



Mrs. George Dennett (Patricia H.)
34th GCFM President
1989-1990
“Learning and Sharing Together”
183 clubs – 11,440 members



Following her theme, workshops were offered in Civic Development: Garden Therapy and Club Programs, a Landscape Design School, a Gardening Study Course and a Flower Show Course were sponsored. A horticulture meeting per month was continued featuring our plant societies. GCFM just completed the seventh year presenting “Morning of Design”. This program was given free of charge by our talented flower arrangers, stressing principles of design.

Shell Oil sponsored an inspiring Solid Waste Management Conference. GCFM had been working diligently on this problem, leading up to a Solid Waste Conference in April.

Each year, garden club members have raised thousands of dollars to beautify their towns and a multitude of historic homes. They were enthusiastically behind the National Council Friendship Garden in Washington and raised \$2,825.

The Regional Project was tree planting. GCFM planted two trees on the office grounds, with the help of the Wellesley Community Center’s Senior Lunch group and pre-school group.

Massachusetts spent its year “Learning and Sharing Together”. We “Opened Wide our Garden Gates” and stepped outside with arms open in welcome to all who wished to join us in our endeavors.

Note: Pat Dennett loved GCFM and was happy to be elected president. Soon after taking office she became ill. She did her best to carry out her duties until the end. She passed away on Saturday, December 8, 1990. After Mrs. Dennett’s untimely death, GCFM received more than \$8,000 to establish a scholarship in her honor, to enable primary and secondary teachers to further their education by taking courses in subjects related to the objectives of garden clubs. GCFM also planted a memorial tree at the Needham Public Library on Arbor Day 1993. In addition, the South Shore District constructed the Pat Dennett memorial Butterfly Garden at the South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell, dedicated in June 1991 and maintained by South Shore garden clubs.

Helen Freidberg

1991: Completing Mrs. Dennett’s Term of Office

At the January 2, 1991 GCFM Board Meeting, Helen Freidberg, First Vice President, was ratified by the board members as President of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. Mrs. C. Manning Smith was Notified of Mrs. Dennett’s death and the name of our new president.

- Mabel Haberstroh, Corresponding Secretary

Scholarships were one of GCFM's most important endeavors. GCFM provided 11 scholarships this year, sponsored a National Council winner, and individual clubs within GCFM donated an additional \$40,000 in scholarships for local youths.

Massachusetts received a major donation, the Ruth Wallack Memorial Fund, interest to be used each year for a state flower show or a special design program.

The Environmental Concerns Committee sponsored a tour through a prototype plastic recycling plant and a tour of a regional waste management facility. They also taped a 30 minute conservation program for cable tv. The LUG-A-MUG campaign, to discourage the use of disposable coffee containers at meetings, was implemented by Ways and Means, who provided a ceramic mug with the GCFM seal, a very popular item.

Pat Dennett's inspirational theme was continued with "Learning and Sharing Together".