

## A Message from Catherine Touwsma, DGC Civic Beautification Chairperson about:

### It's My Park Days APRIL 29 and 30, 2017 at Catharine Turner Richardson Park

On Saturday April 29 and Sunday April 30, passers-by will have noticed a great resurgence of activities and presences at the Catharine Turner-Richardson Park. The turnout of volunteers exceeded all expectations! A tremendous amount of work was achieved. In all, over 50 volunteers came, worked from 9 am to 4pm on Saturday and from 10 am to 3pm on Sunday and filled over 40 bags of garbage + a huge tree stump. Below are listed all those who participated and that I want to officially thank from the bottom of my heart:

**Joe Block, our NY City Parks Department Manager** who came as a Santa Claus on Xmas day with everything we needed to make it happen from rakes, brooms, shovels, axes, paint, brushes, seeds and much more. He fixed up our DGC Park sign that is now right side up! He directed and encouraged volunteers ALL DAY LONG. Without him and his patience, I would not have been able to pull off this event. It is a pleasure to know him and to work with him. Thanks to him also, we had the pleasure to meet the actual NYC Parks Department team who is responsible for the care of our park: **Claudine and her crew of 5**. They mowed the lawn, weed-whacked an invasion of dandelions etc. I know I speak for everyone present on that day when I say that it was a pleasure to chat with them and work together at the Park.

**Sara Baral from City Park Foundation** also came with t-shirts, gloves and tools and her special encouraging smile and good humor. Without her guidance and help, I would have never known what to do to reach out-of-borough volunteers.

**Boy Scout Troup # 255 led by Chase Brink** (Grandson of our Carolyn Brink). These scouts came by waves for 2 days in a row. Busy as bees on a spring day, it was difficult to keep a headcount, but I would say that at least 25 came on Saturday and another 15 on Sunday! With their fathers and Scout leaders, they tackled most of the work needing to be done.

I have to give special recognition to Chase 's father, Russell Brink, who struggled with great strength and tenacity with the huge cypress stump that was in the way of our rosebush planting project.

**Volunteers from the City Parks Foundation** who contacted me directly in the context of the It's My Park project leader application. They came from Forest Hills, Middle Village, Bayside etc. Mrs. Saintonge and her daughter Sophia Amrita, Alex Torres and his son Sebastian, Joshua Gonzales, Gerard Richardson and his daughter Nicole. What a pleasure it was to meet those wonderful volunteers coming from another Queens neighborhood to help make our little corner of this world more beautiful. They raked and bagged and weeded the front lawn for hours in a row, they refreshed the beige paint on the 2-water boxes.

**Neighborhood volunteers came as well:** Laurie Killcommons from the Wesley building, Christine Marchese from Depew Ave, Christine Briguglio and her son Evan from East Drive. From the Prospect Ave side, Chris and Suzanne Campese, Julia Dobry with their families also raked and bagged for hours without getting discouraged by a few nasty surprises left by our canine visitors (whose owners are regrettably not very responsible, a sad fact-of-life).

**The Douglaston Garden Club volunteers, my friends Jane Stewart and Maura Wrynn.** Thanks for accepting to weed-crawl the daffodil beds on your knees for hours!

Last but certainly not least, my incredibly helpful and **supportive husband, G John Touwsma,** who besides digging holes was the master of water at both fire hydrants. A special thanks to Douglas Montgomery for letting us use his fire hydrant tools and providing good advice from his years of experience taking care of this wonderful piece of land: the CTR Park.

Pictures are worth a thousand words so I will let them speak for a beautiful day of friendship and citizenship achievements in Queens on April 29<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017! Let there be many more like this. Now in May, a month later, the park is in full bloom! Go visit it, enjoy it and be a proud Douglaston Garden Club member!



Catherine Touwsma

## APRIL 2017

"That God once loved a garden we learn in Holy writ.  
And seeing gardens in the Spring I well can credit it."  
- Winifred Mary Letts

**OUR NEXT MEETING is Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM at the Community Church of Douglaston, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Parlor. Our speaker will be Marion Romeo.** She will demonstrate and discuss the various design classes of our flower show. Please bring your flower show booklet to meeting to refer to it as designs are discussed and also to learn how to fill out horticulture/design entry cards that Carolyn will have for all participants in both design and horticulture segments of the flower show.

**REMINDER.** The church requires that the entry door remain locked at all times. **Maura Wrynn** has volunteered to provide security at the door between 12:30 - 1:15 PM. After that time, or prior, you will need to ring the bell for Madeline (church secretary) to buzz you in. And, DO NOT PARK in spots numbered 1-10.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Welcome to our newest members Josephine Cespon and Nancy Syndelis. We look forward to their participation. I am **attaching** the current membership directory to this newsletter.

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING. Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 10 AM - 4 PM.** St. Anastasia's Church parking lot. Volunteers from the DGC are needed for registration (no lifting). Anyone can drop off old phones, printers, computers, TV's, anything electronic. Contact Douglas Montgomery [917-482-5234](tel:917-482-5234) to volunteer or if you need assistance in getting your discards to site.

**TRIPS. Queens County Farm Museum history/cooking demo** will be held on **Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM.** Not to worry that weather might be too warm - the room we will meet in has air-conditioning. There is now a wait-list for this trip. Contact Marylyn Mackay [718-229-2136](tel:718-229-2136).

**SECOND DISTRICT SPRING MEETING AND LUNCHEON. Monday, April 24, 2017 10:00 AM** at the Crest Hollow Country Club, 8325 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY 11797. Boutique sale tables open at 9:15 AM. The speaker/floral designer is Andrew Pascoe who is renown throughout local GCs for his designs. Lunch will be served at 1:15 PM. Cost: \$50 (make check payable to: Douglaston Garden Club). RSVP with payment no later than April 14, to Gloria Brehl, 49-16 Hanford Street, Douglaston, NY 11362-1038.

**OUTREACH.** Gloria Brehl is collecting fabric measuring at least 12" x 24" and ribbon (3/4 yard+) which she sews into gift bags to hold the sample-sized new toiletries, sewing kits, shower caps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, nail files, etc., that you've been donating (and we hope you'll continue with these donations) to present the women at the Madonna Heights shelter.

**FLOWER SHOW. Tuesday, May 16, 2017.** This is going to be a very exciting show - it's been awhile since we've had a standard flower show (of late we've been doing small flower shows) offering an impressive 24 designs! And the horticulture entries are pretty much what we have growing in our gardens or sitting in pots in our porches or on our windowsills so it is hopeful that all our members will participate with their horticulture entries. Be imaginative, step out of your comfort zone and support what is the essence of a garden club: *a flower show!* I am thrilled to announce that as of this writing, there is only one design slot that remains unfilled: A pot-et-fleurs (see section A, Class 2 in the FS booklet). Think about signing up for this easy-to-do, creative arrangement. Contact Carolyn Brink, [718-767-2352](tel:718-767-2352). We also need helpers to setup show on Monday, May 15 for about 2 hours.

**WORKSHOP for Flower Show. Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 9:30 AM** in the Fellowship Room of the CCD (the morning of our general meeting). Sign-up with Rosemarie Robertson [718-224-3999](tel:718-224-3999). This is a workshop for both designs and horticulture. Bring ideas, containers, if possible plants and plant material & flowers (look for bunches of flowers in your local supermarket). Carolyn Brink has dried flowers for

purchase, too. Also, bring your flower show booklet so that Carolyn can show you how to refer to it when filling out entry cards for design and horticulture submissions. This is a very important step in a successful flower show. Carolyn will bring entry cards to workshop for instruction and distribution.

**BAKE SALE. Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10 AM - 2 PM.** Bake sale table will be at 40-60 Douglaston Parkway (in front of Douglas Montgomery's office). Drop off baked goods on Friday, April 28 between 4PM - 6PM and Saturday in the morning (on day of sale). Volunteers and bakers needed. Contact Annette Aloisio [718-225-2986](tel:718-225-2986). Signup sheet will be available at this month's meeting. ALL BAKED GOODS MUST BE WRAPPED IN CLEAR PLASTIC, LABELED AND READY TO BE PUT ON THE TABLES.

**PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER** - just in time for Mother's Day - will be on **Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 10 AM - 4PM**, to be held at 132 Park Lane (Mike Gannon's front yard). If you are willing to volunteer to unload delivery, sort out orders or assist on sale day, please contact Gloria Brehl [718-229-9006](tel:718-229-9006). A pre-order form will be sent under separate mailing in a few weeks.

**DUES.** \$50 - **see form enclosed.** I am asking for your dues now so as to not confuse with June luncheon payment (which will be requested in May). The period of membership coverage remains the same: July 1 - June 30.

**IT'S MY PARK DAY. Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 9 AM - 3 PM.** We need DGC volunteers to help plant, rake and sweep at the Catherine Turner Richardson park. Bring a trowel marked with your name if you are up to the digging. The NYC Parks Department will provide gloves, t-shirts, rakes and garbage bags. Please contact our Civic Beautification Chairperson, Catherine Touwsma, [718-229-6557](tel:718-229-6557) or [c.touwsma@gmail.com](mailto:c.touwsma@gmail.com) if you can assist. The flyer **enclosed** is for your information and for posting and sharing with the community. Also, on IMP Day, please come out and support Carolyn Brink's grandson, Chase Brink, in his quest to earn the most esteemed rank of Eagle Scout. Chase will lead Boy Scout Troop 255 in cleaning, planting and beautifying the CTR Park.

**APRIL HOSPITALITY.**

Suggested donations **per hospitality donor:**

*Cookies:* THREE dozen

*Sandwiches:* TWO loaves of sliced bread (filling of your choosing). Cut into 4. Crusts removed.

Please deliver hospitality offerings by 12:30-12:45 PM, as hospitality time begins promptly at 1:00 PM.

<b>Centerpiece</b>	MARY TOBACCO			
<b>Cookies</b>	PAMELA TIMOYANIS	MARY JANE PRIME	EVELYN WRYNN	JOHANNA ABRAMO
<b>Sandwiches</b>	KARIN RUBENECKER	MAURA WRYNN	MARGARET WARREN	CATHERINE TOUWSMA

**NEW HANDBOOK FOR FLOWERS SHOWS 2017.** The National Garden Club (our parent club) has created a new handbook for Flower Shows. It is imperative to the function of a garden club that all members have this handbook. I have **enclosed** a purchase form.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** The Nominating Committee (Sandy Hart, Claire Goldstein and Johanna Abramo) will present the list of executive board candidates at the May meeting. Voting takes place at the June luncheon.

**YOUTH GROUP.** As the weather warms, please take notice of the daffodils sprouting in the front yard of P.S. 98. Some of our members were there in the autumn assisting the students with planting the daffodils into the raised bed planters the DGC funded.

A happy Passover and Easter to all.

**Pamela Timoyanis, President**

[718-578-1190](tel:718-578-1190) or [presa@nyc.rr.com](mailto:presa@nyc.rr.com)

att. 1) Horticulture Tidbits 2) Dues Renewal form & Flower Show Handbook purchase form (one page)  
3) IMP Day and Bake Sale flyer 4) Membership Directory 2016-17

Here's a synopsis of our upcoming Calendar which includes a summary of above info:

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 9:30 AM, Flower Show Workshop. CCD Basement.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 11:30 AM. Board Meeting. CCD Basement. Board members only.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM. General Meeting. CCD Parlor Room (2nd Floor). Members and guests.

Monday, April 24, 2017 - 2nd District Luncheon at Cresthollow Country Club. RSVP by 4/14/17.

Saturday, April 29, 2017 - IT'S MY PARK DAY from 9 AM - 3 PM

Saturday, April 29, 2017 - BAKE SALE from 10 AM - 2 PM

Saturday, May 13, 2017 - DGC Mother's Day/Spring Plant sale

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 DGC Flower Show

Monday, May 29, 2017 - MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Thursday, June 15, 2017 - Annual Luncheon at the Douglaston Club. Invitation will be sent out next month.

#### **AROUND TOWN**

The **Douglaston Woman's Club** is having their annual luncheon at Manhasset Bay Yacht Club on Thursday, May 4, 2017. \$55 pp. This is always a nice luncheon, at a lovely setting with great raffle prizes. We usually have a table or two in support of the Woman's Club. Please contact Linda Akers [917-941-2536](tel:917-941-2536).

The **Paumanacke Garden Club** presents "Flowers by Matthew of Wantagh" on Thurs., April 27 from 1-5 PM at the Wantagh Knights of Columbus, 1869 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY. Dessert, door prizes, raffles. Cost: \$10. Contact: Mary Cesare [516-783-1880](tel:516-783-1880).

The Douglaston Garden Club is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code. Memberships and donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.