QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN

Rose Gala

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018
Honoring Maria A. Grasso
Chief Operating Officer
Flushing Bank
For her commitment to Queens
and the Flushing community
Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Rose Gala Committee and Board of Trustees, welcome to Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2018! We are thrilled that you have joined us tonight to honor a pillar of the community – Maria A. Grasso, Chief Operating Officer of Flushing Bank. Maria and Flushing Bank have been devoted friends of the Flushing community and Queens Botanical Garden for many years, and it is our privilege to celebrate them tonight. We share thanks with the whole Flushing Bank team – but especially Pat Tiffany and Joanne Mustapich, and our very own QBG Board Member Judy Ng.

QBG is growing and thriving every day. Over the past year, we have served more than 225,000 people at the Garden or through outreach programs. Education Workshops continue to soar with over 32,000 kids learning about nature and the environment. The Compost Project and Urban Farm, in partnership with the Department of Sanitation, are doing their part to remove organics form the waste stream. NYC teachers participate in professional development workshops, while 30,000 visitors enjoy public programs and festivals throughout the year!

This past year, we piloted a new birthday party initiative for children as well as portrait photography packages for families, while continuing to be a beloved venue for celebrations, wedding ceremonies, and receptions. We have so much to offer, and we hope you’ll spread the word!

On behalf of the Board and staff of Queens Botanical Garden, thank you for being here tonight and for all your support – it makes it possible for us to be the place where people, plants, and cultures meet.

Enjoy the evening!

Yours in roses and celebration...

Pauline Huang  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Bianca Ng  
Chair, Rose Gala Committee

Susan Lacerte  
Executive Director

P.S. There is so much to do and see here. We hope you will visit queensbotanical.org for more information on programs.
Maria A. Grasso is Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary of Flushing Financial Corporation and Flushing Bank. She joined the Bank in 2006 as Chief Operating Officer and was elected Corporate Secretary in 2007. Maria is responsible for managing the Distribution and Client Development for the Retail Bank, Ethnic Markets, Business Banking, Government Banking, Internet Banking, Human Resources, Marketing, Sales and Operations of the Bank. Maria has been in the banking business for 30 years, beginning her career with Chase Manhattan. Prior to joining Flushing Financial, she held the title of Senior Vice President and Division Head of The Bank of New York for Long Island and Queens, overseeing an organization that served the personal and small business banking needs of customers throughout 102 branches.

Maria is currently a member of the National Board of the American Kidney Fund, President of the Hofstra University Zarb Business School Alumni Association, and a former Chair of United Way of Long Island’s Board of Directors and former chairperson of the Retail Banking Division Committee for the New York Bankers Association. Charitable organizations have benefited from Maria’s leadership and support. An advocate of volunteerism, she has volunteered for the March of Dimes, Long Island Care, Bias Help of Long Island, Women’s Fund of Long Island, the American Cancer Society, and Long Island Association for AIDS Care and Long Island Network of Community Services. In 2016, Maria received the Distinguished Volunteer Leadership Award at the Monsignor Hartmann Humanitarian Luncheon sponsored by ACIT. Maria has a BBA in Finance from Hofstra University and an MBA in Marketing from Adelphi University.
The Board of Trustees and Staff of Queens Botanical Garden express deep gratitude and appreciation to

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Queens Botanical Garden is an urban oasis where people, plants, and cultures are celebrated through inspiring gardens, innovative educational programs and demonstrations of environmental stewardship.

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Special thanks to our ex officio representatives:
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2018.

Queens Botanical Garden has worked for decades to conserve and perpetuate the natural beauty of New York City for grateful residents and visitors alike. Since 1939, the Botanical Garden has provided an urban oasis dedicated to offering unique cultural experiences through its year-round activities, exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. The efforts and support of those present this evening make it possible for the Garden to continue growing and enriching the largest and most diverse borough of the City of New York.

Tonight, you come together to pay tribute to those whose generosity of spirit furthers the mission of this beautiful garden to inspire and educate. You pay tribute to a distinguished Guest of Honor, and I join in congratulating Maria A. Grasso, COO of Flushing Bank for her longstanding commitment to the Garden and to Queens and the Flushing community. Devoted friends of QBG contribute significantly to the work of Garden, which is of great benefit and importance to the surrounding neighborhoods.

With warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
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Dear Friends,

It brings me great pleasure to send greetings to everyone attending the Queens Botanical Garden's Rose Gala.

For almost 80 years, the Queens Botanical Garden has served as an oasis for New Yorkers and others yearning for green spaces and knowledge about the natural world around them. Today, through gardens, educational programs, and environmental efforts, the Queens Botanical Garden brings thousands of people each year in contact with plants, trees and cultures from around the world. I am grateful that the Queens Botanical Garden is here to bring us together with nature in this inspiring community space.

As you celebrate tonight, please know that I am celebrating with you.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator
Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations as the Queens Botanical Garden gathers to celebrate its Annual Rose Gala. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of the Queens Botanical Garden, its leadership, staff and tonight’s honorees on this wonderful occasion.

Home to over a thousand different plant varieties, the Queens Botanical Garden has become a meeting center “where people, plants and cultures” convene. A centerpiece of Queens with an arboretum, pre-constructed wetland and bee garden, Queens Botanical Garden is committed to providing innovative educational programs, environmental stewardship and exquisite displays of horticulture for all ages to enjoy. The importance of protecting our environment is crucial not only for our survival but for the survival of future generations of New Yorkers. I applaud Queens Botanical Garden for its commitment to New Yorkers and the prosperity of our environment.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate tonight’s honoree: Maria A. Grasso, Senior Executive Vice President & COO, Flushing Bank. A distinguished leader in the Queens community, Maria has worked in the banking business for 30 years. In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Maria dedicated much of her time to serving her community. Maria has volunteered for many organizations including March of Dimes, Long Island Care, Bias Help of Long Island and the American Cancer Society. I am pleased to join everyone gathered here in recognizing Maria for her dedication to our community. Her humanitarian spirit serves as an inspiration to us all.

Again, congratulations and on behalf of all New Yorkers, I thank you for your hard work and dedication. I know that the Queens Botanical Garden will continue to serve as a sanctuary for beautiful urban botany in New York City for years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator
June 14, 2018

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to welcome everyone as the Queens Botanical Garden hosts its annual Rose Gala.

Established in 1939 as part of the New York World’s Fair, the Queens Botanical Garden in Flushing has expanded and evolved over the years into a 39-acre sanctuary featuring flowers and plant species from around the globe and a LEED certified visitors center with an art gallery, a rainwater filtration system, and a green roof open to the public. Its exquisite gardens and farm serve as a lush setting for its educational and cultural programs for children and adults, including horticulture tours, bird walks, visits to its popular bee houses, workshops on ecology and food composting, music concerts, botanical-themed arts and crafts activities, and more. As my administration strives to build a more inclusive and sustainable future for our diverse residents, I applaud QBG’s dedicated staff and supporters for their commitment to foster environmental stewardship, enhance the beauty and vibrancy of our city’s most multicultural borough, and engage New Yorkers of all backgrounds in shared appreciation of our remarkable natural landscape.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to this year’s honoree, Maria Grasso, for her dedication to the Queens community. Please accept my best wishes for a festive evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street,
Flushing, NY 11355

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to all attending the Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala.

Since 1939, the Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) has served as an urban oasis enjoyed by New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds. With over 39-acres, QBG attracts more than 241,000 visitors annually, bringing community members together for remarkable botanical displays, educational workshops, programs, and events that celebrate Queens’ unique diversity. These efforts to promote the importance of biodiversity, environmental preservation, and sustainability have made a positive impact on our City. Events such as tonight’s Rose Gala highlight this organization’s great work.

Congratulations to tonight’s honoree, Maria A. Grasso. Her remarkable commitment to the Queens Botanical Garden’s mission is evident in all she does.

Thank you to the Queens Botanical Garden for bringing us together tonight to celebrate community and service. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Stringer
New York City Comptroller
June 14, 2018

Pauline Huang
Chair, Board of Trustees
Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11369

Dear Ms. Huang:

Greetings to you and to all the friends and supporters of the Queens Botanical Garden on the occasion of your 2018 Rose Gala.

Tonight's event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Queens Botanical Garden for being an urban oasis that gives all of us a chance to experience nature's splendor in a picturesque and conveniently located setting. Queens Botanical Garden’s inspiring gardens, innovative educational programs and demonstrations of environmental stewardship provide wonderful experiences to the more than 225,000 people who visit Queens Botanical Garden each year.

Tonight's Rose Gala is also an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to Maria A. Grasso, Chief Operating Officer of Flushing Bank, who is being honored this evening for her commitment to Queens and the Flushing community. I therefore offer our most sincere congratulations to Ms. Grasso on behalf of the 2.3 million residents of Queens, "The World's Borough."

I wish the Queens Botanical Garden continued success in efforts to provide us with a sanctuary where the beauty and magnificence of plant life is celebrated and preserved. I also hope all in attendance at tonight's Rose Gala have an enjoyable evening and I wish you all continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Melinda Katz
President
Borough of Queens
We are pleased to thank the following corporations and foundations for their major support of QBG’s botanical displays, programs, and operations:

- HSBC Bank USA, N.A.
- Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
- NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
- New York Community Bank/New York Community Bank Foundation
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We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies for their support:

- 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

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.
Bench and Tree Adoption at Queens Botanical Garden

A Lasting Legacy for You or Someone You Love...

Queens Botanical Garden expresses its deep appreciation to those who have adopted a bench over this past year.

Bench Adoptions

- In memory of PK & KK Cheng and I-Hung Chiang by George Cheng & Yu-Wei Chiang & Families
- For beloved parents/grandparents Wanqiu Wang & Zebing Zhu by Renjun Zhu & Family
- In loving memory of Barnet and Gertrude Jasen and Max and Claire Pomerantz by Raymond Jasen
- In memory of Mary Zannis by Daxi Li & Lixuan Xu
- Donated by Maspeth Federal Savings Bank
- In celebration of the life of Norman Phillips by Vivian Phillips
- In memory of Erwin L. Price by Rose Diane Price
- In memory of Huang Chending and Xing Shixiang by Qinghong Huang & Wesley R. Yeager
- Donated by Bianca Ng

In addition to Bench and Tree Adoption, QBG offers a range of philanthropic opportunities that help support the Garden’s mission to be the place where people, plants, and cultures meet. These include bequests, naming Queens Botanical Garden as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan, and donations of real estate.

Please contact Stephanie Ehrlich, Director of Development, at 718-886-3800, extension 330 or sehrlich@queensbotanical.org for more information.
Queens Botanical Garden is the place where people, plants, and cultures meet...
...where visitors experience cultures from around the world...
...where being “green” is a commitment to New York City, its residents, and the environment...
...where education programs and workshops inspired more than 32,000 school children last year...
...where 12,000+ hours of service were performed by 150 youth volunteers this past year...
...where seasonal public events and programs thrill thousands of NYC families...
...where life’s precious moments are captured in the beauty of nature...
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Since 1929, Flushing Bank has been dedicated to supporting and serving the individuals, families, professionals, and businesses in our local communities.

Congratulations to this year’s honoree

Maria A. Grasso
Chief Operating Officer, Flushing Bank

For more information about Flushing Bank, call 800.581.2889 or visit www.FlushingBank.com.

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Chief Operating Officer, Flushing Bank
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Congratulations

to Queens Botanical Garden

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Congratulates Queens Botanical Garden
on their 2018 Rose Gala
and their honoree Maria A. Grasso

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QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN ROSE GALA 2018

Congratulations to Tonight’s Honoree

MARIA A. GRASSO

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, FLUSHING BANK
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Veronica Tsang
John M. Tucciarone
Margaret Zarzana-Vitale

*honorary
Congratulations to the amazing team at Queens Botanical Garden for another year of making Flushing beautiful.

Raymond Jasen

Congratulations to honoree Maria A. Grasso
Chief Operating Officer | Flushing Bank
For the tremendous honor and recognition

From your friends at KBW
Congratulations to the Honoree:

Maria A. Grasso
Chief Operating Officer
Flushing Bank

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Congratulations
Maria!

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Best Wishes to Queens Botanical Garden on its Rose Gala 2018

Congratulations to Honoree Maria A. Grasso
Chief Operating Officer Flushing Bank
For her commitment to the Community

~Veronica Tsang
Leading Contributors
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Would like to congratulate

Maria A. Grasso,
Chief Operating Officer, Flushing Bank

For her Dedication to
Queens Botanical Garden

Her extraordinary contribution to strengthen and improve the greater community of New York is a symbol to us all that with hard work and determination; dreams for ourselves and our families can be fulfilled.

Lynch & Associates

462 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10018
(212) 683-4141
June 14, 2018

Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure to extend greetings to all of you as you gather today in celebration of the Queens Botanical Garden Rose Gala. The Botanical Garden is one of the jewels in the crown of the Borough of Queens, and offers extraordinary programming for visitors of all interests and ages. From opportunities to explore the unique gardens, to educational programs, to demonstrations of environmental stewardship, the Queens Botanical Garden is an integral part of our community serving more than 225,000 people annually.

I am also pleased to offer my congratulations to this evening’s honoree: Maria A. Grasso, the Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Flushing Bank. Maria has had a truly distinguished career in the banking industry, and is known as a respected leader in the financial services sector.

In addition to her professional obligations, Maria is a tireless volunteer who gives of her time to many different charitable organizations. She has volunteered for the March of Dimes, Long Island Care, Bias Help of Long Island, Women’s Fund of Long Island, the American Cancer Society, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, and the Long Island Network of Community Services. In addition, Maria is a member of the National Board of the American Kidney Fund and President of the Zarb Business School Alumni Association. She has also served United Way of Long Island and the New York Bankers Association. Her record of service, and dedication to helping others, is highly commendable.

Please accept my best wishes for a highly successful Rose Gala. I wish the Queens Botanical Garden many more years of tremendous success.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
NYS Senator, 15th District
JPAJkk
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
49-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Queens Botanical Garden as it celebrates their annual Rose Gala. Queens Botanical Garden is an oasis as it displays inspiring gardens, historic plants, and develops innovative educational programs expressing cultural diversity.

I would also like to congratulate the honorable honoree, Ms. Maria A. Grasso, Chief Operating Officer at Flushing Bank. Maria is a member of the National Board of the American Kidney Fund, President of the Hofstra University Zarb Business School Alumni Association, and she has volunteered in various community initiatives, including but not limited to the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, and the Long Island Network of Community Services.

Best wishes for a successful celebration!

Sincerely,

Jose Perella
New York State Senator, 13th District
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-30 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to congratulate you as you celebrate your Rose Gala this year.

The Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) has flourished as an urban oasis since its beginnings at the 1893-94 New York World's Fair. At the QBG, people, plants, and diverse cultures enjoy the inspiring gardens, innovative educational programs, and other special events planned to inform and bring pleasure to those who visit this beautiful area. The QBG serves more than 225,000 people annually. During the school year, more than 35,000 Pre-K through high school students come to attend environmental workshops and to learn about the importance of environmental stewardship. The QBG is a unique resource and merits our appreciation for the multiple enrichments it provides to our community.

I wish also to extend my congratulations and best wishes to your honoree, Maria A. Grasso, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Flushing Bank. Ms. Grasso has worked in banking for 30 years. She has served the community with dedication.

I wish you much success as you continue your outstanding work in the community.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends:

I am writing to extend my congratulations to you, your staff, and your distinguished honoree at the Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2018: Maria A. Grasso.

Ms. Grasso is Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, & Corporate Secretary of Flushing Financial Corporation and Flushing Bank. Ms. Grasso has also devoted her time to the American Kidney Fund, serving on its National Board, Hofstra University Zarb Business School, serving as its President, and is the former Chair of the United Way of Long Island’s Board of Directors as well as the Retail Banking Division Committee for the New York Bankers Association.

Ms. Grasso’s outstanding demonstration of leadership has truly made her worthy of this honor. It is with sincere admiration that we all pause to reflect on Ms. Grasso’s outstanding contributions to the Queens Botanical Garden and her service to our community at large.

Congratulations again, and may you have a very enjoyable gala.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Braunstein
Member of Assembly
June, 2018

Ms. Pauline Huang,
Chair
Queens Botanical Gardens
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Attendees:

I offer my best wishes for a wonderful and exciting Rose Gala tonight. I know it will be a great success!

Congratulations to this year’s honoree, Ms. Maria A. Grasso. Her curriculum vitae of all her acts of volunteerism are admirable and I know she is most deserving of this award.

The Queens Botanical Gardens is a gem in the midst of our borough. The Gardens have been offering the residents of Queens a place to relax, and to surround themselves with the beauty of nature since the 1939 World’s Fair. I know it is enjoyed by all who visit.

Again, all the best for a successful Gala!

Sincerely,

Michael DenDekker
Member of Assembly
New York State Assembly

Citation

Whereas, a great state is only as great as those individuals who give exemplary service to their community, whether through unique personal achievement, a lifetime of good works, or other endeavors; and

Whereas, such service, which is truly the lifeblood of our City and the State, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded; and

Whereas, Maria A. Grasso has served as Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary of Flushing Financial Corporation and Flushing Bank, since 2006 and 2007 respectively; and

Whereas, as an alumna of Hofstra University, Maria has remained heavily involved in the Hofstra community, serving as the President of the Zarb Business School Alumni Association; and

Whereas, Maria dedicates much of her personal time volunteering with numerous organizations including, the March of Dimes, Long Island Care, Brain Help of Long Island, Women’s Fund of Long Island, the American Cancer Society, Long Island Association for AIDS Care, and the Long Island Network of Community Services; and

Whereas, Maria continues to have a positive impact on the Queens community and beyond; therefore be it

Resolved, we have an outstanding citizen in

Maria A. Grasso

whom is worthy of the esteem of the Community and the great State of New York.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Signature

Date: 06/14/18

Andrew D. Hevesi
Member of Assembly 28th A.D.
New York State Assembly

Citation

Whereas, a Great State is only as great as those persons who give exemplary service to their community, whether through participation in voluntary programs, through unique personal achievement in their professional or other endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenry; and

Whereas, such service, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and the state, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded; now therefore be it

Resolved, that as a duly elected Member of the State Assembly of New York, I recognize that in

Maria A. Grasso

we have an outstanding citizen! one who is worthy of the esteem of both the Community and the great State of New York.

Date June 14, 2018

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Signature

Alicia L. Hyndman
Member of Assembly
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11354

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Queens Botanical Garden’s 2018 Rose Gala. I hope you will join us tonight in honoring the dedication and accomplishments of Maria A. Grasso, Chief Operating Officer of Flushing Bank.

Since its inception with the New York World’s Fair, the Queens Botanical Garden has remained an exemplary, environmental pillar of our community. It serves nearly a quarter of a million annual visitors, and has inspired countless New Yorkers with its inspiring programs, innovative displays, and unique botanical exhibitions. As an island of ecological tranquility within the larger metropolitan cityscapes of Queens, the Garden is truly an irreplaceable nexus for different people, cultures, and nature.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Maria Grasso for her years of service on behalf of her community. She has been a strong advocate of volunteerism, giving her time to numerous programs including the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, the Long Island Network of Community Services, and many more. Her work on behalf of the Garden and commitment to its continuing growth is worthy of the respect and admiration of all New Yorkers.

On behalf of the New York State Assembly, I offer my best wishes for a successful evening and even greater future successes.

Sincerely,

Ron Kim
Member of Assembly
District 40, Queens
Dear Friends:

Congratulations to Queens Botanical Garden on the occasion of your Rose Gala! I am delighted to have this opportunity to send my warmest greetings as you all gather for this year’s event.

Queens Botanical Garden is an urban oasis where people, plants, and cultures are celebrated through wonderful gardens, innovative educational programs, and demonstrations of environmental stewardship. Annually, more than 225,000 visitors come to enjoy the Garden’s beautiful botanical displays and lessons of sustainability. During the school year, tens of thousands of elementary and middle school students visit the Garden to attend environmental workshops and its horticulture staff works tirelessly to maintain and improve the plant displays.

I want to thank all the staff, volunteers, and community partners for their dedication in carrying out Queens Botanical Garden’s mission in serving our community. I want to congratulate event honoree Maria A. Grasso, Flushing Bank’s Chief Operating Officer, for her long-standing leadership and service in Queens and the Flushing community.

Again, congratulations to the honorees and to everyone involved! I look forward to continue working with Queens Botanical Garden to bring greater and greater programming to our Queens community.

Sincerely,

Nily Rozic
June 14, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I offer you my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your annual Rose Gala.

Ever since its beginning in the 1939 World’s Fair, the Queens Botanical Garden has been a constant source of education, relaxation, and wonder for the nearly quarter of a million visitors that it draws each year. In such a dense, urban setting such as New York, the Botanical Garden offers an invaluable service to the residents of the city. From its nature preserves and gardens, to the fantastic education it offers the many students that visit, the Queens Botanical Garden proves to be an endless source for good in our community.

Tonight, we are proud to honor Maria Grasso, Chief Operating Officer, Flushing Bank. Over the course of her career, she has obtained prestigious positions in a number of different capacities. In addition to her professional endeavors, Maria has lived a fulfilling life as an avid volunteer in her community with the March of Dimes, Long Island Care, Bias Help of Long Island, Women’s Fund of Long Island, the American Cancer Society, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, and Long Island Network of Community Services. Ms. Grasso has been working with and contributing to the Queens Botanical Garden for years, and through their immeasurable commitment and philanthropic aid, Ms. Grasso has earned the eternal respect and admiration of her entire community.

Once again, I give my deepest congratulations on your celebration tonight and wish you all the best in the future!

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly
Contributors
Cathay Bank is proud to sponsor
Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2018

LOCATIONS NEAR YOU

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<tbody>
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<td>(718) 306-5355</td>
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<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>(718) 435-0800</td>
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<td>(718) 886-5225</td>
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**MARYLAND**

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**MASSACHUSETTS**

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<td>Boston</td>
<td>(617) 338-4700</td>
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**NEW JERSEY**

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<tr>
<td>Edison</td>
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Congratulations to this year’s honoree

Maria A. Grasso
June 14, 2018

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to pay tribute to Queens Botanical Garden on the occasion of its Rose Gala.

Since its founding, the Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) has been an ecological haven in our urban environment, connecting visitors with the natural beauty our city has to offer. The QBG provides the over 225,000 students and families that visit its grounds each year the opportunity to engage in educational programs and demonstrations on environmental stewardship. Boasting both illustrious and exotic plants, the QBG explores and explains our relationship with and responsibility to nature. Providing a fertile meeting ground for generations, QGB hosts more than 35,000 pre-K through high school students for environmental workshops and arts and cultural enrichment throughout the school year.

Congratulations to the QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte, to this year’s honoree Maria A. Grasso, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, & Corporate Secretary of Flushing Bank, and to the guests who have gathered to recognize QBG’s continuing efforts on behalf of the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

BARRY S. GRODENCHIK
Council Member

BSG: ry
May 16, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 2018 Queens Botanical Garden Rose Gala.

With 39 acres of roses, herbs, and perennial gardens, Queens Botanical Garden has proven to be one of the most popular attractions in Queens. The garden shelters species of native wildlife and a world of butterflies, bees, and other insects year round. Every year, more than two hundred thousand visitors come to enjoy QBG’s beautiful botanical displays and learn lessons of sustainability.

On behalf of the New York City Council, I commend the board and staff of the Queens Botanical Garden for their efforts to build and maintain an urban oasis where people, plants and cultures are celebrated through inspiring gardens, innovative education programs, and environmental stewardship. Congratulations to the 2018 Queens Botanical Garden honoree, Maria A. Grasso, for her dedication in Queens, and for her gracious support of the Queens Botanical Garden.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Peter Koo
Council Member
20th District, Queens
June 14, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all in attendance at Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2018. Since its founding, Queens Botanical Garden has served as an urban oasis, with thousands of visitors enjoying the beauty of the gardens and benefitting from the wonderful educational programming.

Congratulations to this year’s honoree, Maria A. Grasso, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Flushing Bank. In addition to her illustrious career in the banking industry, she has been a steadfast advocate for volunteerism, and has been an active supporter of national charitable organizations such as the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, and many local Long Island groups. Her leadership and generosity serve as an inspiration and encourage us all to contribute to making the world a better place.

Best wishes to Executive Director Susan Lacerte, Board Chair Pauline Huang, and the entire Board of Directors and staff on your accomplishments and wishing you continued success in the future. To everyone participating in tonight’s event, thank you and have a delightful evening.

Very truly yours,

Karen Koslowitz
Council Member
29th District
Queens Botanical Garden  
43-50 Main Street,  
Flushing, NY 11355  

June 14, 2018

Dear Friends,

Please accept my best wishes for your Annual Rose Gala honoring Maria A. Grasso, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Executive Vice President at Flushing Bank. It is a privilege to recognize Queens Botanical Garden to mark this special occasion.

For more than 50 years, Queens Botanical Garden has been enriching the lives of community residents, students and Borough visitors. Serving more than 225,000 people annually, QBG offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy beautiful botanical displays and experience a variety of entertaining programs. During the school year, more than 35,000 students visit the Garden to attend environmental workshops or learn about the environment through workshops brought to their school. I commend QBG for its tireless commitment to improving the cultural welfare within Queens – and beyond.

It is a pleasure to congratulate your honoree, Maria A. Grasso – in recognition of her many contributions to Queens and the Flushing community. Maria is a proven leader and the epitome of a good citizen. In addition to overseeing the needs of customers throughout 102 branches, she volunteers her time to a number of noble causes, including the American Kidney Fund, March of Dimes, Long Island Care and the American Cancer Society – to name a few.

As you take this moment to reflect on your past and look towards the future, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Very truly yours,

![Signature]

Eric A. Ulrich  
Council Member
June 14th, 2018

Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Friends:

I applaud the Queens Botanical Garden for their service and commitment to our community. I would like to recognize their hard work on holding their Rose Gala and wish them success on their event.

Since its inception in 1939 the QBG has served our community as a successful organization, helping individuals and families with its comprehensive social and educational programs. Following the footsteps of the New York World’s Fair, QBG has tirelessly worked to establish itself as a reputable cultural conduit, providing cultural diversity through its beautiful botanical garden and variety of entertaining and educational programs.

I commend the hardworking staff and representatives from QBG for their distinguished efforts. Through their efforts, I am confident that QBG will continue directing the community in a positive way.

I look forward to closely working with every member of QBO and on the behalf of the New York City Council, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and personal wish for the Queens Botanical Garden.

Very Truly Yours,

Hon. Paul A. Vallone
June 14, 2018

Dear Friends,

I send warm regards to the Queens Botanical Garden and everyone in attendance at the Annual Rose Gala!

The Queens Botanical Garden is a tremendous asset to our community and our borough. In a densely-populated city with limited green space, the Queens Botanical Gardens is a true haven for all. The Garden inspires our community and, with their innovative educational programs, promotes environmental stewardship. I am grateful for its continued contributions to our City’s vibrant cultural environment.

I wish to congratulate and thank Maria A Grasso for her longstanding support of the Queens and Flushing community. I commend the Queens Botanical Gardens for putting together this year’s Rose Gala and thank you for helping cultivate the lush cultural fabric of our City. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jimmy Van Bramer
Majority Leader, Chair of Cultural Affairs
Acknowledgements

ACM Trio
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Flushing Bank – Tote Bags + Parasols
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See you around the Garden!