A special newsletter for friends of Queens Botanical Garden

VOL 25 ISSUE 2

SAVE THE DATE

Taiwan: A World of Orchids

Friday, August 9 - Sunday, August 11

WHAT TO SEE & DO

A Letter from Susan

“Just living is not enough,” said the butterfly, “One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”

— Hans Christian Anderson, The Complete Fairy Tales

Dear Friend,

As I write this, the sun is shining, the flowers are in bloom, and I feel free! I hope you do too. These are enchanting, fairy tale times at the Garden. Long, balmy days, teeming with butterflies and honeybees, lilies and clematis, and the relaxed feeling that summer is just about to unfold. Dreamy!

This season, we are rejoicing with glorious flowers in so many ways. Stop by any Thursday night between now and September 12 for Summer Nights, when the Garden is open until 8pm. On select dates, celebrate Flower Power Parties where we’ll focus on specific blossoms like dahlias, orchids, and lotus, and the countries they come from. There’ll be live music, crafts, and grown-up beverages, too. And, for a touch of whimsy, look for the giant faux-flowers “planted” throughout the Garden!

There’s always so much to do at the Garden — and in true QBG fashion, we aim to offer programming FREE with admission or at a very friendly rate. We welcome you to join us at any and all our offerings.

As a QBG Member, I invite you to join me for a glass of wine and a special “New Gardens Tour,” where I’ll introduce you to the just-created Unity Garden. I hope you’ll walk with me on September 5th in the evening, and I’ll also show you the newly restored water feature in the Wedding Garden, too! (See page 5 for details.) So much bounty to appreciate. I look forward to sharing it with YOU!

See you around the Garden!

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director

Enjoy a stunning display of orchids and a weekend filled with art and culture, in partnership with the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York (TECO-NY). This year, as part of Summer Nights, come enjoy a sneak peek of the exhibit an evening early at “Flower Power Party: Orchid” on Thursday, August 8 from 6 to 8pm.

Included with garden admission; FREE for Members

Learn more: queensbotanical.org/orchids
Flushing, NY — On Wednesday, June 5, 2019, Queens Botanical Garden’s annual Rose Gala honored Peter Koo, New York City Council Member with the Rose Gala Award and Jaclyn Mucaria, President, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens with the Community Leadership Award.

Upon receiving the Rose Gala Award, Council Member Peter Koo stressed the importance of outdoor spaces like QBG and its important role in mental and physical health, citing a Time magazine article recommending a “prescription you cannot fill at your own pharmacy.” Koo, a former pharmacist himself, who coincidentally used to work at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, turned to fellow honoree Jaclyn Mucaria and suggested hospital staff encourage outdoor recreation, relaxation, physical and mental health, art and fresh air. “Write the prescription, ‘VISIT QBG!'” he recommended happily.

In response, upon receiving the Community Leadership Award, Mucaria enthusiastically agreed with Koo’s appraisal of QBG and its positive impact on mental and physical health. On the topic of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens’ community outreach to educate, screen, and prevent illness, she said: “This iconic setting here is perfect, not just for our 5,000 employees who work down the street, but for our families and visitors who can come here and take a moment to breathe….it is my honor to accept this award on behalf of the hospital,” said Mucaria. “We will continue the relationship and plant many seeds for many years.”

Joining the celebration were New York City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

“I want to thank all of you who help contribute to make sure our botanical garden—which is the best in New York City—is as strong as it needs to be,” said Van Bramer.

“Let’s continue to make this a great place to raise healthy children and families,” said Adams. “Open space allows us to have open ideas, allows us to reattach ourselves to Mother Nature.”

Proceeds from the event help sustain QBG’s colorful flowers, innovative programs, and environmental education workshops for over 32,000 schoolchildren and over 250,000 people served by the Garden each year.

QBG thanks its Rose Gala Committee, led by Board Member Bianca Ng, Board Chair Pauline Huang, and fellow trustees Mingder Chang, Eunil “Eunice” Chung, Debra Lodge, and Edie Meyer, for all their efforts toward making the Rose Gala a success.

Many thanks to Rose Gala Sponsors and In-Kind Supporters (Page 7).
Dancing, Hooping, and Jumping for Healthy Living!

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, hundreds of families met with friendly medical professionals—not at a doctor’s office or a hospital, but at Queens Botanical Garden in Flushing, Queens for the third TWIST & SPROUT!, a family-friendly, free event at the Garden presented by NewYork-Presbyterian Queens.

Focused on health and wellness, nutrition, and ways to be active and enjoy outdoor activities, the event offered a wide array of activities, demonstrations, and entertainment. To name a few offerings, visitors enjoyed bounce houses, ballroom dancing, breakdancing, hula hooping, yoga, storytime, veggie crafts, puppet shows, and so much more. Most importantly, children interacted with hospital staff and other medical professionals to learn about safe sleep, asthma, poison control, nutrition, and other important health and safety-related tips.

Inspired by the pediatric residents from Weill Cornell Medicine during their training in community pediatrics at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, the event works to dispel scary impressions of doctors and wellness. After chatting with and getting health tips from friendly professionals, winning prizes as they filled out their Passports to Health (a fun little health-themed scavenger hunt) and even trying on doctors’ gear, children, especially, walk away thinking of health in a positive light!

QBG thanks NewYork-Presbyterian Queens for their support and for bringing this wonderful free event to the Garden and the community yet again! See below for our favorite highlights:
Wine on Us
Thursdays, July 11 and August 15, 6 to 8pm
Must be 21 years or older - valid ID required.
QBG Members only • Drop-in; No prior registration required

Show your QBG Member card to receive a complimentary glass of wine on us! Part of Summer Nights, when QBG is extending its open hours so you can enjoy twilight at the Garden.

New Gardens Tour + Wine on Us
Thursday, September 5, 6 to 8pm
QBG Members only
Registration required. RSVP:
Joshua Deloj, jdejoy@queensbotanical.org or 718-886-3800 x362
Join us on a tour of our new Unity Garden and enjoy a glass of wine. Part of Summer Nights.

Hapa-Zome Workshop: Flower Prints
Saturday, July 20, 11am to 1pm
$20 Member / $30 Non-Member • Registration required:
qghapazomeflowerprints.eventbrite.com

Learn the art of hapa-zome, smashing plant color and shape onto fabric. Participants will go on a tour of the Garden with Jess Brey of Dyed in Queens, harvest plants for their hapa-zome project, and design two handkerchiefs.

Bee Inspired! Workshop
Saturday, August 3, 2 to 4pm
$20 Member / $30 Non-Member (includes Garden admission)
Registration required: beeinspiredatqbg.eventbrite.com

Comb through the what, how, and why of honeybee creations. Participants taste local honey and make household items like candles and salve with beeswax.

Taiwan: A World of Orchids
Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10, 9am to 5pm
Sunday, August 11, 9am to 4pm*
Drop-in; Included with Garden admission

Enjoy a stunning display of orchids and a weekend filled with art and culture, in partnership with the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York (TECO-NY).
Learn more: queensbotanical.org/orchids
*On Sunday, August 11, the exhibit closes at 4pm to dress up for the Post-Exhibit Sale at 4:30pm.

Go to queensbotanical.org/calendar to make the most of your summer at the Garden!
Aleks uses a tractor to pour compost onto a conveyor belt that feeds into the trommel, a large revolving cylinder screen with mesh wiring. The trommel turns and allows the compost to drop down into a storage chamber, while gravity helps feed the “overs” out of the end of the trommel.

The separation of finished compost from overs leaves us with two distinct products: “overs” and fine compost. Compost “overs” are mostly woodchips. They make beautiful mulch, provided that there is not too much debris and plastic contamination inside the compost. We can also utilize the overs for composting, recycling them back into the compost process to provide porosity for a fresh compost pile.

After months of high temperatures and turning, the materials that were once food waste, leaves, sawdust, and woodchips are now ready for the final phase of composting: screening or sifting.

The screened, finished compost is a fine, dark, and crumbly soil amendment. It is used to promote plant growth in gardens, perennial plantings, and lawn remediation projects.

UP CLOSE: Screening, Sifting, Refining Compost

The team at New York City Compost Project Hosted by Queens Botanical Garden is busy yearlong turning food scraps—those you bring to drop-off sites or drop in the locked bin here at the Garden—into compost, which is sometimes referred to as “black gold.” It is nicknamed this because of its value as a nutrient-rich soil additive. The additive is applied to soils in our farm, throughout the Garden, and at local parks and community gardens, and given back to NYC residents at Giveback events. The application enriches our soil and therefore, our plants and produce. But the journey of food scraps from your home to the state of compost is a long one.

After months of being turned in high temperatures so that pathogens are killed, a compost pile is ready for its last stage of sifting or screening, necessary for filtering out larger particles like large woodchips and plastic contaminants. See below as Aleks Jagiello, Operations Coordinator of New York City Compost Project Hosted by Queens Botanical Garden, walks us through the final stage of compost-making!

This summer, get up-close with compost. Meet our friendly Farm & Compost team, tour our one-acre farm during Farm Open Hours on Wednesdays and monthly Farm & Compost Tours, taste fresh produce at our monthly Pick & Prep workshops, and more.

To learn more about NYC Compost Project hosted by Queens Botanical Garden and upcoming events: queenbotanical.org/farmandcompost

Submit Photos for Chance to Win Family Membership & Festival Tix

Now through July 31, submit your photos taken at Queens Botanical Garden to the second annual “People, Plants, Cultures” Photo Contest for a chance to win:

• One (1) year of FAMILY-LEVEL MEMBERSHIP ($85 value)
• Six (6) festival admission tickets to HARVEST FEST
Sunday, October 13, 2019 (up to $72 value)

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.

To submit: queensbotanical.org/photocontest
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THANK YOU to our MEMBERS, SPONSORS, and FRIENDS!

SAVE THE DATES:
Summer Nights
Thursdays through 9/12, 6 to 8pm

Flower Power Parties
7/18, 8/8, 9/12, 6 to 8pm

Taiwan: A World of Orchids
Fri-Sun, 8/9-8/11

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