

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.
The Village News, April 20, 2026



The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts
presents

The Annual Meeting 2026

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Doubletree by Hilton, 11 Beaver Street, Milford
Registration opens at 8 am. Meeting is 9 am - 3 pm.

Donna Donnelly, NGC President,
will be our special guest.



Register using the forms on the GCFM Website
(online or by mail).

Cost is **\$65 by May 21** or \$70 after that date.
A \$2.25 fee applies if paying by credit card.

Registration includes lunch and all programs.
Hotel rooms are available for \$139 per night
if booked by May 4.



Join us for an exciting day!

**Be inspired during
the Club Project Showcase.**

**It's the GCFM Academy Awards -
find out which projects won.**

**Let's raise our spirits with flowers
during a floral design challenge.**

**Network with club members
from around the state.**

**Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!
Check out the themed raffle
baskets and try your luck.**

**Be part of the floral design
workshop on June 3 to create
amazing table centerpieces.**

Visit the [GCFM Website](#)
for more information
and to register.

Questions?

Contact Linda Thomson-Clem at:
ljthomson1@verizon.net or call 781-789-7002



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Across Massachusetts we're welcoming Spring and all its beauty – from the splendid Magnolia trees along Commonwealth Ave. in Boston that are welcoming the Marathoners this week – to bright yellow forsythia blooming across Western Mass., hyacinths and colorful tulips on the North and South Shores, the fragrant sweet daffodils on Cape Cod, and the flowering trees of Central Mass. Our early blooms inspire us to enjoy the many gifts of nature in our communities and to start preparing our gardens for a robust growing season.

Be sure to check out the GCFM garden clubs' Earth Day 2026 activities in various cities and towns. This year's theme is "Our Power, Our Planet." Also, mark your calendars for the upcoming garden club Plant Sales across the state. You'll be able to spruce up your gardens with native and other plants and help clubs raise funds to support their local communities and educational initiatives. It's a win win!

As a reminder, "The Village News" is circulated on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month via email or use our virtual link to find all current news: [The GCFM Website](#)

Garden Club Dues + Insurance Update: an important reminder

The deadline for dues payment is May 1, 2026. Please send your form and payment to Linda Thomson-Clem, 1764 West Street, Stoughton, MA 02072 and use this form with your payment: [GCFM Dues Notice](#)
The updated insurance renewal form for participation in the GCFM umbrella liability coverage is now on the GCFM website. The re-enrollment deadline has been extended to **June 1, 2026** due to delays from the underwriter. The form may be found on the GCFM website here: [GCFM Insurance Renewal](#)

You are invited to the GCFM Annual Meeting! (see flyer above)

We're looking forward to seeing GCFM members at the annual meeting on **Thursday, June 4, 2026** at the Doubletree by Hilton, Milford, MA. Registration Links: [Online](#) or [Mail In Form](#)
A block of guest rooms is reserved at \$139. per night. Book your room here: [Annual Meeting Hotel Room](#) Note: The group rate is available until May 4, 2026.

We're also pleased to announce that the **National Garden Club President Donna Donnelly** will join us this year and share some NGC's highlights. As the 49th President, her theme for 2025-27 is "Plant America for the Next 100 Years." Her focus is community gardens, school projects and the environment. Donnelly is a NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge and a Landscape Design Consultant, with a background as a Registered Nurse for 38 years. She has been on the NCG Board of Directors since 2015 and is active within the Garden Club of South Carolina.

Memorials: The GCFM Annual Meeting team plans to recognize your garden club members who passed away in the past year. To be included, please send a photograph with name, garden club, and date of passing by May 15 to: Karen.e.brockelbank@gmail.com

Floral workshop: A workshop to make table arrangements for the annual meeting will be held on June 3, at the Doubletree by Hilton. To participate, contact Joan Marie Driscoll: joanarie@gmail.com (Note no "m" in address)

General information: Credential information was sent to all club presidents. Please complete the form and submit as soon as possible. Questions? Contact Linda Thomson-Clem at: ljthomson1@verizon.net or call 781-789-7002.

Plant & Garden Tour Postings

It's Plant Sale Season! Send your flyers to our GCFM website team for posting. Get extra promotion using our website and resources! Email: GCFMwebmaster@gmail.com

The Cindora A. Goldberg Award

The Cindora A. Goldberg Award recognizes the ability of our members to continually see and create floral works of art in an innovative manner. This award is given annually to the most outstanding floral design, submitted by a GCFM member. Entries must be photographs and digital images. All entries must be received by **May 15, 2026**. Further details and an application can be found on this link: [Cindora Goldberg Award](#)

Flower Shows Coming Soon:

GCFM's Southeastern District presents "Oceans Around Us" – an NGC Standard Flower Show July 22-24 at the Heritage Museums & Gardens in Sandwich. Contact Chair Ginger King at kingbob@aol.com for more information.

GCFM's South Shore District presents "The Roaring Twenties" – an NGC Standard Flower Show Aug 21-25 at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. Contact Chair Lisa Pattinson at lisa.pattinson@gmail.com for more information.

To find out about additional upcoming shows click here: [Area Flower Show Information](#)

The GCFM Speakers Program

If you're planning your club's future programs, be sure to check out the 2026-2027 Speakers Program on the GCFM website for member clubs. The program offers engaging, informative and educational ideas for your club's programming. If you have issues accessing the program, please contact Webmaster Betsy Howard at GCFM.MyVideoSpeakProg@gmail.com

100th Anniversary Celebration

Our 100th Anniversary is in 2027 and planning is underway! Take a look through your archives and share with us - we are looking for photos and memorabilia for the celebration. Questions or items to submit? Contact Suzanne McCance at suzannebmccance@gmail.com



PLANT AMERICA: The Blue & Gold Star Memorial Beautification Program is a joint initiative of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Keep America Beautiful. To celebrate **America's 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2022**, clubs are encouraged to add plantings of red, white, and blue to your memorials. Find out more: [Plant America Grant](#)

EDUCATION SCHOOL REMINDERS

FUNDAMENTALS OF FLORAL DESIGN II

Fundamentals of Floral Design II - Wednesday, June 3, 2026 10:00 to 11:30 am at Topsfield Fairgrounds.

It is a series of 2 classes to learn the elements and principles of design, Flower Show rules, and presentation of three designs to be critiqued. Instructors: NGC Judges Pat Fleming and Suzanne McCance. **Cost:** \$25 for one class, \$40 for both. Checks made out to GCFM **Registration:** Send your check, name, email, phone number, name of Garden Club to: Pat Fleming, 143 Cherry St, Wenham, MA 01984 All participants receive reference handouts. Contact Pat Fleming at fleming.3patricia@gmail.com with questions.



We hope you find the Village News useful and informative. Please send feedback or suggestions to Donna Garrabrant at chrisanddonnacc@gmail.com