



Mrs. Irving W. Bevelheimer (Helen Mack)
23rd GCFM President
1968-1970
“To Progress and Conserve”
188 clubs – 12,404 members



The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. presented an active program for the members. In September, the Presidents' Conference was held for club presidents and their board members. Workshops for club chairpersons were held and an exchange of ideas was encouraged.

GCFM is divided into nine districts, each with a special project, including working and maintaining a greenhouse for handicapped children, and working with mentally retarded children in a state rehabilitation center. There was a cruise around Boston Harbor to see firsthand the pollution and general condition of the area. Planning meetings were held with the Audubon Society, Horticultural Society, Children's Museum and volunteers of the Boston school system to initiate a program of horticulture in the fifth and sixth grades.

The dedicated conservation, legislation and anti-litter chairpersons kept our clubs alerted to the problems of our time. The conservation committee, with other interested organizations, worked to present a bill to make Boston Harbor and the Islands a national park.

Civic Beautification applications increased. Garden Therapy was growing and the work of disabled children outstanding. Elderly citizens and veterans were not forgotten.

On March 7th, in Washington D.C., a beautiful engraved citation was presented to the Secretary of Transportation, former Governor Volpe, for his interest and assistance during his administration.

In her annual report, Mrs. Mack stated, *“Through active participation in the many areas of garden club work, Massachusetts members were ever conscious of the aims and objectives of National Council and our theme to ‘Progress and Conserve’ was carried out with enthusiasm.”*