with any questions you may have.

Bright Beams, Janice Beatty, School/Youth Gardening Chair

Sales Tables

Hilliard Park Garden Club will be selling delicious homemade baked goods at the December 1 meeting. Bring cash or check to buy our special cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, sour dough rolls, and other items. Everything can be frozen to enjoy later or take it home and enjoy that day!!

Oxford Garden Club will be selling this year's crop of Golden Kernel large pecan pieces at \$12.00 per lb. bag. Our table will display these delicious nuts just in time for your Christmas baking. Please buy with cash or make your checks to Oxford Garden Club. (No credit cards.)

Sleepy Hollow Garden Club will sell Virginia Peanuts, some containers, books, and dried materials.

Ginter Park Garden Club would like to give a big thank you to all the clubs and guests that enjoyed our program with David Pippin on November 9th. We had a wonderful time meeting new friends, and received many nice compliments. ~ Millie Proffitt



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 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.

Donations may be given to Jane V. or Erica G. (Program Co-chairs) at the December meeting. The sale of this jewelry will occur at our February meeting... but the sooner we receive the donations the more time it will give us to assess the amount of space needed for the display to sell these lovely items! You may bring donations that were collected during the December holidays and January to the February meeting.

Thank you for helping to make "Our Jewelry Boutique" a success!



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. Dillard's at Stoney Point will provide the fashions. Models will be from RCGC garden clubs. Registration form will be in the RCGC February newsletter. ~ Pat Merson, Chairman



RICHMOND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Minutes of November 3, 2023

President Judy Erdman, called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. In absence of the chaplain, Judy led the Lord's Prayer and Pledge to the flag.

Bonnie Parker gave the report on attendance: 87 members, 26 clubs and 1 guest. A quorum was declared so the meeting could proceed.

Minutes were published- no questions so the minutes were filed.

Jean Fender gave a treasurer's report of \$34,608.36 on hand as of October 30, 2023. Jean said \$247 was raised on the sale of containers last month.

Jean Fender gave a habitat for humanity report. She said 5 new homes in Ashland on Taylor and Arlington streets will be built and the kick off will be November 11, 2023.

Jean Fender also reported the wreath shop in Mechanicsville will give 10% off on Veterans Day.

Awards-A grant of \$500 from RC land grant is available to apply for to help with the benches at the new Feed More Courtyard.

Janice Beatty School Gardening chairperson, said \$392 was given to surrounding counties and cities for school gardening. She read a letter from VT thanking the council.

Horticulture Therapy- Arrangements for designs being delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients, nursing homes or similar recipients to benefit the elderly or disabled will be paid \$2. Forms are available on RCGC website:
<https://rvagardenclubs.com/ServiceProjects.html>

Erica Gilliam reported on gently used costume jewelry to be sold to make money for RC. If club members will bring the jewelry, the committee will bag and label the jewelry for sale.

Next month the speaker will be Frances Thrash. Frances will do a program on Christmas designs. Meeting was adjourned.

Pam Steele of Cross Creek was introduced and gave a very informative program on grouping of flowers in containers.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Wiblin for Karen Fritter, Recording Secretary

Calendar of Upcoming Events!

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
2333 Woodmont Drive
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-3339

FIRST CLASS MAIL