



 **SEPTEMBER 2024** 

# COMPOST HEAP

An Official Publication of Rumson Garden Club



**A LAST HURRAH FOR THE 2023 RGC PHOTO!**

***DON'T STOP READING UNTIL YOU GET THIS MONTH'S MEMBER TIPS!***

**We look forward to seeing you at our  
September Membership meeting!**

**10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2024**

**at Seabright Beach Club**

**[RSVP TO SEPTEMBER MEETING HERE](#)**

**Schedule:**

**8:30 a.m. Passing**

**9:30 a.m. Judging**

**10:00 a.m. Business Meeting**

**11:00 a.m. SPEAKER, followed by yearly photo!**

**12:00 p.m. Lunch Served**

(\*pls bring check for \$30 made out to RGC)

# SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

## **“Honeybees, a Powerful Pollinator”**

**Angela Juffrey, Secretary of the Central Jersey Beekeepers Association:**

<https://cjba.njbeekeepers.org/about.html>

Come learn about honeybees!

*Origin of Honeybees, History of Beekeeping, Hive Inhabitants and Jobs, Metamorphosis and Development, Inside the Hive, Bee Behavior, Pests and Diseases, Why Keep Bees?, Clothing and Equipment, Extracting Honey and How you can help!* Angela will bring beekeeping equipment, visuals and tools for the participants to handle. Weather permitting she will bring an Observation Hive with approximately 3,000 bees!



## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

### **PASSERS:**

**FLORAL DESIGN: LOUISA RENN, BONNIE TORCIVIA**

**HORTICULTURE: CATHY SMITH, PARI HARRISON**

### **CLERKS:**

**FLORAL DESIGN: TYLER HAWLEY, CASEY KEGELMAN**

**HORTICULTURE: WENDY WILT, LISA ATALLAH**

### **JUDGES:**

**FLORAL DESIGN: JOAN LYNCH, TAPHY HARCSAR**

**HORTICULTURE: GCA JUDGES**

*Please take a moment to download, print, and fill out your entry cards prior to dropping off your entries. If you need entry cards or have questions, contact our Staging Chairs: Wendy Wilt ([wendytwilt@gmail.com](mailto:wendytwilt@gmail.com)) or Mary Brodsky ([mary.brodsky@foxroach.com](mailto:mary.brodsky@foxroach.com))*

# SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

## *FLORAL DESIGN*

### **Home-Grown Beauty**

"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."

Elizabeth Lawrence

**Class 1** Using a mason jar as your container, create a casual floral arrangement using home-grown flowers - all pollinators for our local insect population! Perennials, annuals, fruits and vegetables are allowed; purchased flowers are not! The mason jar may be of any size. Designs will be displayed on a 30" high table with a white tablecloth and will be viewed from all sides. From the center of the design, entries should not exceed 9" in width or depth. There is no height restriction.

**Class 2** Novice. Same as above.

Please email or call to register entry: [stellaryan1@aol.com](mailto:stellaryan1@aol.com) or 732-718-0332

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## *HORTICULTURE*

*(GCA Judges)*

*All entries must be properly identified with species and cultivar information.*

### **MARY OWEN BORDEN BOWL**

**Class 1** Open to all members. **Four** different kinds (genera) of flowering specimens.

One stem or branch of each, to be displayed in four RGC containers. *This Class may not be subdivided.*

### **ROSA (ROSE) "A ROSE IS A ROSE, IS A ROSE"**

**Class 2** One stem, disbudded\*, with foliage, to be displayed in a RGC container.

**Class 3** Novice. Same as above

**Class 4** One spray with two or more blooms per stem with foliage, to be displayed in a RGC container.

**Class 5** Novice. Same as above.

# SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

## ***HORTICULTURE*** CONT.

### **LATE BLOOMING HYDRANGEA**

**Class 6** Hydrangea Paniculata, one stem with foliage to be displayed in a RGC container.

**Class 7** Novice. Same as above.

**Class 8** Any other Hydrangea, one stem with foliage to be displayed in a RGC container.

**Class 9** Novice. Same as above.

### **IRMA DERING WHITNEY DAHLIA TROPHY**

**Class 10** Open to all members. One single stem with foliage. Dahlia blooms 3” or less MAY be disbudded.\* Dahlia blooms over 3” MUST be disbudded and may be displayed without foliage. To be displayed in a RGC container. *This Class may not be subdivided.*

### **GARDEN BOUNTY**

**Class 11** A display of vegetables and/or fruits grown by exhibitor, arranged in a basket not to exceed 16” in diameter. Herbs may be included as cut specimens and be in water and placed discreetly in arrangement. To be judged 70% on horticultural merit, 30% on artistic merit. A 4x6 white key card required. Sample can be found on RGC or GCA website.

**Class 12** Novice. Same as above.

### **GOING NATIVE**

**Class 13** Three different genera of flowering native\*\* perennial specimens, herbaceous or woody. To be arranged in one RGC container.

**Class 14** Novice. Same as above.

### **SUMMER SENSATION**

**Class 15** One flowering plant summered in a pot. Pot not to exceed 14”. Must be owned for at least 3 months. Annual or perennial.

**Class 16** Novice. Same as above.

### **PAR**

**Class 17** A rooted plant of exceptional horticultural merit, which does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticultural Division. Please see page 11 for PAR Definition.

**\* Disbudded: to remove superfluous or unwanted buds from plant**

**\*\* Native plants, for the purpose of this schedule, will be defined as “native to New Jersey” according to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center or the JerseyYards.org Native Plant Database. Please visit those sites to verify the eligibility of your specimens.**

**Welcome back!** Hope you had a blissful summer. Our last get together was our festive Club Awards night. Thanks again to Avery and Chris Brighton for ending the year on a high note! I'm proud of all that we accomplished last year and excited to get it all started up again. We have a new Rain Garden to manage at Riverside Park, Natives to plant at Jackson Woods Park, more Scholarships to award and lots of Shows and workshops in store for us! Our Chairs have worked hard over the summer to plan excellent Show schedules and relevant workshops this year. Get ready to learn and show!

Our Speaker for the September Show is Angela Juffrey from the Central Jersey Beekeepers Association. She will fill us in on everything Honeybees with visuals and tools – she might even bring an observation hive. You don't want to miss it!

We will have GCA Judges for Hort and two Club Hort Award opportunities – the Mary Owen Borden Bowl and the Irma Dering Dahlia Trophy. Also, there's a clever assignment for Floral Design using only home-grown flowers. Hope you all can find something to enter!

My goal this year is to encourage everyone to step out of your comfort zone and get involved. *Come to a Civics clean-up, try your hand at a floral arrangement, and enter Hort.* You have nothing to lose! All involvement will broaden your knowledge and maybe you'll even win an award! Also, your fellow members are here to help. If you would like guidance deciding which plant specimen is best to enter, how to condition your cutting, or how to fill out your entry card before this upcoming meeting, please let me know at [tyandsusanolson@mac.com](mailto:tyandsusanolson@mac.com). I will pair you with an experienced mentor.

Hope you can make it for our annual membership photo at the beach! We'll be taking the photo between the lecture and lunch around 12noon. I look forward to seeing you ALL on Tuesday, the 17th!

Cheers,  
Susan

Our Scholarship winners, Reid Spears and Molly Bartram, receiving their scholarship checks this summer.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

(See Committee Reports for full details)

- Sept. 9, MBBTC, 9:30am - "Know Before You Show" Novice Workshop (Hort & New Members)
- Sept. 10, Bingham Hall, 11-1pm - Intro to Floral Design & miniature/teacup workshops (Floral)
- Sept. 13, Drop off Seed Shares for the Shirley Meneice and Oceanic Library (Member Tips)
- Sept. 19, Olson Home, 9-11am - Website Help!
- Set. 27, Oceanic Library, 10:30am - Fall window box planting (Civics)
- Sept. 30, Javits Center, 11:30-1:30pm - "Lunch + Learn at the Farm" (Visiting Gardens)
- Oct. 2, Bingham Hall, 1-3pm - Interpretive Design workshop (Floral)
- Oct. 9, Bingham Hall, 11-1pm - Botanical Arts (cat challenge) workshop (Floral)
- Oct. 16, Canoe Brook CC, 10-3pm - NJ Committee Luncheon
- Nov. 13, Bingham Hall, Evening time TBD - Underwater Floral Design workshop (Floral)

# Congratulations to our 2024 Club Award Winners!

\*Missing from photo - Missy Falkenberg and Gail Van Winkle



**RUMSON GARDEN CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD**

<b>President</b>	<b>Susan Olson</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Heather Robinson</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Anne Reiss</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Christina Weber</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Machiko Maki &amp; Maya Speelmans</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Stephanie Hoitt</b>

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**TRUSTEES**

<b>Joan Lynch Class of 2025</b>	<b>Maya Speelmans Class of 2025</b>
<b>Jeanne Shanley Class of 2026.</b>	<b>Kathryne Singleton Class of 2027</b>
<b>Anne Reiss Class of 2028</b>	

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<b>Awards</b>	<b>Avery Brighton &amp; Kathy Donnelly</b>
<b>Christmas Greens</b>	<b>Cynthia Labrecque &amp; Teresa Maguire</b>
<b>Civics</b>	<b>Nancy Bowe, Lisa Attalah &amp; Karen Robinson</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Sarah Fleming &amp; Kathryne Singleton</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>Tilden Wilt</b>
<b>Social Media (Instagram)</b>	<b>Pari Harrison</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Jo Ann Molnar &amp; Sheila Ehrenberg</b>
<b>Floral Design</b>	<b>Louisa Renn, Stella Ryan &amp; MJ O'Hare</b>
<b>Botanical Arts</b>	<b>Bonnie Torcivia</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>	<b>Betsy Ford &amp; Piper Leddy</b>
<b>Photography</b>	<b>Liz Dusko &amp; Gail Van Winkle</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Cathy Smith &amp; Lucy Kalian</b>
<b>Staging</b>	<b>Wendy Wilt &amp; Mary Brodsky</b>
<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Mary Heins &amp; Ann Rossbach</b>
<b>Visiting Gardens/Field Trips</b>	<b>Robbyn O'Neill</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Heather Robinson</b>
<b>Plant Sale</b>	<b>Elaine Eadon &amp; Maya Speelmans</b>
<b>Garden History and Design</b>	<b>Anne Reiss</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Christiane McNamara &amp; Peekka Tildesley</b>
<b>Handbook/Directory</b>	<b>Peeka Tildesley &amp; Lisa Bitterly</b>
<b>Judging</b>	<b>Elaine Eadon</b>
<b>New Membership (Admissions)</b>	<b>Barbara Batting</b>
<b>New Member Liaison</b>	<b>Taphy Harcsar, Susan Sorokolit &amp; Joan Lynch</b>
<b>NJ Committee/ Founder's Fund</b>	<b>Kathleen O'Neal &amp; Alex Smith</b>
<b>Nominating/Policy</b>	<b>Heather Robinson</b>

## FLORAL DESIGN:

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 floral design season. One of the Committee's goals is to encourage participation in floral design classes at club and GCA flower shows. In the next few weeks, we have planned several floral design workshops to inspire, educate, and inform so that flower shows feel less intimidating. Workshops will be held at Bingham Hall and all members are welcome. To attend, RSVP to Mary Jane at (973.945.3855) or [ohare.maryjane@gmail.com](mailto:ohare.maryjane@gmail.com).

**September 10** - Intro to Floral Design, focusing on mason jar (September) & miniature design / teacup (January) challenges. 11-1 pm

**October 2** - Interpretive Design challenge (October). "What type of music inspires you?" 1-3 pm

**October 9** - Botanical Arts "cat" challenge (January). 11-1 pm

**November 13** - Underwater Floral Design (April) challenge. Evening TBD

**The September Floral Design challenge is "Home Grown Beauty."** Please call or email Stella Ryan to register an entry. (732.718.0332) or [stellaryan1@aol.com](mailto:stellaryan1@aol.com). Please refer to the "September Schedule" (page 3) of the Heap for full details.

**OF NOTE** - In the September challenge, flowers need to be grown in a garden and not bought from a store. If needed and with permission, feel free to "shop" in a friend's or neighbor's garden to obtain additional plant material to complete your design. On Sunday, September 15, Louisa Renn and Avery Brighton will be opening their gardens to allow exhibitors an opportunity to cut a few extra flowers or stems of greenery to supplement what material they already have available. Please contact Louisa or Avery directly to coordinate the timing of your visit and what plants may be available. Louisa (732.859.4418) or Avery (732.859.1551).

And for those wanting to look even further ahead, October's floral design class is an Interpretive Design challenge for the Elizabeth Dimock Knapp Trophy. This year's theme is "What Genre of Music Inspires You?" The November challenge is "Bounty Overflowing," creating a Thanksgiving-inspired Cascade Design to celebrate the overflowing beauty and bounty of the season.

To help prevent frustration at flower shows which can occur if a floral design entry cannot be "passed," because the design does not meet GCA or schedule guidelines, the following information is going to be included in the Handbook for easy reference:

**"Use of the following items for floral design entries is not permitted: OASIS floral foam medium, locally invasive plants, diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals of any kind, taxidermy, natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind, coral, hooves, horns, fur, hair (except wool), or shells (sea, turtle, egg, etc.)."**

If anyone would like written information on invasive plants, on conditioning plants, or a GCA article on "how to show", email one of the Committee Chairs or go to the GCA website in the section on floral design where the information is listed.

Happy designing!

The Floral Design Committee, Mary Jane, Stella, Louisa, and Bonnie



## HORTICULTURE:

Horticulture committee will be taking orders for the “First Love” amaryllis challenge at the September meeting. There are 15 available for sale at \$18. Bulbs will be delivered in October and potted up on December 9th for the January show.

The “Know Before You Show” workshop will be held on September 9th at 9:30am at Monmouth Beach Club. Please RSVP to [taphy.harcsar@icloud.com](mailto:taphy.harcsar@icloud.com)

Thank you! Betsy and Piper

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## CIVICS:

The Civics Committee is planning to be at the Oceanic Library **Friday, September 27th at 10:30am** to plant the window boxes with ornamental peppers, kale, cabbage, pansies and gourds. Hope you can join us!

Lisa Atallah, Nancy Bowe and Karen Robinson

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## PHOTOGRAPHY:



### PHOTOGRAPHY

This year our theme is

### **NEW JERSEY THE GARDEN STATE**

Our first show will be in October with 2 topics  
Bountiful native plants, individually or in a group  
and garden vegetables in nature or as a still life.  
Start clicking away...!  
Liz and Gail

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## RGC ON INSTAGRAM!:

RCG on Instagram relaunches in September! Please send Pari photos of any events, workshops, or any special plants you encounter, including pictures from your garden or others.

Text Pari Harrison @ 732 915-3051

## VISITING GARDENS:

So fun! but **immediate attention required to book an RGC trip to the Javits Center Rooftop Farm** with sit down amazing lunch! Tour of their greenhouse, beekeeping, orchard, vegetable garden, and pollinator garden will be in full harvest mode!

*"Lunch + Learn at the Farm" at the Javits Center*

*\$95/pp*

*Monday, September 30, 11:30-1:30pm*

*Javits Convention Center NYC*

**\*\*Important Strict booking requirements need prepayment for 15 participants.**

Please VENMO Robbyn-oneill OR ZELLE 267-304-101 to hold your spot!

[https://www.google.com/search?](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=lunch+and+learn+at+the+farm+javits+center+nyc&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8)

[client=safari&rls=en&q=lunch+and+learn+at+the+farm+javits+center+nyc&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=lunch+and+learn+at+the+farm+javits+center+nyc&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8)

A glance at the 2024-2025:

So much opportunity to travel together! Dates to be Announced. Please email [robbynoneill@gmail.com](mailto:robbynoneill@gmail.com) if you have interest to be included in any of these activities:

September: Look for new dates to "Paddle with Joann to Gunnings Island" and "Canoe the Pinelands"

October: "Exploring Philadelphia Gardens at The Morris Arboretum and Chanticleer"

March: "Let's do the Philadelphia Flower Show"

May: "Martha Vineyard Gardens with Joan Lynch" (a fun 3-night getaway!)

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## NEW MEMBERS:

**Welcome to the Rumson Garden Club!** Monday, September 9th at 9am we will meet at the Gazebo (weather permitting) at MBBTC. Our host Taphy Harscar will introduce Joan Lynch who will provide an introduction to the Rumson Garden Club as well as our governing body, The GCA (Garden Club of America). Helpful info will be reviewed, including important web sites, useful tips for entering a show and other requirements of new members. Please bring your new binder! At 9:30, novice members may join as Elaine Eadon provides a review of clerking, passing and entering a Club Show, followed by Betsy Ford, who will offer lots of Hort advice including how to prepare a plant for entering a show. Please RSVP to Taphy Harscar, 732-842-8570 (h), or [taphy.harscar@gmail.com](mailto:taphy.harscar@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

Sincerely, The New Member Committee  
Taphy Harscar, Susan Sorokolit and Joan Lynch



**Pollinators on the milkweed at the Victory Park Rain Garden!**



**And a sunflower Heather grew this summer!**

## NJ COMMITTEE:

We hope to see you at the October 16th luncheon at the Canoe Brook Country Club. For full details to support the NJ Committee and register for the luncheon click below:

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/new-jersey-committee-of-the-garden-club-of-america/2023-millicent-mercero-johnsen-scholarship-campaign/join-us-for-the-2024-fall-luncheon-lecture>



And a big thank you to our 55 members listed below who supported the NJ Committee last year!

Nancy Bach	Stephanie Hurtt	Gerri Anne Skirkanich
Barbara Batting	Lucy Kalian	Alexandra Smith
Lisa Bitterly	Cynthia Labrecque	Catherine Smith
Avery Brighton	Joan Lynch	Susan Smith
Piper Leddy Brighton	Teresa Maguire	Susan Sorokolit
Mary Brodsky	Machika Maki	Maya Speelmans
Cionna Buckley	Mary Ann McDonald	Susan Tildesley
Cynthia Buff	Christina McNamara Weber	Bonnie Torcivia
Kathleen Donnelly	Christiane McNamara	Gail Van Winkle
Gail O'Neil Duffy	Debbie O'Donoghue	Ann Westerfield
Elizabeth Dusko	Mary Jane O'Hare	Wendy Wilt
Elaine Eadon	Robbyn O'Neill	
Sheila Ehrenberg	Susan Olson	
Sarah Fleming	Kathleen Onieal	
Elizabeth Ford	Judith Oppenheim	
Donna France	Anne Reiss	
Katherine Haresar	Louisa Renn	
Ann Hawley	Heather Robinson	
Isabel Hertz	Ann Rossbach	
Chris Hetzler	Stella Ryan	
Amanda Hintelmann	Jeanne Shanley	
Stephanie Hoitt	Kathryne Singleton	

## Grant History for RUMSON GARDEN CLUB:

- 1994 Nature Conservancy, Atlantic Goose Pond
- 2002 Rumson Water Mapping Brochure
- 2003 Forestdale School Greenhouse Repair
- 2007 Habitat Restoration at School Pond
- 2010 Rutgers University Rain Garden
- 2012 Reeves-Reed Arboretum - Freeman Medal Winners (w/Summit)
- 2017 "Seed to Sprout" Window Boxes at Library
- 2021 Outdoor Classroom at Monmouth Day Care Center

## A NOTE FROM THE BIRD LADY:

It was a warm dark summer evening. The moon was riding high in the rich velvety sky, pale wispy clouds straggling across its face. The river a pale silvery glow. The air sweet smelling with wild roses and honeysuckle. The dog was minding her own business when a light flickered near her nose. She paused for a second, opened her jaws wide to snatch it only to find it had disappeared. Her deep brown eyes took on a mystified look. Then it twinkled again right near her eye. She took another stab at what she thought would be an interesting meal, when it vanished again. And a solitary cormorant flying home to roost stretched his angular neck to see the strange twinkling lights below. Twinkling, floating and dancing in a wonderfully sparkling magical show. It almost seems as if the sky has tossed down a host of stars to dazzle us.

There are 200 hundred species of fireflies, lampyridae. In fact, they are not actually flies, they're beetles. They are found in the moist areas of Asia and the Americas and of course in our own humid New Jersey. And we are lucky here on the East Coast because on the West Coast fireflies do not usually light up. They need moisture to hatch their eggs so our marshlands here at the Shore are perfect for them.

They very cleverly carry bioluminescence on the undersides of their abdomens which is controlled by their nervous systems. Their flashes can be orange, green or yellow. They use these light signals to attract prospective mates. The females are wingless but are bioluminescent, too. They lay seductively in the grass watching out for the appropriate male of their species. At which point they flash, signaling their acceptance.

The female lays her eggs in moist areas in grass, near ponds, rivers and lakes. Even their eggs glow. Firefly larvae eat snails, worms, and slugs, which they inject with a numbing chemical to disable them. So they are very useful in our gardens. Adults eat other fireflies, nectar or pollen, although some don't eat at all. Predators such as spiders, frogs and birds do not eat them because fireflies release toxic foul-tasting blood. Stay away you predators, they warn. They are not endangered yet, but there are activities that could change all that. Night lights interfere with their migration and mating habits. Loss of habitat. Draining marshland. Pesticide applications. All contribute to their endangerment. The "Dark Sky Initiative" is one environmental group that is trying to help them.

We can do much for their survival. Forgo the pesticides is probably the most important thing we can do. Mow lawns less often or leave sections of tall grass. Woody debris and water features also help. Turn off unnecessary outside lights. Plant native trees like pine, whose canopy creates dimmer conditions so that the fireflies can light up earlier in the evening.

The perfect collective noun for fireflies is "glow". They are enchanting creatures, only living from one to three weeks, lighting our darkness with their twinkling, glimmering and dancing. We are born of stardust, scientists tell us. Fireflies seem to embody this idea.

When summer evenings are warm and quiet is the time to revel in this most glorious of nature's offerings. And for that we have cherished memories.

Haiku

Twinkling fireflies

Lighting up warm summer nights

Enchantment abounds.

For further information:

Dark Sky Initiative: [darksky.org](http://darksky.org)

NationalGeographicforkids.com

National Wildlife Federation: [nfw.org](http://nfw.org)

Jan Glass Bird Lady RGC/MG15. [Janbglass13@gmail.com](mailto:Janbglass13@gmail.com)

July 2024



A few tips from **Susan** and **Heather** to get ready for the Shirley Meneice and Oceanic Library Seed shares!

Now is a great time to collect seeds! Here are some helpful articles to get you started:

- <https://www.wildflower.org/learn/collect-store-seeds>
- [https://old.npsnj.org/articles/seeds\\_collecting\\_seeds.html](https://old.npsnj.org/articles/seeds_collecting_seeds.html)
- and this from [healthyyards.org](http://healthyyards.org):



Heather will be collecting seeds for the Shirley Meneice seed share and for the native seed library at Oceanic Library. Seeds should be dropped off to her by **Friday, September 13th at 4 Tennis Court Lane** - there will be a basket on the front porch swing. Please include a full description of the plant (botanical name, common name, date & location harvested) as well as Hardiness Zones and growing conditions. We have envelopes and labels also available for pick up. Reach out with any questions to Heather at [hahanssen@me.com](mailto:hahanssen@me.com) or 917.626.3848.