

Donna Sessa, Director

Second District FGCNYS

Gardeners are the most fascinating people you will meet in your lifetime. They are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty, and they are fiercely devoted to improving the environment around them. I have traveled to many countries over my life, and I have had the good fortune to have seen some of the most unusual and beautiful gardens around the world. Indeed, I have marveled at the variety of plants growing on this planet and the methods used to continue the propagation of plants native to each region. Our own Long Island Region has the climate and soil to grow many varieties of flowers, trees and scrubs and with improved conservation awareness and renewing efforts for education, we hope to continue to have our gardeners leading our communities to a bright colorful floral future.

As the new Director of the Second District I look forward to being able to communicate directly with all of you, highlighting the myriad of programs we will be offering our membership, from conservation, to design, to garden study, to landscape design and photography in the next two years. Our goal will be promoting to all, the array of wonderful programs offered by the Second District and it's member clubs.

A bit about me.....I am past president of the Westhampton Garden Club and have been a member of the Second District Board for nine years, six as an officer, culminating in assuming the position of Director, Second District, Garden Clubs of New York State on March 6, 2017. A native New Yorker, I have lived on the East End of Long Island for 36 years. During that time I focused on preservation, and, among other things, I restored a 1700's home and its gardens. My personal addition included decorative flower boxes with flowering plants that are changed seasonally throughout the year. I was for ten years a member of the Quogue Historical Society and most recently served on the Committee for Preservation. In 2016, I was instrumental in the inclusion of Quogue in the National Register of Historic Places. For over twenty-five years I was an executive in the television industry focusing on new business development for ABC, NBC and Warner Communications.

In 2001 my husband and I invested with 65 others in vineyards in Temecula California and began a journey into viticulture. The vineyards and winery (built in 2006) called Monte de Oro is now a fully operationally business. The harmonious coordination and cooperation of both commercial and civic horticulture is something equally important for us to grow in the years to come. I am looking forward to an exciting tenure leading the Second District.