

THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MICHIGAN, INC.

PRESIDENT

Sharon Yantis (Mrs. Joseph)

6306 Cherrywood Street

Portage, Michigan 49024-2331

THEME: GARDENING-THE KEY TO OUR LEGACY

June 1999- June 2001



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The old saying goes, "Let's go out in a blaze of glory." Well, the FGCM's newly elected President, Sharon Yantis ( Mrs. Joseph) entered in a blaze. The evening of her installation, the Troy Hilton Hotel had all fire alarms go off. Everyone exited the building as requested and we were meet by several fireman and fire trucks. After the all clear, we returned for the schedule evening and this President has been on a whirlwind of activities since. She immediately address the membership with her goals as President. She reminded us that Y2K did not stand for "Yantis in the year 2000" but YOU as we enter into the next millennium.

. "Gardening-The Key to Our Legacy" was chosen by Sharon as the theme for this administration.  
. EDUCATION was stressed as the cornerstone of the Federation. During her term, FGCM sponsored the following: Environmental School :2 , Landscape Design School:1 , Flower Show School:1, Gardening Study Schools;1, Symposiums:2, Wildflower Conference:2, Horticulture Seminar:3, Flower shows:23. YOUTH: She reminded us to encourage the youth to become involved in Junior gardening, Ecotots, and senior high students to participate in the Speech and Essay contest. MEMBERSHIP: Quality programs are vital and essential to increase the interest in membership. Sharon stressed membership retention as well as demonstrating the value of membership. PROJECT: Sharon's statewide project to plant daffodils and wildflowers along the highways, entrances to the cities, parks and municipal buildings, churches, schools and in your own gardens. COMMUNICATIONS: Started a web page, encouraged the use of E-mail along with the usual means of communication.

The 2000 State Convention was held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, Mi. on June 7-9, 2000. The theme: Millennium Magic" was carried out with dynamic programs, speakers and workshops. We were honored to have the National Council President, Dean Day Smith at the convention and She presented a workshop on "Leadership". Following breakfast and a program on hummingbirds and butterflies by Mr. Scott Stokes, Sharon Yantis opened the annual meeting on June 8th at 9:00 AM Reports were given by the Officers and District Directors. In the afternoon, there were workshops on paper making, bulbs woven into tapestry, making dream catchers , making corn husk flowers or a walking tour of

downtown Kalamazoo. The evening featured a floral design program given by Robert Friese.

Deanna House presented a cheerful program following breakfast. "Magical Recipes from Your Garden" provided us not only with knowledge but laughter as well. President, Sharon Yantis held a FGCM State Board meeting before closure of the convention.

The 70th Annual FGCM Convention is scheduled for May 21-May23 at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort Hotel in Mt. Pleasant, Mi. The theme "Catch the Dream" has been in the planning for some time. Dynamic speakers, workshops and program are planned.

At the Spring Board of Directors in Lansing, Mi. on April 26th, Sharon thanked her board for their hard work in achieving her goals and setting new records. She presented each board member with a lovely momentum gift of a daffodil candle and monogram pen. The board in turn, thanked Sharon for her excellent leadership and devotion to the Federation.



At the State Convention, held in Troy, Michigan, in 1999, Mrs. Joseph (Sharon) Yantis was installed as the 65th President of the Federated Gardens Clubs of Michigan, Inc. Her Knowledge, enthusiasm, interest and appreciation in the State, Regional and National objectives are very apparent as she immediately address the membership with her goals and objectives. Having served at many organizational levels, she brings her executive ability to her 1999 - 2001 administration. She choose as her theme, "Gardening-The Key to our Legacy." She summarized her focus into five areas: 1. Education 2. Involving our youth 3. Growing the membership 4. Implementing a project that will outlive all of us 5. Promoting our efforts by utilizing both old and new technology. The Board of Directors and the membership of FGCM vigorously carried out her theme. The following report and achievements reflects the dedication, leadership and skills of the organization's programs:

EDUCATION: First Environmental Studies School was held in the fall of 2000. The second Environmental School was held on May 9 and 10 with 15 students taking the test. Other educational opportunities included Flower Show Schools, Landscape Design School, Gardening Study Schools and continual Symposiums.

YOUTH: Joan Monforon reports; that 8 youth clubs are now registered in Michigan. Number of members is 296. There were 564 posters entered in the Smokey bear/ Woodsy Owl contest. FGCM had 2 National winners:Maddy Stumpos and Samantha Wright. Maddy's poster is being exhibited in the U.S. Forest Service Building in Washington, DC.

AWARDS: Kathryn Clary and Amanda Brink were busy with awards and Michigan won many top Regional and National awards. In 2000, Charlevoix Garden Club received \$1,000 as the 1st place winner of Exxon Civic Development Award. Michigan's own Fred Meijer of Meijers Gardens in Grand Rapids was honored on May 4th, 2001 at National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. He received National Council's Award of Excellence.

HORTICULTURE: Ruthann Bryer kept us informed with her many educational articles in the FGCM publication, THRU THE GARDEN GATE.

PETALS: Chairman, Jerre Beattie Ihreke reported that 16 clubs received a total of \$4,975 in grants for the period of 1999-2001.

DAFFODILS; Estimated figures are between 125,000 and 150,000 daffodils have been planted in Michigan.

The State is exploding with color this Spring and the beautiful yellow blossoms will announce the arrival of Spring for years to come.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Mary Pulick, chairman aggressively promoted membership which is now at 7,837. Since January, 2001, six new clubs have been Federated with 247 new members.. She published a booklet titled "Starting a New Garden Club". This contained valuable information on how to form a new club.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** State Chairman, Shirley Weiss, reported that 9 National and 120 State Life Memberships were presented in the past two years. The interest from this fund goes to provide college scholarships..

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Bonnie Haller, chairman, reports that 19 college scholarships were presented.

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER:** The first marker in many years was installed in Riverside Cemetery in Three Rivers, Michigan on Memorial Day, 2000.

**CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP:** \$9,016 was spent to send 43 students to Higgins' Lake Conservation School.

**BOOKS:** Dan and Eileen Abbott, chairmen, have provided books needed for the schools as well as many new books. They attended all the District meetings as well as the State Conventions to make the books readily available for purchase.

**CRAFTS:** Charlene Ruble, FGCM crafts chairman, provided us with delightful craft workshops at the conventions as well as articles in the "Gate" on new craft ideas.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Chairman, Micki McCormich reported 45 clubs have donated time, landscape materials, flowers and over \$5000 for this worthwhile project.

**WORLD GARDENING:** Janet Claflin, reports that tools were sent to our friends in Belize and \$3500 was donated by many clubs for this project during the two years.

**DATA BASE:** Linda Sather kept an accurate account of the clubs and current membership file.

**THRU THE GARDEN GATE:** Editor, Judy Nykamp, and her editorial staff published a bi-monthly magazine sent to all FGCM members. This informative publication educates and informs the members of the activities and goals of the Federation.

**PUBLICITY:** Attractive signage is available for purchase for the Clubs. These sign display, The

Federation of Garden Clubs of Michigan, Inc, logo as well as the clubs name.

WEBSITE: [www.homestead.com/fgcm](http://www.homestead.com/fgcm). Mary Lou Fox has designed the web page to keep membership informed & up to date.

Michigan designers were published in the "Design Made Easy" and "Holiday Happenings," made available by National Council.

NCSGC State chairman, Marge McGoff had National winners in 2000 and 2001. They were Janelle Francis and Amy Louise Morrow who both received \$3,500 from National Council.

Michigan raised over \$21,000 for the National Garden Butterfly project.

In May, 2000 at the National Convention in San Diego, California -, Michigan had great participation.

Many members from Michigan also participated in the recent National Convention held in Chicago, Illinois in May , 2001.