

SCHOOLYARD GARDENING GRANTS PROGRAM (SGGP)
SEPTEMBER 2015

WELCOME TO A NEW GARDENING YEAR FROM THE SGGP

Hello old and new VGCLJ members! It's a busy time for our program as schools welcome their old and new students back to campus! In preparation, The SGGP Committee had a late June reorganization meeting, sipping lemonade on a hot afternoon as we debated our future challenges. Our very good news is that you, our generous members, contributed \$5773.00 to the SGGP when dues were renewed last spring, assuring that we will be able to disperse grants again to our very needy student gardens. To remind you, in 2014 we filled grant requests totaling \$8567.00 to 24 elementary and middle schools, and no doubt there will be at least as many requests in fall 2015.

At our June meeting we chose Ann Glazener by consensus to be our new chair, with many thanks to Jamie Ginsberg for the excellent job she did as past chair for two years. Two new members, Wendy Brody and Jeanette Wright, are joining the committee, giving us 13 to do our work. Besides specific assignments, it was recommended that all committee members should participate in the school visitation programs, also taking photos on their visits for many uses – especially for me to use in the “Spindrifter” articles! We were delighted to welcome new VGCLJ chair Devonna Hall to our meeting and hope she will return often. Devonna assured us that our committee is more than solvent this year, with back payment to us of \$9000 in “matching monies”.

Our computer whiz Sue Kalish updated our grant application and related papers over the summer. A copy of the application can be seen on our website, www.vgclj.com. If you know of a school in particular need, please alert its representative about our website. We will meet on October 27, 2015 at Ann Glazener's house to review the applications and decide on grants.

In my October “Spindrifter” article, and at the suggestion of committee members who wonder if VGCLJ members know what the Schoolyard Gardening Grants Program does, I will attempt to enlighten you all about our activities. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you all at our September 25 meeting in our new location – and please don't forget to buy some of our amazing gloves for fall bulb planting! See you then!

Melesse W. Traylor
858-459—8464, ljmelesse@gmail.com