



THE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS FEDERATION E Newsletter

Issue 27

November 2011

Happy Holidays

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CCGF Meetings

Nov. 8th – Exec. Bd

Dec. 23 – Holiday
Dinner Meeting.

**Meetings are held at
Judson Manor,
1890 East 107 Str.
at 6:30pm**



Ukrainian Dancers and
Statue of Lesya
Ukrajinka restored

One World Day Celebration – August 28

The Ukrainian Garden was the primary location of the event. Huge thanks goes to the Ukrainian community in Cleveland and the Ukrainian Women's League of North America for not only hosting the celebration but also for re-storing the large statue of Lesya Ukrajinka, woman writer and nationalist. The entire Ukrainian Garden including the metal archway, the walks and the plaza were upgraded for the event. Dick Russ of channel 3 TV was the master of ceremonies and skillfully guided the program along.

Most reverend John Bura DD blessed the statue and Marianna Zajac, President of the Ukrainian National League of America, who arrived from hurricane stricken New York, spoke about the poetess and her impact on Ukrainian literature and culture. Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Ohio District #10, gave arousing talk about the impact of nationalities, particularly the Ukrainians, on our collective heritage.

Poems by Lesya Ukrainka were read and a colorful performance by the Kashtan Dancers followed. Zorya Ukrainian Woman's Ensemble performed at the Garden while the Parade of Flags stepped off from the Syrian Garden where the flag bearers were treated to Syrian music and refreshments.

The Irish Dancers performed as the colorful Parade of Flags approached. CCGF president Paul Burik welcomed the Syrian flag, the most recent addition to the Gardens, to the family of nations represented in the park. Mary Hamlin, CCGF Executive Secretary, spoke about the "Message of the Gardens" highlighting the notion of "Peace through mutual understanding" – the Garden's motto. Mayor Jackson and Councilman Johnson gave brief remarks.

The swearing in of 20 new U.S. citizens was administered by the Honorable Christopher Boyko, U.S. District Judge. The Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County provided flags to the new citizens as well as placed them along MLK Blvd.

Thank you goes to all the Gardens that supported this event with their sponsorship, and especially to Anda Cook and her committee for once again organizing this traditional event!

Existing Gardens

*African American
American Legion
American, Armenian
Azerbaijani
British, Chinese
Croatian, Czech
Estonian, Finnish
German, Greek, Hebrew
Hungarian, India, Irish
Italian, Latvian,
Lithuanian, Polish
Romanian, Rusin, Serbian
Syrian, Slovak, Ukrainian*



President of Hungary
greeted in the Garden by
Carolyn Balog

GARDEN WEB SITES:

Cultural Gardens Sites

www.culturalgardens.org
clevelandculturalgardens.org

Czech Garden

czechculturalgarden.webs.com

Irish Garden

www.irishgardenclub.org

Hungarian Garden

hungarianculturalgarden.org

Slovenian Garden

www.cleslo.com/scga/

Italian garden

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group140250535544>

The Gardens Slated to Grow

Based upon a request by CCGF last year, the City has evaluated the proposal for additional garden sites south of Superior Ave. and determined that two new sites are feasible in that area. In the meeting with CCGF President Burik the City officials indicated that much of that area is dedicated to the Doan Brook remediation project, however select areas can be allocated for future gardens.

This is welcome news as new nationalities desire to erect gardens. Representatives from the French, Liberian and Hispanic communities have attended the meetings with intent to organize and submit to become Federation members.

December – Holiday CCGF Dinner Meeting

Soon you will be receiving invitations to the Holiday Dinner Meeting of the CCGF. This year the event will be held at St. Slava's Serbian Orthodox Church at 2151 West Wallings Road in Broadview Heights, on Tuesday, December 13th - our regular meeting night. It is always a great time to catch up with friends, meet new members and share your successes over a glass of wine and fine food. Save the date!

VIPs in the Gardens

On Sept. 18th the Hungarian President Pal Schmitt was visiting Cleveland and stopped in the Hungarian Garden. The Hungarian community has done a magnificent job in restoring the Garden and it is becoming one of the most commonly requested gardens for weddings. No doubt the President was impressed with the work the locals have done to preserve the Hungarian heritage.

CCGF Elections Just Around the Corner

The CCGF election will be on the agenda first of the year. All of the officers and good number of the board member positions will be open. The Federation depends on the talent of our membership to lead the organization.

“If you have not served on the Executive Board in the last five years, you owe it to the organization to offer your services and take your turn at guiding the Federation” said the outgoing CCGF President Paul Burik.

Nominating committee will be appointed at the January meeting. It is always good to have new ideas, new skills and fresh energy brought to the leadership positions. With the renaissance of the Gardens well under way, it is important that new technologies, better communication and stronger outreach is implemented.



Sketch of the proposed Kiosk



Sandro Bonaiuto and Paula Basile read the poetry of Dante Alighieri in the Italian Garden on Sept. 18th. The Statue of Dante will be installed in the Garden next year.



Irish Garden delegate Charlene Crowley speak during dedications

This e-newsletter was produced by Paul Burik for the CCGF. **Feel free to pass it on !**

Information Kiosk Proposed

Many visitors to the Gardens have no information about this unique park. "Excuse me, what is this area – it is really nice" is often asked of us while we are working in our gardens.

To answer questions like this, to provide a garden location map, CCGF history and a place for our brochure, an Information Kiosk was proposed. The Kiosk is to be located on the east side of MLK Blvd., between the German and Hungarian Gardens.

Paul Burik designed the kiosk and the associated plaza to reflect the appearance of the existing garden signs, thus continuing the vocabulary already expressed throughout the park. Columns of four interconnected metal tubes would form a triangular shape supporting three display panels – one with map, one with history, and one with event information. All this will be capped by a rectangular framework which will house solar powered spotlights to illuminate the signs and the plaza.

The Federation approved the project and allocated funds for it. Kiosk committee of Tom Turkaly, Sheila Crawford and Paul Burik will follow up on its implementation. It will add presence on MLK Blvd., which is scheduled to be repaved and restriped by the City allowing for much needed parking spaces and the only cross walk on MLK Blvd..

Mark Twain is Back

The Hawken School students, who adopted the American Garden and have been planting and weeding there, have reached a major milestone on October 7, 2011 when they re-installed the bust of Mark Twain.

The bust was stored by the City for many years. The Hawken School arranged for the bust to be released from the City, restored and re-installed in a touching ceremony presented by the students. Two busloads of seventh grade students mingled at the site decorated with white and maroon balloons and flags. Several members of the Federation were on hand, as was the area councilman Jeff Johnson and other City representatives.

This project was not only educational, it provided a unique hands on experience for the students and gave them a sense of accomplishment and service to the community.

Irish Garden Expands

The Irish Garden Club continues on expanding and enhancing their garden. Four new monuments depicting significant Irish personalities were added as was an allee of trees leading up to East Blvd. Dignitaries from near and far, all the way from Ireland, were on hand to oversee this dedication on October 8th, 2011.