QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN

Rose Gala

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 5, 2019
HONORING

Peter Koo
New York City Council Member
Rose Gala Award

Jaclyn Mucaria
President, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
Community Leadership Award
Dear Rose Gala Friend,

On behalf of the Rose Gala Committee and Board of Trustees, welcome to Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2019! We are thrilled that you have joined us tonight to honor two pillars of our community – New York City Council Member Peter Koo and Jaclyn Mucaria, President of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens.

Council Member Koo has been a champion of QBG for many years. His support has made it possible for the Garden to offer environmental education programs, Cultural After School Adventures (CASA), and so much more, making this a Greener NYC! He has taken the lead, encouraging his colleagues at the Council to support our new Education Center and Kids Culture Garden (which you will hear more about in the coming year). We see Peter here ALL THE TIME! He is more than an elected official. He is a friend.

Jaclyn Mucaria is a powerful woman and an impressive agent for good in this community. Through her leadership as President of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens (NYPQ), the hospital has become a more welcoming place for all patients, which is so important in this, The World’s Borough. She, along with the hospital, have made it possible to offer Twist & Sprout, a free and fun day for the community to learn about health by being outdoors here at the Garden. We are delighted to celebrate her tonight and to continue working together.

There is so much going on at the Garden! New buildings and gardens, partnerships with our friends in the community, and oh, so much more!

QBG is growing and thriving every day. Over the past year, we have served more than 250,000 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 from the waste stream. NYC teachers participate in professional development workshops while 30,000 visitors enjoy public programs and festivals throughout the year!

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.
NYC Council Member Peter Koo was elected to the New York City Council in November 2009. He immigrated to America from Hong Kong in 1971. He worked minimum wage jobs at Kentucky Fried Chicken and Dunkin’ Donuts to put himself through the University of New Mexico – College of Pharmacy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Peter Koo founded and became CEO and President of the Starside Pharmacy chain, located right here in Flushing, Queens.

Peter has served as the Chairman of Program Services for the Flushing Business Improvement District (BID) and President of the Flushing Chinese Business Association. He was a member of Queens Community Board 7, an advisor of the Queens General Hospital Community Advisory Board; Treasurer, Founder and Trustee of the LaGuardia Community College Foundation; the Flushing Lions Club, Flushing Rotary Club and the American Cancer Society.

He is also President of the Peter Koo Community Charitable Organization. Peter’s recent philanthropy includes a $100,000 donation to LaGuardia Community College, and 20 wheelchairs to Elmhurst Hospital. Throughout the years, he has also donated generously to several local senior centers.

He has been affectionately been called the “Mayor” of Flushing, because of his involvement in civics, his accessibility to the public and for his philanthropic endeavors.

Peter is married to his wife Bernadette for 26 years and has two children, Timothy and Tiffany.
Jaclyn A. Mucaria has extensive and diverse experience in large academic medical centers. She currently holds the position of Hospital President, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, which she has held since August 1, 2016. Since she arrived at NYP Queens as the Chief Operating Officer in October 2015, Ms. Mucaria has led initiatives to help improve the patient experience, safety, and quality. She has recruited an excellent executive team and many physicians, and together, they have added many clinical programs and services. She began Patient and Family Centered Tuesdays which helps staff focus on providing high quality and reliable care in the most compassionate manner. Her vision is to create world class care in Queens and improve the health of the 2.3 million people in the borough so that they can stay in the borough. One of the goals is to improve access to “Amazing Care” and expand the specialty services provided at the hospital.

Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian in 2000, Ms. Mucaria held the position of Associate Director at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. During her twelve years at Mount Sinai, she held various progressive leadership positions in outpatient care, inpatient services, and diagnostic/ancillary services. She began her career after college as a medical technologist.

Ms. Mucaria holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Medical Technology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the Wagner School at New York University.
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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:
Dear Friends:

Congratulations on another successful year of service. The Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) is a flourishing oasis in an urban setting where people come and enjoy a peaceful interlude.

At QBG, people, plants, and the environment intersect in Flushing. For nearly 80 years, QBG is a place where visitors can learn about ornamental, edible, and historic plants and participate in exciting educational programs. I have enjoyed your beautiful botanical displays and programs on many occasions.

I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to your honorees, Jaclyn Muscati, President of New York Presbyterian Queens, recipient of the Community Leadership Award and Peter Koo, Member of the New York City Council, recipient of the Rose Gala Award. We appreciate their commitment to QBG and the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Toby Ann Stavisky
June 5, 2019

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Queens Botanical Garden on your annual Rose Gala.

The prestigious work of your extraordinary educational programs, demonstrations, and beautiful gardens which serve visitors of all ages and interests is an integral part of our community.

I am also pleased to offer my congratulations to the two honorees, Jaclyn Mucaria, President of New York Presbyterian Queens who will be presented with the Community Leadership Award, and to Councilman Peter Koo who will be presented with the Rose Gala Award.

Wishing you much future success. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
New York State Senator
District 15
June 5, 2019

Dear Committee Chair Bianca Ng, Board Members, friends:

I extend my humble and sincere congratulations on this joyous occasion to the leaders, members, friends, supporters and advocates associated with the Queens Botanical Garden as you gather for your 2019 Rose Gala.

The Queens Botanical Garden brings an exquisite, aromatic culture to the best borough, Queens. Your programs not only erect the beauty and benefits of nature within Queens’ urban and suburban jungle, but also unite all the people of Queens to bask in the borough’s incredible human and floral diversity, and teach the public about the critically important paths we must take to environmental sustainability. Your planning and presentations will pave the way to a brighter and cleaner future for Queens, teaching people how to respectfully interact with and harvest the world around them. This lovely, forward-thinking garden is truly, as in your words “The place where people, plants and cultures meet”. For over 70 years, you have served as a model for all the people of Queens, for how to live with their fellow men and women and with nature.

As you gather for a day imbued with celebration and commemoration, I join you in extending my congratulations to the following distinguished honorees: Jaclyn Mucaria, President of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, recipient of the Community Leadership Award, and New York City Council member Peter Koo, who will receive the Rose Gala Award. I would like to think Jaclyn for her dedication to the ensured eternal health of the people of Queens. Peter was a colleague of mine during my time in the New York City Council, and he always, and still does today, acts as a gentle, guiding light and a leader for the Flushing community.

To all those who tend tirelessly to our wonderful garden, I thank you again for your dedication to this priceless public good that brings concrete and nature together. Thank you for ensuring our garden stays green in perpetuity. Your guiding principles of care for others, sustainability, education and exploration are the principles that will lead to the continued prosperity of our city and our society, and a future we can proudly entrust to our children.

Yours in Service,

[Signature]

Leroy Comrie
District 14-Queens
June 5, 2019

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 the Queens Botanical Garden's Rose Gala 2019.

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 250,000 people who are served by Queens Botanical Garden each year.

Tonight is also a great opportunity to pay tribute to your distinguished honorees, who are being honored for their great work on behalf of Queens and the Flushing community. On behalf of the nearly 2.4 million residents of Queens, "The World's Borough," I therefore offer my congratulations to the Honorable Peter Koo, Member of the New York City Council, and to Jaclyn Mucaria, MPA, FACHE, President of New York-Presbyterian Queens.

I wish the Queens Botanical Garden continued success in its 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,

Melinda Katz
President
Borough of Queens
June 5, 2019

Dear Friends:

As Speaker of the New York City Council, I am delighted to extend my personal greetings to everyone gathered here tonight at the Queens Botanical Garden’s Annual Rose Gala!

Cultural institutions like the Queens Botanical Garden are the heart and soul of this city.

From their dynamic exhibitions and innovative programming to the many free services and resources that they provide, these institutions help liberate our imaginations, fill our spirits, and stand shoulder-to-shoulder among the many marvelous attractions that have made our great city the cultural capital of the world.

As they celebrate their annual Rose Gala tonight, I would like to thank the Queens Botanical Garden and its dedicated team for the important work that they are doing to provide residents and visitors of all ages with the opportunity to experience the breathtaking beauty that our natural world has to offer.

Congratulations as well to this year’s honorees, including my colleague Council Member Peter Koo.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time tonight. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson
Speaker
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.

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

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

Bench Adoption
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In loving memory of Mu Fa Weng by Wenjuan Weng and Jianlong John Guo
In memory of Don Capalbi by NewYork Presbyterian Queens
In Loving Memory Lea K. Dean, Bernie P. Dean & Andy C. Dean, MD, PhD by Arnold Y. Dean
A beautiful garden for all ages donated by You-lan Zhu and Si Chen

Tree Adoption
In memory of Sakura Suzuki by Colleagues, Family, and Friends

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 or Annette Fanara, Assistant Director of Development, 718-886-3800, ext. 202 or afanara@queensbotanical.org for more information.
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…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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Peter Koo

Tonight’s Rose Gala Awardee
I love the view from my office.

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AND
JACKIE MUCARIA
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- Raymond D. Jasen
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*honorary
Best Wishes to Queens Botanical Garden on its Rose Gala 2019

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Congratulations to Honorees Peter Koo Member, New York City Council & Jaclyn Mucaria President, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens for their commitment to the Community

- Veronica Tsang -
  YNPQ-CAC Member
Best Wishes to
Queens Botanical Garden

Rose Gala 2019

Congratulations to Honorees
PETER KOO, MEMBER
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
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NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN QUEENS
For their commitment to the
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Dr. Alan Yao
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Queens Botanical Garden
Rose Gala 2019

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New York City Council Member
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Jaclyn Mucaria
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- Georgianna Reese-Benatti
Congratulations to Rose Gala 2019 Honorees
NYC Council Member Peter Koo and
Jaclyn Mucaria, President,
NewYork-Presbyterian Queens

QUEENS BOTANICAL GARDEN

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皇后花園群楽晨運會
June 5, 2019

Dear Friends:

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

The Queens Botanical Garden has provided many thousands of Queens community members with valuable educational and enrichment experiences on nature and the environment. These fine programs also promote the messages of diversity and sustainability important to the Queens community.

I am pleased to join all of you in congratulating today’s honorees: President Jaclyn Macan of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Hospital for receiving the Community Leadership Award, and New York City Councilman Peter Koo for receiving the Rose Gala Award.

Congratulations again, and thank you to the staff, volunteers, community partners, and everyone involved with the Queens Botanical Garden extended family on another successful year and best wishes for many more to come! Have a great evening!

Sincerely,

Nily Rozic
Assemblywoman
25th District
June 5, 2019

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 honorees at the Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2019: Council Member Peter Koo and Jaclyn Mucaria.

Council Member Koo, recipient of the Rosa Gala Award, was first elected to the 20th District in 2009 and is the Founder of the Starside Pharmacy chain. Council Member Koo has also served as Chairman of Program Services for the Flushing Business Improvement District, President of the Flushing Chinese Business Association, and has devoted his time to many other non-profit organizations. Ms. Mucaria, recipient of the Community Leadership Award, is President of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and has led initiatives to improve access to “Amazing Care” by focusing on the patient experience, safety, and quality.

The outstanding demonstration of leadership by Council Member Koo and Ms. Mucaria has truly made them worthy of this honor. It is with sincere admiration that we all pause to reflect on their exceptional contributions and service to our community at large.

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

Yours truly,

Edward C. Braunstein
Member of Assembly
June 5, 2019

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director
Queens Botanical Garden
43-50 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355

Dear Ms. Lacerte,

I would like to congratulate you, your colleagues, friends, and supporters of the Queens Botanical Garden on your annual Rose Gala.

Tonight’s gala is a wonderful opportunity to commemorate the Queens Botanical Garden’s history of service to the people of Queens. Since its inception in 1939, the Queens Botanical Garden has been a place to showcase Queens’ cultural diversity and the beauty of flora, as well as providing valuable environmental education programs.

I would also like to shine a light on tonight’s honorees, who have displayed an unparalleled commitment to service and have exhibited unmatched professionalism. I extend congratulations to Jaclyn Mucaria, President of New York-Presbyterian Queens, and to Council Member Peter Koo.

It is my sincerest wish that the attendees of the Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala have a fantastic evening, and that the Queens Botanical Garden has a successful year.

Sincerely,

Michael DenDekker,
Member of Assembly.
June 5, 2019

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Queens Botanical Garden’s Annual Rose Gala.

The Queens Botanical Garden is an oasis where people and cultures are celebrated through their beautiful gardens, innovative educational programs and demonstrations of environmental stewardship. Since its creation, the Queens Botanical Garden has continued to expand with programming targeted at residents of the surrounding community in one of New York City’s most bustling and diverse neighborhoods. This evening’s honorees, Councilmember Peter Koo and Jaelyn Mucaria, embody the Queens Botanical Garden’s vision. Councilmember Koo has dedicated his life to the community of Flushing through his involvement in civics, his accessibility to the public and his philanthropic endeavors. Ms. Mucaria is a staunch leader for health care who has led various initiatives to help improve the health of the 2.3 million people who reside in the borough of Queens. Ms. Mucaria’s and Councilmember Koo’s lives serve as a shining example of community service. I offer my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Mucaria and Councilmember Koo for this well-deserved honor.

Tonight’s event is a fitting tribute to the Queens Botanical Garden’s tremendous impact on our community and I look forward to the continued success of this jewel of our Borough.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Aravella Simotas
New York State Assemblymember
36th District - Queens
June 5, 2019

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

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I convey my warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the Queens Botanical Garden on the occasion of your annual Rose Gala. I am honored to join you on this day as you celebrate in the Garden in Flushing, Queens.

Since its beginnings in the 1939-40 New York World’s Fair, your organization has been an urban paradise where people, plants, and cultures are celebrated and explored through innovative programming and advocacy. Queens Botanical Garden has been an invaluable resource for its 250,000 annual patrons including many families and students who undoubtedly benefit from the Garden’s rich programming and natural beauty.

Your tireless dedication to working with the Queens community and ensuring that their needs are met with utmost quality service and care deserve our highest respect and gratitude. For that, I am honored to recognize this year’s distinguished honorees: Jaclyn Mucaria, President of NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, and Hon. Peter Koo, Member of the New York City Council. I am truly inspired by your extraordinary show of leadership, service, and commitment to our community and our great state.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Queens Botanical Garden to address the issues and concerns facing our environment and community in Queens and throughout New York State. 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
June 5, 2019

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt greetings to all in attendance at Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala 2019. Queens Botanical Garden continues to serve as an urban oasis. Each year, thousands of visitors enjoy the beauty of the gardens and benefit from the wonderful educational programming. The diverse events held at QBG truly make it the place where “people, plants, and cultures meet.”

Congratulations to this year’s esteemed honorees. Community Leadership Award recipient Jaclyn A. Mucaria, Hospital President of New York Presbyterian Queens, is being recognized for her efforts to improve the health of the 2.3 million Queens residents through the expansion of the hospital’s world class care and specialty services. The Rose Gala Award is honoring my dear friend and colleague Council Member Peter Koo for his steadfast and ceaseless commitment to Flushing, the borough of Queens, and greater New York City throughout his long and illustrious career.

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

Very truly yours,

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

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to all attendees of Queens Botanical Garden’s Rose Gala. On this night, we should each take a moment to reflect on the work. Queens Botanical Garden has been doing to improve the quality of life throughout Queens and beyond.

Given the remarkable nature of Queens Botanical Garden, along with the outstanding accomplishments of those who steer it in the right direction - most notably, Susan Lacerte as Executive Director, it is no wonder so many families rely so strongly on the organization.

Wishing the Queens Botanical Garden continued success with its vital mission.

Warmest regards,

Donovan Richards
Council Member, District 31
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See you around the Garden!