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 25th 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
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 16th 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 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
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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

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.
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.

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
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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
**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 Heftet, 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.


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”.

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FALL 2017

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.