

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

SPRING 2016

Margaret Jacobson: Editor

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" – Helen Keller



## Yaddo Garden Association 1991-2016

A 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary is a special time for people to think about the commitments which they have made in the past to a common cause. It is a perfect time for thanks to each other for all the services which YGA volunteers have rendered over the years. This singular anniversary is one of the most meaningful occasions in the life of this organization. Let us go forward together as new commitments are set which can strengthen communal bonds and renew our dedication to the YGA's mission of the restoration and preservation of the Yaddo Gardens and its history.

## RECAPPING THE YEAR



For those of our readers who may not have attended the 2015 annual meeting last November, which was held after the fall issue of the Potpourri came out, here

is a capsule version of some of what was reported that evening.

There are currently eighteen active docents in the Yaddo Garden Association, each of whom has been given a plastic carrying case that contains all supplies necessary for conducting tours. Income from docent led tours, including the Ghost tours, totaled \$5,470 dollars, which was an increase of \$500.00 over the previous year.

Volunteers logged 2,925.25 hours, of which 288.25 were community service hours from community service groups who were not regular YGA garden volunteers. The amount of community service volunteer hours doubled from last year. Twelve new volunteers joined us in 2015 - nine of whom worked at least 15 hours.

## A BIG CHALLENGE FOR THE GARDENS



The biggest challenge in the garden in the past two years involved water problems in Bed Three of the rose garden. The problem actually began about two years ago when volunteers working there noticed increasing amounts of water collecting in the area at the end of the inner rose bed. By the summer of 2015 the water had increased

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its spread. The Yaddo grounds crew began excavating the area and found the source was broken piping that had been installed as part of an extensive system of ceramic tiles, built when the gardens were originally created, to drain all the water running beneath the rose beds.

The Yaddo team's effort became Yaddo's version of "the big dig". They dug down and removed the ceramic drainage where it had crumbled in Bed Three and all along the path leading from that spot, around the Pergola side of Bed Three, and the back path of Beds Two and Three. The big dig went on from there into the wooded area past the Four Seasons statue of Summer and continued with the installation of new plastic PVC piping in these areas.

Topsoil was brought in and the area leveled. The system seems to be working well. The work continues at this time with new pebbled paths being installed and roses and hedges replanted. There is still a lot of work to go but YGA wishes to thank the crew for all the hard work in doing such a great job. The pebble path has been laid down in the area affected, and grass will be planted in these areas. It was quite a project and the Yaddo grounds crew were careful not to disturb the rose beds. Fifteen more roses were ordered this January to replace some of those lost.

Although not considered a problem as such, the digging of a new well in the rock garden area now serves as a source of water for the pools in that area, which eliminates the cost of relying on city water as had been done in the past. The water will be running in this area by the time you receive this newsletter.

During the 2015 season wildlife continued to challenge the YGA. Deer, rabbits, and woodchucks nibbled their way throughout the gardens, although luckily, they caused minimal damage. As previously noted, the gardens were treated throughout the season with several deterrent products and the gardens were ultimately lush, colorful, and beautiful.

**2016 update:** Barbara Hefter reports that for the 2016 season, the deer deterrent will be similar to last season. Bobbex and Plantskyyd are two natural organic liquids that will be sprayed on the plants. Plantskyyd is a new application which is blood meal based. A third product, Shake Away, is a granular product that will also be used in the gardens. These products will be rotated and applied every few weeks. The YGA is optimistic that the gardens will again be beautiful, plentiful, and vibrant for the 2016 season.



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## 2016 THE GARDEN SEASON BEGINS



The water in the gardens has been turned on and the fish will be returned to the garden's center Florentine Fountain pool by the week before Memorial Day. It is interesting to note that this pool, as well as the large fountain on the grounds outside the KT ST Gate, were filled using the water from the lakes at the entrance way to Yaddo. This was done by pumping water through hoses from the lake to the pools and again saves on paying for city water.

Our busy month of May saw returning and new volunteers begin their work on gardening tasks. BOCES students will also continue to assist YGA in spring tasks. On May 7, Healthy Living volunteers were again found in the gardens and on May 27, twenty students from the Saratoga Springs senior class will also be found working there.

The month of May is a very busy one what with delivery of compost and fertilizers, planting of rose bushes to replace any winter losses, pruning and fertilizing them, and the beginning attack on weeds that always seem to find their way into the garden beds in spite of vigilant attention of the volunteers. The month of May will also see the placing and planting of the flowers in their jardinières along with those holding the dwarf Alberta Spruces which line the low wall below the Pergola.

The YGA Board of Directors has been hard at work through the months since the annual meeting last November. Traditionally January is a month off for them, but starting in February, they have been hard at work on their assigned tasks, meeting monthly at the members' homes to discuss actions and tasks for the upcoming year. It is to be noted that Judith Banks is now in charge of tours. She has placed YGA rack cards and flyers in the usual locations throughout the area and sent out revised letters with Board input announcing the availability of tours.

It was decided that in view of the large amount of time that is needed to prepare for the Powerpoint presentations by the docent volunteers, as well as the distance to be traveled by them, that the honorarium to the Yaddo Garden Association would now become \$150.00. The honorarium for docent led tours of the gardens will remain at \$10.00 per tour participant.

The garden tours will begin at the main fountain outside the KT ST gate at 11:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday the weekend of June 18. They are offered on each Saturday and Sunday and on Tuesdays during racing season in July and August, with no tours scheduled on Travers Day, August 28.

Garden tours end September 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day weekend. Ghost tours will be held Fridays and Sundays beginning September 23 and ending Sunday,

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October 30. Tours meet and begin from the parking lot.

COMING LATER THIS  
SUMMER

## LOOKING FORWARD



A new venture for the YGA this year is the formation of an Infrastructure Committee to address present and future problems concerning the gardens. These priorities involve, but are not limited to, such things as continuing deer deterrents, the movement of the marble steps, and the breakdown of the terra cotta railings in the sundial area. As a garden in the north over 100 years old, nature continues to wear on many of the gardens' infrastructures. By addressing the issues in a timely fashion, it is hoped that the Yaddo Gardens will maintain in the future their famed and historic beauty.

This committee is scheduled to have formal meetings twice a year with other consultations as necessitated by circumstances. The committee at present consists of Jean Dugan, YGA President; Jill Gainor, Vice-President and Volunteer co-Chair; Kathy Mattes, Treasurer; Debra Brown, Recording Secretary; Lynn Farenell, Yaddo Director of Annual Giving and YGA Designated Director; Shane Cassidy, Yaddo Facilities Manager; and Steve Dennin, Yaddo Director of Development.



I have received news from Tristan Kirvin, Yaddo's Communication and Events Manager, that Yaddo's website is currently undergoing a major upgrade! The site, [www.yaddo.org](http://www.yaddo.org), will have more colorful images, bigger text, and simplified navigation which we are sure YGA members will find easier to use.

Our YGA page will continue to provide information on the history of the gardens and activities going on there. It will still continue to provide access to the Potpourri and the annual meeting minutes and accept membership contributions and donations. Yaddo feels that the YGA Board will benefit from the newer technology and expanded administrative access. We look forward to viewing it in late summer. Meanwhile, be sure to access the website in its current format as it is continually updated as new events in the garden occur.

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## NOTE THE DATE



The Yaddo Garden Association is pleased to announce that the Yaddo Gardens are again listed as one of the sites to be visited on the annual Secret Gardens Tour sponsored by the Soroptimists. The tour is to be held on Sunday, July 10, this year. They typically draw more than 700 visitors from the Capitol Region who spend the day enjoying exceptional gardens in and around Saratoga Springs. Tickets for the general public go on sale soon for \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 on the day of the tour. Be sure to check your local newspapers for more information as the day approaches.



## A SPECIAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Twenty five years ago the Yaddo Garden Association was created by dedicated volunteers whose garden restoration efforts we enjoy today and continue to nurture. Many thanks are given to all those dedicated volunteers who have joined in these labors. In order to recognize this milestone with a celebratory event that would increase community awareness of our wonderful site and celebrate with all those who already support YGA, the YGA Board of Directors is creating a fun filled afternoon on September 18<sup>th</sup> in the gardens.

A “*GHOSTS IN THE GARDEN*” party on that day is now in its planning stages with six subcommittees to address specific areas. The Planning Committee, initially composed of members from the Board of Directors, was formed at an inaugural planning committee meeting on April 27, bringing together many interested YGA supporters who had been contacted by an e-mail sent by Jean Dugan. Plans so far are for a fun and informational party based on the text of the regular ghost tours. The afternoon will include ghostly decorations and costumed local enactors who will take the parts of some

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of the characters mentioned in the tours. Five different areas in the script will be highlighted.

There will be a raffle, and food and beverages appropriate to the event will be provided. This is just the beginning of the planning, which will continue throughout the spring and summer. Look for mailings and more news in local newspapers as we draw closer to the occasion.



The Yaddo Garden Association is most grateful to the following people who have given gifts or added memberships to our organization since the fall issue of the Potpourri was distributed.

## **YGA Memberships 10/5/2015 – 5/19/2016**

### **Individuals**

Bill Blando  
Nancy Downing  
Lynn M. Farenell  
Barbara Hefter  
Barbara J. Kolapakka  
Lesley Leduc  
Nancy O'Leary  
Marie Oppenheim  
Faith Palma  
Sally J. Sheldon  
Barbara Sutherland  
Kathleen Sweet  
Martha Van Patten

### **Senior**

Anonymous  
Eleanor Boyle  
Margaret Bradley  
Ellen Brown  
Patricia Gallagher  
Gay K. Gamage  
Patricia A. Hoyt  
Barbara Parrish  
Christine Root  
Vera Weiss

### **Family**

Al and Gloria Ciejka  
Janice L. Conners  
Marilyn and Dominick DeLorio  
Deirdre Leland and Frank Rhyner  
John and Lee Nelson  
Helen Porter  
Nancy and Timothy Stevens  
Ralph Vincent and Steven Golime  
Nancy and David Wilder  
Joseph and Joyce Zanchelli

### **Contributor**

Corinna Bishop  
Susan Brynteson  
Ellen and Todd Downing  
Jim and Sally Higgins  
Elizabeth Ireland  
R. Paul and Kathleen A. McCarty  
Elena and Steven Porter  
Charles and Katie Richman

### **Patron**

Pat Meaney and Joseph Zarzynski  
Carmen Milligi

### **Sponsor**

Jean Dugan and Ben Ford  
Sheila and Donald Nelson

### **Benefactor**

Jonathan and Jill Gainor

## **In Memory 10/5/2015 – 5/19/2016**

### **Gene Baker**

Beth and George Vodapive

### **Betty Blando**

Bill Blando

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**Margaret Jacobson: Editor**

**Alexander Brot**

Dorie D'Amore

**Stacy and Topper Milligi**

Carmen Milligi

**Pat Browne**

K.L. Flynn

**Patricia Pembroke**

Jean Dugan and Ben Ford

Jane Adams Wait

**Clair Carney**

Patricia and Robert Hoyt

**Audrey S. Pratt**

Elizabeth A. Pratt

**Charles Cocoma**

Dorothy Kelliher

**Dr. Robert Pratt**

Jane and John Corrou

**Mildred Cocoma**

Anonymous

Dorothy Kelliher

Pat Meaney and Joseph Zarzynski

**Harold Renn**

Marge Mei

Judith Prehn

Caesar & Barbara Taormina

**Kathleen DiSanto**

Margaret Bradley

Leslie Forester

Barbara Hefter

Margaret Jacobson

**Dana Romano**

Barbara Hefter

**Laurie Rubaszek**

Patricia and Robert Hoyt

**Elaine Dunson and Carole Dunson  
Moreau**

Albert Macica

**Carol Tarantino**

Susan and Anthony DePaula

**Bob and Betty Fraser**

Jane and John Corrou

**Katie Ture**

Jane and John Corrou

**Willard E. Grande**

Anonymous

Jean Dugan and Ben Ford

Kim Klopstock

Pat Meaney and Joseph Zarzynski

Jane Adams Wait

**Rachel Zareski Walts**

Donna Bates

Laura Davis

Lynn M. Farenell

Jonathan and Jill Gainor

Dorothy and Stephen Harran

Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh

Rhoda Nimsker

Martha Precheur

Ralph Vincent and Steven Golime

Nancy and David Wilder

**Stuart Hefter**

Anonymous

Jane and John Corrou

Jonathan and Jill Gainor

Barbara Hefter

Faith Palma

Martha Precheur

Timothy P. Sheridan

Jane Adams Wait

**Ruth E. Wilkins-Scott**

Sally J. Sheldon

**Rosy Zinn**

Martha Precheur

Jane Adams Wait

**Russell and Brenda Hendrick**

Kathryn M. Hart

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## In Honor

### Barbara Hefter

Patricia A. Mangini  
Martha Van Patten

### Jane Adams Wait

Anonymous (2)  
Ellen Brown  
Ralph Vincent and Steven Golime  
Beth and George Vodapivc

### Charlie DiSanto

Jennifer and Tom O'Brien

### Steve and Mary Zabala

James E. Zabala

### In honor of Glenn Jacobson's 50th birthday

James and Karen Folmsbee



The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yaddo Garden Association is a call to people of good will to reflect on what the Yaddo Gardens have meant to the people of our community, as well as visitors from areas beyond, who have found here the peace, tranquility, and spirit of love which are so vital to our existence. Now is the time for recommitment to the continuation of what was begun so many years ago as a reflection of the lifeblood of Yaddo in its nurture and support of the arts and nature in our daily lives.

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 395  
SARATOGA SPRINGS New York 12866

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE E-MAIL

I wish to support the YGA by becoming a garden volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become an annual YGA member

Individual \$35.00 to \$49.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior/student rate \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$50.00 to \$99.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor \$100.00 to \$249.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$250.00 to \$499.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \$500.00 to \$999.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor \$1,000.00 and above \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the maintenance of the Yaddo Gardens

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Please recognize my gift in memory \_\_\_\_\_ or in honor \_\_\_\_\_ of (check one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following of my gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Please mail the amount of the Gift / Membership together with the completed form to the address above or donate online at Yaddo.org.