Dear Friend,

In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, doorways, passages, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. It is conventionally thought that the month of January is named for Janus. As a gardener, looking forward and back seems very natural... maybe that’s why statues of Janus grace European gardens from Vienna to St. Petersburg to Cardiff! The transition from one year to the next is a perfect time to think about this garden and all we have accomplished in 2019.

Looking Back
After many years of planning, renovations in three garden areas were completed! The Wedding Garden—where hundreds of brides and grooms have exchanged vows over the years—has a brand-new water feature with naturalistic rock edging and a water system that keeps that precious resource onsite! The Perennial Garden has a whole new, welcoming pathway system that invites you to meander through and admire its many shades of green and purple. And, the Unity Garden, in addition to having a spiffy new name, reaches across the path to unify two garden spaces—one cool and shady, the other bright and sunny. We are so proud to share these refreshed and renewed gardens with YOU!

Of course, there were a multitude of programs and partnerships at the Garden this year. Our Education department worked with nearly 35,000 schoolchildren, teaching them about the environment and the natural world. Thousands of teachers participated in professional development learning. Seniors practiced Tai Chi on the Oak Allee; volunteers mulched, weeded, and planted bulbs; and more than 265,000 people enjoyed all that QBG has to offer! It was a FABULOUS year!

Looking Forward
2020 is a special year for me! As a Leap Year baby, I get to celebrate my real birthday just once every four years—and this year, I am looking forward to my Sweet 16! Every four years, we celebrate my Leap Year Birthday with a party at the Garden. I hope you’ll join us—tickets and donations benefit the Intern Program. Having been a QBG intern in the 1980s, the Intern Program holds a very dear place in my heart. It set me on my path in public horticulture—and your support can help another young plant enthusiast do the same! See page 5 for delicious details!

Certainly, in the New Year, the Garden will continue to be the place where people, plants, and cultures meet.

See you around the Garden.

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director
What are fire fans, pixel staffs, and poi balls? They are props used in fire juggling and, if you attended Harvest Fest at Queens Botanical Garden this year, you saw them close-up, on fire, and in action! A captivated audience ooh-ed and ahh-ed at the back-bending stunts by Hoopsie Daisies, who performed the culminating show at the annual festival on Sunday, October 13, 2019. At times, the scene as the crowd watched hypnotically was soundtracked by the whooshing of fire-lit props swinging rhythmically in the air.

Every year, the festival gets better and better. Prior to the performance and throughout the day, visitors from all over came to take photos and pick out pumpkins in the Pumpkin Patch, enjoy live music by School of Rock and Heidi & the Troubadours, sip drinks at the Beer & Wine Garden, bounce on inflatables, meet animals at the petting zoo, get their faces painted, watch garden and composting demonstrations, and—let’s not forget our appetite—eat delicious food from local vendors.

We hope you will join us for this annual event next year. That being said, please accept this friendly reminder that festival admission is FREE for Queens Botanical Garden Members and Children age 3 and under, so be sure to pencil in our 2020 festival now for Sunday, October 18—after making sure you sign up for, or renew, your membership today!

**Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**

Lead Sponsor: NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
Event Sponsors: New York City Council, Amerasia Bank, New York Life, School of Rock Queens, HealthNeed Medical Urgent Care.
Special thanks to City Council Speaker Johnson, Queens Delegation Chair Koslowitz, and City Council Members Grendich, Koo, Ulrich, & Vallone.

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Harvest Fest Thrills Thousands in its Ninth Year

A tot taste-tests a Pumpkin Patch prop; The Hoopsie Daisies awe a crowd with fire fans; Adults AND children love bubbles by Bubbleton Bubbles; A team of dedicated volunteers ready to welcome visitors at the bounce houses; Children enjoy amphibians as head pieces brought to the festival by My Reptile Guys; Pumpkins are ripe for the picking!; Festival-goers enjoy drinks at the Beer Garden; A family takes their quintessential fall photo in the Pumpkin Patch; NYC Compost Project hosted by Queens Botanical Garden Outreach Coordinator Duke Yen talks worms; The Patch has more than pumpkins...face holes make for cute photos!
Christmas Returns to Queens Botanical Garden

On Sunday, December 8, 2019, at Christmas in the Garden, families spent a festive day celebrating the holiday early—and with a garden twist! Children made multiple crafts like evergreen swags, botanical ornaments, and beeswax candles to bring home. Families lined up to say hello to, and take professional photos with, Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Outside, the musical group The Rough Dozen entertained crowds in front of the tree, which was lit at the end of the event as part of an upbeat tree lighting ceremony.

Special thanks to sponsors whose support makes this event possible:
City Council Speaker Johnson, Queens Delegation Chair Koslowitz, and Council Members Grodenchik, Koo, Ulrich, & Vallone
Sterling National Bank

Sign Up for 2020 Kids Programs
Ready, set...REGISTER!
On Friday, January 17 at 10am, 2020 registration for three of our ever-growing kids programs will be open: Spring and Summer Children’s Garden, Spring Garden Buds, and Summer Junior Naturalists. Kids’ imagination and knowledge blossom as they plant and harvest vegetables and flowers, explore the Garden’s engaging 39 acres, and prepare the food they’ve grown!

Learn More:
queensbotanical.org/kidsprograms

TIPS:
1. Family-Level Members enjoy a 10% off discount for all three programs.
2. Go to the Eventbrite registration links on the website URL listed above and click “Remind Me.” Eventbrite will then send you an email reminder to alert you the moment registration goes live!
3. Come to Children’s Garden Family Day on Saturday, March 21, 2020 to get your hands dirty with planting activities and garden crafts. See how worms wiggle, create your own tasty and healthy trail mix, plant your own seedling, and so much more. Free. Register: qbgchildrensgardenfamilyday.eventbrite.com
Cultivating Culture: 34 Institutions That Changed New York

Where: The Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Ave at 103rd St., New York, NY

When: Now through February 9, 2020

About: New York City’s Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) is an unparalleled public-private initiative dating back to the 19th century. Today, it provides City support to 34 institutions across the five boroughs that help cement New York’s status as the cultural capital of the world. This robust public investment in diverse private non-profit organizations – ranging from the Museum of the City of New York and The Public Theater to the Brooklyn Museum, Queens Botanical Garden, the Staten Island Museum, and the Wildlife Conservation Society – provides the city with a bounty of cultural and educational options. Cultivating Culture will tell these institutions’ stories through original imagery and objects, including founding charters, tickets and ephemera related to opening night performances, and other original artifacts that bring the history of the city’s cultural riches to life.

“This exhibition illustrates the nexus of the unique partnership between cultural community and the City of New York, which has been a key factor in turning New York City into the tourism capital of the world,” says John F. Calvelli, Chair, Cultural Institutions Group, and Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, Wildlife Conservation Society. “This is the first official CIG exhibit to encapsulate the contributions of each member over the past 150 years. It demonstrates the importance of culture to both the economic viability of the City, but most importantly the countless communities that benefit from cultural and educational services and are inspired by our programming.”

Learn a little something about each organization, including Queens Botanical Garden, and then set out to see and experience them for yourself. See you around the Garden!

Travel back in time as you walk through the “Cultivating Culture” exhibit at MCNY. Queens Botanical Garden evolved from the five-acre “Gardens on Parade” exhibit of the 1939 New York World’s Fair. The souvenir book from all those decades ago is on display.

Did you know that the City had plans to turn the Garden’s current site into a zoo AND botanical garden? Take a look at the Robert Moses-endorsed “Post-Fair Plan for Queens Zoological and Botanical Gardens” as part of this exhibit.

Visit them all with the help of a cultural bucket list. “Check off” your way through New York City’s cultural institutions with the “MUST SEE NYC” cotton bag, available for purchase at the MCNY Gift Shop.

Celebrate Susan Lacerte’s 16th Leap Year Birthday

Finger Food! Floats! Surprises!
Saturday, February 29, 2020

Drop in from 2PM to 5PM | Special Ceremony at 4PM
Tickets: queensbotanical.org/sweet16

Contact
Stephanie Ehrlich
sehrlich@queensbotanical.org | 718-886-3800 ext. 330
You’ve heard the phrase “less is more.” But this past year at QBG, you might have noticed that more is more!

Have you seen that we have more flowers? More programming? Even more garden?

We are listening to YOU! Over the last two years we have talked to thousands of our visitors to learn what you love about Queens Botanical Garden. Enthusiastically, you said that you want more flowers, more to do, and more to see when you visit. So… we’ve installed a new garden, renovated two others, and freshened up the paint in a few places. And, we’ve added more programs and events and are welcoming more visitors each year.

We hope you agree that the Garden keeps getting better and better!

This past summer, in response to YOUR request, we stayed open late on Thursdays in June, July, and August, giving you more time in the Garden. Flower Power Parties included music, dancing, yummy food, and signature cocktails once a month. We brought back Apples & Honey Day in celebration of the honey harvest in September. With community partners, we presented Chuseok: Korean Moon Festival, Taiwan: A World of Orchids, and Twist & Sprout! But wait—there’s more...

We are really on a roll, but there is always more to do! And that’s where YOU come in! As a good friend of the Garden, your support means the world to us, and it means we can continue the good work we do. Your gift makes it possible to continue providing fun and festive live music and hands-on art-making for the community. Your support means continued environmental education workshops for NYC school children. Your help means more flowers in spring and healthier trees in summer. Mostly, your gift makes it possible for us to be the place where people, plants, and cultures meet.

We hope that you’ll support the Garden today so we can do more, more, more for YOU tomorrow!

Donate to our Annual Fund online at queensbotanical.org/give2019

$500 supports Music in the Garden for the community.

Eryn Hatzithomas, Jess Brey, Anne Tan-Detchkov, Dorcas Chang
Best of Lunar New Year in the Heart of Queens

This Lunar New Year, let us look beneath the surface as we ring in the Year of the Rat! Hung bao, red envelopes filled with cash, are symbolic good wishes for success and health to youth and family. Queens is home to 2.3 million people, but it is also where 800 languages are spoken and residents come from over 120 countries. Similarly, Lunar New Year events in Flushing are not just fun festivities, they’re opportunities to witness what makes Queens the “World’s Borough.” Whether or not you personally observe the holiday, Flushing welcomes you to join the festivities. In 2020, usher in the Year of the Rat by participating in one or all of the following events.

Lunar New Year Exhibition
Friday, January 17 through Sunday, February 16 • $5 Suggested Donation/FREE for Members, Students & Teens
Location: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY 11354
Register: flushingtownhall.org
Flush Town Hall presents “A Good Beginning, Here,” a cross-cultural exhibition that illuminates eight diaspora artists who can trace their roots back in China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Their works embody unique life stories and ideas rooted in the East and evolved in the West.

Lunar New Year Parade Reception
Saturday, January 25, 9:30 to 10:30am • FREE
Location: St. George’s Church, 13532 38th Avenue, Queens, NY 11354
Register: eventbrite.com/e/lunar-new-year-parade-reception-tickets-79580323891
March with the Greater Flushing Chamber of Commerce in the 2020 Lunar New Year Parade on Saturday, January 25, 11am. They gather at historic St. George’s Church to connect over hot coffee and refreshments before heading to the parade site together. The reception will feature exciting performances by local groups as well as a raffle and prize giveaway.

Lunar New Year Parade
Saturday, January 25, 11am • FREE
Location: Union Street and 37th Avenue
Thousands gather to watch and cheer on local organizations march in this parade, organized by a coalition that includes the Flushing Chinese Business Association and the Korean American Association of Queens.

Lunar New Year Celebration at Queens Botanical Garden
Saturday, January 25, 12 to 4pm • FREE • Drop-in
Location: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
Register: qbglny2020.eventbrite.com
After spectating at the parade, head over to Queens Botanical Garden for its annual Lunar New Year Celebration from 12 to 4pm. The event will feature lion dance performances, storytime, crafts, and a Lucky Plant Sale! During the lion dancing, take in the drumming used to scare evil spirits away, check out the mirrors adorning their foreheads that ward off evil spirits, and observe all the lion’s sprightly movements. Thanks to sponsors: New York City Council, Prestone Printing, COTS Travel, Neil Fleishman, and Sino-American Friendship Association. For updates and more information on this event: queensbotanical.org/lunarnewyear.
QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the NYC Council, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Queens Borough President and Queens elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations and individuals provide additional support.

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SAVE THE DATES!
Lunar New Year Celebration
Sat, 1/25
Mid-Winter Recess Family Programs
Tues, 2/18-Fri, 2/21

WHERE PEOPLE, PLANTS, AND CULTURES MEET.