



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

OCTOBER 2024

Upcoming Events

- NCAGC District II Flower Show at River Farm/open to public:
Oct 9: 2-5 PM
Oct 10: 8-11 AM
- Oct 15: Anniversary Committee Meeting
1- 3 PM at MPOA
- Oct 16: GCM traveling to Hollin Farms in Markham
Leaving from Montclair Country Club at 9 AM
- Nov 6: Secret Garden Clean Up
- Nov 20: GCM Fall Centerpiece Workshop at Brittany's Restaurant



Welcome to October! So many people say this is their favorite time of the year, and why not? There are still some delightfully pleasant days with a lot less humidity, brilliant leaf color to be enjoyed, and, of course, Halloween! The new season inspires us to be creative and the savvy gardener knows, fall is a great time to plant shrubs and trees and so much more!

If you think spring is the only season to do major yard work, think again! The next few months are the perfect time to work on landscaping projects in your yard or at either, or both, of our community gardens: the Secret Garden and the Firehouse Garden. Not only is the weather cooler, making it more enjoyable to work outdoors, but it's less stressful on those new plantings.

Long time gardeners know Fall is also the time when plants naturally shift their energy from top growth to root growth. This helps plants establish faster. So following Nature's design, here are some activities that have newly surfaced as we shift our energy from the top growth of growing membership to root growth ... committee work... for our club.

- 50th Anniversary Committee

Members have met twice and discussed a variety of Anniversary events in response to a survey of preferred activities proposed during the initial meeting in August. A calendar of events for 2025 was created with a March Commemorative Tea as the kick-off event. The Montclair Board has approved partnering with GCM to refresh the Blue Star Memorial Garden. The Board approved up to \$2,000 toward the cost with GCM contributing an additional \$500 toward the total cost of this project. We hope to rededicate this memorial garden on Saturday, June 14, 2025... Flag Day.

- Bylaws Committee

The work of the Constitution and Bylaws committee began on July 30th and concluded on August 26th. The committee submitted their work to the Executive Board for review at their last meeting. The finished product will be presented to the entire membership during the month of October and the vote to adopt will occur during the November meeting. Many thanks to Barbara Ball, Wanda Simpson, and Susan Scott as my trusty teammates for bringing this task to completion!

- Social Media Committee ... Website, Facebook, Publicity

We're in transition as we reorganize the process for sharing information on our website and Facebook with the objective being ongoing recruitment of new members while increasing our visibility in Montclair and the surrounding neighbors.

October Birthdays

Beverly Houston 3rd

Anna Worrell 10th

Pat Contrades 14th

Barbara Ball 15th

Mary Ann Palmer 22nd

Gail Cobb 27th

Maria Stapleton 27th

Katy McCelvey 31st

November Birthdays

Sharen Overand 1st

Carla Silas 3rd

Betty Gitlin 5th

Kathy Sahlberg 5th

Susan Scott 23rd

Lu Selfridge 25th

Committee Chairs

Programs/Events

Joan Flaherty

Member Care

Anna Worrell

Plant Sale

Gale James & Barbara Ball

Fire House Garden

Bev Houston & Michelle Neal

Secret Garden/Garden Therapy

Ro Carlsen & Kathy Fisher

NCAGC District II Rep

Susan Scott

PWACGC Rep

Barbara Ball & Wanda Simpson

Website

Jane Carvajal & Martina Crichton

Facebook

Lu Selfridge

Here's a look back at September... GCM members gathered for our Fall business meeting at the Montclair Property Owners Association and were treated to a timely and informative presentation by Gale James on propagation. Gale is a master at propagating a wide variety of shrubs and perennials and shared her expertise with club members, answering their many questions.



R to L: Joan Flaherty, Susan Jacobs, Pat Charron, and Pat Contrades listening to Gale's presentation. Janice Graham sharing her Kalanchoe pinnata/Leaf of Life cuttings with members. Gale introducing a creative craft that she will be leading after the holidays...Glass Flower Garden Plates. Be on the lookout now for decorative dinner plates and small bowls at thrift shops or garage sales!

Until next time, see you in the garden... *Florence*