



Spring, 2022

President's Letter

by Anne Roland, FOBG President

Welcome Spring! As the seasons change, [FOBG](#) is also undergoing a change in leadership. I became



President of **FOBG** on April 1, 2022. I joined FOBG in 2017 and have been Vice President, and Chair of the Marketing Committee. We also have a new Vice President, **Suzanne Carbone**,

who is a past President of **FOBG**. To round out the Executive Board, **Barbara Waite-Jaques** will continue as Secretary, and **Gale Shannon** as Treasurer. What a great team!

I am also excited to welcome two new members to the Marketing Committee. Many of you know **Janet Senft** and **Sandy Fleming** through their work at [Brookside Gardens](#). I know they will be great assets to the committee.

I would like to offer a big thank you to outgoing President, **Kathy Kircher**. **Kathy** assumed her role in April 2020, just as everything shut down due to

the coronavirus pandemic. **Kathy's** leadership held us together. We regrouped on Zoom and started thinking creatively. A combination of online activities and email campaigns, along with incredible support from our Board members, and donors, kept **FOBG** active until restrictions were lifted. And thank you to the **Brookside** staff and gardeners, who are always willing to work with us.

So, what else to report? **GreenScapes**, held in February, was a great success, with over 1,000 online attendees. We just completed a fundraiser with BloomBox, a locally sourced, online garden center. Many popular **Brookside Gardens** activities sponsored by **FOBG** are taking place in 2022: **GreenFest**, the June outdoor [Concert Series](#), [Shakespeare in the Garden](#), and **Children's Day**. We are starting to plan for the **Plant Sale**, to be held in person at the Visitor Center in September. We will hold our annual member meeting in the fall.

I look forward to a beautiful and productive year for [FOBG](#) and for [Brookside Gardens](#).

News from Brookside

By Stephanie Oberle, Director, Brookside Gardens

What's happening in the Gardens?

GreenFest was a great success! Thank you to **FOBG** for hosting a booth to promote your work and for financially supporting the event. Three county council members attended (Evan Glass, Gabe Albornoz and Andrew Friedson) and all had positive reactions. Also, Mike Riley, Director of Parks, and David Vismara, HFEE Division Chief, attended.



We are still working on hiring new career staff.

Last year, the Commission approved an initiative to increase the minimum wage to \$15 to match the County. This is great in terms of being more competitive in the job market. But it means our seasonal salary costs will increase by 20-25%, so we need to look closely at our budget to make that work.



Photo courtesy of TimePoints Photography

Help Wanted Orchid Show Chair

Are you an organized person who appreciates orchids and loves Brookside Gardens? FOBG is looking for a new chair for our popular Orchid Show and Sale, to be held in March 2023.

The sale offers orchids and merchandise from top area growers. In the past, we have also offered a repotting service, a raffle, and an amazing orchid display. Proceeds benefit Brookside Gardens.

The new chair will receive training from the former chair, and support from FOBG Board members.

If you are interested in learning more about this great volunteer opportunity, please e-mail friendsofbrooksidegardens@yahoo.com.



Photo courtesy of TimePoints Photography

Garden Guardian

By Dr. Dick Hammerschlag, Master Gardener, Howard County

Garden Upper

My wife Freddi and I constantly discuss and marvel at the initiation of spring as plants seemingly spring from a comatose and often deathly state into life!! Yes, most of us generally feel the joy and hope as the world around us greens up in a freshness and a kind of purity. However, more so is the specific upper we feel as we check out our own gardens and note the return of old friends!! To emphasize, one of the most fulfilling qualities of a garden is the ties to plants we've planted, and watch them return faithfully for us to enjoy anew in each new season!!! Yes, I know a few don't make it back, but most do and it's certainly rewarding to go poking around and finding the new shoots revealing the return to life of all these 'significant others'. Maybe they're not pets, but they come pretty close because we do have close ties to them.

It is in this way that gardens return the 'love' that we bestow on them. I guess that is why we garden – to feel the sense of accomplishment of our very own handiwork. It is also in this way that gardens really are an expression of ourselves. Like it or not, the characteristics of our own garden pretty much reflect our own personalities!! In general, highly organized folks will have highly organized gardens that are often weed free – maybe spotless. Then, there are other gardens that are much more haphazard and not as tidy – reflecting a different personality. But then some might ask – what makes a garden 'interesting'

or even enjoyable. The answer may lie in the eyes of the viewer – do you like the overall image of the planting or are you more enamored with the specialness of individual plants. Thus, some gardens may be visually lovely, others more horticulturally fascinating. No doubt the 'best' gardens are ones that achieve both features.

What brings this to mind is a most recent visit to the Chicago Botanic Garden. Not only was the garden meticulously managed, but it had a wide range of garden features – both in terms of designated theme plantings, but also structures and artwork. Of particular note to Freddi and me was the Japanese Garden – a set of three islands, two open to visitation and one only by distant viewing. Yes, the woodies were beautifully pruned to Japanese style – most impressively the pines and tamomono shaped shrubs, but there was also a diversity of species. It helped that the cherries, magnolias and willows were in full bloom!!

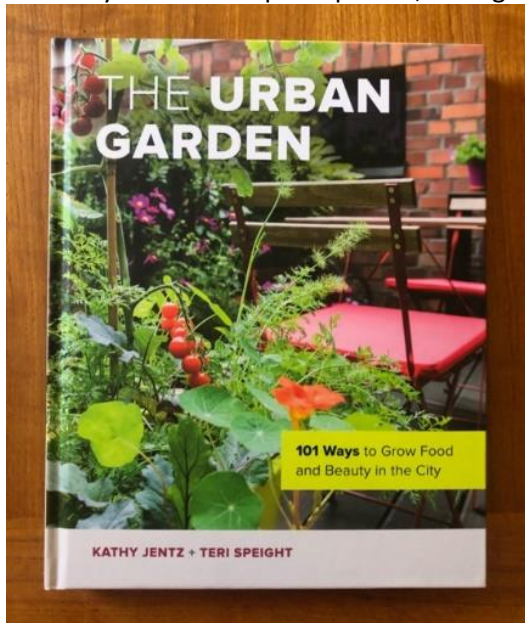
In closing, on the sense of garden upper, I really miss the well-researched, fulfilling articles written weekly by Adrian Higgins in the Washington Post. Sometimes you don't realize how rewarding some things are until they're not there anymore. I feel very grateful it is spring and that every morning I can wake up and go into my garden and have a garden upper experience.

A PERFECT BOOK FOR THE GARDENER IN YOU!!

By Nithya Raghavan

It is May!! The flowers are blooming, the trees are budding and there is a sense of awakening in the world around us. While the world is reeling with news of the pandemic, war and strife, mother earth is saying calm down, take a deep breath and appreciate the abundance of beauty and life around you. Gardens are glowing with bright yellow daffodils, scented pink hyacinths, painted tulips and the beautiful perennials waking up from their winter slumber – hey let's not get carried away! That is the beautiful color palette and show stopping paradise we all want around our homes. But reality may be something else altogether. We have green thumbs, brown thumbs and everything-in-between thumbs. But who does not dream of a patch of nature and beauty around our humble abode?

One may live in a simple cape cod, a mega mansion or a condo in the city. **The Urban Garden** by *Kathy Jentz* and



Teri Speight is the perfect book for every aspiring gardener! You may only have a balcony or a window box or a tiny patio or a front door that opens onto a hell-strip in the city. You may have a fully shaded or sunny backyard, or a small fence or a patch surrounding your property. It makes no difference for there is a garden in this book for everyone who simply wants to garden, grow flowers or fruits or veggies, no matter the size, shape or location of one's home! And - the best surprise of all – you don't have to bust your bank to plant a garden!!

With just over 200 pages of stunning visuals (WOW), simple, easy to carry out ideas and color-coded sections, it is a true page turner. The book is subtitled "101 Ways to Grow Food and Beauty in the City" and believe me, I want to try every one of them. From the first chapter about growing anything in containers (p. 9), to entertaining in your garden (p. 65), to supporting wildlife (p. 181) and recycling and repurposing things around one's yard and home (p. 135), every section is

so rich and brimming with simple ideas that will be easy to put into practice. Each design idea is ONLY one page long thus making it easy to read. That combined with the stunning photographs makes us all want to try out as many ideas as the book contains. Who knows, we may come up with our own too!! This book (**ISBN:978-0-7603-7301-9**), whose spring appearance is very timely, can be ordered online from either Amazon or Barnes and Noble or can be purchased from the gift shop at Brookside Gardens in Montgomery County, MD. I had preordered my copy from Amazon and after going through the fascinating ideas, I have already purchased and gifted three additional copies!

Although some of the sections have a few plant suggestions, the majority do not. While I understand that the book is about ideas and that the various planting zones may have different requirements, I would have loved to have seen some general recommendations on plant choices that may help the novice gardener. But since experimentation is the key, anyone can try out a few ideas that really don't cost a lot. It's a garden – if one idea fails, try again and there is plenty to choose from. (Continued next page)

Why am I so enthused about this book? I truly believe that each gem of an idea in each page is easy to implement, enjoy and experiment with. I can't wait for the last frost date to disappear so that I can try out a bunch of them!! **What are you waiting for?** Get your copy, pick up the trowel and start gardening! Bring your copy to the book signing on May 16th at **Brookside Gardens** at **7 PM**. You can look forward to reading an interview with the authors **Kathy Jentz** (current **FOBG** member, editor Washington Gardener) and **Teri Speight** (National Garden Club Board member, podcaster) in the Summer issue of [The Brooksider](#).

In this and future issues of [The Brooksider](#), we will provide a listing of upcoming **FOBG**-sponsored events and **Brookside Gardens** adult programs. The list will be updated as information becomes available. We hope this will be helpful in planning how you can take advantage of all that Brookside Gardens has to offer. Additional offerings, such as children's programs, art exhibits and excursions can be found at: [Cultivate](#).

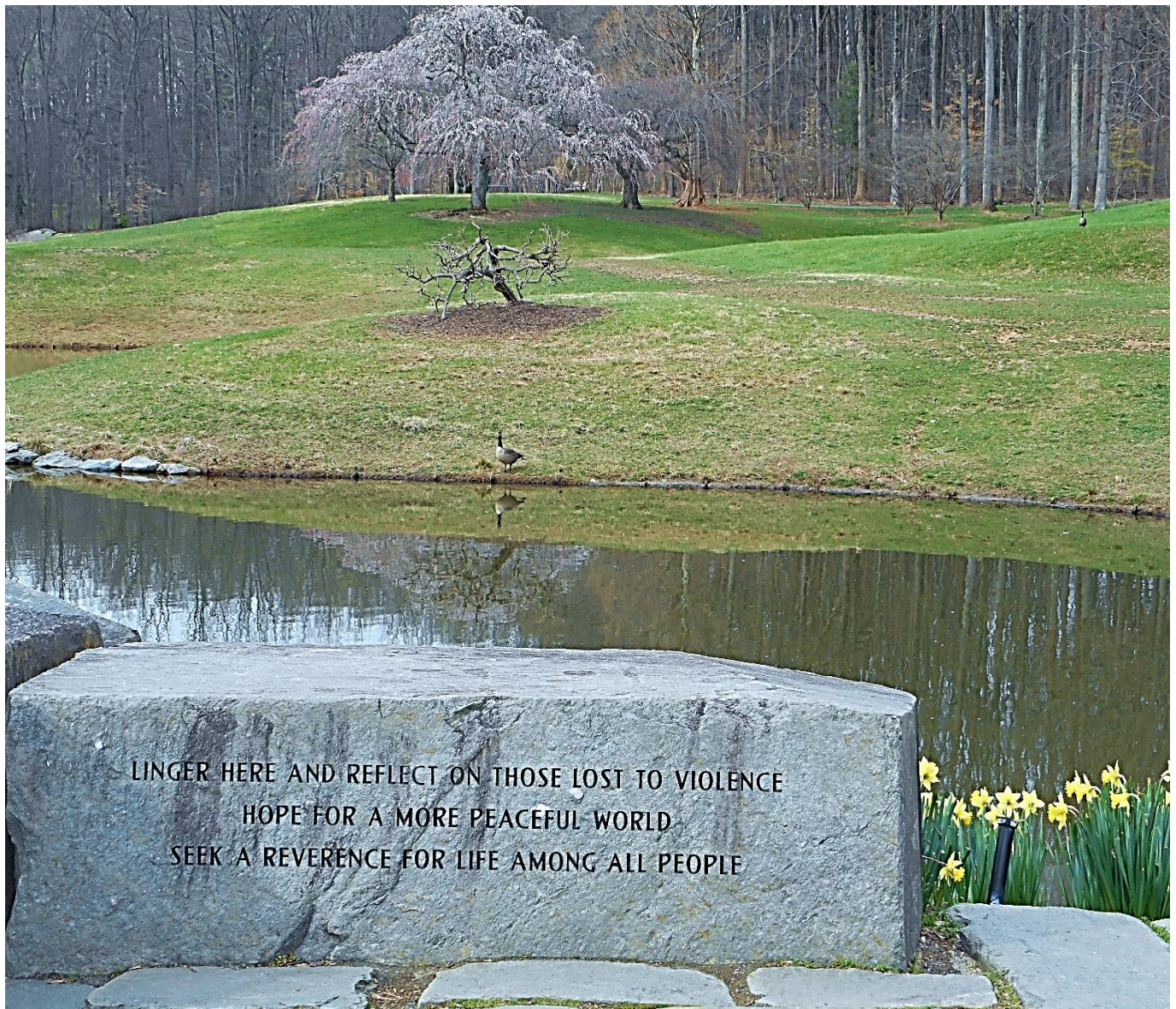
Date	Brookside Gardens Adult and Children's Programs	Course #
5/19/2022	Native Blooms for The Summer Garden	PBG0041 100001
5/21/2022	Summer Annual Container	PBG0024 100001
6/2/2022	Ground Covers: Great Alternatives to Turf Grass	PBG0009 200001
6/3/2022	Creating Photograph Quality with Black Pencils & Watercolor on Drafting Film*	PBG0034 200001
6/7/2022	Concert Series** ‡	
6/11/2022	Sustainable Gardening Practices	PBG0045 200001
6/18/2022	Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators	PBG0044 200001
6/20- 6/24/2022	Summer Camp: Plants & Pollinators - Celebrate National Pollinator Week!	PBG0048 500001
6/21/2022	Pollinator Meadow Tour**	PBG0043 200001
6/25/2022	Using Informed Plant Selection to Restore Pollinators and Song-birds‡	PBG0037 200001
6/27- 7/1/2022	Summer Camp: Magical Plants & Mythical Creatures	PBG0049 500001
7/9/2022	Conquer the Soil: Black America and the Untold Stories of Our Country's Gardeners, Farmers, and Grow ‡	PBG0038 200001
7/11- 7/15/2022	Summer Camp: Garden Architects & Inventors	PBG0050 500001
7/12/2022	Shakespeare in the Park: Macbeth ‡	PBG0027 200001
7/13/2022	Summer Annual Container Design Tour **	PBG0042 200001

7/16/2022

Succulent Container

PBG0046
200001

- * Program Meets Multiple Days
- ** Multiple Sessions Offered
- ‡ FOBG-Sponsored Program



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In honor of Betsy Thomas
In memory of Bhooma Raghavan
In Memory of his wife Florence Foss

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Suggestions? Ideas? Let us know!

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Enjoy Spring