

# Re-energizing over the Winter

## Dazzling Dahlias have been put to bed and tulips planted

While it can be a melancholy time of year for many, for Generous Gardeners, the thousands of tulips we planted and the hundreds of dahlias packed away in basements and garages give us much to look forward to next spring. It is also time to catch up on paperwork and reflect on what we accomplished in 2019.

### The Elizabeth Gordon Smith Garden

One of our major feats was the renovation of the Elizabeth Gordon Smith Garden. In collaboration with the Gloucester DPW and with funding from the merger with the Gloucester Civic and Garden Council, we created a wonderful open and inviting space between the Boulevard gardens and Stage Fort Park.

Designed by Gloucester's own Ann Gilardi Johnson, ASLA, the garden includes 12 flowering trees that will bloom in succession next spring. The lovely "Triton" sculpture by world renowned Gloucester native Walker Hancock was restored, and is now a proud centerpiece to the garden that will be bursting with color for three seasons.



Generous Gardeners planting 19,100 tulips in November, 2019—Photo Kirk Williamson

**KUDOS TO MAYOR SEFATIA  
ROMEO THEKEN, DPW  
DIRECTOR MIKE HALE, AND  
ALL OF THE HELPFUL CITY  
EMPLOYEES WHO SUPPORT  
OUR WORK.**



**WATCH FOR THE ELIZABETH  
GORDON SMITH GARDEN RIB-  
BON CUTTING TO BE HELD IN  
THE SUMMER OF 2020.**

**IN 2020 LOOK FOR SIGNIFICANT  
GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS TO  
THE 'MAN AT THE WHEEL' SIDE  
OF STACY BOULEVARD.**

**2020 GENEROUS GARDENERS'  
PLANT SALE, MAY 16, 9-12.**

## 2019 GLOUCESTER GARDEN TOUR



The 2019 Gloucester Garden Tour included 11 private properties on the beautiful back shore. Over 600 people enjoyed visiting the backyards and estate gardens as well as breathtaking ocean views.

Generous Gardeners thanks the generous homeowners, 75 volunteers, CATA for two air-conditioned shuttle buses, and everyone else who made the annual event a huge success. Next year's tour will be in the Mount Pleasant Avenue neighborhood on Saturday, July 11, 2020.

*Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul. -- Luther Burbank*

## THE 2019 "STARS OF THE BOULEVARD"

### DAYLILIES: THE BACKBONE OF STACY BOULEVARD

Generous Gardeners has planted over 2,000 daylilies in the Stacy Boulevard gardens. Daylilies are a beautiful, hardy and generous perennial flower. To remain healthy, each plant needs to be divided every few years. By "donating for daylilies," gardeners get healthy, locally grown plants and support the Generous Gardeners' vision of philanthropy through gardening. A generous two fan daylily division will be available for a donation at our annual Plant Sale, May 16, 2020, 9-12.



**Hemerocallis 'Rocket City' is a tall vivid orange daylily with large 6" blossoms and darker highlights. It is 36" tall and was a vigorous bloomer mid-summer.**



**Dahlia 'Fleural' is an elegant white dinner plate variety that put on a stunning show in the white beds with numerous flowers on each of the 3' stems.**



**Cuphea Vermillionaire, also known as Firecracker Flower, was a favorite edging annual, blooming all summer with striking orange-red small tubular flowers.**





Clockwise from upper left: Frank Previte, Frank McCracken, Chuck Kelly, Cyndi Deal, Susan Kelly, Joanne Mercaldi, Antonietta Calabrese  
Below from left: Judy Caulkett, Judy Bidwell, Kathy Carusone, Denise Ridolfo



## GENEROUS GARDENERS FIRST GALA FUNDRAISER

### Classic Chrome & Dazzling Dahlias

The evening of October 3rd was a special night for Generous Gardeners. We held our first gala fundraising event at Frank and Cynthia McCracken's beautiful firehouse barn in East Gloucester. The weather cooperated and 150 guests could walk around the property and admire all of the fantastic classic cars on display. Generous Gardeners decorated the inside with some fabulous dahlias, and everyone enjoyed the delicious hor d'oeuvres by Timothy S. Hopkins Catering.

### Classic Chrome AND Dazzling Dahlias



There were many happy raffle winners and three lucky people each walked away with a unique auction item.

While this was primarily a fundraiser to help us continue our mission of philanthropy through gardening, it was also an opportunity to make an important announcement. Adding to the many gardens already cared for by our group, Generous Gardeners has adopted another prominent garden in Gloucester. We are now responsible for the care of Grant Circle, the gateway to our city.

## OVERWINTERING DAHLIAS

In early summer Generous Gardeners planted over 750 dahlias on the Boulevard and they were the stars this fall. They are not hardy in our area but the longer the tubers are allowed to stay in the ground curing before removing, the more fully developed they become. Storage is very important. We clean the tubers with a bleach water solution, allow them to thoroughly dry, and then pack them in containers surrounded with peat moss. We store them in Generous Gardeners' basements and garages until they are ready for replanting in the spring. While most will overwinter just fine, there is always some loss due to dryness or heat. There is more excellent information about this on the [dahlia.org](http://dahlia.org) website.

### Our Gardened Spaces

Although the Stacy Boulevard Gardens are our flagship gardens, we care for over 30 other spaces in Gloucester. Please see our website for more information.



Stacy Boulevard in bloom. Photo by David Cox

### VOLUNTEER WITH GENEROUS GARDENERS

*We currently have over 50 volunteers associated with our organization and welcome new volunteers who are interested in our mission. Caring for our gardens takes the majority of our volunteer time. We plant, weed, rake, water and deadhead. Susan Kelly maintains an email list of interested helpers who are notified of the tasks, time and location each week (more often if necessary), and volunteers come when they are available to help. There is never any obligation or commitment. This work is ongoing from early spring to late fall.*

*Our annual fundraising event is a summer garden tour in a neighborhood within our community. This is another way to volunteer with our organization by aiding with ticket sales or garden sitting. Many volunteers who find gardening physically taxing love to come and sit in a garden to guide visitors. Most years, over 600 people come from all over New England to experience our garden tour. We also have a volunteer board of directors that keeps the organization focused on its mission, and works with sponsors, grants, garden designers, website review, and finances.*

*If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email Susan Kelly at [susan@generousgardeners.org](mailto:susan@generousgardeners.org) and let her know of your interests!*

#### Generous Gardeners

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