



# GRAPEVINE

SPRING  
2021  
9<sup>th</sup> District

Director  
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*Hello Dear Members,*

*A few weeks ago, my houseplants took notice of the lengthening of daylight and began to alter their activity: they need more water and generally look like they are paying attention, almost even at attention. This is a good time to do some seed starting in a southwest window or the gallon jug seeding that you can put in the snow in a sunny spot in your yard.*

*Many thanks to all who were able to Zoom at our January 25 General meeting and a special thanks goes to Wendy Murphy for her wonderful presentation on the life and physiology of bees. She has many hives in her yard, too, and we all gleaned the information we need to attract and feed bees from her extensive experience.*

*We had a good meeting in which our election of officers was held, and I think I can speak for the entire Executive Committee when I say that we are glad to be on board and are looking forward to the next two years - hopefully, with the virus in the rear view mirror!*

*Karen Scharf of the Chappaqua Garden Club is a new member of the EC as Recording Secretary, and we are very grateful to her accepting that position. Mary Bailly, Assistant Director; John Panagacos, Treasurer; Janette Wilson, Assistant Treasurer - you already know. You might notice that we do not yet have a Corresponding Secretary to replace Jacqui Bergonzi, so we are hoping that someone will offer to do that.*

*My warm wishes to all for a lovely year ahead,*

*Rosemary*

9<sup>th</sup> District minutes are available on the 9<sup>th</sup> District website – so catch up with the 9<sup>th</sup>! Just click "For Members Only", password "lasdon" then click on "9th District Minutes". Or simply click on this link <http://www.district9fgcnys.com/For-Members-Only.html>

 Spring

# IMPORTANT DATES

 Spring

**April 15-16, 2021**

**Environmental School Course 4**

**Zoom**

Water & Related Issues

Register: [jkenjeri@att.net](mailto:jkenjeri@att.net)

**April 19, 2021**

**General Meeting &  
Installation of Officers**

**Zoom**

**April 22, 2021**

**FSS Handbook Exam**

**May 3, 2021**

**Judges Council**

**TBD**

**October 15, 2021**

**Plant America Grant Application Due**

<https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/plant-america-grant-application-2021-2022.pdf>

**National Garden Club Schools has a class for everyone. The classes are fun and informative. Please check out the website for full listings.**

**To all Landscape Design School Consultants: You are required to refresh this year – No Exam required.**

For NGC Schools Overview, visit: <https://www.gardenclub.org/our-schools>

For LDS Classes, visit: <https://www.gardenclub.org/landscape-design-school>

For Newscap, The NGC LDS Newsletter, visit the NGC website and go to the Member Resources link at the bottom of the page. "Newscap" is listed with all the NGC publications. (<https://www.gardenclub.org/member-resources> )

**Continue to check our 9<sup>th</sup> District, State and National websites for current information.**

[www.district9fgcnys.com](http://www.district9fgcnys.com) - for 9<sup>th</sup> District news, events and updates

[www.fgcnys.com](http://www.fgcnys.com) – for what's happening around NYS

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) – for national events and The National Gardener magazine

## ACTIVITIES : March, April, May

### Section 1: Trina Hiemcke, Chair

**Brewster Carmel** The Brewster/Carmel Garden Club met on Zoom in February and will be meeting again in March. We will also host a Zoom meeting to discuss the movie "The Gardener" on March 16th at 2:00. The movie is available on the Brewster Library website under [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com).

We conducted an online perennial plant sale in January. The sale was open to the 9th District as well as our members. We are planning our annual plant sale on the Wednesday before Mother's Day. Once a plant list is created it will be made available to the 9th District also.

Our scholarship committee has begun outreach to Carmel High School and Brewster High Schools seeking scholarship candidates. Our plant therapy committee is discussing plans for cleaning and planting the gardens at Putnam Hospital Center which they maintain on a regular basis.

**Lake Mahopac** March: We are hoping to have a meeting in person, but it depends on how many have been vaccinated for COVID by then. If we do meet we will have our annual luncheon that we were unable to hold in January. April: Luncheon and business meeting; it was followed by a program, "Gardening for the Birds." May: Luncheon and business meeting. The program, Hands on Pressed Flowers," was presented by Lorraine Stern and Lois Chaofnosky.

**Peekskill** We are alive and well but we miss our meetings. We are very much looking forward to spring and hopefully being able to have outdoor meetings at the river again. We all enjoyed those get togethers. We did our club project of wreaths for public buildings. They were appreciated as always. We are working on our scholarship presentation and soon our garden will need volunteers. It is ready to bloom under the snow.

\* **The Winter Grapevine Activities report for Peekskill GC was accidentally omitted. Here is PGC's very busy Winter report. \***

Members toured the grounds of the John Jay Homestead the end of September. The members enjoyed learning about the grounds and the John Jay family. We continue to hold our meetings at a riverfront park. The October 6 meeting was held at the Verplanck riverfront with the November meeting held at the Peekskill riverfront. We finalized our plans for annual Christmas wreaths placed in local public buildings. Instead of getting together as a group to create the wreaths, the members will decorate a wreath at home. It was agreed that the Club would write a letter to the City of Peekskill supporting the "Pollinator Pathways" initiative of the Peekskill Yacht Club to plant Milkweed along the riverfront. The Yacht Club is asking the City to maintain the plantings, i.e., don't mow down the Milkweed plants. We are planning to have a Holiday luncheon in December at a local restaurant. We hope to have our first meeting of the new year in February. At the close of the November meeting, we had a fun chair yoga session.

**Yorktown**

### Section 2A: Marj Trainor, Chair

**Briarcliff Manor** This past year, BMGC planted hundreds of Marieke daffodils and blue squill in Briarcliff Manor Community Public Gardens and have contributed \$1000 to Northwell Phelps Hospital COVID Frontline Workers.

January 13, 2021 Zoom Meeting: Presentation of a video of the well-known Sissinghurst Castle Garden. Sissinghurst Castle Garden is in Kent in England. It was created by Vita Sackville-West, a poet and writer and her husband Harold Nicholson, an author and diplomat. It is among the most famous gardens in England and is designated Grade 1 on Historic England's register of Historic parks and gardens. February 13, 2021 Program: Zoom Presentation by master gardener Anthony Antes: "A Special Horticultural Valentine's Day Theme Presentation." March 17, 2021 Program: Zoom Presentation by master gardener Anthony Antes: "A Special Horticultural St. Patrick's Day Theme Presentation".

**Chappaqua** With the involvement of our passionate and dedicated members, the Chappaqua Garden Club has managed to carry out many of our programs as we adjust to the "new normal" in 2021. In the month of February, we browsed our seed catalogs and held our general meeting via Zoom featuring a lecture on vegetable gardening by Ken and Sue Meany. Keeping the kids happy through the cold weather, the monthly Juniors program has grown in popularity. We have been providing take-home garden activity kits with video-recorded storytelling and instructions. Registration for these activities is through the Chappaqua Library Children's Room.

Our Programs Chair has lined up impressive speakers for March and April. On March 17th, Matt Mattus, author of Mastering the Art of Flower Gardening, will speak on this topic. On April 21st the speaker will be Jennifer Cipriano, the owner of Copia Home and Gardens in South Salem. Jennifer will talk about and demonstrate how to create outdoor containers that attract pollinators. These Zoom lectures are open to the public, and you may register at [ChappaquaGardenClub.com](http://ChappaquaGardenClub.com).

In the early spring we will take part in an environmental project to plant native plants along the stream at Gedney Park. Registration is required so that there can be adequate spacing of participants.

And finally, but perhaps most fun of all: we are giddy with excitement as we actively plan our annual plant sale, to take place outdoors at the Chappaqua Train Station in May.

### Section 2B: Mary Bailly, Chair

**Hopp Ground** March: Hopp Ground will hold its election of new officers. April: The designing and building of a floral sculpture in front of the Katonah Library will be carried out by GC members.

**Pound Ridge** Our club traditionally does not meet in Jan or Feb.

March 16th: Meeting via Zoom. The Program Title is: "Characteristics of Creative Design"

Our speaker will be Vicky Bellias, Pres. of FGCNYS. April 13th: Meeting via Zoom. The Program Title is: "Bulbs, Corms, and Tubers." Our speaker will be Anthony R Antes. May 11th: Meeting via Zoom The Program Title is: "Low Profile Design" Our speaker will be Vicky Bellias, Pres. of FGCNYS June 15th: Meeting via Zoom The Program Title is: "Hostas" Our speaker will be Anthony R Antes.

### **Section 3: Yvonne Avant, Chair**

**Ardsley** The Ardsley Garden Club, though hibernating for the months of January, February and maybe March, does have plans for the Spring which surely will come. After Spring clean-up, plantings of native plants continued at the Ardsley Public Library, including the upper garden at the library. In the later part of May a planned visit that had been cancelled, will take place at Untermeyer Park and Garden in Yonkers - they have added so much to see. Mary Keehan spoke about her son who is a beekeeper in Kentucky and gave out samples of soap, honey and lip balm. The Flower Show that was cancelled last year will try to be resurrected. Hope SPRINGS eternal.

**Dobbs Ferry** In the new year, we will continue with our monthly zoom programs for Winter (vertical and trellised gardens, unusual perennials). We are blessed that all of our members are still in good health.

**Little Gardens of Tarrytown** Our club participated in Zoom meetings with guest speakers in January and March. Christine Gall, program director at Kids Gardening, addressed all aspects and considerations for at-home vegetable gardening ([cegall25@gmail.com](mailto:cegall25@gmail.com)) and Tony Antes discussed perennials.

We conducted our annual meeting in February recapping our accomplishments and held election of officers.

With the rollout of Covid vaccines, we are feeling more comfortable to venture out. Two carloads are heading to the Philadelphia Flower Show in June!

**Parkway Gardens/Homes** As is the custom, Parkway Gardens/Parkway Homes Garden Club members hibernate during the months of January and February. However, Zoom technology allowed us to meet on February 20<sup>th</sup> when we planned activities and programs for the rest of 2021. In addition, members learned how to care for post blooming Amaryllis so that it reblooms next winter.

In April the club will host a virtual program entitled "How to Propagate Cuttings of Cymbidium Orchids." Similar instructive programs will be hosted in May. The Annual June Plant Sale will be on hold as the members assess the safety for themselves and customers.

### **Section 4: Gloria Bisaccia, Chair**

**Boulder Ledge** For the 2021 winter months, BLGC used them as a perfect time to do a series of educational online events, while in April and May, the club will convene as usual for the Spring clean-up of Bronxville gardens. The winter months proved to be quiet ones for the Boulder Ledge Garden Club (Bronxville, N.Y.). February snow storms left our gardens, trees, and rock outcroppings re-worked by the snowfall, and gave us a color palette that is so different from the greens of summer! It was a good season to take in Zoom presentations, read up on gardening, and dream of the possibilities within our own gardens.

BLGC's very own Wendy Murphy gave a Zoom talk in January on bee-keeping, as these pollinators have been building hives with Wendy's encouragement in her yard for many years. (BLGCers have been treated to this honey on several occasions -- a bonus of membership.)

This March, BLGC scheduled its Open Meeting, with speaker Karyl Evans, the documentarian who recently produced the "Life and Gardens of Beatrix Farrand," the renowned landscape designer who installed such historic gardens as those at Hyde Park; Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.; and the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden.

Later, as the ground warms, members will pull on gardening gloves and spruce up the Bronxville gardens around the village that BLGC helps to maintain. Rose bushes, hosta, grasses, evergreen bushes, mature trees and a seasonal bed of flowers are the hallmarks of these gardens, and our gardeners, in conjunction with landscape designer Ani Adishian, weed, prune, and plant them for maximum color and beauty. Outreach to local students is also part of this, giving the next generation of dirt-diggers expert guidance and an entree into a lifetime of both wonder and satisfaction.

**Larchmont** The Garden Club of Larchmont has been enjoying virtual presentations from a variety of inspiring speakers. At our Annual Fall Luncheon under a tent at the Orienta Beach Club, we heard about the latest projects at Untermeyer Gardens in Yonkers from Timothy Tilghman. In December, we were treated to ideas for winter and holiday decorating from Mary Lynn McRee. And in February we learned about designing indoor plant collections from Jennifer Plasky from Sam Bridge Nursery.

Going forward in March we will hear about xeriscaping and roof-top gardening from member and horticultural consultant Meg Veith-Heib. In April we hope to hear from Lori Chips from Oliver Nursery talk planting alpines in troughs. And in May we hope to go on a tree walk with Mr Frank Buddingh, arborist. And coming full circle to completing the schedule will be our Annual Spring luncheon at Orienta Beach Club.

## ***Section 5: Yolanda Gorman, Chair***

**City Island** The Garden Club of City Island continued to hold its general membership meetings via Zoom. At the recommendation of the FGCNYS, our club invited Nancy Kalieta to present on "Victorian Language of Flowers" at our February meeting. Nancy is a wealth of information on this subject and we learned a great deal about Queen Victoria and the customs of the time, including substituting flowers for words. We highly recommend her presentation. Our March Zoom meeting included a presentation by Sue Avery on "Waterwise Gardens", an important topic, even in an area blessed with abundant water. Behind the scenes, we have been working on preparation for printing our fund-drive letters and our spring gardening activities, including the cleaning up the post office garden and our public containers which have spent the winter under ice and snow. We are in the process of updating our Facebook page with photos of our gardens as winter turns to spring.

**Luther Burbank**

**New Rochelle**

**Manor Club of Pelham**

**Morsemere** In January, masked and socially-distanced members took down and refurbished the Holiday decorations at Philipse Manor Hall. The Club's efforts permitted the Holiday tours to continue during Covid, and the tours were more popular than ever! Before the dismantling, the Club was fortunate to get a Zoom Holiday Manor House Tour conducted by Rob Lee, Philipse Manor Program Manager. Decorating of The Manor Hall is carried out in a historically and period accurate manner with each room reflecting the period and the chronological development of the building over time. Rob's presentation offered the members a wonderful narrative and historical perspective behind the unique decorating we do in each room and area.

At our January meeting, Club President, Shannon Daugherty, shared with the Club that we had been honored with a National Garden Club Flower Show Certificate of Merit for our Club Standard Flower Show "Ninety Years of Growing." Tony Antes, Master Gardner with the Cornell Cooperative Extension from the Binghamton Garden Club and currently Webmaster of the Club, gave a lively Zoom presentation. Tony introduced us to the vast Cutler Botanic Gardens and, specifically, to The Cutler Bird Garden. This endeavor, begun in 2001, has permitted the development of a section of the Cutler Gardens to a zone of hardy plants, foliage and trees etc., which attract, support and sustain various species of birds in a mutually beneficial setting.

February, we Zoomed with Victoria Bellias, President of the Federated Garden Club of New York State and National Garden Clubs Master Flower Show Judge, among her many roles and credits. Vikki delighted the club with her program Characteristics of Creative Design, an overview of basic design techniques including creative line, creative line mass, creative mass and group mass and how to execute them. We hope to use all we learned at a future Flower Show!

The March meeting (Zoom again!) included a presentation by Lynne Arnold, President-elect of the FGCNYS, about the Albany Pine Bush Preserve ecosystem and the endangered "Karner Blue" *Lycaedis Melissa* butterfly and its host plant, the "Wild Blue Lupine" *Lupinus perennis*. It made us long for spring!

The Club has continued the maintenance of our Blue Star Memorial throughout the Covid shut down. The festive greenery placed there in December spent a good deal of time covered in snow, but hopefully we'll be out there soon with spring flowers!

## Calendar of Events : March, April, May, June

- Now-April 4 2021**                      **NYBG Orchid Show**                      <https://www.nybg.org/event/spotlight-on-orchids/>
- March 15, 2021**                      **Native Plant Center – Spring Conference Places for Pollinators**  
NPC Spring Landscape Conference will be virtual  
Monday March 15, 8:45am-1pm \$55mbr \$80non-mbr  
[www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/spring-landscape-conference/](http://www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/spring-landscape-conference/)
- March 16, 2021**                      **The Gardener – Zoom Discussion**                      **Hosted by Brewster-Carmel Garden Club**  
BCGC will host a Zoom discussion on the 2018 Documentary featuring the Cabot Family's 2 Estates. Les quatres vent in Quebec and their local gardens at Stonecrop. Please contact Donna Relyea for details ([double11@comcast.net](mailto:double11@comcast.net) )
- March 26, 2021**                      **Lasdon The Magic of Spring**                      **Tickets on sale now**  
COVID-19 precautions are in place for safe viewing.  
Please visit the website for details.                      [www.lasdonpark.org](http://www.lasdonpark.org)
- March 31, 2021**                      **Native Plant Center – Annual Plant Sale \*On-line\***  
NPC Deadline for virtual plant sale                      [nativeplantcentershop.org/](http://nativeplantcentershop.org/)
- May 15-16, 2021**                      **Lasdon Arboretum Annual Plant Sale**                      [www.lasdonpark.org](http://www.lasdonpark.org)
- June 5-13, 2021**                      **Philadelphia Flower Show**                      **FDR Park, Philadelphia**  
Garden Tours Committee Chair Miriam Yekutieli is organizing a District Trip to view the PFS on Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please Contact Miriam ([gardentours@aol.com](mailto:gardentours@aol.com) ) for details and to confirm your participation.

# THE 9<sup>th</sup> IN VIEW – Garden Club Spotlight

## The Brewster-Carmel Garden Club



The Brewster Garden Club was founded in 1929 with 20 members. The Carmel Garden Club was founded in 1952. In 1989 the two clubs merged to form The Brewster-Carmel Garden Club.

Currently, the club has 48 active members and 2 Associate members with one new member pending. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month except August and January. Most months we have a speaker after the meeting on a gardening related topic.

The mission of the club is to promote interest and increase knowledge in horticulture, develop skills in flower arranging and encourage the beautification of home gardens and public places.

Currently, we plant at 11 Civic locations in Brewster and Carmel. In December we decorate the historic Walter Brewster house, decorate a tree in Putnam Hospital and participate in making wreaths for Veterans homes. We participate in June with National Gardening Week.

Other club projects include Garden Therapy at Putnam Hospital, collecting funds for Dig Deep, annual plant sale in May, participation annually in the Brewster Fall Festival, participation annually in the Carmel Rotary basketball challenge and periodically holding Flower Shows. Also, annually we give two scholarships to high school seniors who will be studying horticulture, the environment or another related field. Last June we held a Garden Tour open to the public and hope to be able to do this again.

We have continued to hold meetings throughout COVID via Zoom and two outdoor meetings last year.

## *The Classifieds*

### Want Ads – Currently Seeking...

#### **Corresponding Secretary** – 9<sup>th</sup> District Executive Board position

Currently seeking energetic individual with computer skills who is comfortable with Word documents to serve on the Executive Board.

Great benefits include: Getting to know your fellow District Garden Club Members!

Duties include sending out meeting and event notices. Updating and distributing District Directory once a year.

*If you or someone you know is interested- contact: [jbergonzi@optonline.net](mailto:jbergonzi@optonline.net)*

#### **Youth Committee Chair** – 9<sup>th</sup> District Board position

Currently seeking young-at-heart individual to encourage and promote NGC, Inc. youth projects in the District Garden Clubs.

Great benefits include: Helping guide clubs to raise up the next generation of gardeners! Duties include providing program information and assisting clubs as needed in implementing projects.

*If you or someone you know is interested- contact:*

[rosemaryeshghi@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryeshghi@gmail.com)

**Temporary Labor** – Currently seeking strong, helpful individuals to clear out 9<sup>th</sup> District property from Lasdon Arboretum during the Park's renovation. Husbands, teenaged children & grandchildren may apply!

*If you or someone you know is interested- contact:*

[rosemaryeshghi@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryeshghi@gmail.com)

#### **Public Notices & Event planning**

Please contact Miriam Yekutieli if you would like to participate in a group trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show in June. The date of the planned trip is Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Because of COVID precautions, the Flower Show is divided into sessions. There are two options open for discussion: Tickets for the morning session of the show or tickets for the afternoon session. The amount of interest Miriam receives will determine whether the trip will require a bus or carpooling. PLEASE RESPOND ASAP IF INTERESTED. [gardentours@aol.com](mailto:gardentours@aol.com)

# Spring Chores

It's almost time to get back out in the garden! Most of us probably still have piles of frozen snow & ice dotting our yards. But that doesn't deter the early arrivals. While out walking the other day I saw snowdrops (*Galanthus*) in one neighbors yard and sweet crocus in another yard. I have crocus foliage only! The rabbits have already eaten mine! Some of the sunnier locations already have daffodil foliage poking through. Spring never ceases to renew the spirit and joys of rebirth – even after a cold and snowy winter! And with the vaccines now available we have even more to be hopeful for.



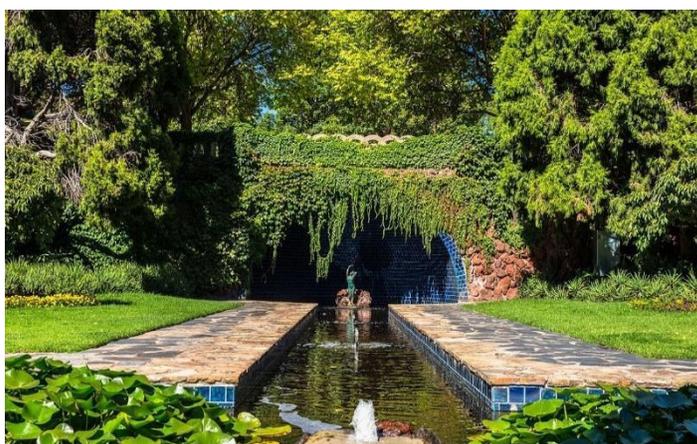
So let's go through our punch-list of spring chores!

- ❑ Garden Gloves – Take inventory of your gloves. They are the first line of defense for your hands. Wash any that need a good cleaning. Discard any that allow too many fingers to poke through. Invest in a new pair or two. If you garden in a public garden you might consider a getting a Tetnus shot to be safe.
- ❑ Hand tools – Take inventory of your trowels, pruners, hand saws, loppers, etc. Can you find them? What needs to be sharpened? What needs to be replaced?
- ❑ Long-handled tools – Rakes, hoes, shovels, forks can be cleaned (if you're like me and don't always do it at the end of the season). Handles can be replaced and rusty shovels can be oiled. Replace items early if possible. Many items become hard to find once the season is in full swing.
- ❑ Hoses, sprinklers and watering cans – Check for holes, find your hand-spraying attachments and if you store your sprinklers in the garage, make sure they didn't get bent or broken when you backed over them – not that I ever do that! If you have a sprinkler system, make your appointment to have them turned on.
- ❑ Outdoor pots & containers – clean out old dirt and debris. Pots can be cleaned with a bleach solution (one part bleach to ten parts water). This will keep pathogens from damaging this year's displays.
- ❑ Seedlings – If you start your veggies indoors, it's time to get started! There's still a decent selection of seeds available to purchase if you haven't already.
- ❑ Most of all – Go outside and be inspired! Take a walk around the garden and let all the energy of spring spark your imagination. Pull some weeds on a warm day. Notice the return of the robins and the nesting of the wrens. Maybe you'll spot a bee or an early butterfly on a particularly warm day.

Embrace your inner gardener and hopefully this year we'll once again be able to embrace our fellow gardeners too!

- Jacqui Bergonzi

## ***In Memoriam***



Charlotte Donigi, Master Judge, Ardsley Garden Club Member



Our Garden Club family lost a dear member last year.

Charlotte E. Donigi, 87, of Ridgefield, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. She was the loving wife of the late Carmine J. Donigi.

Mrs. Donigi was born in the Bronx, NY on January 25, 1933; a daughter of the late Francis and Filomena (Cardinale) Little.

A resident of Ridgefield since 1998, Mrs. Donigi previously resided in Westchester County, NY. An award-winning artist in painting and sculpture, she was a member of the Ardsley, NY Garden Club (for over 50 years), Ninth District of The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc, and National Council of State Garden Clubs. She was a Master Judge of Horticulture and Floral Design.

Mrs. Donigi is survived by her daughters, Donna Donigi Gale and Laura Richardson and her husband, Roland as well as her grandchildren; David, Elizabeth, Jonathon, Radiance and Vanella, and her grand dog, Samson.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Ardsley Garden Club, Ardsley NY or a garden club in your area for all the work they do to make our environment the best it can be, or to Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue, Ridgefield CT for finding families for homeless cats and dogs.

*The 9<sup>th</sup> District and some of our individual clubs and members have chosen to honor Charlotte's legacy by donating to the Book of Tribute in her name.*

## **You will always be in our hearts**