

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2017

Editor: Mary Curtis

*First and foremost, we want to send out a big thank you to Margaret Jacobson for the many issues of Potpourri that she has created. Since 1993 Margaret spent many hours working on our newsletter and we will miss her delightful perspective on the activities of the Yaddo Garden Association.*

*Thank you, Margaret, from all of your fellow supporters of the Yaddo Garden Association.*

Looking back on the warm months of Spring and Summer 2017, we know that it was a busy season. Opening the Garden in the spring is a plan set in motion before the warm weather even arrives. Coordinating the removal of the protective covers on the Four Season Statues, ordering new rose bushes to replace those lost during the winter, ordering new garden tools, opening the garden sheds, the list goes on and on.

Returning volunteers started the season in late April with 7 new volunteers joining our group the following week. The season was a mix of rain and long periods of dry conditions and some very hot and humid days in late summer.

Some new natural and eco-friendly deer deterrents were used in the rose beds which seemed to be effective. The roses bloomed throughout the season into mid-October with very little deer damage. However, the hostas, and more recently the hydrangeas in the Rock Garden, seemed to be the preferred vegetation of the deer as well as those pesky groundhogs.

In spite of the quirky weather conditions

and our four legged visitors, the gardens produced some beautiful scenery to be enjoyed by all.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2017 SEASON

June 25<sup>th</sup> was a rainy Sunday, but it did not dampen the spirits of all those who gathered to honor our founder, Jane Wait, with the dedication of her garden bench inscribed with the words, IN HONOR OF JANE A. WAIT FOUNDER OF YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION 1991, and located in the south end of the Pergola.

Guests attending included past and present garden volunteers, friends, and members of Jane's family. Board president, Jean Dugan, spoke of our appreciation of Jane's vision of restoring the gardens at Yaddo and the work of dedicated volunteers for the past 25 years. Light refreshments were served after the brief dedication ceremony.

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The garden's roses and scenery provided a beautiful setting for a promotional photo shoot for the dancers of the NYC Ballet troupe as well as a group of young aspiring ballerinas.

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In addition to the drop-in tours in the gardens, there were 13 group tours this summer with close to 200 people attending. Our docents provided the garden visitors

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

with their knowledge of the history of the Yaddo Gardens.

There are already group tours scheduled for the 2018 season.

### ***Dedication of “Charlie’s Shed”***

On August 16<sup>th</sup> YGA volunteers, new and old, honored the memory of Charlie DiSanto, a long-time garden volunteer, by placing the sign, “Charlie’s Shed” on the equipment shed and placing a new license plate, “Charlie’s Chariot” on the garden tractor.

Charlie’s daughter was also present for the celebration of Charlie’s many years of volunteering.

### ***Victorian Garden Tea Party***

A special treat awaited garden volunteers at break time one day in August. Vicki Schepps and Stacey Hetherington put on a special tea party complete with scones, lace tablecloth, candelabra and, of course, hot tea.

### ***Senior “Give Back” Day- May 26th***

Even though there was a light steady rain, 20 students from Saratoga Springs High School’s “Give Back to the Community” program arrived at the Yaddo Gardens to lend a hand in preparing the Garden for the upcoming season. Yaddo volunteers guided the students in planting geraniums in urns, pulling weeds in the rugosa beds, and

Editor: Mary Curtis

cleaning the Four Season statues. The students had a fun morning and were a delight.

### ***BOCES Students Lend a Hand***

Each spring a group of students from the BOCES horticultural program arrive at the Garden willing to help the volunteers with garden chores that require some youthful energy. These chores include hauling dirt to the rose beds, hauling the urns filled with annuals to their places on the steps and weeding and raking the Entrance Garden. They return in the fall to cut back the rugosa, empty the annual-filled urns, and move the small evergreens to their winter home.

### ***Volunteers from Living Resources***

Volunteers from Living Resources provided over 40 hours of their time throughout the summer to perform the necessary task of sweeping the marble steps in the gardens. Their efforts to improve the appearance of the gardens is greatly appreciated.

## GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



### ***2017 Volunteer Appreciation Party***

In years past volunteers gathered in the Yaddo Mansion for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, but due to the ongoing restoration of the Mansion, the party was held in West House located on the Yaddo grounds. Savory and sweet treats were

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

## FALL 2017

prepared by YGA board members before the presentation of awards to deserving volunteers. To close the evening, Lesley Leduc and Lynn Farenell conducted tours of West House and two of the new artist studios on the Yaddo grounds. Lesley and Lynn provided a wealth of background information on both West House and the new studios.

**New Volunteers (at least 15 hours of garden work): 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.**

Lauren Booth, Karen Klepper, Johanna MacKay, Sandra Robinson, Sheila Symon, and Toni Wille

**50 Hour Buckets with YGA Logo to:** Roxanne Day, Jacquelyn Aronson Falk, Anastasia Ivanova, Cosette Lotz, Sandy Robinson, and Nancy Stevens

**100 Hour Notecards to:** Roxanne Day, Ray DiSiena, Val DiSiena, Charlotte Eaton, Rebecca Fox, Cosette Lotz, Suzy Rutkowski, and Vicki Schepps

**250 Hour YGA Cap to:** Marty Precheur

**1000 Hour Sweatshirt to:** Peter Finley, Barbara Hefter, and Tohru Takekoshi

**3000 Hour Sweatshirt to:** Pat Meaney

Editor: Mary Curtis

## 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.

**50 Hour Framed Historic Yaddo Photo to:** Barbara Kolapakka

**200 Hour Framed Photo of Sundial to:** Donna Bates

## GARDENING NEWS UPDATE



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: Summit Saratoga, Academy for Lifelong Learning in Saratoga Springs, Moreau Community Center, Red Hat Ladies, Garden State Getaways, and The Nature Conservancy. Power Point presentations were given at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Public Library and Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake Women's Club.

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2017

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Reporting on news of the gardens is the responsibility of our Publicity Chair, Pat Mangini. This past year Pat was successful in arranging a tour of the Garden with Megin Potter, a reporter from Simply Saratoga Magazine who wrote an article, "Love Stays at the Gardens of Yaddo" with beautiful pictures in the May/June 2017 issue of the magazine; a picture of our volunteers' break was a Snap-Shot in the Saratogian to encourage interest in volunteering at the Gardens; the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, The Saratogian, Moneysaver and Saratoga Today posted articles on Summer Tours and Fall Ghost Tours; Cable Channel 9 posted our Ghost Tours on their event channel and there was an article on the internet travel site, GoNomad.com/ GettingSpooky on New York's Haunted History Trail for Yaddo Ghost Tours; as well as a lot of activity on our Facebook page.



Ghostly appearances will continue at the gardens with the very popular Ghosts in the Gardens Tours. The docent-led tours started on September 15th on Fridays and Sundays and continue until Sunday October 29th. They begin at 5 p.m. at the visitors' parking lot. Tours are \$10.00 per person.

Editor: Mary Curtis

There was a record group of 42 ghost-seekers on one of this year's tours. Congratulations to Pat Mangini for getting the word out about the tours and to the docents who work hard to make the tours interesting (and spooky).



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.

## YGA Gifts 5/1/2017 - 10/23/2017

### In Memory

BJ Fisher

Nancy Downing

Charles and MaryAnne Valenti

Paula Moran

Constance Jacobson

Jane Adams Wait

Diane Brownlow Harding

Jane and John Corrou

Dorothy Lasher

Mary Schehr

Enid Weitz

Susan and Anthony DePaula

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

## FALL 2017

Editor: Mary Curtis

John A. Nelson  
Jane and John Corrou  
Margaret Jacobson  
Verena and Tohru Takekoshi  
Martha and Grant Van Patten  
Jane Adams Wait

Karen G. Davies  
Philip and Donna Palmer

Morphia Urban  
Angela Green  
The Hammond Family  
Cindy Urban  
HBud A. Wolf

Shiloh Raynor  
Susan and Anthony DePaula

Steven K Porter  
Elena Porter

### In Honor

Holly Grande  
Kim Klopstock

Jane Adams Wait  
Florence Andresen

### Other Gifts

Charles and Michael Ballew-Paque  
Barbara Parrish

### YGA Memberships 5/1/2017- 10/23/2017

### Individual

Lynn M. Farenell  
Barbara J. Kolapakka  
Marie Oppenheim  
Martha and Grant Van Patten

### Senior/Student

Charles and Michael Ballew-Paque  
Eleanor Boyle  
Debra Brown  
Gloria Ciejka  
Jane R. Costello in honor of Jane Wait  
Ellen M. deLalla  
Patricia and Robert Hoyt  
Margaret Jacobson  
Rhoda Nimsker  
Faith Palma  
Barbara Parrish  
Christine Root  
Barbara Sutherland  
Robert Vessels

### Family

Richard and Donna Bates  
Patricia Mangini

### Contributor

Jane and John Corrou  
Jean-Marie Crocker  
Philip and Lenore DeFliese  
Ellen and Todd Downing  
Dorothy and Stephen Harran  
Barbara Hefter  
Sally Higgins  
Charles and Katie Richman

### Patron

Corinna Bishop in honor of the YGA Volunteers  
Verena and Tohru Takekoshi

### Sponsor

Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh  
Carmen Milligi in memory of Stacy Milligi

### Benefactor

John J. Thomas in memory of Barbara R.  
Thomas

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## ***ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER***

The Annual Meeting of the Yaddo Garden Association members will be held this year on Tuesday, November 14th, 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 Kathy Mattes as chair, and Barbara Hefter, Lyn Madden, Florence Campion, and Linda Hoyt as members, will nominate the following to be elected to the 2017 Yaddo Garden Association Board of Directors:

The proposed officers of the Board will include all the current officers with the addition of Kathy Mattes as the Treasurer replacing Donna Bates, who will be serving as Recording Secretary replacing Deb Brown who has decided not to renew her Board membership.

Judith Banks, Jean Dugan, Charlee Eaton, Jill Gainor, Lesley Leduc, Pat Mangini and Marty Precheur have agreed to renew their Board Membership.

Verena Takekoshi will be leaving the Board due to term limits.

We want to acknowledge Deb's and Verena's many contributions during their Board tenures.

We are welcoming new members to the board: Kathy Mattes, Michael Coleman, and Roxanne Day.

Kathy Mattes has been very active as a YGA volunteer, having previously served on the Board.

Roxanne Day and her fellow gardening volunteer Cosette Lotz joined our YGA volunteer team in 2016. Roxanne and Cosette rapidly assumed responsibility for the Entrance Garden becoming co-captains in the Spring of 2017.

Michael Coleman, born and raised in the foothills of the Adirondacks, is honored to join the YGA Board. As a docent for the past six summers, Michael has found great pleasure in conveying the spirit of Yaddo and its gardens. Michael is a graduate of Skidmore College and works at the newly renovated Adelphi Hotel in Saratoga Springs. In his spare time, Michael enjoys theater, museums, gardening, and his two cats.

Following the business meeting will be the program for the evening, a special presentation by Charles Kuenzel, Saratoga Tours, LLC titled "Ten People Who Changed Saratoga".

# YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2017

Editor: Mary Curtis

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 395

SARATOGA SPRINGS New York  
12866

Please recognize my gift in  
memory \_\_\_\_\_ or in honor \_\_\_\_\_ of  
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Please notify the following of my  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

I wish to support the YGA by  
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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 mail the amount of the Gift /  
Membership together with the  
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above or donate online at Yaddo.  
org.