



January 2010

Dear Friends,

We've reached an historic moment! From our humble origins as "Gardens on Parade" in the 1939-40 World's Fair, to our move from Flushing Meadows Corona Park in the early '60's, to our award-winning *Visitor & Administration Center*, QBG has embraced change and innovation. And now it's time for another change.

Beginning Saturday April 3, 2010, Queens Botanical Garden will implement a mandatory admission fee. This fee will be \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for students with ID and children over three. Admission will be collected from April through October; from November 1 through March 31, admission to the Garden will be free. Furthermore, the Garden will be free on Wednesdays from 3-6 pm and Sundays from 4-6 pm from April through October. As a polling place, we will be open free on all election days as well.

This decision to charge admission does not come easily or without considerable deliberation. As you know, many cultural organizations in Queens and beyond have been forced to take drastic measures due to the downturn in the economy and reductions in funding. Beyond these sobering issues, QBG needs to be able to stand on its own two feet and take a greater role in supporting itself; admission will allow us to do just that.

We hope that you'll be excited about the many changes you'll see at QBG, including the unveiling of our new Rose Garden and Green Trail along with a spring season full of programs like gardening and photography workshops, a vendor fair, bird and butterfly walks, origami for the kids, performances and much more.

Thank you for your support of the Garden; we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Frank Mirovsky
Chair, Board of Trustees

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director