Queens Botanical Garden
RAMBLING ROSE GALA
Celebrating 75 Years as a Public Garden!
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023
Honoring

Joan N. and Norman Bluestone Foundation and its Trustees

Sara B. Herbstman, President
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Joyce Bluestone, Board of Directors
Michelle Potvin, Board of Directors
Charles Herbstman, Board of Directors

in recognition of their support of Queens Botanical Garden and commitment to the education of children in Queens
Dear Rambling Rose Gala Friend,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and QBG Staff, welcome to Queens Botanical Garden’s Rambling Rose Gala! We are thrilled to “ramble” this evening, take in the sights and scents of our beautiful Garden, and celebrate this annual event together.

This year, we are delighted to celebrate an exceptional honoree – the Joan N. and Norman Bluestone Foundation and its Trustees. The Foundation recently made a $8 million donation to the Garden to name our forthcoming Education Center. This is the largest private donation that the Garden has received to date, and one of the largest ever to a Queens cultural institution.

This historic investment in the future of Queens Botanical Garden comes from decades of friendship and leadership from Joan and Norman Bluestone, who cherished the Garden and recognized its potential to be the leading cultural and educational institution in Queens. We are so grateful that the Foundation and its Trustees have ensured that their legacy will be perpetuated at the Garden for generations to come. As we begin to plan for the new educational programs our innovative Education Center will enable, we are inspired by Joan and Norm’s vision as well as the incredible spirit of all Queens residents. The future is bright for Queens Botanical Garden, and for all of Queens!

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

Raymond Jasen  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Evie Hantzopoulos  
Executive Director
The Joan N. and Norman Bluestone Foundation was formed in 2002 with the purpose of fostering the education of disadvantaged children and young adults in the New York Metropolitan area. Queens Botanical Garden, with its many educational programs, exemplifies that mission in the heart of Queens, which was always the home to the Foundation originators, Joan and Norman Bluestone. Joan was a longtime volunteer and donor at the Garden and served on its Board of Directors for many years. Joan passed away in 2020. Norman was a founding member of The Bluestone Organization, a Queens-based real estate company, along with his two brothers, Harold and Eli. Norman passed away in 2011. Joan and Norman frequented the Garden often and, in recognizing its potential to impact youth, they expressed their desire to memorialize their love of QBG by contributing to its future in a meaningful way.
The Board of Trustees and staff of Queens Botanical Garden express deep gratitude and appreciation to

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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 provide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations and individuals provide additional support.

We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies for their support:

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
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...where visitors find peace, health, and inspiration in their urban oasis...
...where being GREEN is a commitment to NYC, its residents, and the environment...
...where education programs and workshops inspire thousands of school children every year...
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Congratulations to this year’s honorees
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Celebrating 75 Years as a Public Garden!

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