



Gardenline

WINTER

2016–2017

Photo by Kathy Trichei; all rights reserved



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

THERE IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL condition called “Fall Hard, Fall Fast: Love-At-First-Sight Syndrome.” It has eleven signs. Usually it has to do with meeting someone who piques your interest. I believe it also applies to places or things, perhaps even ice cream flavors. I experienced love-at-first sight the first time I visited Green Spring Gardens (GSG). It was a beautiful June day, and I arrived with the sun shining, birds singing and dogs and their families strolling the grounds.

I have lived and worked in Fairfax County for over thirty years. I had driven by GSG many times but had never stopped. Shortly before my retirement my administrative assistants invited me to a picnic lunch at GSG. I was told to wear a hat and meet at the gazebo. I was given the address and directions and cautioned not to be early or late but to arrive at the scheduled time.

In those days you came in through the Green Spring Road entrance. I parked and walked to find the gazebo. I was fascinated with the grounds. I was smitten. The lunch was a great success, and I became obsessed with

GSG. I thought it was a place developed just to make me happy. Number seven of “love-at-first sight syndrome” is “you tend to obsess over things.” It fit me perfectly.

My dear administrative assistants had taken over a bench near the gazebo. They papered it with a sign declaring the bench “dedicated to the best boss”. They didn’t write my name...hmm! While cleaning up I noticed the “real” name and dedication on the bench and wondered who it might have been. The following Saturday I visited GSG on my own. I spent time walking around and reading bench signs. I added bench-reading to my new GSG obsession.

GSG has 48 dedicated memorial and recognition benches. Park manager Mary Olien says it’s called “The Tribute Program.” Today memorial and recognition benches are popular at many places. At Cape Canaveral in Florida, Apollo 1 has a granite memorial bench on the southern edge of the launch pad. The 1980 West Point Class has a bench near the north trailhead of Flirtation Walk. Walter Lord has a bench in Baltimore, Maryland engraved with

his book titles. The oldest GSG tribute bench dates back to 1995.

The dedications at GSG are sweet, charming, and loving. The children of Robert E. Lee (Bob) Adamson dedicated his memorial bench to “Mr. Wonderful, Journalist and World Traveler”. I bet Mr. Wonderful had many a story to tell. On their wedding anniversary the children and grandchildren of Betty and Edde Greenstein presented them with a tribute bench to celebrate “62 years of love.” The inscription invites you “to sit here with Mama and Papa.” They married on May 30, 1946. Mary shared that Mr. and Mrs. Greenstein used to walk the paths of GSG almost daily. Mr. Greenstein became frail and could no longer walk but he would sit on their bench, under the big bicolor oak tree, as Mrs. Greenstein walked.

A memorial bench is dedicated to master gardener Karin Greenwald from her “Adoring Family.” A very special brother, Staff SGT W.C. “Holly” Adams has one. His bench happens to be my favorite reading spot. Some special animals have a bench. One reads “In loving memory of wonderful cats, Bummer and Sunshine.” GSG is a special place with wonderful things to learn and discover. It’s easy to fall hard and fast in love while discovering all GSG has to offer. 🌿

*Gioia Caiola Forman,
FROGS member,
Green Spring Master Gardener*

Manager's Message



Partnerships

As a member of FROGS, you support one of the strongest partnerships in the Fairfax County Park Authority: Green Spring Gardens and the Friends of Green Spring. For more than 20 years, you and your fellow members have raised funds and donated your time, all to help Green Spring Gardens grow.

If you volunteer at Green Spring Gardens, you may have benefitted from another very strong partnership, the Horticulture Consortium of the Greater Washington Area or HCGWA. The HCGWA has been around for 23 years. It is a loose association of the public gardens in the Washington area, and its main function during all that time has been to host a volunteer appreciation event. Members of the HCGWA include American University, Brookside Gardens, Hillwood Museum and Gardens, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Gardens, National Gallery of Art, United States Botanical Garden, United States National Arboretum, and of course, Green Spring Gardens. Between us all, we are generously served by about 1,000 volunteers.

This year, the HCGWA volunteer recognition event was held at Green Spring Gardens on Saturday, October 1. In the past, it was thought that the event could only be held where there was a space big enough to hold 200-250 people. With some creative thinking, we developed a

plan to host almost 200 volunteers, even though we did not have a space large enough to hold everyone for a keynote session. Our plan — host three concurrent sessions, rotated three times. Although we missed not having the one unifying lecture for all of us to be together at once, we were pleased to be able to invite so many.

For the 'Flavors of Fall' themed event, the attendees rotated through a lecture given by either Paul Westervelt, Perennials Manager at Saunders Brothers in Charlottesville or by Debbie Waugh, Historic House Coordinator at Green Spring Gardens; a selection of offerings in the tasting tent; and a guided tour presented by the Green Spring Master Gardeners. The weather was damp, but that didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits for the afternoon.

Throughout the afternoon, we heard words of praise for the beauty of the gardens from many of our volunteer guests. While there are many talented staff and volunteers whose contributions and talents earned that praise, we are grateful for the partnership with FROGS that makes it possible to have these gorgeous gardens to share. ☼

Mary Olien
Park Manager



Gardenline

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Contributions? Comments?
The editorial staff would like to
hear from you.

Please contact us through
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TTY: 703-803-3351

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703-642-5173

or write:

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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before the event.



FROGS Talk

Mary Jane Medeiros, FROGS President
Tatiana Lisle, FROGS Vice President

The lazy days of summer turned into an eventful fall for FROGS. Thanks to everyone who helped make Fall Garden Day another success. It was the “hottest day ever” and FROGS profit reached \$12,800! With temperatures soaring, over 900 visitors enjoyed the plant and craft vendors, tastings at the Historic House, “must have plants” from the Garden Gate Plant Shop, bake sale goodies, Silent Auction treasures and so much more. The Andrew Acosta and Friends Band kept things swinging as activities continued until mid-afternoon.

Our 2016 Annual Appeal benefiting the *Historic House and its History through Hospitality* is underway. We hope our members will support this important project and continue to contribute to FROGS annual appeal as generously as they have in the past.

The Glasshouse Renovation is taking place! Thanks to the 2015 Annual Appeal and the matching Mastenbrook grant funds which FROGS received from Fairfax County Park Authority, the specialty HVAC system and every item on the “wish list” will soon be completed.

Come celebrate the reopening of our popular garden oasis on March 12, 2017 when the FROGS-sponsored Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series features “Glasshouses and Conservatories.” Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, will discuss the origins of these plant

sanctuaries and some of the interesting folks behind their popularity.

The complete lecture series schedule and how to register for these presentations can be found in the enclosed insert.

Gardeners Holiday Open House is coming up on Sunday, December 4th. This event is FROGS Board of Directors way to celebrate the holiday season with our members and neighbors. Festivities begin at 12 noon, featuring handmade ornaments, greens and homemade breads for sale. Complimentary cookies and lemonade will also be served. Make sure to purchase your tickets through Parktakes or the Horticulture Center and bring the kids to enjoy the Bob Brown Puppet show. The gingerbread house contest entries will all be on display, including the contest winners. There will also be a delightful collection of miniatures in the library for everyone to enjoy. Decorations and appetizers in the Historic House will once again awe adults and children. And if the weather allows it, make time to stroll the decorated grounds; it’s a must for all to see!

As 2016 comes to an end, FROGS Board of Directors thanks all of you for another year of support and encouragement that helped us in “keeping Green Spring growing”.

Please continue to follow us at www.friendsofgreenspring.org, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Winter Art Shows at Green Spring

*The art you enjoy at the
Green Spring Art Shows is
for sale!*

DECEMBER 20, 2016 THROUGH
FEBRUARY 19, 2017:

Throughout the Horticulture
Center and Historic House:

Vienna Arts Society “The
Beauty of Flora and Fauna”-
mixed media

Reception: January 8, 2017,
1pm to 3pm

FEBRUARY 21 THROUGH APRIL 16:

Throughout the Horticulture
Center and Historic House:

**National Capital Area
Chapter of the Sumi-e
Society** Asian Brush Painting/
Ink and Watercolor

Reception: March 26, 1pm to
3pm

*Remember: all this wonderful
art is for sale!*

A Gift that Keeps On Giving

Having trouble finding a gift? Check out the Green Spring Horticulture Library’s wish list on Amazon.com. You can purchase a book for the library in honor or in memory of a special person.

Just sign onto www.amazon.com and select Wish List, then Find a Wish List. Type in Green Spring Gardens Library Friends and select a book from the library’s list. Use the gift card to provide information for a bookplate and notification of the honoree. ☺

FROGS Library Committee

A PORTRAIT OF JAMES MONROE



BEFORE THE ABOVE portrait of James Monroe hung in the Blue Room at the White House (where it remains today) and became the property of the White House Historic Association, it belonged to Michael Straight, the last private owner of Green Spring (1942-1970.) It hung above the mantle in his den at the Historic House.

Michael Straight acquired the painting from the estate of his father, who had purchased it from a descendant of James Monroe. At the time of purchase the artist was unidentified. Michael Straight had the portrait cleaned and restored at the National Gallery. It turned out to be one of two portraits of Monroe painted between 1819 and 1820 by Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the Morse code. Once identified, both the Monroe Society and the White House Historical Association were very interested in obtaining ownership and were *literally* knocking on the Straights' door.

The White House Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy with a mission to protect, preserve, and provide public access to the rich history of America's Executive Mansion. It has located many pieces of furniture and artwork that have been owned by presidents, been part

of the White House collection, or exemplified the period portrayed in the different rooms. The Association has also 'persuaded' many owners of historic furnishings to donate them to the White House.

According to Michael Straight's book: *On Green Spring Farm*¹, he had originally loaned the painting to the White House for one day, after which it was returned. However, that same day he received a call from the curator of the White House stating that a van would be out the following morning to pick up the painting to be one of the seven presidential portraits to be hung in the Blue Room for the inauguration on the following January 20th. The portrait is an important piece to be in the Blue Room because it overlooks furniture that Monroe acquired to furnish the newly rebuilt White House after the fire of 1814.

Michael Straight: "*Will Mrs. Kennedy send it back to me after January 20th?*"

Curator: "*No, she plans to keep it.*"

Michael Straight commented to his wife, "*They've just about stolen our painting.*"

Although Michael Straight's intentions at this point were to donate this piece to the White House, an

¹ *On Green Spring Farm* "The Life and Times of One Family in Fairfax County, Virginia, 1942-1966, Devon Press: 2004. Available for sale at Green Spring's shops.

appraisal needed to be done before Title of Ownership could be transferred. Eventually the paperwork was completed and an appraisal amount was agreed upon. We know this because a copy of both the portrait and the thank you letter from the Director of the Interior for the James Monroe portrait donation are on display at the Historic House. Stop by and ask to see them. ☼

*Dotty Stahl
Chair, Historic Green Spring*

Children's Education

Children's Education is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with our programs!

We have many opportunities throughout the year to volunteer with us, from school field trips for Pre-K – 5th graders during the school year to summer camps in July and August. Our programs focus on a wide range of topics, including plant lifecycles, ladybugs, butterflies and the animal food web.

Eileen Milner helps us with school field trips, summer camps and other programs. Eileen says her favorite thing about volunteering is watching student fascination as they learn while walking through the gardens, and being able to share her experiences with them.

Our volunteers are a big part of making quality programs a success at Green Spring Gardens. We don't have a required weekly time commitment, so the amount of hours you volunteer is very flexible!

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering please contact: Children's Program Coordinator, Priscilla Plumb priscilla.plumb@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-642-5173. ☼

REMEMBERING COLETTA HEIN

AS GREEN SPRING GARDENS Manager Mary Olien reminds us: “The year 1995 was a very good year. The average price of gas was \$1.02 per gallon ... and Coletta Hein signed up as a volunteer at Green Spring Gardens.”

It is with deep sadness that FROGS shares news of the passing of beloved Board Member and Green Spring Master Gardener Volunteer Coletta Hein. She died August 15 while vacationing in North Carolina with her husband Al and three of their grandchildren.

Coletta dedicated over 21 years of enthusiastic service and devotion to Green Spring in countless capacities. In 2010 Coletta received the prestigious Fairfax County Park Authority Elly Doyle Park Service Award for personifying the essence of volunteerism and igniting a contagious passion for Green Spring.

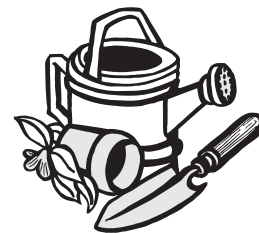
A FROGS Board Member since 2001, Coletta in recent years led the Nominating Committee with a vision for a vibrant future, resulting in the most diverse all-volunteer Board of Directors since FROGS' founding in 1993. During her earlier two-year tenure as FROGS Secretary, Coletta spearheaded the update and formalization of FROGS By-Laws, advancing standards for performance, governance and protections. FROGS President Mary Jane Medeiros notes, “We are strong and confident in how we represent our membership and conduct business thanks to Coletta. We have lost a colleague and a friend who is greatly missed.”

But Coletta's legacy to Green Spring doesn't stop there. Coletta's obsession for “all things garden” was unabashed. Having worked with Coletta since she began volunteering in 1995, Green Spring Hor-

ticulturist Nancy Olney and team will miss her greatly: “[Coletta] was generous, had a warm heart, and was a friend to all. She had tireless energy and enthusiasm for everything in life. And she always made us laugh.” As a Master Gardener, Coletta's influence graced not only the garden beds she lovingly tended but also will live on in the hearts and minds of Green Spring visitors young and old. Her children's and adult education presentations sparkled with creativity. Historic House Coordinator Debbie Waugh fondly remembers Coletta's knowledge, interpretive skill, humor and boundless passion as a docent leading tours when she “delighted groups season after season...and she always made us smile with her creative ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ basket of props!” And each satisfied Green Spring Garden Day

shopper who appreciates the efficient FROGS Plant Check Tent has its founder Coletta Hein to thank for the peace of mind they enjoy knowing their purchases are secure while they continue to enjoy the bounty of Garden Day plant sales.

It appears the only thing Coletta loved more than Green Spring was her family. She leaves behind loving husband Al, sons Andy (Angela) and John (Jen), and cherished grandchildren Ryan and Nick (John's), Michael, Peter, Sarah, Joseph and Carolyn (Andy's). Not surprisingly, Coletta seized every opportunity to bring her two passions together. FROGS Board colleague Liz Promen aptly shares: “I will miss Coletta and our swapping stories of babysitting grandchildren...it does remind me how much she loved sharing the park with the little ones ...”



SCENES FROM FALL GARDEN DAY

All photos were taken by Kathy Trichel.

HELLO WINTER!


Whose woods these are I think I know.


*His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with
snow...*


ROBERT FROST

RATHER THAN STOPPING in the woods, you might consider seeking shelter from the cold by visiting our library. Perhaps reading a good book on winter-blooming flowers might interest you. Can you believe there are even perennials and bulbs that bloom in winter? For example: hellebore (*Hellebores niger*), a perennial with white or cream midwinter flowers; pansies (*viola* hybrids), perennials but normally grown as cool-season annuals; snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*), a bulb with nodding white flowers in midwinter; and winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), with tuberous, perennial yellow flowers in late winter.


Following are some recommendations for your winter reading pleasure:


 The beautifully illustrated book by Susan Jeffers, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, Robert Frost's iconic poem evoking the quiet delight of winter, can be found in our Literature Section.

 *Hellebores, A Comprehensive Guide* by C. Colston Burrell and Judith Knott Tyler, a definitive book on this group of dazzling plants. The lavish photos cover not only the popular, colorful hybrids but also show every known hellebore species.


 *The Winter Garden*, by Rita Buchanan: In this comprehensive guide, the emphasis is on plants that are beautiful all year long. Plants that maintain their interest for the entire time, from November to early

April include witch hazel, pussy willows, and snowdrops that start blooming in late winter.

 *Wonders of the Winter Landscape*, by Vincent A. Simeone, includes shrubs and trees to brighten the cold-weather garden.

 *Season of Flowers*, by Dianne Noland: Flowers and foliage are the original harbingers of the seasons. A beautiful arrangement can bring springtime to even the darkest winter

days. It is a treasury of floral styling and a source for creative inspiration.

 *The Winter Garden* by Elund Price, beautifully photographed by Clive Nichols, explores the structure, planting and romance in the winter garden and will make you take a second look at the garden in winter.

All of these books can be found in our Library. So while winter can be cold and dreary, it doesn't have to be

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A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE DONORS WHO MADE THE SILENT AUCTION A SUCCESS

BUSINESSES—Please thank these generous businesses with your patronage.

Betty's Azalea Ranch
Birdwatchers Seed & Supply
Bloomin Brands
Botanologica
Bowl America
Burke Nursery
Campbell & Ferrara
Cinema Arts Theatre
Clyde's Restaurant Group
Concepts & Contours
Connected Gardens
Discovery Theatre
Dishes of India
Dogfish Head Alehouse
Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax Ice Arena
Foxfire Grill
FROGS Library Committee

George Washington's Mt. Vernon
Giardino Italian Restaurant
Green Spring Master Gardeners
Greenstreet Gardens
Grounded for Coffee
Italian Café
Italian Heritage Lodge
Jaipur Royal Indian Cuisine
Little River Yoga
Longwood Gardens
Maplewood Grill
Meadows Farms Nurseries
Meriwether Designs
Merrifield Garden Center
Newseum
Oatland
One More Page Books
Paint Your Own Pottery

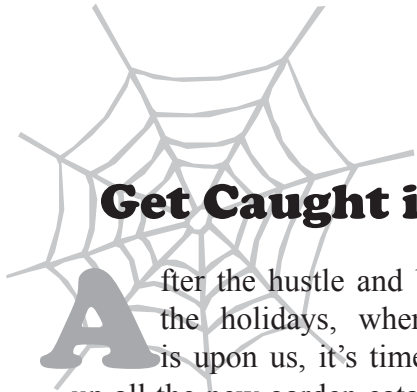
Panjshir Afghan Restaurant
Peking Gourmet Inn
Persimmon St. Ceramics
Pinecrest Golf Course
Potbelly
Red Hot & Blue
Red Robin
RodiSalon
Shimizu Landscape Design
Signature Theatre
Sully Historic District
Washington Ballet
Washington Capitals
Washington Nationals
Washington Redskins
Whitehall Farm and Market
Wild Bird Center

INDIVIDUALS

Karen Aftergut
Laurie Barnett
Laura Beaty
Chica Brunsvold
Thornton Burnet
J.W. Burriss
Candy Butler
Pat Carrol
Susan Crawford
Jefferson Evans
Barbara Fox
James & Joslin Gallatin
Leslie Garcia
Sunny Greene
Joan Greenwood
Karen Grycewitz
Kevin Gushman
Lee Halvorsen
Diane Hampel
Louis Harrell
Coletta Hein

Susan Helder
Vicki Hermann
Erik & Caroline Hottenstein
Mary Alice Huybrechts
Carol Keightley
Prudence Kelln
Nancy Kolinski
Ann Kurzius
Wendy Loehris
Toni Maples
Aimee & Dick Martin
Tina McCoy
Mary Jane Medeiros
Vicki Merryman
Eileen Milner
Mindy Nash
Laura Noble
Dorothy Norpel
Mary Olien
Jane Pacelli
Jeff Perlow

Bill Peters
Lenore Plissner
Betsy Raymond
Sandy Rittenhouse-Black
Gail Rothrock
Alfie Rulis
Anita Schroeder
Jim Schroeder
Catherine Shepard
Bevan Shmizu
Ivy Sinaiko
Karen Sokol
Betty Stacy
Dotty Stahl
Kathy Trichel
Bill & Barbara Tuceling
Susan Voss
Ralph Weitz
Chris White
Ed Willde
Hazel Wilson



Get Caught in the Web of Gardening

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, when winter is upon us, it's time to pick up all the new garden catalogs and dream of spring. But wait...have you noticed fewer catalogs? The small nursery business is changing. Many small companies have been taken over by larger companies, have quit printing catalogs, or have gone out of business in the last few years; Singing Spring, Roslyn, Canyon Creek, to name a few. With the recession, high cost of fuel, high cost of printing, and competition from the big box stores we are losing wonderful small nurseries at an alarming rate. When we lose these nurseries we also lose the "plant people," i.e. the hybridizers, the collectors, the ones who give us such diversity. We all have purchased things at the big box stores, but often they are mislabeled and wilting to death. No one has the expertise to answer your questions and, quite frankly, they don't care.

Please support these small companies. If you see something you like, order it. Who knows how long these small companies will be in business. I would also like to urge you to support the small local nurseries and growers, especially those who sell at Garden Day, Garden Markets and Farmers Markets. These people are true plant lovers. Their plants are raised with tenderness and care. They will answer your questions and give suggestions because they know plants, they 'love' plants. We don't want to lose these "gems."

This year I have listed some of our favorite web sites for reliable sources of seeds and plants.

SOURCES FOR PLANTS AND SEEDS

Seeds

- www.thompsonmorgan.com
- www.selectseeds.com
- www.chiltern.com
- www.silverhillseed.com
- www.fedcoseeds.com
- www.southernexposure.com
- www.johnnyseeds.com

Drought-resistant Plants

- www.bigdipperfarm.com
- www.highcountrygardens.com
- www.laspilitas.com
- www.yuccado.com

Tender Perennials & Perennials

- www.lazysfarm.com
- www.cottgardens.com
- www.avantgardens.com
- www.plantdelights.com
- www.crownvillenursery.com
- www.collectors.nursery.com

Tropicals

- www.almostedenplants.com
- www.toptropicals.com
- www.logees.com

- www.kartuz.com
- www.stokestropicals.com

Woody Plants

- www.songsparrow.com
- www.fairweathergardens.com
- www.rarefind.com

ORDERING SEEDS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Recently the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) introduced a system called "Small Lots of Seeds Permits." This permit is required and replaces the need for a phytosanitary certificate when ordering seeds from foreign countries. It allows the import of small non-commercial amounts of garden plant seed, provided they do not fall into the category of invasive or noxious weeds. It is relatively easy to get the permits. You can do it all online at www.APHIS.gov or print a copy of the permit and mail it in. You will need Permit #587. Here is an example of how to fill in the applications.

Do not list individual plant names! Just write the words: "Eligible Taxa"

*Nancy Olney
Green Spring Horticulturist*

PLANTS OR PLANT PRODUCTS TO BE IMPORTED Small Lots of Seed Program			
Country of Origin	Scientific Names of Plants or Plant Products	Plant Parts	U.S.Port or Ports of Arrival
United Kingdom	Eligible taxa	Seeds	n/a
France	Eligible taxa	Seeds	n/a

Hello Winter

Continued from page 6

if you allow one of these beautiful books to brighten your day. I hope our paths will cross soon-- meet you in the library!

Please don't miss our used book section just in front of the library

entrance. We also accept book and gardening magazine donations for resale. ☺

Pauline Perry, Librarian

Horticulture Center Library

Library Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sunday: Noon – 4:30 PM



Gardenline

Green Spring Gardens • 4603 Green Spring Road • Alexandria, VA 22312

'Tis the Season of Giving

Your holiday shopping list grows shorter with a much-appreciated gift of a \$25 FROGS membership. FROGS gift membership includes all the many benefits you already receive as a FROGS member: discounts at the Green Spring Gardens plant shop and six local area nurseries, publications, and more. And did you know that all FROGS have reciprocal privileges with more than 250 botanical gardens and arboreta in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean!

Ordering a FROGS gift membership is as easy as going online to friendsofgreenspring.org (under "Ways to Give") or contacting Green Spring Gardens directly 703-642-5173. It's a great way to wish a friend or loved one a "Happy Holiday." ♻️

*Can you top these?*¹



YOUR GINGERBREAD HOUSE COULD BE THE WINNER

**BE PART OF THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST
FOR GARDENERS HOLIDAY DECEMBER 4th
ENTER TODAY!**

5 categories:

Children (12 and under), teens, adults, family, groups

All houses will be on display until December 12th

Applications and rules at the Horticulture Center

or www.friendsofgreenspring.org under Programs & Events

☺️ New this year: a puppet show ticket will be awarded to every child (12 and under) that enters the contest, either solo or as part of a family.

¹ Last year's Gingerbread House winners