Bulb flowers, such as tulips and daffodils, are favorites of gardeners around the world for good reason. They are easy to plant, return year after year (if the variety allows), and are a welcoming burst of color at the start of spring.

Tulip and daffodil bulbs are planted in autumn once the soil temperature reaches 40 degrees, a low enough temperature that allows the bulbs to remain dormant until spring. While dormant, bulbs are biding time until spring; they have stored enough energy from last season to produce new roots, leaves, stems, and flowers.

We ensure the longevity of our bulb flowers by keeping their leaves intact. Throughout the remainder of the spring and well into summer, these leaves will photosynthesize and collect energy for next year’s bloom cycle. The energy will be stored in the bulb until expanded the following spring to form new leaves and flowers all over again.

Queens Botanical Garden has a collection of nearly 16,000 tulips and 60,000 daffodils! Enjoy this colorful display in May during a weekend of tulip and daffodil-themed programming, including TULIP TIME!, Daffodil Dash 4K Fun Run, activity tables, and tours. Check our calendar online for more information: queensbotanical.org/calendar

Daffodils and crocus are already in bloom and buds triumphantly appear on trees—showing once again, that spring wins the day.

As we welcome the new season, we invite you to join us for our inaugural Daffodil Dash 4K Fun Run! Walk, run, jog, or push a stroller through the Garden while you enjoy the blossoms and help support our wonderful educational programs for kids. (See page 5 for more information.)

Throughout the pages of this newsletter, please look for all the ways in which we share our passion for plants (and soil!). Our aim is to have YOU get your hands dirty! Whether you volunteer at a monthly Horticulture Volunteer Day or take a hands-on workshop like Compost Crafts: Summer Veggie Starts, or dig into the festivities at Arbor Fest on April 28, we hope QBG helps you get your dose of spring dirt!

See you around the Garden!

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director

P.S. Of course, we have some not-so-messy activities too! Bird walks with NYC Audubon, Cocktail and Craft Workshops, Watercolor Workshops, Music and Dance Performances, and so much more! Visit queensbotanical.org to learn more.
On Saturday, February 9, 2019, Queens Botanical Garden ushered in the Year of the Pig with its annual free celebration where visitors enjoyed storytime, crafts, a sumi ink workshop, lion dance performances, and a lucky plant sale sponsored by COTS Travel.

Lunar New Year is celebrated internationally by many cultures and subcultures that observe the lunar calendar, including those in China, Korea, Taiwan (ROC), Vietnam, and others, as well as locally here in the international borough of Queens.

Major focal points of the day-long celebration were two exciting lion dance performances. The processions started at the Garden's Main Street entrance, proceeded down the Oak Allée, and culminated at the Visitor & Administration Building Terrace. Two colorful lions played by four dancers greeted a crowd of hundreds of spectators excited to bop to the beat of the drumming, feed the lions hung bao, or lucky red envelopes filled with money, or be thrown shredded lettuce.

Lion dancing is believed to bring good luck and fortune on special occasions such as the New Year, a business grand opening, welcoming ceremonies for dignitaries, weddings, etc. It is a lively spectacle with loud music produced by drums, gongs, and cymbals, showcasing a lion's sprightly movements that are influenced by martial arts.

Components of the lion dancing, everything from colors, to noise, to movements of the lions, are intentional and symbolic. For example:

- The lions’ movements mimic those of real-life lions. Sometimes you’ll see lions shake their heads from side to side (to wake up), look down (to search for food), or move their jaws up and down (to eat), among other moves to imitate the animal.

- To show sincerity, lions bow three times at the beginning and end of each performance. In Chinese, the word for “three”—sum—sounds like the word “heart.”

- The loud music—from drumming, gonging, and cymbal striking—is used to scare evil spirits away.

- The mirrors adorning their foreheads ward off evil spirits. They also have horns to help fight the spirits.

- They shred raw lettuce because raw lettuce in Chinese, sahn choy, can be phonetically manipulated to sound like the words meaning “to produce wealth.” If you get showered by lettuce or catch some, consider yourself set for prosperity this year!

“My sons loved seeing the lions in action and going up to them in the end,” said event attendee Felicia Hang-Chou of her eight-year-old twins Henry and Ian. “The thrill of attending the event brought great optimism for the new year. It’s fun and we like that we can take the crafts home and cherish them as keepsakes. We’re making it a yearly tradition!”

Whether you celebrate the holiday or not, we hope to see you at this annual tradition next year, a festive community gathering where people, plants, and cultures meet!

SPECIAL THANKS TO PLANT SALE SPONSOR: COTS Travel
Meet Colin Kirk, QBG’s Newest Gardener

After working two months as the newest Gardener in Flushing’s favorite 39-acre oasis, what surprises Colin Kirk most about Queens Botanical Garden is the “inclusivity of the Gardens and the participation from the surrounding neighborhood.” This is perfect for Mr. Kirk, who saw this position at QBG as an opportunity to work with the public.

“I’ve become more interested in public horticulture and cultural institutions since living in New York,” he said. “I’ve wanted to work with volunteers and other groups for educational and community service projects showcasing interesting plant specimens. Essentially, I want my gardening to just mean more.”

Mr. Kirk will be looking after the Gardens on Parade section, including the Rose, Perennial, and Annual Gardens, among others. So far, his favorite part of the job is working with individuals from Korean Community Services, volunteers, and high school students, and propagating seeds in the greenhouse on snowy days.

Prior to working at QBG, Mr. Kirk was the Horticulturist at New York Green Roofs for five years. While there, he built and maintained green roofs across the five boroughs, upstate, and the Hamptons, including those at the Empire State Building and the Javits Center.

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Kirk graduated from the University of Georgia (UGA) with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Agriculture with a focus on Horticulture. There, he studied under UGA Horticulture Professor and woody plants expert Michael Dirr and worked for renowned Horticulturist Allan Armitage at the UGA Trial Gardens.

Mr. Kirk, currently lives in Prospect Heights, but has plans to move to Jackson Heights, Queens soon with his partner Kathleen and their 21-pound cat Bill.

A die-hard Mets fan, he is looking forward to frequenting local restaurants, doing more with the community, and of course having a soon-to-be shorter commute!

“It’s a wonderful experience to work at an institution that is so loved by the local community,” Mr. Kirk said.

With an eye to the future, Mr. Kirk is excited for the gardens to come alive in the growing season!

GARDENING STYLE: Sustainable and green, with a deep love of plants. Mr. Kirk tries to work smartly, but he’s also not afraid to get dirty.

FAVORITE PLANT AT QBG: Corylus avellana ‘Contorta’ or Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick. He encourages everyone to enjoy its twisty architecture now before it buds out.
Queens Botanical Garden’s (QBG) Board of Trustees welcomes two new members, Ming-der Chang, Administrative Director of Community Health Initiatives, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, and Eunsil “Eunice” Chung, Vice President, The Korean New York Daily. The Board also welcomes back returning Board Member Saul Kupferberg, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Kepco, Inc. (retired), who is Co-Chair of QBG’s Capital Campaign Committee and served as Treasurer during his previous Board terms.

“I’m so happy to welcome Ming-der, Eunice, and Saul to Queens Botanical Garden’s Board of Trustees,” said Pauline Huang, QBG Board Chair. “We are going to do some wonderful things together for the Garden, for Queens, and everyone who visits our international borough!”

Meet our new board members:

Ming-der Chang, Ph.D.
Administrative Director of Community Health Initiatives, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens

Ms. Chang created a culturally sensitive outreach program focused on underserved communities with the goal of achieving health equity. She also manages the hospital’s Community Service Plan with a goal of improving people’s health in Queens through community health lectures and providing assistance for patients in navigating the healthcare system. She has been involved with the NYP Queens-QBG collaboration, TWIST & SPROUT— a free, family-friendly event focused on healthy living, scheduled for Sunday, June 9.

Eunsil “Eunice” Chung
Editor and Vice President, The Korean New York Daily

Eunsil “Eunice” Chung is an Editor and Vice President of The Korean New York Daily since 2013. She is a graduate of the National Medical Center College of Nursing in Seoul, Korea, and completed her studies at Yonsei Foreign Language Institute in Seoul with a major in English Literature.

Ms. Chung moved to New York in 1986, where she worked at Elmhurst Hospital for two years. She owned cellphone stores for 25 years. Ms. Chung is a member of the Korean American Writers’ Association where she is serving as Treasurer. In 2015, Ms. Chung published the book, Encounter of Essay and Classical Music.

Saul Kupferberg
Former Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Kepco, Inc.

Mr. Kupferberg is a trustee of The Kupferberg Foundation, the Max and Selma Kupferberg Family Foundation, and Queens College Foundation. He retired as Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Kepco, Inc., a Flushing-based company that makes electronic power supplies. Mr. Kupferberg received his Bachelor’s degree from Trinity College and his Master’s degree from Dropsie College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kupferberg currently serves as Co-Chair of Queens Botanical Garden’s Education Center Capital Campaign Committee. He previously served two terms on the QBG Board from 2010 to 2016, and as Treasurer from 2012 to 2016.

---

Arbor Fest
Sunday, April 28, 11am to 5pm
$8-$10 • $15 festival parking rate in effect

It’s a fun-filled celebration of trees and the environment at QBG’s Arbor Fest! Enjoy a variety of activities for all ages, including live music, arts and crafts, demonstrations, a petting zoo, beer, wine, and local food vendors!

More: queensbotanical.org/arborfest

Daffodil Dash 4K Fun Run
Saturday, May 4, 8am
Adults (age 13+) $40; Seniors (age 62+) $30
Members $30; Children (ages 12 & under) $10;
FREE for children ages 3 & under; $20 parking rate in effect.

Run, walk, or push a stroller while you enjoy the spring flowers! All proceeds benefit the educational programs of Queens Botanical Garden. In partnership with Queens Distance Runners and elitefeats.

Sign up today: queensbotanical.org/funrun

TULIP TIME!
Sunday, May 5, 11am to 5pm
Included with Garden admission (where indicated, fees apply)

Celebrate spring bulb flowers during the peak of tulip season. See over 16,000 tulips and tens of thousands of daffodils, and take part in the festivities, including hourly tulip tours, a tulip floral design workshop ($30-40), flower inspired crafts, a printmaking workshop, a Music in the Garden performance, and Happy Hour (cash bar).

More: queensbotanical.org/tuliptime

Go to queensbotanical.org/calendar to make the most of your spring at the Garden!
Calling All Corporate Groups: Get Out & Get Green!

We’re flexible. If you would like to create a Corporate Volunteer Day or team-building activity, we can tailor an experience for your group to include a hands-on seasonal work activity. Complete your package with great add-ons such as lunch, happy hour, or professional photography to capture your team’s service or social experience, and more.

Depending on the season and need, projects might include raking, mulching, weeding, planting bulbs, tree care, and other activities. Work gloves, tools, and water are provided.

Corporate Membership is also available. As a Corporate Member you will receive a complimentary Corporate Volunteer Day, year-round free admission for your employees (including festivals!), free onsite parking, use of our lovely venue for meetings and receptions, and discounts on programs.

Learn more and book today: queensbotanical.org/corporate-volunteer

Here’s what others had to say about our corporate volunteer days:

“Thank you for such a wonderful event. We had a great time, and we can’t wait to come back and see our work in the spring.”
—Bridget O’Hara Hampton, Veralon

“Thank you for the opportunity and the hospitality you have shown us. It was very rewarding, fun, and educational. Thank you to your whole team. It was very nice working together and learning about the different plants! Until next time.”
—Jim Nam, HSBC Bank

“We are always more than happy to help and appreciate the hospitality when we come to the Garden. Many of our volunteers who were there for the first time or back since they visited growing up in Queens, really enjoyed themselves and will be back for sure! Thanks, looking forward to spring!”
—Mabel Law, ConEdison
To Engage Our Youngest Gardeners, We Start with Seeds

Every spring, summer, and fall, hundreds of children plant, care for, and harvest fruits, veggies, and flowers at Queens Botanical Garden’s kids programs, including Garden Buds for ages 2 and 3, Forest Explorers for ages 2 to 6, and Children’s Garden Sponsored by HSBC Bank for Pre-K to fifth grade.

Every winter, Samantha Ross, Education Coordinator of Youth Programs, prepares for the season by ordering seeds that grow into interesting vegetables, fruits, and flowers that will excite children into gardening and healthy eating. To make it into the curriculum (and occasionally into kids’ bellies), the plants chosen must be hearty in New York City climate, naturally resistant to pests, and have an educational and cultural story to tell.

Vegetables get their head start in QBG’s working greenhouse. They are mostly members of the Brassica family, also known as the mustard or cabbage family. Plants including mini broccoli, Brunswick cabbage, bok choy (pictured below), blue curly kale, red Russian kale, komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach), and collard greens are now already over a month old and have grown their secondary leaves. Children will learn that the mini broccoli is a variety that produces multiple florets, the flower portion of the plant that we typically eat. This will produce multiple cuttings for them to enjoy when they prepare their garden-grown snacks.

In addition to vegetables, program participants study flowers such as yarrow, anise, verbena, buckwheat, cockscomb, zinnia, poppy, nasturtium, and a variety of sunflowers. Participants learn that these flowers are not only beautiful, but are also an important resource because they attract pollinators and are great for the overall diversity in any garden space.

Many more fruit and vegetable seeds will be planted during the spring by Garden Buds and Children’s Garden participants themselves. Heat-resistant carrots like cosmic purple and Kyoto red will survive the hot summer and teach kids that carrots come in many colors. Chinese pink celery is sure to blow their minds (who knew celery could be naturally pink?). Beans like red noodle pole beans and Kabouli black garbanzos are favorites because they produce a large abundance of pods, from which children can pick and dissect.

Basil varieties like Genovese, opal, lime, lettuce leaf, and Thai expose kids to a range of flavors, which they will harvest to make pesto, infuse in oil, or simply bring home and cook with the family. Every camper gets to bring home produce during their time in our kids programs.

Enroll your child in a kids program for spring, summer, or fall today. Fall registration opens on June 3 at 10am.

Learn more & register today: queenbotanical.org/kidsprograms
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.
- NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
- Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
- Lily Auchincloss Foundation
- Ridenour Endowment Fund
- The Kupferberg Foundation
- Dr. Robert C. & Tina Sohn Foundation
- Flushing Bank
- Buserole, Inc.
- The Frank J. Antun Foundation
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Resorts World Casino

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