

Thank you, Ginnie Melnick!

by Ken Durio

Ginnie Melnick joined the Magnolia Society in the late 1960s, and by 1973 began serving as its Secretary. She was an extremely able Secretary and through letter writing and other membership solicitations, generation of promotion ideas, responses to inquiries about magnolias and about the Society, and other hard work she was largely responsible for the transition of the organization from a small, fledgling group to a truly international plant society. She assumed the added responsibility of Treasurer in 1977. She held both posts until 1978 when she turned these tasks over to a young and aspiring magnolaphile, Dick Figlar.

Soon after becoming Society Secretary, Ginnie initiated the Round Robin Program, guided and nurtured it, and contributed to each Round Robin Flight until this year (1985) when she was forced to retire because of ill health.

We were lucky enough to be included in two of these Round Robins with Ginnie and will always cherish her friendly and informative letters. We will miss her guiding hand in the Round Robin Program, but she has lighted the way for us to follow. We hope that she has a complete and speedy recovery and will be able to write in some of the Robins again before too long.

Get well, Ginnie, the Magnolia Society needs you!

Belle Durio becomes Robin chairman

Our faithful and beloved Magnolia Society Round Robin Chairman Ginnie Melnick has been forced to resign because of ill health. Ginnie initiated the Magnolia Round Robin Program for Society members and skillfully guided it from the beginning to the present time (a period of 10 years). Thank you, Ginnie, for a job well done.

Belle Durio has volunteered to attempt to fill the considerable

footprints left by this wonderful person. Belle's appointment has been approved and she will serve as our new Round Robin Chairman.

Magnolia Robins are groups of a dozen (more or less) Magnolia Society members who write letters to each other and to the group as a whole. These letters and slides, pictures, magazine articles and other interesting information are put into a package and mailed from one Robin member to the next on the "flight" chart.

Each member of a particular Robin takes out his old letter and puts in a new letter, slides, pictures or whatever he wishes to contribute to the package and mails it to the next member on the list. These packages usually take three to five months to make a round. A package containing friendly informative letters and beautiful magnolia pictures can surely brighten up a cold winter month or a hot summer period when there are no magnolias in bloom. Members soon become friends and share tips on "what to plant," "how to grow it" and "where to get it." They



Belle Durio (left), new chairman of the Round Robin Program, is shown here with Sara Gladney of Gloster Arboretum during the Tarrytown meeting. Photo Joe Hickman.