

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

November 13, 2018

The annual meeting, held at the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, was called to order at 6:45, Jean Dugan presiding. The November 2017 minutes were approved on a motion by Nancy Wilder, seconded by Charlotte Eaton, and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathy Mattes reported that Inflows for the year were \$13,786, down from last year's inflows of \$26,585. Donations and Memberships were both down significantly. Tours were also down from last year, but are still a major source of income. Outflows were \$23,605, up from \$16,711 in 2017. This year's outflows included an irrigation system for the rose beds and pergola. Without this expense, outflows would have been \$10,205, down significantly from the previous year. Unfortunately, our rose suppliers were unable to deliver some of our rose order, including the tree roses, which reduced our rose expenditure by \$2294. Spraying was also down significantly because of the weather. Outflows exceeded Inflows by \$9,819. Our Net Worth as of October 31 was \$96,827, down \$8806 from last year. Dedicated funds are \$11,700, down \$989 from last year. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Lesley Leduc, seconded by Judith Banks, and passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jean Dugan started by highlighting how great the rose gardens looked - this was our second year of winning the Battle of the Deer and she shared Peter Finley's poem "The Ordeal" on this epic battle. New this year is a sprinkler system in all the rose beds as well as the pergola. We are now able to get water to all the roses in all the beds and the pergola for the first time. The rill continues not to be functional and we were only able to have water in the large rock garden fountain and pool. But the good news is a significantly more attractive fence protecting the rill was installed by the Yaddo Infrastructure team. The entrance garden continues to look better and better and the fish fountain was festooned with aquatic plants. The docents had another strong season as you might have noted during Kathy's report - \$5600. It was not the \$7000 from last year but still up from \$4000 in 2016.

On a negative note, one of the marble stairs leading up to the rock garden on the north side of the Pergola has succumbed to the lack of support and cracked. Hopefully next spring will bring a remediation plan for correcting this issue prior to the prime visiting times. With the Mansion undergoing a major overhaul and West House undergoing renovation, the Volunteer party took place in the Mansion's dining area. Terrible weather limited any studio visits but a good time was had by all.

Jean thanked all the members present for their past support and hoped that they will continue or, if possible, increase their time and / or financial support of the Garden Association. On behalf of all the YGA membership she thanked the Yaddo team, her fellow Board members for their time and effort behind the scenes, and all of the volunteers who contribute so much to the YGA.

Like all not for profits we are always looking for new volunteers, both docents and gardeners, or both. Jean asked the membership for any suggestions on how we could entice additional volunteers – young or young at heart! It could be through a retiree group they also participate in or through outreach to local schools to become a favorite place for doing their “community service.”

CORRESPONDENCE: Barbara Hefter reported that it was a relatively slow year, with 147 thank you notes, acknowledgements, and cards mailed from the YGA. The YGA received donations consisting of 30 memorial gifts, 11 gifts in honor of someone, and 9 garden gifts. In addition, 58 paid memberships were received.

TOURS AND DOCENTS: Lesley Leduc reported that this year the docents started with an early spring tea party and get-together. In March, Judith Banks mailed out approximately 135 promotional letters and garden brochures to area garden clubs, libraries, museums, senior citizen groups, and bus tour companies, advertising the availability of our presentations and reserved general garden and ghost tours. There were 20 summer garden drop-in tours and 12 ghost drop-ins. Thirteen groups, ranging from an RPI student and faculty outing to a group from the American Society of Arms Collectors, booked private garden tours. Three groups booked private ghost tours, one of them a child’s 8th birthday party. This is a slight increase from the previous year. We doubled our Powerpoint presentations this year, offering four programs. The price for all tours and presentations remained the same this year. We continue to offer general garden and ghost tour gift certificates for drop-in and private tours. Looking ahead to 2019, there are already two general garden reserved tours booked.

VOLUNTEERS: Mary Curtis reported that we had a total of 31 active volunteers this year. with a total of 2087 hours. We had two new volunteers. Three community groups, which included BOCES (174 hours), Senior Give Back Day (69 hours), and Tae Kwon Do (6 hours), all volunteered this year. She noted that the Volunteer Party was held this year on September 26 in the dining room of the Yaddo Mansion. Several volunteers reached milestones. These included Bob Fusco and Kathy Egnasher, who both received their 15 hour t-shirts. Kathy Crandall, Bob Cuthbertson, Stacey Hetherington, Karen Klepper, Johanna MacKay, and Toni Wille received their 50-hour buckets. Jackie Falk, Joanne Killian, and Nancy Stevens received notecards for 100 hours. Mary Curtis received a Yaddo hat for 250 hours, Kathy Sweet received a lifetime membership for 500 hours, and Donna Bates received a sweatshirt for 1000 hours. Volunteer hours for 2018 totaled 2,336 which includes BOCES, Senior Give Back Day, and Tae Kwon Do. This is down 15% from 3,213 hours in 2017. Mary noted that the weather was a factor in the reduced hours. Heat and humidity were intense this past summer, which made it difficult to work safely. There was also rain on many of the scheduled work days. The volunteer committee responded to twelve emails forwarded from the Corporation website that were received in the months leading up to the gardening season from persons showing interest

in volunteering in the garden. Some of these people did come to work, but not on a regular basis.

PUBLICITY: Pat Mangini reported that 2018 was a good year for publicity of the YGA. Gail Stein, Office Coordinator for Discover Saratoga, who is an avid blogger and amateur photographer posts, daily pictures of places around Saratoga on her Facebook page, Frozen Moments in and around Saratoga. On July 10th, she wrote a great article on Yaddo Gardens entitled, A Photo Tour of the Beautiful Yaddo Gardens. Gail has many other postings about Yaddo which you can view by going to discoversaratoga.org and search Yaddo Gardens.

On August 2nd, YGA conducted a Community Day at Saratoga Race Track. On that day the track welcomed non-profit partners to the Community Outreach Booth. Throughout the day we distributed flyers about our tours and information about volunteering. We also sold roses. Additionally, plans are for us to be included on NYRA's web site for one of the nine best places to visit in the area other than the track.

In August we were interviewed in the garden by Karen Charbonneau, Saratoga Home Team of the Miranda Real Estate Group, 340 Broadway. Karen is displaying the video of the interview in her office encouraging people to visit Yaddo Garden while looking for a new home. The video can be viewed on You Tube by searching for Yaddo Garden Tour.

Other articles about the Garden appeared in Northern Living Magazine and on Triple A's web site entitled Ghost Tours by Marissa. The most recent article by Indiana Nash was in the Schenectady Gazette; she interviewed Lesley Leduc, who has plenty of ghost tales to tell and is a docent for YGA. Reporter Kelly Rapone, the driving force behind the Haunted History Trail of New York, says that there are about 85 haunted locations, many right here in the Capital Region and Yaddo Garden is one.

Once again, The Saratogian and Saratoga Today continue to be very helpful in posting our Garden Tours, Ghost Tours, and volunteer information in the daily calendar of events. And of course, we can't forget Facebook as it gets us a lot of views and provides us with a far reaching means of sharing our information.

YADDO: Lynn Farenell started by saying THANK YOU to everyone who has committed time and talents to make the garden more beautiful each year by volunteering in the garden, serving on the board, and supporting the gardens financially through gifts and memberships. She shared garden news from Yaddo, reporting that the B&G staff have tried to stay on top of the drainage issues, fixing pumps, helping to keep the fish fountain operational, and with their artistry, making the fences for the rose beds, as well as the statue covers. For their winter projects, the crew is making a new cover for the main fountain statue, for Christalan, and for the rock garden statue. They are also working with Allegrone Companies, the company working with us on the restoration of the Mansion, to price out the stairs and the sundial projects so we have cost factors to work with in order to get these repairs done as soon as possible. She also reported that work continues on the stabilization of the mansion, including structural repairs, window repair and replacement,

gutter and roof repairs, and an upgrade for the heating system that will enhance the comfort for guests in residence. Air-conditioning has been added for the kitchen and dining room, among other common areas of the building, laying the groundwork for future upgrades. This stage is set to be completed by year's end. Artists will once again be in residence starting in May of 2019. The summer benefit will move back to the Mansion in June.

Lynn said that she was grateful to have been involved with this extraordinary group since its inception 27 years ago. Her main responsibility has been doing development work for the artists' retreat, but she has enjoyed being the YGA liaison and working together with the board and the event committees. She also announced that she will be retiring at the end of the year and hinted that she will not be disappearing!

FESTIVAL OF TREES: Florence Campion reported that she was asked to chair the Holiday Decor Committee for the Festival of Trees fifteen years ago. One day at the Yaddo coffee break she asked whether any crafty individuals would be willing to work on a small tree, wreath, or centerpiece. Linda Hoyt suggested that they do a YGA tree. Ever since, between ten and twenty YGA volunteers have decorated trees, one each year at first, and for the last few years, two trees. Volunteers this year were Jane Wait, Barbara Sutherland, Faith Palma, Lyn Madden, Linda Hoyt, Mary Curtis, Deb Brown, Dorothy Harran, and Florence Campion. She thanked everyone who helped and asked that if anyone is interested, to contact her next October.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jean thanked Donna Bates, Joyce Zanchelli, and Marty Precheur for their work on the board. Kathy Mattes reported that the nominating committee recommended Lauri Cardinale, Nancy Wilder, and Verena Takekoshi for the current vacancies on the board. They recommended Mary Curtis for a second term and Barbara Hefter for a third term. Recommended for officer positions were Lauri Cardinale for 2019 Recording Secretary and Nancy Wilder for 2019 Corresponding Secretary. The nominations were approved on a motion by Lesley Leduc, seconded by Jill Gainor, and passed. Those serving on this year's nominating committee were Kathy Mattes, Mary Curtis, Lesley Leduc, and Linda Hoyt.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 on a motion from Kathy Mattes, seconded by Jill Gainor, and passed. Following the meeting was a presentation from members of Saratoga Stryders detailing their hike in the Grand Canyon.