A special newsletter for friends of Queens Botanical Garden

VOL 24 ISSUE 1

SAVE THE DATE

Rose Gala
THURSDAY, JUNE 14

WHAT TO DO & SEE

A Letter from Susan

Dear Friend,

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.” – Doug Larson

I don’t know Doug Larson personally (although I have learned that he was a mid-western newspaper columnist) but I like his style! Those who know me would recognize the optimism in this choice of quote. As the days grow longer and the air warms a bit, I find myself with a little extra pep in my step and a feeling that everything is possible. Of course, as a gardener, there is always the distinct chance that my shoes will be full of mud and leaves and, yes—slush—and that’s just fine!

We hope that visiting Queens Botanical Garden fills you with the same feelings of hopefulness, creative energy, and serendipity. There are so many things to do here this spring! Cooking classes, floral design, painting workshops, Mother’s Day brunch, and more.

Of course, if you want to get some mud in YOUR shoes, join us for a Community Volunteer Day on May 19 or Horticulture Volunteer Days on April 5, May 3, or June 7.

Happy Spring!

See you around the Garden,

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director

P.S. Take a look at Tulip Time and Arbor Fest in April on page 6.
Gun hay faht choy!

Queens Botanical Garden rang in the year of the dog at our Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 17, 2018. We greeted over 1,000 visitors, who enjoyed free festivities, including a fun storyline reading of The Bronze Dog by Li Jian in English and Mandarin, crafts and community art, a Taekwondo demonstration by Korea Taekwondo, a beautiful paper cutting workshop led by artist Emily Mock in English and Mandarin, and an exciting lion dance performance by DCH Racing. Surrounding our Terrace was a display of “Lucky Dogs,” life-sized paper maché dogs, which were lovingly put together by community members and staff on weekends leading up to the celebration.

“It was so great to see such a large, diverse crowd of people enjoying the Lunar New Year Celebration,” said event attendee Lisa Cho of Forest Hills. “The highlight was seeing the lion dance performance—there was such excitement!”

Attendees also learned about and purchased little green friends at the gift shop, auspicious beauties like jade plants and money trees. May your new year be full of fortune, success, and good health!

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, Children’s Garden Open House welcomed hundreds of families to come and learn about our kids programs and to take part in free activities, including making upcycled CD case terrariums, bottle cap magnets, and leaf rubbings; getting their hands dirty at the Exploration Station; planting seeds; learning about honeybees; and more!

Is it cotton, beans, sunflower seeds, sand, soil, or acorns? Children astutely discerned the mystery sounds hidden in boxes at our interactive Mystery Scents & Sounds station. All throughout the Garden, families participated in sensory activities together on a beautiful March afternoon. Afterward, many ventured through the gardens to see QBG’s plant collections, many of which are starting to bud!

Giovanna Orama of College Point, who attended with her daughter, Angelina, her mother, and her grandmother—four generations of her family—had this to say about Open House: “I loved the excitement in Angelina’s eyes when we got to the Garden. It was a new experience for her and she was all smiles! We will be coming back to learn, explore, and make new memories.”

Thank you to volunteers from HSBC Bank and Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) participants from LaGuardia Community College, who greeted visitors and lent helping hands at activity stations and made the day possible!

Children’s Garden is sponsored by HSBC Bank.
Garden Announces New Board Members

By Jennifer Kheddaroo, Queens Ledger

Jack Eichenbaum was born in Flushing Hospital a little more than 75 years ago. When he was 20 years old, he left Flushing, only to return 13 years later, in 1976, and discovered that the neighborhood had a new botanical garden.

Fast forward 42 years and Eichenbaum is now one of the newest members of the Queens Botanical Garden Board of Trustees. As a historian, Eichenbaum believes he can bring a lot to the table when it comes to education through his deep knowledge of the borough’s history and geography.

“The first Queens Botanical Garden was on the grounds of the first World’s Fair,” Eichenbaum said. “I remember having a wonderful conversation with Chuck Wade, the former executive director of the garden, and I found out about the Prince Nursery and that the birthplace of the horticulture industry in North America was right here in Flushing. I knew Flushing and all over Queens was where all the new immigrants were coming, so first came the plants from all over the world, back in the 17th century, and then came the people. We have representation from all over the world and I study that.”

Toni Ceaser, a teacher of special education and Orton-Gillingham Approach tutoring at The Sterling School, is also a new member. She first got involved with Queens Botanical Garden when she was in search of becoming a master composter.

“The easiest way to do that, for me I found, was to do it right here in Queens,” Ceaser said. “I found out that there were wonderful teachers, wonderful classmates and I could take the bus from Long Island City to get here. It’s just so accessible.”

Joining Eichenbaum and Ceaser as new members are Director of External Affairs for NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Willa Brody, Vice President and Managing Director at Sterling National Bank David Cinelli, and Senior Property Manager of Stillman Management, Edward Potter.

Board Chair Pauline Huang noted that “all of the board members are from different places and cultures and they have different specialties,” but they each come together with the purpose of moving Queens Botanical Garden forward.

New Advisory Council Member Frank Buddingh’ reflected on a time when someone asked him why he loved nature. For him, life revolves around everything that pertains to it. “Nature is my second nature, but when I thought about it, it’s actually my first nature,” he said. “We as human beings cannot live without nature.”

Buddingh’, a tree consultant and artist, has been involved with Queens Botanical Garden since 2015. His work was exhibited as part of the gallery show, “Portraits of Tall Friends.” During Arbor Fest in April, Buddingh’ will host a tree walk where he will showcase how trees “talk.”

The education building, a modern facility for programming that will especially benefit young children and high school students, is well underway as well, according to Capital Campaign co-chair Saul Kupferberg.

A new project, the “Reimagination Within Gardens on Parade,” will revamp areas that have become run down over the years. The Backyard Garden will feature perennials like the lenten rose, coral bells, cinnamon ferns, Spanish bluebell “Excelsior” and the Japanese sedge “Eversheen.”

“I hear from people around town that they want more color,” said Executive Director Susan Lacerte. “We’re going to redo this area of the garden and it will have a new feature focusing on Taiwan.”

The Taiwan Garden will have flowers such as the blazing star, Chinese rhubarb, purple coneflower “PowWow” and goldenrod “Fireworks.” “The Taiwan Garden was a gift from Taiwanese immigrants,” Huang said. “This is an inspiration for more immigrants in the community to do more for where we live and where we are.”
Unexpectedly Dyeing in a Pile of “Black Gold”

Compost is food for plants—adding microorganisms and nutrients for optimal health and growth for organic produce—but did you know that it can be an unconventional dyeing medium?

Jess Brey of Dyed in Queens, who is also Marketing & Membership Coordinator at QBG, experimented to see how composting’s natural fermentation process can help along the dyeing of a bundle of cotton fabric. Jess collected fallen redbud, maple, and oak leaves throughout the Garden as trees shed their fall foliage. The leaves were then dipped in an iron solution and rolled up in the cotton. With the help of NYC Compost Project’s Alexander Jagiello, the carefully rolled-up fabric was buried in a hot, steaming pile of compost, where microbial bacteria is actively breaking down organic materials—yes, the same organics collected at drop-off sites throughout Queens! A pile averages between 120 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

After three weeks of co-living with decomposing organics, the cloth was removed and unrolled. What resulted was a successfully-dyed fabric, adorned with intricate specks and imprints of leaves in many auburn and amber hues. The redbud, maple, and oak leaves left soft coppery imprints, angular brown, and green-brown respectively. Brown streaks were remnants of the drips of iron or the folds where microbes took up residence. With the fabric, Jess constructed a button-down shirt, a personalized, lovingly-made addition to her colorful wardrobe!
Family Cooking Class: Whole Grain Bowls and Salads

Sunday, April 15, 11am to 1pm
$12 Member; $15 Non-Member (does not include garden admission)
For all ages; children must be accompanied by participating adult
Registration required: qbgfamilycooking.eventbrite.com

Join Allergic to Salad for a monthly series of vegetarian cooking classes for the whole family. At Whole Grain Bowls and Salads, cook some fun and nutritious grains as a base for a number of meal-sized salads incorporating the bright and fresh produce of early spring, like radishes, baby greens, and peas.

Seasonal Highlight:
TULIP TIME!

Celebrate spring with a visit to QBG during the peak of tulip season. See over 20,000 blossoms!

Saturday, April 21, 12 to 5:30pm
Hourly Tulip Tours – 1, 2, 3pm • Included with admission
Tulip and Flower inspired crafts – 12 to 4pm • Included with admission
Spring Watercolor Workshop II: Spring Bulb Flowers – 2 to 4pm • $15 Member; $20 Non-Member (does not include garden admission)
Recommended for adults and children ages 10+ (accompanied by participating adult) • Registration required: springwatercolor2.eventbrite.com

In this seasonal series of classes, learn the basic techniques of painting with watercolors with artist Chemin Hsiao. This class will go out into the garden and use tulips and other spring bulb flowers as inspiration.

Music in the Garden – 4 to 5:30pm • Included with admission

QBG is proud to welcome the red-hot jazz stylings of Emily Asher’s Garden Party to kick off our monthly Music in the Garden series.

Happy Hour – 4 to 5:30pm • Cash Bar

Enjoy the Music in the Garden concert with a signature drink, alcoholic beverages, soda, and snacks.

Sunday, April 22, 12 to 4pm
Tulip and Flower inspired crafts – 12 to 4pm • Included with admission

Floral Design Workshop: Tulips – 2 to 4pm • $25 Member; $30 Non-Member (does not include garden admission)
Registration required: tulipfloraldesign.eventbrite.com

Arrange tulips at TULIP TIME! Participants will learn the beauty of designing with tulips as they create a spring vase arrangement to take home. All flowers and materials provided.

Seasonal Highlight:
Arbor Fest

Sunday, April 29, 11am to 5pm
$8 Child; $10 Adult; Free for Members • $10 festival parking rate in effect
More: queensbotanical.org/arborfest

It’s a fun-filled celebration of trees and the environment at QBG’s Arbor Fest! Enjoy a variety of activities for all ages, such as:

BEER & WINE GARDEN • LAWN GAMES • BAR TRIVIA • BOTANICAL DEMOS GARDENING ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS • BOUNCE HOUSES • PUPPET SHOWS
FACE PAINTING • PETTING ZOO • LOCAL FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS

Generous support provided by:

Special thanks to the New York City Council Speaker, the Queens Delegation, and Council Members Koo, Grodenchik & Vallone.
**Spring Tree Tips** by Frank Buddingh’

1. Spring is the time that trees will leaf out. If yours is behind other trees of the same species, have them checked out for their health.

2. Especially after the recent winter storms, trees need to be checked for root stability and signs of internal decay.

3. Have trees checked for dead wood, especially when the tree is located near a house, in a garden or park, or near a sidewalk.

4. At any time, be on the alert when groundworks have to take place near your tree. Discuss with your tree specialist if this will impact your tree.

Frank Buddingh’ is one of Queens Botanical Garden’s newest Advisory Council members. He is an international consulting arborist and the founder of Buddinghtree Consultancy LLC. For more information, visit www.buddinghtree.com

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**A Bit of History: 1939 New York’s World’s Fair**

Following is an excerpt from the article “Flushing Meadows Corona Park and the Queens Museum: A History, a Memoir and a Vision,” originally published in the Queens Historical Society newsletter.

By Jack Eichenbaum, Queens Borough Historian and Queens Botanical Garden Board Member

In 1906, the growing borough of Brooklyn, on the verge of exhausting a dumping site in Jamaica Bay, acquired land in Corona, west of the creek to be used by the Brooklyn Ash Removal Company, turning the salt marsh into landfill. Dumping began in 1909 and by 1920 the salt marsh had evolved into the Corona Dump, “a valley of ashes,” described by the Nick Carraway character on his train ride across the landfill in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby.

In 1936, Robert Moses proposed closing the ash landfill and transforming it into a World’s Fair site. This could simultaneously justify his long-range park and highway projects and dovetail with tourism and economic development. The landfill was leveled. The creek bed was straightened, and the southern part of the creek was deepened to form Meadow and Willow Lakes, all part of a new Flushing Meadows Park. At its northern end, a tidal gate bridge was built to keep the East River tide from flooding into the park. By then, Horse Brook was long gone. Dammed and reduced in size, the creek became navigable only up to Roosevelt Avenue. Barges still docked on the creek. At its southern end, a spur was built (since demolished) to permit the new IND subway line to serve the fair. The Willets Point Blvd. local station was moved westward and reconstructed as an express stop called “World’s Fair.” The Grand Central Parkway was built on the western flank. The Aquacade amphitheater was built overlooking Meadow Lake. North of Roosevelt Ave the so-called Willets Point Triangle where construction and metal-working firms concentrated was not incorporated into the park.

The Fair was themed The World of Tomorrow. Various firsts were featured: color photography, nylon, air conditioning, fluorescent lamps, the View-Master, and Smell-O-Vision. The most popular exhibit was General Motor’s Futurama. Visitors waited hours for entry and then sat in moving chairs that transported them over a landscape interlaced with freeways resembling the reality made possible by the Interstate highway system built two decades later. International pavilions grouped around the Court of Peace and the Lagoon of Nations included the Soviet Union, “Jewish Palestine” (ceremoniously opened by Albert Einstein,) and the League of Nations. The Queens Botanical Garden was built on a site within the fairgrounds.

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Starting April 1:
The “People, Plants, Cultures” Photo Contest at QBG!

Celebrate spring and dip into summer by submitting your beautiful photos taken at Queens Botanical Garden from April 1 through June 30 for a chance to win:

One (1) year of FREE FAMILY-LEVEL MEMBERSHIP at the Garden ($85 value)
Six (6) festival admission tickets to HARVEST FEST on Sunday, October 14, 2018
(up to $72 value, transferable to family and friends)

The winning photo pays homage to the Garden’s tagline, “where people, plants, and cultures meet.” The winning photographer—amateur or professional—will capture the spirit of the Garden, a place where all walks of life come together in nature, in bustling Flushing, Queens. *Think flora, fauna, families, fun!* For more information and instructions, to queensbotanical.org/photocontest.
We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies:

- New York City Council
- New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
- New York City Department of Sanitation
- New York State Assembly
- New York State Senate
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
- Queens Delegation of the New York City Council
- Queens Delegation of the New York State Assembly

We are pleased to thank the following corporations and foundations for their support of QBG's botanical displays, programs, and operations:

- HSBC Bank USA, N.A.
- New York-Presbyterian Queens
- Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
- New York Community Bank
- Achelis and Bodman Foundations
- The Kupferberg Foundation
- Lily Auchincloss Foundation
- Ridonour Endowment Fund
- Dr. Robert C. & Tina Sohn Foundation
- Sterling National Bank
- The Frank J. Antun Foundation
- Rose M. Badgley Residuary Charitable Trust
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Resorts World Casino
- New York Community Bank Foundation

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