

Patchogue Green

News of the Patchogue Garden Club

October 2026

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President's Message

The gardening season is slowly growing to a close. For those of you who tried some fall planting of seeds you should have started to see some sprouting by now. I have Mesclun lettuce, Arugula, and Spinach all sprouting in some large pots. I just planted some Saffron Crocus and hopefully will be able to harvest the thin threads of saffron in about a month.

The bulbs I ordered in early summer are starting to arrive. Spring flowering ones as well as green onions, garlic, and shallots will be going in the beds in a few weeks.

Please resist the urge to have your landscapers or you do a fall clean up. Mulch your lawn leaves as you mow over the next few weeks, rake leaves into your beds once they start falling, leave perennial seed heads for the birds. The soil, plants and birds will appreciate it and reward you in the spring.

Once soil temperatures reach 55 degrees in late March-early April the matted leaves can be removed, perennials cut back, and cold weather vegetables can again be planted.

Our speaker this month was very knowledgeable about birds and migration. The Great Migration has begun, and the birds would appreciate finding these items in your yards as a pit stop: A slightly messy yard is a boon to the birds for food sources, a small brush pile or two in a corner for cover for ground feeding birds, feeders filled with millet and other sources of protein will let the birds know where food is available. Those that stay through the winter will return to your yard if they know food is available.

Our last meeting and annual tea are on Oct 27 from 2-4 in the Recreation Center. If you can help with food or set up, please email Paula: murp125@optonline.net.

If you're interested in decorating a room of the mansion at Bayard Arboretum, please email Carol sciencecat@optonline.net ASAP.

If you have plants you would like to donate to St Francis on South Ocean Ave, drop off is by the rectory. Planting help if you can volunteer is on Oct 11.

See you at the tea! Don't forget a tea cup and maybe a Fascinator or Top Hat
Carol

Fall Tea

(last meeting of the year)

Tuesday, October 27th at 2 p.m.

This special event will mark the THIRTIETH Anniversary of the Garden Club.

Paula Murphy is heading up the committee for this celebration. We need volunteers for set up, clean up, and refreshments. Please check with her at murp125@optonline.net or at 631-553-2928 to let her know how you can help.



Birthdays



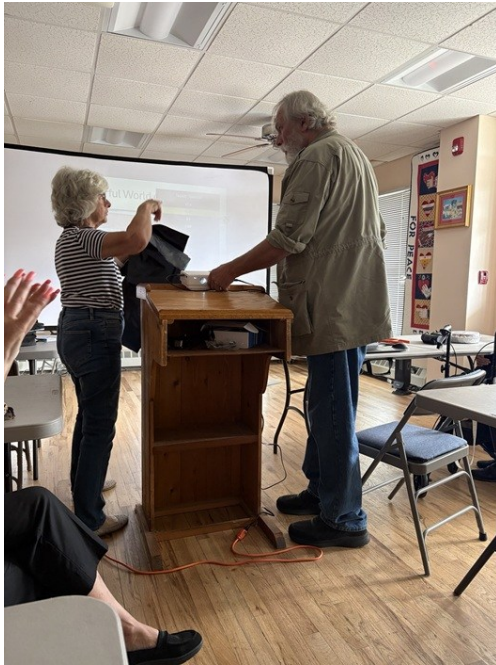
Khem Fatimi—Oct. 9
Marsha Fusco—Oct. 28
Sandra Franco—Nov. 21
Rick Weber—Nov. 24

September Garden Club Meeting

Our speaker for September was Curt Kessler, an ornithologist and wildlife biologist and guide in the Grand Canyon and various places “out west.” He presented a slide show featuring bird photos he’s taken from Long Island areas. He recommends both Sibley and Peterson bird guides, and recommends Cornell’s “Merlin” app as well as the eBird app. Kesslerguam@hotmail.com



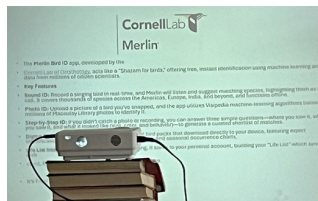
Plastic bags block out light for the slide show.



Speaker Kessler prepares his projector.



Kessler shows slides of songbirds, owls, raptors and shore birds.



Cornell's Merlin is a free interactive birding app.



You can share your birding data on Cornell's eBird app.



Kessler encouraged us to notice the differences in size, shapes and patterns of flight.

Get to Know a Gardener Gladys Heimbürger

Where were you born, and where have you lived?

I was born in Manhattan and lived there for my childhood and then lived in the Bronx with my husband until we purchased a house and moved to Lake Ronkonkoma. I have lived in my house for about 60 years.

Tell us about your family.

I have 3 daughters; two who live on the island and one who is in California. I have five granddaughters and one grandson, two great granddaughters and one great grandson. They all visit me often, and one lives in my extension! We all spend as many holidays together as possible. Christmas Eve is the holiday that I love to host every year.

What gave you your first interest in gardening?

I always have loved flowers and planting gardens. When I heard about the garden club, I was happy I could be part of it even though I do not live in Patchogue!

Outside of gardening, what are some of your interests?

Spending time with family and traveling. I love decorating for the holidays!

An interesting place you've traveled to or visited

I have traveled to France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Turkey, Greece and recently I went on a cruise with most of my family to Alaska. My favorite places were Italy and Paris!

Your favorite dessert or food

I love Italian food and carvel chocolate ice cream with black cherries!

Something you are proud of-

My three daughters!

A television show you like—

I like to watch westerns and some of the old movies.

A book you'd recommend.

I enjoy reading medical articles.

A talent you have we may not know about

I like painting and use to oil paint but now I watercolor paint with my daughters.

Favorite internet site

I like QVC around the holidays and Christmas in July because Christmas is my favorite time of year!

What would you do if you won the lottery?

If I won the lottery I would take care of my family!

Something you keep postponing

I don't postpone anything! I do what I like when I like to.

Anything else you'd like us to know about you— this August I turned 83!





Oh, it's a long, long while from May to December
But the days grow short when you reach September.
When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame
One hasn't got time for the waiting game.

(From the musical play "Knickerbocker Holiday", Kurt Weill/Maxwell Anderson)

As Summer ends and Autumn begins, the riding days of the Bicycle Baedeker grow short as daylight and warm weather fades. I've enjoyed seeing all the verdant gardens around town and country this past summer and look forward to the changing of the trees as they fade from green to gold. Undoubtedly, heavy amounts of rain catalogued on the South Shore in July and August led to Summer's verdant fields.



Have you ever noticed that there are some very interesting garden additions that are used to enhance the "aesthetic" appearance of actual lawn, flower foliage, trees, bushes and general landscaping. I love some of the additions as much as the garden. Two examples are Art Cows gracing the lawn of a home in Remsenburg. I ride from the Speonk LIRR Station to West Hampton and back along South Country Road as it continues through the Hamptons, admiring all the fine historic homes and mansions along the back roads. Big bushes block the finer mansions, but enough are in view to really enjoy. It is my observation that the rich live well, my friends. One show, errr...bike-stopper is a house with *several* Art Cows which stare at you as you ride by. These life-size plastic cows are boldly painted by various artists, exhibited and then sold at auctions throughout the world, with proceeds benefitting local charities. Some rich dude got several on his front lawn...His financial loss; charity and my visual gain! Another lawn set-up I enjoy is "Lawn Dogs" on a small road leading to Corey Beach in Bluepoint. The owner tastefully decorates each of them to reflect seasonal changes.

For the second year running, the local **Patchogue YMCA** has a fantastic container-pot garden display at the front entrance. What's so remarkable is that it was started and tended to by a local Patchogue member. I've talked to him, and he says he does it out of his love of gardening. He enjoys hearing those complementing his efforts. He grows everything from seeds over the Winter and launches his growing efforts in early Spring. Now that it's fall the sunflowers and marigolds are in full color. Nice that people take such initiative to do such nice things for the broader community.



In early September after leaving the Y after my thrice weekly routine of lap swimming (to placate my cardiologist) and riding back to my NewVillage apartment, I was stunned to see a humongous American Flag hung on the new Carriage House apartment development on West Main Street. As a retired member of FDNY, it was comforting to see this acknowledgement on the 25th Anniversary of September 11th. I attended a 25th Anniversary Memorial FDNY Service in Staten Island's FerryHawk Stadium on 9/9. The stadium poignantly overlooks the Lower Bay with sweeping views of lower Manhattan and the new Freedom Tower that replaced the World Trade Center. The somber service included a role call and picture of each of the 343 firefighters and EMS personnel killed that day. It was sobering to hear the names and see pictures of the additional 453 FDNY members who have died from 9/11-related illnesses since the September 11 attacks. I personally knew many, many

of them.

Lastly, a Baedeker month wouldn't be complete without a trip into the City. Bike to LIRR to Penn Station to West Side bike path south to lower Manhattan. This month's foray included a majestic ride along Hudson River, south to Tribeca & Little Italy, north to Greenwich Village & Union Square. Tribeca's burgeoning Art Scene now includes 85 galleries, with another 100 or so in the Lower East Side. Made my objective to see a fabulous Keith Haring exhibit

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mounted in a fully restored cast-iron industrial loft building. I don't know what was better, the vibrant kaleidoscopic graffiti art of Haring or the series of beautiful 19th century cast iron-buildings hosting one gallery after another on White Street off Broadway. On route, I bike-toured along **Hudson Park**, built a few decades back to replace the old West Side Highway. Beautiful greenery and flowers in small vest pocket landscaped parks with restored park-like sitting piers jutting out into the mighty Hudson River. Better and more extensive than the **HighLine**. The park and marine reserve has NYC's longest continuous, car-free bike path stretching 12 miles from the Battery to the George Washington Bridge. One highlight was **Little Island** at Pier 55, a forested park featuring rolling hills, walking paths, lawns and performance spaces suspended on tulip-like concrete pillars in the Hudson River. At the day's conclusion I stopped in **Union Square**, my favorite park in the City. As city-vibrant as vibrant gets! I was there on a Saturday when the Park hosts the famous Union Square Greenmarket of farmers, fisher-mongers, bakers, and artisanal producers. Startlingly, our very own **Fantastic Gardens** had a huge tent set-up selling garden plants from their store on Avery Avenue in East Patchogue. I guess you're never too far from home no matter where you travel... bike or otherwise.



Fantastic Gardens at Union Square



An early Keith Haring creation



Little Island

Nostalgia from Tom Ferb—2017

The Patchogue Garden Club marched in the 2017 Fourth of July Parade in Patchogue. Karen Ferb, Frank Levantini, and Jo Miller held the banner. Paula waved the flag in the truck. They received a trophy for the most patriotic entry!

