

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

Margaret Jacobson: Editor

“All things came to the making of my garden: wisdom and mirth, service of heart and hand, sorrow, friendship and love.” Katrina Trask

LET’S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING



In January, 1993 we welcomed readers to the first edition of The Yaddo Garden Association Potpourri which we promised would bring this new venture of renewing the long neglected Yaddo Gardens to all those who had expressed an interest in the organization founded in December, 1991 by Jane Wait with the help of community volunteers. Twenty five years later, as the current gardening season draws to a close, we can look backward with pride on all that has been accomplished in the past and all we expect to do in future years with your continued support.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR



Our 25th anniversary year was capped by the culminating celebration which occurred on September 18 in the

gardens. That afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m., 80 guests attended a garden party entitled GHOSTS IN THE GARDENS.

The event had been in planning by a group of dedicated volunteers for most of the year and proved to be a great success with costumed “ghosts” appearing at various spots in the gardens to enact the parts of such well known characters in the Yaddo story as Spencer and Katrina Trask. Also featured “ghosts” were students from the Schuylerville High School who recited Edgar Allan Poe’s poem “The Raven” which is said to have been written on the site at the Barhyte Tavern.

Delicious refreshments made by YGA volunteers were served in a tent by the poet’s bench overlooking the rose garden, which was at its spectacular best for the delight of viewers. The event included a raffle basket drawing and a Yaddo themed art silent auction. Proceeds from the raffle, silent auction, and party ticket sales will go to support the gardens as stated in the YGA mission statement to restore and maintain the Yaddo Gardens for the enjoyment of the public.

Another celebratory highlight of the year was the annual Volunteer Recognition Party held on September 21st from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Yaddo Mansion. This year the event was hosted by the Corporation of Yaddo who provided the refreshments highlighted by a lovely birthday cake in honor of Yaddo Garden Association’s 25th anniversary.

Guests later gathered on the terrace overlooking the flowing lawns and main fountain beneath to listen to the kind words of President Elaina Richardson who, in

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

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addition to expressing the appreciation of Yaddo for the work of the YGA, presented President Jean Dugan with certificates recognizing both Jane Wait's and the YGA Volunteers' service. The certificates read as follows:



CERTIFICATE OF SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Presented to the Yaddo Garden Association in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community

September 21, 2016

Congressman Paul Tonko



The group later convened in the Yaddo Music Room for the presentation of awards for the 2016 season. Garden Volunteer Awards were presented by co-chair Faith Palma to the following for the accumulated hours they have volunteered in the following categories:

GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



New Volunteers (at least 15 hours of garden work): Kathy Crandall, Roxanne Day, Rebecca Fox, Anastasia Ivanova, Cosette Lotz, and Nancy Stevens. **These volunteers received a certificate for a free docent led garden tour on a date of their choice in addition to a YGA tee shirt.**

50 Hour Buckets with YGA Logo to: Tracy Battles, Ray DiSiena, Val DiSiena, Charlotte Eaton, Rebecca Fox, Mary Lou Geren, Joanne Killian, and Suzanne Rutkowski

100 Hour Notecards to: Tracy Battles, Mary Curtis, and Roberta Eaton

250 Hour YGA Cap to: Deb Brown

DOCENT VOLUNTEERS



In presenting awards to the following, Lesley Leduc, Docent Co-chair pointed out that the hours accumulated by these volunteers were accomplished with fewer opportunities to participate in volunteering as tours need only one or two docents depending on the size of the tour or only one docent for a power point presentation.

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

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It has been decided that the cost of the power point presentation will now be reduced to \$100.00 per group and will remain the same price next year, while regular tours will remain at \$10.00 per participant.

25 Hour Yaddo Garden Note Cards to:
Barbara Kolapakka and Lesley Leduc

50 Hour Historic Yaddo Photo to:
Lauri Cardinali, Michael Coleman, and Jean Dugan

100 Hours Color Yaddo Sundial Photo to: Sheila Nelson

150 Hours YGA Umbrella to: Barbara Parrish and Ray Zielinski

Following the meeting the events concluded with a special guided tour of the Yaddo Mansion for those attending the occasion.

A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION



When the Yaddo Garden Association started planning for this celebratory year, Jane Wait had already decided that she wanted to make her own special acknowledgement to the YGA volunteers over the years in appreciation for all they have done in their work for the organization which she founded 25 years ago.

On September 3rd Jane invited 66 guests to an evening dinner cruise on The Lac Du Saint Sacrament on Lake George. Her guests included volunteers both past and present who had individually volunteered over sixty hours to the Yaddo Gardens in the past 25 years. They included those who had worked in the gardens or as docents as well as volunteers on special projects. Some of these projects included creation of the beautiful handmade quilt raffled off in the beginning years as one of our first fund raisers. Among other invitees were those who worked on the Floral Fete Parade or as committee members on the various mansion open houses and Garden Parties.

It was a beautiful evening on the Queen of Lakes, and after enjoying the delicious banquet provided, guests were free to meet and mingle with YGA friends both old and new. Some of the guests participated in dancing on the main deck or enjoyed the passing scenery on the open deck topside. The open deck topside featured historical comments on Lake George by Joe Zarzynski and his wife, longtime volunteer, Pat Meaney. Joe is a well-known area expert on the archeological remains lying beneath the waters which he has personally visited and written about.

The special occasion will long be remembered by those attending and their many thanks go once again to Jane Wait, who has been our inspiration over these past 25 years.

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

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GARDENING NEWS UPDATE



The work of the YGA has been ongoing since we last reported in the spring. With the warmer summer weather, the major work included: spraying of roses for leaf disease and Japanese beetles, spraying for Cicada Wasps, which although harmless to humans appeared in bed three, the placing of fertilizer on the beds in May, June and July, the placing of Epsom salts around the bushes, continuing care of the planted annuals in the jardinières, clipping of garden hedges and, of course, the removal of stray weeds and raking of the soil around the rose beds.

Cultivation was also a continuous activity both in the rock and entrance gardens and among the climbing roses on the Pergola. A special garden task included the placement and care of the water plants in the Florentine Fountain in the central part of the rose garden and in the fountains in the rock garden by volunteer John Yurcik.

Viewing all the beautiful results of this continuing care of the gardens were the following groups, who took advantage of the tours offered to organizations by the YGA docents as invited by our Tour Coordinator, Judith Banks. Groups on arranged tours included: members of the Philadelphia Orchestra who appeared at SPAC, Schroom Lake Seniors, Prestwick Chase (which also booked a power point presentation), Adult and Senior Center of Saratoga, Glenn Eddy

Senior Center, Lake Luzerne Senior Center, Senior residents at the apartment complex 'The Grove' in Saratoga Springs, and the Society of International Business Fellows. As you can see from this list, our garden visitors come from far and near to hear of the History of Yaddo and its famous gardens as related by our dedicated docent volunteers.

Reporting on news of the gardens is the responsibility of our enthusiastic Publicity Chair, Pat Mangini, whose efforts have led to interesting articles in the Times Union 518 Magazine, Saratoga Today, and televised interviews with garden volunteers on Time Warner Cable.



While on the subject of publicity, we invite you to LIKE Yaddo Garden Association on our Facebook page, which includes pictures of such events as the Ghosts in The Garden Party as well as the Lake George Cruise. You can link to our Facebook account through the website hosted by www.Yaddo.org which contains the story of the YGA along with information and photos of the gardens.

START SPREADING THE NEWS



YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

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Ghostly appearances will continue at the gardens with the very popular Ghosts in the Gardens Tours. Although the regular tours are over for the year, visitors still have a chance to come view the ghostly reports of why Yaddo's spirit of love is so prevalent over 100 years since the estate was founded.

The docent led tours started on September 23rd on Fridays and Sundays and continue until Sunday October 30th. They begin at 5 p.m. at the visitors' parking lot. Tours are \$10.00 per person. What better way to celebrate the Halloween season?



The YGA news of the garden would not be complete without our heartfelt thanks to the following people whose monetary support made the work noted throughout this season possible. Following are the people who have contributed to the Association since the spring issue.

Memberships from 5/20/2016 – 9/30/2016:

Individual

Dr. Suzanne W. Brunelle

Senior

Charles Ballew

Debra Brown

Jane R. Costello

Barbara W. Sutherland

Contributor

Jean-Marie Crocker

Dorothy Harran

Patron

Verena Takekoshi

Sponsor

Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh

Gifts In Memory

Sarah Buchanan Fraser Almeida
Jane and John Corrou

David Bickelhaupt
Ward A. Cavanaugh

Kathleen DiSanto
Charles DiSanto

Susan E. House
Donna Bates
Linda Watters

David Madden
Donna Bates
Jean Dugan and Ben Ford
Barbara Hefter
Patricia A. Mangini
Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh
Mary Pat Meaney
Linda Watters

Doris Moss
Rolland LeBlanc

Stu Raynor
Susan and Anthony DePaula

Patricia Stanley
Jane and John Corrou

Barbara Thomas
John J. Thomas

Gifts In Honor

Jane Adams Wait
Florence Andresen
Jane R. Costello
Barbara W. Sutherland

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

Margaret Jacobson: Editor

Charlie DiSanto
Jane Adams Wait

Clarita Mango
Judith Banks

YAHA
Jane and John Corrou

Ghosts in the Garden Party Supporters

Anonymous
Sean Andrews
Jeffrey and Teresa Armon
Judith Banks
Donna Bates
Tracy Battles
Corinna Bishop
Bill Blando
Terri Cosma Boor
Eleanor Boyle
Ellen Brown
Debra Brown
Susan Brynteson
Henry and Lauriann Cardinali
Anne Clark
Debra Copeletti
Jane and John Corrou
Jane Costello
Jose Luis Crespo
Jean-Marie Crocker
Michele Curry
Mary Curtis
Daniel Czech
Charlie DiSanto
Gary and Mary DiSanto-Rose
Ellen and Todd Downing
Nancy Downing
Jean Dugan and Ben Ford
Jacquelyn Aronson Falk
Lynn M. Farenell
Jonathan and Jill Gainor
Gay Gamage
Reverend Francis Gargani
Ronald Goldblatt
Dorothy and Stephen Harran
Kathryn and James Hart
Barbara Hefter
Sylvia Heiner
Sally Higgins

Linda Hoyt
Elizabeth Ireland
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Joanne Killian
Maran Kosz
Lesley Leduc
Maureen Lewi
Marilyn Madden
Patricia Mangini
Barbara Marra
Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh
Julie McDonough
Gardner McFall
Jane McSpirit
Pat Meaney and Joseph Zarzynski
Carmen Milligi
Nancy Jane Morris
Sheila and Donald Nelson
John and Lee Nelson
Darlene Newey
Nancy and Edward O'Leary
Faith Palma
Barbara Parrish
Martha Precheur
Lauren Proctor
David and Caroline Putman
Charles and Katie Richman
John and Bee Roblee
Christopher Rose
Michele Rosenthal
Victoria and Frank Schepps
Marilyn and Bill Schweiker
William and Patricia Snyder
Barbara Sutherland
Kathleen Sweet
Verena and Tohru Takekoshi
Martha and Grant Van Patten
Ralph Vincent and Steven Golime
Beth and George Vodapive
Shirley and Robert Voelker
Jane Adams Wait
Linda Watters
Vera and Marvin Weiss
Nancy and David Wilder
Domenique Yermolayev
William and Barbara Young
Joseph and Joyce Zanchelli
Judith Zassenhaus

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

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The Annual Meeting of the Yaddo Garden Association members will be held this year on Tuesday November 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Henning Road in Saratoga Springs.

The meeting will begin with refreshments followed by a brief business meeting including annual reports from the YGA Board as well as the nomination and election of new and returning Board members.

The nominating committee with Florence Campion as chair and Lyn Madden, Donna Bates and Kathy Mattes as members will nominate the following to be elected to the 2017 Yaddo Garden Association Board of Directors:

Mary Curtis to her first 2 year term of office and Joyce Zanchelli to her first 2 year term of office as well as Co-Chair of the Docent Committee.

Donna Bates and Barb Hefter have agreed to renew their Board Membership.

The proposed officers of the Board will include all the current officers with the addition of Donna Bates as the Treasurer replacing Kathy Mattes, who will be leaving the Board due to term limits.

Ralph Vincent, Faith Palma and Kathy Mattes will be going off the Board. We thank them for the service they have performed for the Yaddo Garden Association and know that they will

continue their strong support of the YGA.

Charlotte Eaton, who was elected to the Board in 2016 will serve as a Volunteer Committee's Co-Chair.

Mary Curtis moved to the Saratoga area in 1980 after having grown up in Central Pennsylvania near Williamsport where she graduated from Bloomsburg State College (now Bloomsburg University). She retired from Adirondack Trust Company in 2014 after having worked in the Main Office there for 34 years.

She started volunteering in the Yaddo Rock Garden in 2012, her focus of interest, especially because the peony beds there bring back memories of working in her grandmother's beloved peony beds.

Mary has also been volunteering in the Treasurers Boutique, whose profits go to the Saratoga Hospital and their numerous outreach programs that benefit so many in the community.

Mary and her husband are looking forward to his retirement next year when they are planning to move to Saratoga Springs from their present home in Stillwater.

Donna Bates is currently serving on the Board of Directors as Treasurer in Waiting where she has learned the ropes this year from retiring Treasurer Kathy Mattes. Donna has previously served as Recording Secretary, Docent Co-Chair and Vice-President in past terms of office as well as having organized and written the script for the popular Ghost Tours on which she serves as a docent.

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

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Joyce Zanchelli moved to Saratoga 13 years ago after spending many years on Long Island. She is the mother of three and the grandmother of eight and has been married for 65 years to her husband, Joe who is also an active YGA volunteer.

While on Long Island, Joyce taught high school English for 25 years and was also an active volunteer with civic, religious and educational organizations.

Since moving to Saratoga she has been active in the Alumni Association of SUNY Albany and has volunteered for church committees as well as the Yaddo Garden Association.

Following the business meeting will be the program for the evening, a special 25th Anniversary power point presentation put together by Donna Bates and presented by Gay Gamage, a founding YGA Board member and volunteer Life Member. The program, entitled “**YGA - Happy 25th Birthday**” will feature highlights from the past history of the Yaddo Garden Association.

A CODA TO OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR



In an article written in the year of the founding of the Yaddo Garden Association in “Eye on Saratoga” the following was written about the new venture.

1992

“The love and care of the YGA volunteers has already made remarkable improvements in the health and appearance of the gardens, and there is much more to come....These gardens, Spencer Trask’s gifts of love to his wife, Katrina are now their gift to every visitor who seeks a place of beauty and peace. At last we are discovering what a precious gift this is.” Andrea K. Orrill

2016

Over these past 25 years, the Yaddo gardens have offered this precious gift through the loving care of its devoted volunteers, supported by the Corp of Yaddo staff and a caring community, and together we will continue to fulfill the commitment to bring beauty, love, and peace to all who enter here.



YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2016

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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.