

GRAPEVINE

WINTER
2025 - 2026
9th District

Director
Sandy Walters

Editor
Shannon Daugherty

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FGCNYS 9th District Director's Report December 2025

I have to begin with - Thank you! To every club and club member!

On December 8th, 100 feet of the Muscoot Wall was blanketed with your generosity. Even more astonishing, your Montrose donation is a very small part of what you do for your communities. Based on responses and conversations from you, I estimate that our clubs made upwards of 600 wreaths. It is amazing how much you have done to brighten this season with your Wreaths, Cookies, Senior and Community Projects! Many sent photos, they are in this Google album for you. Pretty sure it has everything that was sent to me. You can, and are encouraged, to add photos to it: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/38sYyVeLXTinDKWLA>

Now, on to business. This quarter, we have been busy both in front of and behind the scenes. The District signed a Directors & Officers insurance policy. Coverage began on November 1, 2025. It covers the elected officers, the full Board, which includes all of our Chairs and Section Heads. D&O Coverage for your club continues to be the responsibility of each club. In January, we are planning a Zoom Call for the clubs with our insurance agent to discuss what is covered in a D&O policy.

This year, we hosted two Garden Visits and are planning for more in 2026. The Carriage House at Lyndhurst was graciously made available to us for the President's Luncheon. We are exploring educational options with Lasdon and are on the hunt for interesting topics for our General Meetings.

We have new additions to the District Team - Thank You to:

Section 4 Chair: Andrea Boyer (Larchmont)

Programs: We combined Programs and Special Events and expanded the Committee:

Mary Bailly (Pound Ridge) and Rachelle Filipek (Dobbs Ferry) have joined Yolanda Gorman (Larchmont) Environment, Wildlife, Hort & Native Plants: Corinna Kerber (Luther Burbank)

Garden Therapy: Rachelle Filipek (Dobbs Ferry)

Historian: Toni D'Angelo (Peekskill)

Scholarships: Leah Rabadi (Luther Burbank)

World Gardening: Trina Hiemcke (Brewster-Carmel)

Chairs Still Open: Flower Show and Flower Show Scheduler, Historic Preservation and Garden Tours, Parliamentarian and Youth

Thank you for making a commitment to your clubs and to the District. I am constantly humbled by the expertise of our members. Please don't be shy, we encourage you to be part of the District Community. We hope to see lots more of you at the next General Meeting on January 26th. We welcome the addition of your talents and ideas. We help each other to become a more vibrant & stronger group.

Sending best wishes for a Healthy & Peaceful Holiday Season,
Sandy Walters
Director, 9th District
FGCNYS



WINTER 2025-2026 CALENDAR

January 18, 2026 11 am	Luther Burbank GC "Kokedama Magic!" Craft beautiful moss-covered flower arrangements \$20 per person RSVP: LBGC1923@AOL.COM	Lasdon 2610 NY-35 Katonah, NY
January 25 11 am	Lasdon Public Gardens "Hands on Houseplant Help"	Lasdon Welcome Center
January 26 10 am	9th District General Meeting Hosted by Section 1	Lasdon
February 2 10 am	Judges Council	Lasdon
February 15 1 pm	Luther Burbank GC "Valentine Party: Marbling Flower Pots" \$20 per person RSVP: LBGC1923@AOL.COM	Grinton I. Will Library 1500 Central Park Ave Yonkers, NY
March 11	Briarcliff Manor GC "The Art of a Mass Design" Floral Designer Roxane Wasserman RSVP: Susan sueshark2000@gmail.com	Briarcliff Manor Youth Center
March 16 10 am	9th District Board Meeting	Lasdon
March 21 1 pm	Luther Burbank GC "Underwater Flower Arrangements" \$25 per person RSVP: LBGC1923@AOL.COM	Grinton I. Will Library 1500 Central Park Ave Yonkers, NY
March 25	Boulder Ledge GC Speaker: Leslie Needham, Landscape Designer Free	Bronxville Library 201 Pondfield Rd Bronxville, NY

www.district9fgcnys.com - for 9th District news, events and updates

www.fgcnys.com – for what's happening around NYS

www.gardenclub.org – for national events and The National Gardener magazine

CLUB ACTIVITIES: December, January, February

Section 1: Trina Hiemcke, Chair

Brewster Carmel GC The club was very involved in community activities in December. We decorated the historic Walter Brewster House, decorated a tree at the ambulatory outpatient unit at the Putnam Hospital Center, prepared wreaths for the veteran hospitals and Blue Star Memorials. We will soon be organizing a committee to plan for a flower show this year. Our Garden Therapy committee is planning workshops for patients in the mental health clinic at the Putnam Hospital Center. In February we have scheduled a presentation by the Cornell Cooperative Extension on Native Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects. March's meeting will be our business meeting.

Lake Mahopac GC The Lake Mahopac Garden Club held our holiday party at Dante's Restaurant in Mahopac. A fun time with a grab bag was enjoyed by all. The club made wreaths for the veterans and also decorated the Blue Star Memorial in town. Our January meeting was our annual potluck luncheon. New officers were installed. No meeting was held in February.

GC of Peekskill We participated in the Second Annual Peekskill Garlic Festival which is a walking tour of the gardens of Peekskill's Woodside School, Middle School, and Regeneration Farm. At the Club's Petals Garden, members helped children plant daffodil bulbs. A dozen members got together on December 5 for our Holiday Civic Workday to decorate Christmas wreaths for local community buildings in Cortlandt Manor, Montrose, Peekskill and Verplanck. At our Holiday Tea on December 9, donations for World Gardening's "Dig Deep" initiative were collected and ended our afternoon singing Christmas Carols. There is no general meeting in January, but we will get together for our annual Herb Potluck Luncheon and Yankee Gift Swap.

GC of Yorktown This is the 100th Year Anniversary of the Garden Club of Yorktown! Our theme is 100 Years in Bloom! We've created a poster contest for children and youth by working closely with our school systems in town. Additionally, there will be various monthly celebrations and events commemorating the year.

Section 2A: Marj Trainor, Chair

Briarcliff Manor GC *November:* Holiday Wreath Workshop. Christmas wreaths were created and distributed to local municipal buildings, the police headquarters, the post office, the Department of Recreation, the Department of Public Works, Briarcliff Manor Public Library, the Blue Star Marker and Montrose Veterans Hospital. *December:* A Holiday Celebration with botanical craft projects and holiday activities to celebrate the holidays. Members also decorated the front foyer Christmas Tree at Phelps Northwell Hospital. *January:* A zoom meeting arranged by John Panagacos who will present a video screening. *February:* A Valentine's Day Celebration & Workshop - participants will have the opportunity to create their own valentine-themed centerpieces under the guidance of experienced club designers. The workshop will provide all necessary materials, including a variety of fresh flowers, decorative elements and floral vessels.

Chappaqua GC We had a very busy December. The town of Newcastle presented a Proclamation honoring CGC's Judy Leheny and the volunteers of the pocket park and their tireless efforts for outstanding service and commitment. Our juniors program continues their monthly meeting under the direction of Karen Bazik. They have been making art inspired floral arrangements and leaf crowns. A flurry of holiday activities with all members participating from making table arrangements to wreath making for merchants and members. We were also able to squeeze in a virtual speaker, Amy Powers in December on how to make your garden look put together and finally a fabulous potluck Holiday luncheon. In January, Adam Chopper, director of Hilltop Hanover farm, will speak. In March, Karen Bussolini, the Senior Horticultural advisor at White Farm, will speak. Karen is a widely published garden photographer, speaker, and writer.



Section 2B: Mary Baily, Chair

Hopp Ground GC Hopp Ground is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! The club's Golden Anniversary was highlighted in two local newspapers: The Recorder and The Katonah-Lewisboro Times. We held our annual Thanksgiving Design Workshop on November 21, an event featured in The Recorder and The Katonah-Lewisboro Times. Club members and their guests put their creativity to work designing festive floral centerpieces for their own holiday tables, while also creating an additional 22 arrangements for Meals on Wheels clients which were distributed during Thanksgiving week. On December 6, members gathered at Bedford Audubon to create Christmas wreaths in support of the 9th District Federated Gardens Clubs' project benefiting the Veterans Home in Montrose. The wreaths were generously donated by ShopRite in Mt. Kisco. Photos attached below. On December 9, Hopp Ground met for its Holiday Craft Workshop and Luncheon. Members worked on one of the following crafts: Moss Wreaths, Pomanders, Christmas Trees or Christmas Ornaments. So creative and fun!

Pound Ridge GC *December:* In December our club conducted a pinecone wreath workshop in which each member constructed their own wreath. The workshop was led by member Connie Marchetti who provided all the materials to the members. It was a big success! The workshop was followed by our general meeting, awards ceremony, and holiday luncheon. *January and February:* Our club does not meet in person. During these months our club focuses on planning our calendar for our 2026 programs which start in March.

Section 3: Yvonne Avant, Chair

Ardsley GC The Ardsley Garden Club activities in December included decorating more than 20 wreaths for the Village of Ardsley's churches, village hall, highway department, monuments, firehouse and ambulance departments. It is always a fun event for us. We also had a lovely club luncheon at a nearby restaurant. In January we will be discussing plans for a plant sale in May. In March we will be making terrariums with a demo by Linda Keil.

GC of Dobbs Ferry The GCDF continues to be very busy with the fall season behind us. December activities wind down as the holiday cookies are baked for nearly 80 Meals on Wheels recipients and the wreaths decorated and delivered for the veterans and our community. Members volunteered to greet guests last week bringing warmth as they offered hot chocolate at the beautifully decorated Untermyer Gardens Grand Holiday Illumination in Yonkers. We meet again in January for our annual luncheon. Work begins again in February with our guest speaker Carolyn Summers, Native Plant Design Program Co-Developer of the Native Plant Center Curriculum. Carolyn is the author of Designing Gardens with the Flora of the American East. Also in February, our Dobbs Ferry seniors can enjoy the Valentine's Day Garden Therapy, making arrangements to take home. Planning will start to ramp up for our exciting new program called Get Growing, which was a very well received project for the community last year. More to follow in March!

Little Gardens of Tarrytown Little Gardens of Tarrytown have been busy. We had a wonderful talk by a science teacher from Hackley School, Tarrytown about their new native flower garden, nature trails, beehives, and fruit tree orchards. In November, we made holiday bows and decorated wreaths as have all the other garden clubs. The wreaths were then delivered to the community. We are going to pickle vegetables with a professional pickler at our next meeting in the new year.

Parkway Gardens/Homes GC PG/PH GC ended the 2025 club year with a donation to the Greenburgh Arts and Culture Program and the preparation of wreaths for the site of our Blue Star Memorial marker as well as the 9th District Montrose Wreath collection. The Town of Greenburgh Arts & Culture committee lists our Garden Club and our annual flower show as one of its community programs. In 2026 we are planning an open house membership drive in the first quarter. We will also be planning our 2026 Annual Fall Flower Show as well as other member activities.

Section 4: Gloria Bisaccia, Chair

Boulder Ledge GC We decorated approximately 20 wreaths for veterans which we delivered on Dec 8. Our holiday luncheon was at the Bronxville Field Club. Our guest speaker was Pam Shillingford. We had many invited guests including our mayor, BBC Wave Hill Board Members, working gardeners – just to name a few. It was a spectacular day! In January, we will visit the home of a local chef, Wendy Pregiato, and we will sample a garden inspired menu called “Love in Bloom.” A general social meeting will be held sometime in February. It may be coupled with a fundraising drive. In March, we will begin cleanup of Bicentennial Park – volunteers welcome! Contact Barbara Riccardi, barbarariccardi574@gmail.com.

GC of Larchmont

GC of New Rochelle The Garden Club of New Rochelle had a successful garden clean-up and bulb planting day with 25 volunteers on Saturday, November 15th at the Huguenot Children's Library. We planted 100 Tommy Crocus to the left of the library entrance and 30 alliums in the front by the sign, side garden and containers. We also collected pine and spruce cones for wreath decorating! In 2026, we will hold monthly Leaf & Learn Plant Circles. At our February meeting, we will learn about native seed starting in partnership with Healthy Yards New Rochelle.

Section 5: Kathy Ennis, Chair

GC of City Island In a flurry of activity, the Garden Club of City Island completed its holiday beautification activities just before Thanksgiving, including decorating its 25 containers on City Island Avenue with winter greenery and distributing wreaths to our public spaces. Along with the lights provided by the Chamber of Commerce, our island is looking very festive. The club is now ready for its members holiday luncheon at Arties Restaurant. In the new year, we have plans for two educational presentations. Renee Marsh instructor at the New York Botanical Garden will give a presentation at our January meeting and Steve Walter will give a presentation on moths in February. March will be the beginning of a new fiscal year, and we will start planning for our spring activities.

Luther Burbank GC In December, Luther Burbank GC held a Wreath Making Fundraiser and participated in our 97th Annual Tree Lighting at Rumsey Rd and Park Hill Ave in Yonkers. We also served as volunteers for the Untermyer Garden Conservancy's Grand Illumination. On January 18, EVERYONE join us for "Kokedama Magic!" in Lasdon Public Garden Katonah, NY, and discover the art of crafting beautiful moss-covered plant arrangements. Reserve your spot for \$20pp and share the fun with family and friends. On February 15th, celebrate Galentines Day being creative at the "Valentine Party: Marbling Flower Pots" Grinton Will Library. On March 21st, join us for a captivating workshop on submerged floral arrangements.

Morsemere GC The Morsemere Garden Club celebrated the Holiday season with our Annual Christmas Party for members and spouses. A wonderful luncheon culminated with the traditional Christmas Grab Bag, which includes gift giving and gift stealing with much laughter. Club members also continued the planting, maintenance, and care of the Hudson River Museum Garden. The Garden was put to bed for the winter and will be revived and supplemented in the spring. Again this year, Club members provided and decorated six evergreen wreaths, which were delivered to the Montrose Veterans Home from the 9th District for the Holidays. The club also assembled 250 Holiday Gift Bags to be distributed to Yonkers Meals on Wheels. At our annual Luncheon and Boutique Auction, members donate new and gently used gifts and items to be auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting the Club's treasury. Our Santa auctioneer is relentless in raising funds for the Club and bidding can be cutthroat. The Club does not hold a formal January meeting, but some members will attend the 9th District General Meeting. At the February meeting, club members will create spring tray table favors for the residents of Rosary Hill, the care facility of the terminally ill in Ossining. Planning is ongoing for a potential outing for March. The Club's year-round planting and care of the Blue Star Memorial at the Yonkers Waterfront was affected by the loss of one of our planters. We are grateful to the Yonkers Parks Department for providing two beautiful new planters.



THE 9th IN VIEW

Congratulations to the Garden Club of New Rochelle
on receiving a \$2000 grant for their project:

"Native Plant Pollinator Garden at The New Rochelle Public Library"

In partnership with Healthy Yards New Rochelle and the New Rochelle Public Library, GCNR will install 100 native plants, labels and garden sign at the Children's Garden Pavilion at New Rochelle Public Library.

The project will be complete and celebrated in June with a Pollinator Celebration in the garden during National Pollinator Week.

Book of Tribute



In Memory of

Mary Lou Cassidy (1930-2025) loved her family, traveling the world, gardening and all wildlife and nature. She was a longtime member of the Brewster Carmel Garden Club.

Corrine Ganues joined the Garden Club of New Rochelle in 2001. She helped with all the committees and always liked helping people, whether it was for the garden club or elsewhere. She was Chair of the Ways and Means committee, whose proceeds contributed substantially to the club's income. She was committed to the Red Cross and for many years would fly to disaster areas to help onsite. She will be greatly missed.

Rita Porcelli (1933 - 2025) was an Honorary/Life member of the Garden Club of New Rochelle since 1996. She served the club in many roles, both as a Director and a corresponding secretary. She also devoted much time and energy to serving on committees as a flower show judges' clerk and on the by-laws and nominating committees. She was an outstanding and beloved member of the club.

Boulder Ledge Garden Club



Boulder Ledge GC enjoyed a holiday luncheon at the Bronxville Field Club with speaker Pomp Shillingford.

Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry



GC of Dobbs Ferry enjoyed a holiday party at Lyndhurst.



Members of the GCDF with Lyndhurst Director Howard Zar (far right)

Hopp Ground Garden Club Celebrates 50 years!

www.TheRecorder.org

Town News



Hopp Ground garden club members at a civic beautification project in 1994. / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopp Ground Garden Club celebrates a golden milestone

The Hopp Ground Garden Club of Bedford year celebrates its 50th anniversary, a milestone marking a half century of enriching the town's natural beauty, sharing a deep appreciation of gardening and cultivating friendships and civic pride along the way.

In 1974, a small group of residents formed the club with the mission of inspiring a sense of nature through horticulture, floral design, and conservation. It took its name from "Hopp Ground," a historic spot in Bedford's Green that once covered in wild berry bushes.

Susan Goldsmith, a member since 1978, reflected on enduring

the club's early days. "Our entire membership was created through their monthly meetings in one another's living rooms and each of us had a comfortable seat," she said. "I have such good memories and so happy to continue the club's tradition to this day."

Today, the club has almost 50 members and has become a cornerstone of Bedford's community life. In addition to its six public gardens it has maintained across the town, the colorful entrances at Bedford Village Memorial Park and Bedford Hills Memorial Park, to the vibrant

Continued on page 4



The club is excited about its next fifty years.

New members like Elena Dobrovolska, a local artist and the club's program chair, bring new ideas to ensure it remains strong and relevant for the future.

"I am a community person. I'm

interested in community projects in

making our public gardens and bring more

beauty in our everyday life," she said. "I'm

eager to share my knowledge of landscape

design and horticulture with the wonderful

and welcoming members of Hopp Ground."

Another new member of the club's

vice president, Joanne Zuckerman, joined

because she wanted to make a positive difference in the community.

"As a retired social worker, I truly believe in the greater good," she said. "Working with the garden club is my way of giving back."

All anyone needs to join the club is a

personal interest in gardening and a will-

ingness to help Hopp Ground with its mis-

sion. No green thumb required. For more

information, visit hoppgroundgardenclub.org.

50 Years of Beautifying Bedford

This year, the Hopp Ground Garden Club of Bedford celebrates its 50th anniversary, honoring half a century of cultivating gardens, friendships, and community spirit. Founded in 1975, the club maintains six public gardens across Bedford, hosts workshops and flower shows, and supports local programs from Meals on Wheels to Holiday Wreaths for Veterans. With nearly 50 members today, the club continues a love of horticulture and civic pride, the club looks forward to continuing its legacy of education, artistry, and community impact for the next fifty years.

To learn more, visit hoppgroundgardenclub.org



Hopp Ground members celebrating Earth Day in Bedford. / PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY DILLANE

THE KATONAH-LEWISBORO TIMES - PAGE 3

Spreading Thanksgiving Cheer

Just in time for Thanksgiving, the Hopp Ground Garden Club brightened the holiday for homebound seniors in Bedford, Bedford Hills, and Katonah. As part of its annual Thanksgiving Workshop, members created 22 floral arrangements that were delivered to Meals on Wheels clients, spreading beauty and cheer. This year's workshop also marked the club's 50th anniversary, celebrating a long-standing tradition of community service and fellowship.



Members of the Hopp Ground Garden Club assembling arrangements for Meals on Wheels clients. / PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY DILLANE



www.TheRecorder.org

NATURE & SUSTAINABILITY



Members of the Hopp Ground Garden Club at a recent floral arrangement workshop to spread Thanksgiving cheer. / CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Garden Club spreads cheer for Meals on Wheels clients

Just in time for Thanksgiving, homebound seniors in Bedford, Bedford Hills and Katonah received a colorful surprise from the members of the Hopp Ground Garden Club.

As part of its annual Thanksgiving Workshop, the club created 22 floral arrangements that were delivered directly to local Meals on Wheels clients.

The workshop, held at the Katonah Memorial House, brought together club members and guests for a morning of creativity and fellowship. Participants designed centerpieces for their own holiday tables and made extra floral arrangements for Meals on Wheels clients. These gifts were then delivered by volunteers along with the program's regular nutritious meals — a partnership offered through the town of Bedford and Mount Kisco.

"The flowers were absolutely gorgeous, and the recipients were very grateful. I appreciate Hopp Ground's efforts" said Kimberly O'Brien, assistant superintendent for the Bedford Recre-



A Meals on Wheels client with a floral arrangement. / CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

For more information about the Hopp Ground Garden Club, visit hoppgroundgardenclub.org.

To find out how you can support Meals on Wheels and other senior services in Bedford, visit bedfordny.gov/261/Senior-Programs-and-Services.



Members of the Hopp Ground GC at their Holiday Craft Workshop and Luncheon. Members worked on one of the following crafts: Moss Wreaths, Pomanders, Christmas Trees or Christmas Ornaments.



Lake Mahopac GC

LMGC decorated wreaths for Montrose and for their Blue Star memorial at Mt. Hope.





Lasdon Public Gardens

AND VETERANS MEMORIAL

2610 Amawalk Road, Route 35. Katonah, NY 10536

LasdonPublicGardens.org



Join Us for a Magical Family Celebration This Weekend at Holidays on the Hill Train Show!

Now through Wednesday, Dec. 31

Select Dates and Times

This year's enchanting event features a stunning new design, guiding you through multi-level landscapes decorated with shimmering lights and vibrant blooms. Explore eight interactive buttons on the train tables, each activating fun surprises and bringing the scene to life!

Little ones can visit Santa in his cozy cottage or have a blast with our Elf Scramble puzzle hidden throughout the holiday village — be sure to bring the game card to the Gift Shop for a free prize!

And while you're enjoying the festivities, we'll have beer and wine available on Friday and Saturday — perfect for parents to relax and unwind.

Remember, it's a family event, so come ready to create wonderful memories together!



[BUY TICKETS](#)

Upcoming programs at Lasdon Public Gardens



Candlelight Vigil with Veterans

Sunday, Dec. 21

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FREE

[READ MORE](#)

Winter Open Art Studio

Saturday, Jan. 10

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

\$5

[READ MORE](#)

Hands on Houseplant Help

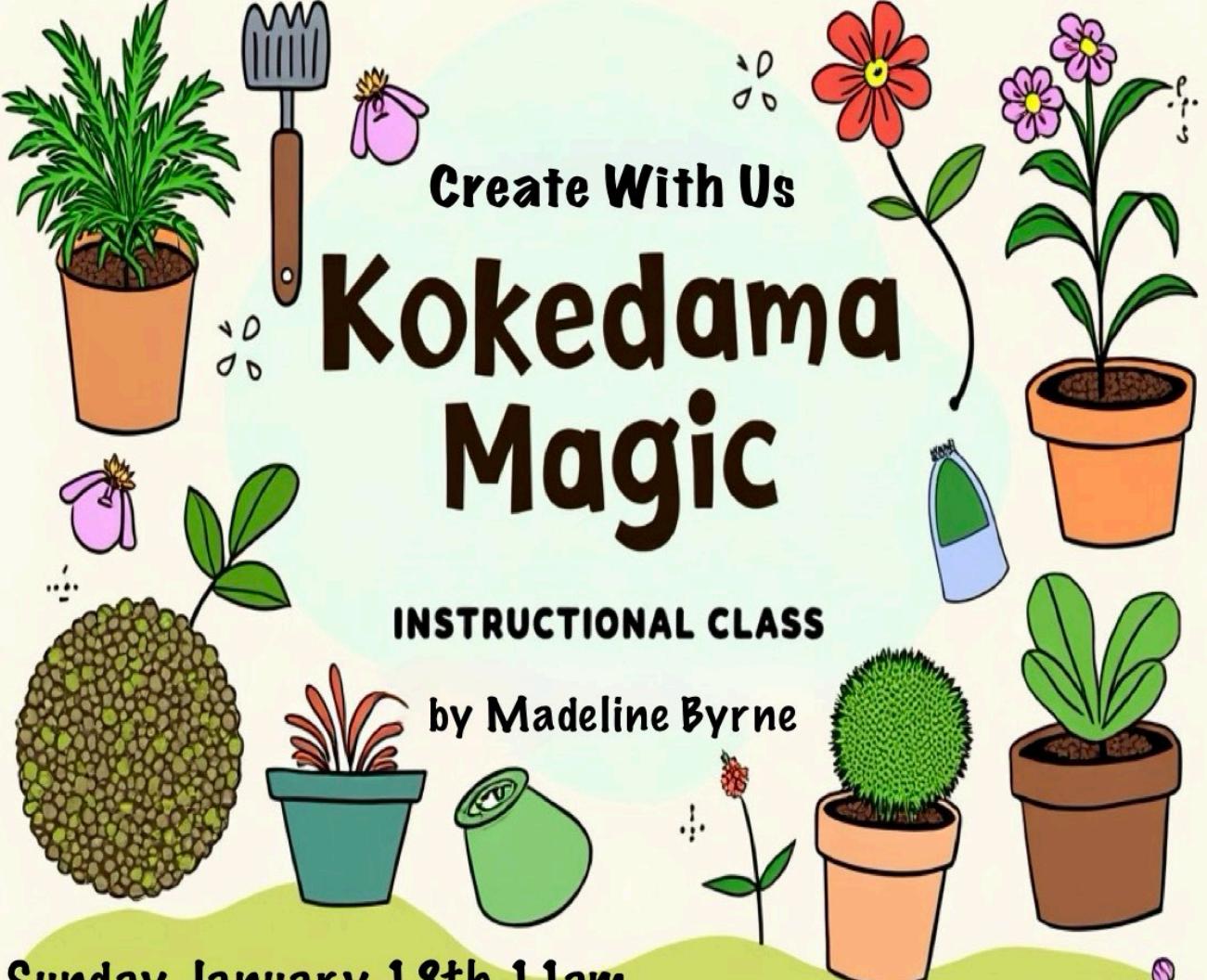
Sunday, Jan. 25

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FREE

[READ MORE](#)





Create With Us

Kokedama Magic

INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS

by Madeline Byrne

Sunday January 18th 11am

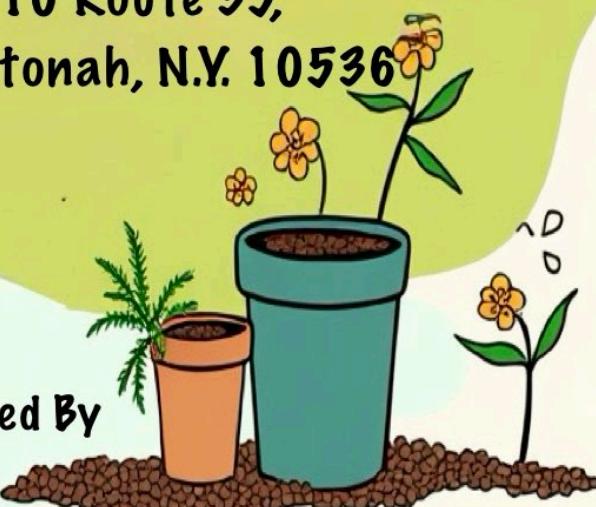
We're excited to invite
family, friends, and fellow
garden club members.

Secure your place today!

Send payment to
LBC1923@aol.com.
Via PayPal, or Zelle

Lasdon Public Garden
2610 Route 35,
Katonah, N.Y. 10536

Hosted By
Luther Burbank Garden Club



Valentine Party

Marbling Flower Pots

HOSTED BY LUTHER BURBANK



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15. 1:00 PM

**ADVANCED RSVP & PAYMENTS REQUIRED
PAYPAL OR ZELLE LBGC1923@aol.com**

Grinton Will Library
1500 Central Park Ave
Yonkers NY 10710

Submerged Floral Arrangements Workshop

**Saturday,
March 21
1:00 PM**

Location:

GRINTON WILL LIBRARY
1500 Central Park Ave

PayPal or Zelle \$25
LBGC1923@aol.com



Join us and Shannon Daugherty for a fun workshop on crafting beautiful underwater floral designs in clear containers! Don't miss out!

Glass Vessels included

Spotlight on ...

HOLIDAY WREATHS

District Clubs decorated more than 600 wreaths for their communities and the Montrose Veteran's Hospital!

Sandy has created a Google Photo Album here:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/38sYyVeLXTinDKWLA>

You can see all the pictures shared by the clubs and add more of your own!

9th District Wreaths for Montrose Veteran's Hospital lined up at Muscoot Farm





