



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Rodger Williams Casino  
February 22, 2024

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President Judy Gray called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Reminder: Silence your cell phones at this time

Roll Call Pat Yearwood, Recording Secretary: 12 Clubs present / 15 Clubs absent

Presidents Report:

- **Minutes of Jan 25, 2024, Business Meeting** were electronically sent out. One announcement was overlooked and was added to January's minutes. **Linda Alves, RIFGC Youth Chair thanked Mary Nugent**, the Correspondence Secretary for the Barrington Garden Club for all her help with the Youth Contest. Other corrections? No. Judy Gray moved the minutes stand as corrected. Seconded by Cheryl Celeste: I's have it, Nays-none. Minutes for Jan.25,2024 stand corrected.
  - **With deepest sympathies** Judy shared that Ginni Donovan from Suburban and Cheshire Garden Club of CT passed away very suddenly on Feb 6. Ginni was an amazing award-winning designer throughout N.E. She was a delight to work with and will truly be missed.
  - **A Get Well to Vera Bowen** who is recovering at home from much needed knee surgery. Her dear friends have been a great support.
  - **Thank you to Barrington Garden Club** for providing Hospitality. It is very much appreciated. President Rebecca Burke of Barrington shared the club was established in 1931 and now in 93<sup>rd</sup> year. The BGC has 110 members, 60 members are active. Which makes it the largest club too. The BGC is also responsible for maintain and designing 8 town gardens.
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- **Thank you all who continue the battle to drive from the East Bay.** Let's continue to gather, support each other's club events and federation commitments with the same vigor as we did before the bridge closed.

Alternative routes, extra time, busy schedules challenges will be the new norm.

- **Thank you for sharing my Pres. Email Blast with your membership.** To include announcements in Pres. Email Blast
  - Supply Judy Gray information by Sat to Blast out on Monday.
  - Also find Blasts on the RIFGC Calendar. The RIFGC Calendar is now updated on our website. [rigardenclubs.org](http://rigardenclubs.org)
- **Connecticut Flower Show “Bursting into Spring”** February 22-25th
  - Details at: [ctgardenclubs.org](http://ctgardenclubs.org)
- **Newport Flower Show Tickets:** Going on sale in April.
  - Details at: [newportmansions.org](http://newportmansions.org)
  - **Club Competition in Horticulture at the Newport Flower Show.** Flyer in Email Blast. Can't find it, please email Judy Gray and she will send the flyer to you. [judy.gray123@gmail.com](mailto:judy.gray123@gmail.com)
- **Path for Success.**
  - Clubs can purchase a paver for the path that will be installed at the N.G.C. Headquarters in St. Louis. All info was in my Email Blast.
- **Enviro/Education Day** will be Thursday May 2 at 9:30 AM
  - Location: William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St. Cranston.
  - Open invitation to all members. A great day of education.
  - We have guest speakers, education exhibits and more.
  - Drinks provided, Please bring lunch.
  - This is a great event with loads of information to take away with you.
  - The more we are educated the more we can educate others.

**Hurray for the newest legislation in passing a law to ban single use bags**  
Effective: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Now pushing a nip bottle legislation would be great for the water ways and environment.

- **Our flower show Rhode Island in Bloom.** April 4-7 2024. We need all our members to support and work on this show: Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer!
  - Need lots of hostess time slots to be filled. See Kathy Bessette Hostess Chair before you leave today.
  - Also need help with setting up.
  - Of Course, Enter one of the design classes.
    - 23 entries that must be filled.

- At the moment 21 designers from out of state and 15 designers from RI have signed up with at least 3 having signed up for two.

**Youth Chairs for the show will speak in a few minutes.**

- Pres. Judy Gray is following former Pres. Sheryl McGookin's wish to have a map of RI and surrounding MA with all our clubs highlighted.
  - This map would be available for Federation Public Events.
  - Judy's hope is.
    - To have volunteers do a few Pop-Up Events to spread the word who we are, what we do and how to become a member of their local garden club.
    - Also to have logos connected with each club.
    - Please let Judy know by either emailing your logo or letting her know you don't have one. This way we can get this completed.
- **Design show at Flora in Winter at the Worcester Art**
  - February 29,-March 3,2024 Details at: worcesterart.org
  - President Judy Gray was invited to participate in the show. Some quotes from Judy “ yes a little nervous or anxious. The excitement of designing never gets old for me.” Great!!!!.
- **Cindy -Wood G.C. Art in Bloom at their 2/21/2024 meeting.**
  - 24 Petite designs were arranged to interpret a piece of artwork, painting, or photo of their choosing.
  - Marjorie DeAngelis Credited NGC Judge of Rehoboth G.C. , Cheryl Celeste, Pres. of W.C.G.C. and Co-Chair of RIFGC Awards Chair and Pres. Judy Gray judged and commented on this display of designs.
  - Most were novice designers who had never designed before, and judges were bowled over by their interpretations.
  - VP Kathleen Damiani came along for the ride and met up with a new prospect member who was a quest at this meeting. I have posted pictures on Facebook and the photos from this event will be in the next newsletter.
  - **WCGC 2/20/2024 monthly meeting** Judy Gray was guest speaker about Informal Functional Table for two in preparation for WCGC's hosting a flower show. May 18,2024
  - Set up two tables, one blue ribbon winner and one honorable mention.

- Discussed the dos and don'ts of a table setting in preparation for a flower show WCGC is hosting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed the meeting tremendously.
- A little tidbit about the WCGC Pres. Cheryl Celeste. She has been in that club for 32 years and her 2 sisters are members as well. They all talked about how their mother brought them to the club all those years back. The odds are stacked that one of them was going to win the raffle, sure enough one left with my design.
- **Check out the new layout for the Winter Newsletter**, It is spectacular.
  - Ruby did a great job and was thrilled with all the articles and photos t submitted.
  - More details to follow on the best way to submit your information. Thank you all.
- **Request for a club to volunteer to do an Education Exhibit** for the flower show has been filled. Pres. Judy Gray cannot name the club at this time because this is a judged event. It is unfair to all exhibitors for judges to know in advance who is exhibiting in a section of the show. I will make note to knowledge the 3 Educational Exhibits at the show and as well at the April Awards Luncheon.
- **Please stick around our guest speaker** today from Barrington Farm School. And Wet Your Whistle Table Discussion Right after the meeting all about "Dues" and the benefits of being a member of RIFGC and NGC.
- **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

Paul Nunes Treasure	Beginning Bal:12/31/2023	\$10,170.80
	Cash Receipts	229.50
	Disbursements	1,592.49
	Ending Bal: 01/31/2024	\$8,807.84

Kathleen Bessette, Corresponding Secretary Please see her before you leave today to help her fill the open times for hostesses at the upcoming flower show.

Pat Yearwood , Recording Secretary: Send in or bring hard copy notes of what you want to discuss at our board meetings.

**All who need to speak from the floor MUST USE THE MIC.** You will also have 3 min. give or take to speak as well to give enough time for all who need the floor.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS.**

**Annual Meeting Karen Cipriano:** Luncheon on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Details to be sent out soon.

**Awards Co-Chair Cheryl Celeste:** Applications. Deadline: 2/15/2024

Except Member of Honor due 1/1/2024

Awards judged by a team of 6. Results at 4/25 Awards Luncheon.

Please have a club member at the luncheon if you have applied for an award

RIFGC Community Project Award of interest send a letter to Judy Gray with details of your project. No need for an application. Must be to Judy before the banquet on 4/25.

**Environmental/Education Day** I have announced the Date being Thurs May 2 at Wm Hall Library 1825 Broad St.

**Report from Sarah Lee** Will be sent in next week's email blast:

Endangered Species Protection Sought for Prehistoric Creatures.

From the 2/14/24 Eco RI News by Frank Carini. A fascinating article on horseshoe crabs.

**Life Member Chair Blakely Szosz:** As a promo to help bring funds to the Life Membership Group, Blakely's hens provided many dozens of eggs available to take home with members for a \$5.00 donation. Thankyou Blakely.

**Youth Programs Chair Linda Alves.** Smokey Bear had 3 poster entries, 1 poetry entry and 2 sculpture entries. Certificates have been printed for the participants.

March is National Reading Month: Looking for Volunteer to participate in book reading to K-4 grade children. 3 different books about gardening are available. Contact Linda Alves [lalvesmgyoga@gmail.com](mailto:lalvesmgyoga@gmail.com)

Youth program at the Flower Show on 4/25. Parents or guardians must remain with the children participating. Club volunteers are needed to to help on that day. Contact Linda Alves [lalvesmgyoga.com](mailto:lalvesmgyoga.com)

### **Other business:**

Sandi Tinyk:: [sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.tinyk7@gmail.com) details.3 Adventurous Trips

3/1/24 Trip to Worcester Museum for Flora in Winter

5/12-23/24 Trip to Chelsea Flower Show \$4390+airfair

6/4/24 Trip to NY Botanical Gardens for an exciting exhibit created around the theme of "Alice in Wonderland.

Contact Sandi if you have any artifacts or information that you would share to increase the historical information of RIFGC.

**Please stay for the WYW Table Discussion following the speaker.**

At this time if there is no other business, I would like to **make the motion to adjourn the meeting. Do I have a Second.?** Second by Kathy Bissette  
Meeting adjourned at: 10:56 a.m.

**Pres. Judy Gray introduced the speakers Barrington Farm School's** Gail Read, Board President and Volunteer and Wayne Learner Board Vice President and Volunteer ([barringtonfarmschool.org](http://barringtonfarmschool.org).) Vision: BFS is a thriving, inclusive community farm committed to growing healthy food, restoring soil health, offering environmental education, promoting equitable food justice, and instilling an appreciation for the natural habitat and bounty around us. Gail and Wayne shared the history of the property, farm and creation of the BFS. Snapshot of the ecological and sustainable methods used, gardens, crops, student participation, as needs for volunteers left us all wanting to know much more about Barrington Farm School. Please visit their website, set up a club or personal visit and maybe volunteer.