



**Marion Ryan**  
**38<sup>th</sup> GCFM President**  
**1997-1999**  
***“Making a Difference”***  
**192 clubs – 12,797 members**



GCFM celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary still growing strong. We continued many of the original programs, updating them to fit the interests of today: conservation, environment, wetlands, rivers and other water resources, horticulture, landscape design, floral design, junior gardening, etc. As custodians of the earth, we still have more to learn and do.

Many of our members live geographically distant from the Greater Boston area and find it difficult to attend meetings traditionally offered there. Horticulture Mornings and major GCFM meetings were held at various venues throughout the state during her term of office.

Tours which had been revived in Mrs. Dane's term continued during this administration with trips to Ireland and Hawaii as well as domestic tours.

The third Massachusetts Gardens on Tour was most successful. Each garden had 300-600 visitors. More people and organization are becoming interested in our tours – Boston Visitors Bureau, botanic gardens, garden nurseries, etc. We had statewide publicity and profits exceed those of previous tours.

GCFM hosted the 1998 National Council Fall Board Meeting at the Westin Hotel at Copley Place. Polly Povall, (GCFM's 31<sup>st</sup> President) was Chairperson and Jackie Lane, Assistant Chairperson. The theme was, "Where Freedom Began". Barbara Barnette, President of National Council, presided over the meeting.

Our scholarship funds have been invested in conservative dividend bearing funds, so our principal will grow as we use the income for scholarships.

In cooperation with Tower Hill, GCFM presented a superb standard flower show in addition to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Show.