

VOL. 20



# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



MARCH 2026

MEMBER NEWS

Sowing Seeds of Wonder through  
a Community of Gardeners

*"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden." -Ruth Stout*

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Last spring I hung a wreath near my front door, it was made with silk flowers on a straw base. A few weeks later I noticed that a Mama bird had made a nest in the lower center part of the wreath and soon there were 3 tiny blue eggs nestled inside. I watched her come & go from the nest for several days until one day she was accidentally startled and flew away, leaving the eggs to fend for themselves. I hoped she would see that there was no danger, but alas she never returned. The eggs never hatched. When I took the wreath down at the end of spring I debated what to do with the abandoned eggs & decided that they were rotten so keeping them wouldn't be a good idea. It saddened me to think that the little family was never to be, but I marveled at the Mama's nest building skills & her interesting placement for it. The nest is still in the wreath, maybe she'll make a return visit this year. Hope springs eternal.



COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

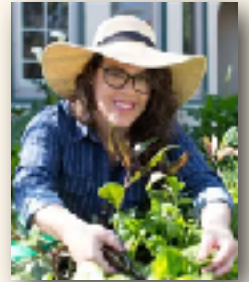
### General Meeting March 13

**Ashley Irene**

**The Art of an Edible Potager**

See page 3

Laguna  
Presbyterian  
Church



9:30 am social

10:00 am meeting & speaker

### Patriots Day Parade March 14

March with fellow Garden Club members See page 5

### Green Thumb March 20

**Mosaic Plant Container**

Sign up at the Green Thumb table the March 13 meeting. See pg. 18

### Trips & Tours March 25

**Destination TBD**

Check the T & T table at the March 13 meeting for details

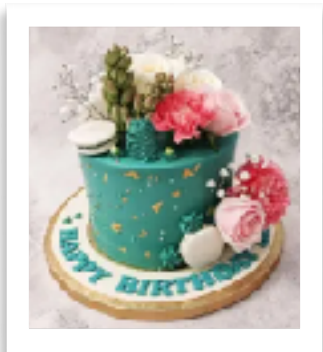
## Celebrating Success

I was going to write about green birthdays because March marks the start of a run of birthdays in my family.

I thought every family had an orderly procession of birthdays, like ours. My sister's is in March, my mom's in April, my dad's in May, and mine in June. Growing up, that was four straight months with the promise of cake. I was going to admonish you to think about the

environment if you are throwing a party; send digital invitations, wrap presents in the funny papers, and give living plants instead of cut flowers, but you know all that.

Instead, I would like to celebrate the success of the Valentine's Extravaganza! As you may know, I've had my eye on the ValX as an event with the potential to become a major community affair. This year, I was delighted by our success. By the numbers, we increased profits by 24% over last year. The boutique, plant table, and silent auction combined brought in almost \$3800 in just two hours! Add to that the tool sharpener, who donated



10% of his profits, or \$50. The raffle raised almost \$1500, and the live auction, a first for us, raised \$275. And six new members joined!

We are already planning next year's Extravaganza to be even bigger. We will offer a couple of Green Thumb projects to make items to sell, including at least one craft project and one to pot plants for the plant table. We will start collecting for the boutique earlier. If you have nice items headed to a thrift store, or just need some extra motivation to clean out a closet, remember to save your treasures for our Fabulous Finds Boutique. Tell your friends!

*-Nancy Englund*

### HELP – We Need Storage Space!

The Garden Club is growing, and we're in need of a local garage or storage unit! We're looking to rent a space in Laguna Beach or South Laguna (approximately 10' x 10') to safely store items for the Garden Tour, Patriots Day Parade, and Valentine Extravaganza.

If you have a garage or unit available — or know someone who does — we would love to hear from you. Thank you for supporting our growing club!

Contact Nancy Englund  
at [nancyenglund@icloud.com](mailto:nancyenglund@icloud.com)



Sandy Graham was the winner of the first-ever Live Auction and got to take home Staggy the Staghorn fern.



**March Guest Speaker Ashley Irene Presents:**

## **The Art of an Edible Potager**

**A**shley Irene is a member of the Garden Coach Society and a certified garden designer, but her style is also inspired by her grandparents. Irene grew up on her grandparent's farm in central Wisconsin and has always had a love of farming. She was a fashion design major, giving her an eye for design, that later came in handy in creating her own gardens. She later earned her MBA and served as a brand consultant until COVID hit when she began her company Heirloom Potager. Irene's showcase kitchen garden situated in front of her 1920's French Tudor home in Floral Park in Santa Ana that she shares with her husband Nathan, has inspired many neighbors to reach out to her about starting their own gardens.

Potager, a French word for home kitchen garden, is where the inspiration for Ashley's company came from; it was the springboard for her company, Heirloom Potager. Her client list runs the gamut from award winning chef's and mixologists, to the most discerning developers, curators and homeowners, her company creates timeless



edible gardens and landscapes in Southern California and beyond. Her work has been featured in *Orange Coast at Home*, *Orange County Business Journal*, *Riviera Magazine*, and *the Orange County Register*.

Please join us on Friday March 13, 2026, at 09:30-10:00 for social time and refreshments, meeting begins promptly at 10:00AM. Meetings are held at Laguna Presbyterian Church in Tankersley Hall located at 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach. Non-members are invited to attend for free on their first visit. For more information on the garden club: [www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org](http://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org) No parking in the Church parking. Plenty of street parking available.

*-Blair Contratto Co-Vice President*



# Membership Update

Welcome to March! I am pleased to announce that we now have **262** members as of March 9, 2026.

If you have not picked up your 2025-2026 Membership Book yet, tables will be located inside for your convenience at our next meeting March 13.

**Name tags** – reminder to wear yours to receive a ticket to be eligible to win a great prize as a reward for wearing it.

**Special Note\*** New members who joined in February, your name tags will be ready for pick up as well as the replacement name tag.

**Reminder\*** Don't forget to pick up the **Discount Card** through California Garden Club (CGCI). Because Laguna Beach Garden Club is a member of CGCI, we receive discount cards to pass out to our members to use at local nurseries for a possible discount. Mind you that not all nurseries honor the discount (usually 10%), but many do; for example, Laguna Nursery, Green Thumb, Plant Depot, and sometimes (depending on who checks you out) Home Depot or Lowe's. All you have to do is ask.

Please take **ONLY ONE** card as we receive these cards based on the number of members.

Sign the card and keep it in your wallet. Valid through 2027.

**Looking ahead:** Our Membership Drive begins at the April 10 general meeting, which will be time for **ALL** members to renew their membership for 2026-2027. That includes any member who just joined; your membership is valid through May 2026.

If you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested in our Speaker Series, please invite them to attend a meeting to see if we are a good fit. The first meeting is free, and we accept members at any time.

*Lynn Jax*, Director of Membership



## Missing something?

Stop by our new **Lost & Found** station next at our next general meeting (next to our Club Gift Shop).



## 🌻🌻🌻 Patriots Day Parade 🌻🌻🌻

Calling all Garden Club members for the lifetime experience of marching in the 59th Patriots Day Parade, and showing off what a force we are for the community of Laguna Beach. Remember, marching with our club is camaraderie, fun, and it's all downhill!



Check your calendars and sign up at the March 13 meeting.

**When:** Saturday, March 14, 2026

**Where:** Laguna Beach High School Parking lot on Park Ave.

**Time:** 10 am arrival. Please be prompt as the Parade starts at 11am.

**Dress:** Comfy shoes, blue jeans, white top, Garden Club apron, decorated hat with flowers

**Comfort:** Water, sunblock, tissue, phone if desired, lipstick with color, sunglasses.

**Parking:** Park in a neighborhood to avoid meters. The parade ends at city hall.

### Participant Positions Available:

- Garden Club banner (2 people)
- Garden Tour banner (2 people)
- "Rakettes" (drill team that will learn an easy drill)
- LOTS AND LOTS of members to pass out Garden Tour postcards, wave to the crowd, and spread cheer!

Everyone please participate! The more the merrier!  
Let's show our community all that we do and all of our spirit!

For questions, contact Diane Kloke:

[kloke@cox.net](mailto:kloke@cox.net), cell 949-280-4568



## February's Trips & Tours South Bay Nursery Crawl

**O**n February 25, a small and nimble group of intrepid Daytrippers enjoyed the beautiful weather to visit three nurseries in the South Bay Area of Los Angeles. We started at the furthest north destination of Flora Grubb Gardens in Marina del Rey where we met Flora herself who had just flown down, escaping the rain in San Francisco to greet the sunshine of LA.



Flora Grubb Gardens displayed drifts of beautiful, large specimen plants, including aloes, agaves, more varieties than usual of proteas interspersed with large sculptural stone tables and stools, with a soft gray gravel underfoot. This unique collection of drought-tolerant plants offered a soothing color palate of grays and greens with containers providing the contrasting pops of vivid color.

After a lunch of vegan bowls at a tiny spot called lil' Vegerie, we shopped a completely different experience at Deep Roots Garden Center in Torrance. Here was a large indoor nursery of glossy green houseplants, running the full gamut in size from the very tall to petite, from upright to trailing plus pristine succulents, container options and a well-curated selection of tools.



Rainforest Floral, our final destination, was just down the street from Deep Roots where we replenished our inventory of tillandsias, gaped at the very large and vibrant koi begging to be fed, and counted up the sheer number of turtles basking on the edges of the indoor, pond structures.

We were six garden club members including a new member, our 250th member, **Jenny Pass**. Welcome Jenny! And being a small group, we were on a girlfriend outing, and we had so much fun: the back of Polly's car, her "beast" the Escalade, was packed to the gills with purchases!

- *Patty Gaffney*



# Valentine Open House Plant & Planter Sale

**A** heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who helped make the Valentine's Extravaganza such a tremendous success! This special event was truly a team effort. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated organizers and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make every area shine. Thank you to the talented members who created the stunning container gardens and to those who generously donated items for the Boutique, Plant Table, and Raffle. The addition of tool sharpening this year was a unique and much-appreciated feature.

A special thank you to everyone who came out to shop and support the event—your enthusiasm helped make it a successful fundraiser. Alongside our loyal members, we were delighted to welcome many guests from the community who joined in the festivities.

We also enjoyed a fascinating and heartfelt video presentation about Hortense Miller and her beautiful garden, thoughtfully shared by **Diane Lannon** and **Bob Bothwick**.

This wonderful event was made possible by all of us working together. Thank you for your time, talent, and generosity!

*-Mary Jones*

## Valentine Extravaganza Wrap-Up 2026

<u>Department</u>	<u>This Year (2026)</u>	<u>Last Year (2025)</u>	
Plant Boutique	\$1,394.00	\$	891.00
Plant Table	\$ 342.00	\$	325.00
Silent Auction	\$2,050.00	\$1,825.00	
Raffle	\$1,435.00	\$	920.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,221.00</b>	<b>\$3,961.00</b>	<b>31%</b>





## Gardening 101 For March 2026

The topic for March will be: “Getting Ready for Warm Season Gardening”

**Gardening 101 is returning! For interested members, we will meet immediately after our regular meeting in a nearby indoor room for our presentation which will last for 30-45 minutes including questions.** The session will be presented by Master Gardeners, **Ingrid Cebula, Wendy Grande, Nora Koenig, and Melissa Rapp.**



Getting ready for our warmer season gardening in Southern California means taking advantage of the region's wonderful climate. Though some plants are more successful when planted during our winter, as temperatures consistently rise from February through May, it's time to transition to warm season gardening. We move from cool-season plantings to warm-season favorites that thrive in heat. In most coastal and inland valleys of Southern California, warm-season plants can be planted from late February through May once the risk of frost has passed and soil temperatures warm to about 60°F or higher.

Successful warm season gardening begins with preparing your soil and garden beds. We will discuss how to prepare your garden and its soil as well as helping you decide what varieties to choose and whether to use seeds or pre-started plants. What do you need to consider to decide? Which is better? How and when is it best to start seeds? When are they ready to transplant?

Please join us! Correct, complete prepping and decisions for your garden can make a difference in your success during our warmer spring and summer garden times! Whether you're a beginner or a long-time gardener, join us to add to your garden knowledge!



### *Garden Club Gift Shop*

Open 9:00-1:00  
Come visit us to buy  
our very own  
merchandise all  
embroidered with our  
name and logo.

THE GIFT SHOP IS OPEN  
BEFORE AND AFTER  
EVERY MEETING INSIDE  
TANKERSLEY HALL



## The Wonderful World of Hive Management

**B**ees never fail to amaze me, every time I do a deep dive into hours of TED Talks on bees or copious *National Geographic* articles, I find some new nugget that just delights me. Bees execute a high level of executive function! They maintain a high-functioning community by ensuring the entire colony knows where to find the best resources, ensuring shared and collective survival. The bees count landmarks on their way to food so they can share that information through their waggle dance with other members of their hive. They completely believe in sharing abundance with their tribe and making sure that each not only does their share but that all bees in the hive are cared for! What a beautiful model for society!

The resource that the *Gate & Garden Tour* needs our hive to share is having members bake cookies for the tour. **Trudy Josephson** has graciously (again) agreed to be the head of the refreshment committee and we are so grateful, but she cannot do it alone folks! We need all hands-on-deck to sign up to make cookies for the event. Honestly, this is an easy task because what **Jane Leary** taught me is that you can make the cookie dough several weeks in advance and freeze it and then bake it the day before the tour and the cookies turn out crisper and yummiier than if you had baked them right away. This means that on one of these rainy days when you don't want to go out and perhaps you have already binged your way through the new *Bridgerton* season on Netflix (like me), you can take 15-20minutes to get your dough made!

You might be thinking, “does it really matter if we have homemade cookies at the tour”? Well gentle readers, it certainly does! I met a couple at a social/business event in Newport Beach at Christmas time and in being introduced to this lovely woman I wanted to find some common ground. When she told me that she loved gardening, I queried “Have you been to the Laguna Beach Gate & Garden Tour?” She almost dropped her glass of wine in her excitement and began telling me of the most delightful day she spent with 3 of her friends last year when they invited her to attend. She said, “This was the most magical experience with gracious ladies offering trays of spectacular homemade treats while we waited to get on VIP buses and everywhere I looked were woman in gorgeous hats and the nicest volunteers I have ever met.” **So there you have it**, your efforts are noticed. They are important and we as a club have an opportunity to literally give hundreds of people that type of experience with a cookie and smile. Find Trudy at the next meeting or better yet, email her and tell her what kind of cookies you are going to bring.

[verytrudyyours@gmail.com](mailto:verytrudyyours@gmail.com)

For your friends, family and neighbors that did not get their tickets yet, they will go on sale at Dana Point Nursery on March 1<sup>st</sup>. “No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another”- Charles Dickens

- Karen Nelson



# Hortense Miller Garden

The Hortense Miller Garden is looking for volunteers to help at their Open House on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Last year there were almost 300 patrons visiting the garden that day. A shuttle bus will run from the Church at 635 High Drive up to the Gated Community so parking is not an issue. Help is needed with serving refreshments, check-in, sales in the Bougainvillea Boutique, the art workshop, as well as set up and clean up. If you have 2 or 3 hours to give, contact **Diane Lannon** at 949-374-2696 or [diane.lannon@gmail.com](mailto:diane.lannon@gmail.com).



# Growing & Giving

## Bring a Friend to the Meeting

Kari Nies brought her friend to the Valentine's meeting and won this lovely vase of red roses as her prize (along with having a fun with her friend)!



## February Name Tag Wearer

Lucky name tag wearer **Nancy Peralta**, a new member, received a lovely gift from Lynn Jax for wearing her green LBGC (with a new-bee) name tag at the meeting.



“Take a rock. Decorate it. Bring it back.”

Two little girls - with a little strategic guidance from their very clever mom - decided their neighborhood needed some art. And just like that... A simple idea turned into a full-blown neighborhood project. Neighbors stopped by. Rocks disappeared. Creativity exploded. And what came back? Pure joy. Painted ladybugs. Mini rainbows. Inspirational messages. Take a look at how clever these rocks turned out - proof that sometimes the best community projects start with a six-year-old, a handmade sign, and a pile of rocks. Maybe your neighborhood needs a community giving project.



# “A Passion for the Planet”

## Presented by the Laguna Beach Chamber Singers

When: Sunday afternoon, March 15, 4:00 pm

Where: St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on Park Ave.

The Laguna Beach Chamber Singers would like to invite the Club Members to a special concert. “A Passion for the Planet” This concert is unique and ties into our Mission Statement in many ways. The concert features an Environmental Sociologist, Skye Nikes, who will be speaking to inform the audience and weave together “environmental” and “conservational” themes along with the musical choices. I hope you will consider joining us for this special event. The Laguna Beach Chamber Singers are also partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation to support tree planting and restoration efforts, offering a tangible way for our community to move from awareness to meaningful action.

**Tickets:** available online at [lagunabeachchambersingers.org](http://lagunabeachchambersingers.org) or at the door.

General Admission Tickets: \$30

Senior/Student Tickets: \$20

\*Planet Partner Ticket: \$100

\*The Planet Partner Ticket includes concert admission, support for tree planting through the Arbor Day Foundation, and helps sustain Laguna Beach Chamber Singers concerts and programs.

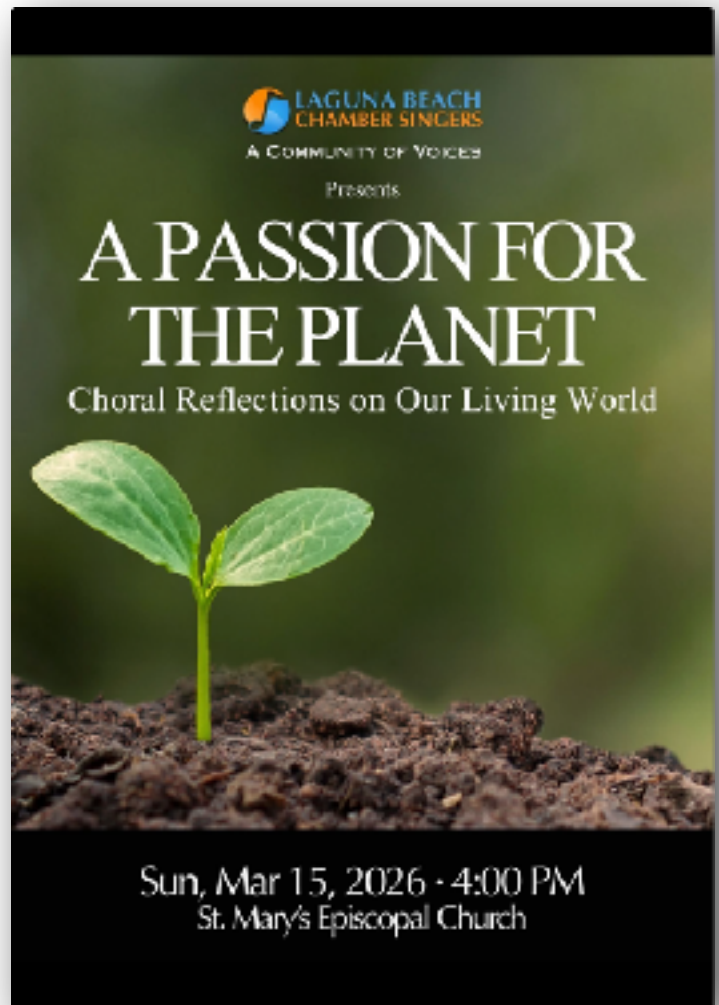
### **Biography of the concert’s guest speaker**

<https://www.chapman.edu/our-faculty/skye-niles.aspx>

### **Description of her involvement/topics:**

This concert centers on the urgent reality of biodiversity loss and the human role in what many call the planet’s sixth mass extinction. With over a million species at risk and dramatic declines in wildlife and plant life, the program reflects on the importance of conservation, the essential role biodiversity plays in sustaining human life, and the unequal social impacts of environmental harm. Through music, we reflect on extinction, environmental justice, and our shared responsibility to care for the natural world.

*-Jeff Whittiker*



## Member Recognition Awards 2026

It's time to look around closely for garden club members you want to nominate for this year's Recognition Awards as listed below. Any member who you see go above and beyond to help the Club achieve our mission is eligible. [See page 57 of your Membership Book for more details].

The deadline is **April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. The nomination form is on the following page in this newsletter. You may nominate more than one person in any of the categories.

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize your fellow members for their outstanding efforts on behalf of our Garden Club. This award has significant meaning to its recipients because it shows appreciation for outstanding efforts and the spirit of volunteerism.

There will be copies of the nomination form at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for your convenience. We would love to receive many nominations to recognize our fellow members. Use a **SEPARATE FORM** for each **CATEGORY**. Feel free to contact me with any questions or clarification. Mary Jones

Email: [ibjones@cox.net](mailto:ibjones@cox.net) or call: 949-233-1993

Previous Recognition Recipients include: [Please do **NOT** nominate a previous winner for the same category as we'd like to spread the love around.]

### 2017

- Club Members of the Year: Carolyn Bent, Linda Homscheid
- Garden of the Year: Nancy Englund
- Gardener of the Year: Lisa Fecteau
- Rookie of the Year: Monette Weiss

### 2018

- Club Member of the Year: Chris Lutz
- Garden of the Year: Mariann Keenan
- Gardeners of the Year: Synthia Scofield, Marilyn Ghere, Kathleen Kane
- Rookies of the Year: Becky Martin, Norman Powell

### 2019

- Club Members of the Year: Jeanne Yale, Dalynn Malek
- Garden of the Year: Dana Victorson
- Gardener of the Year: Sherry Stephens
- Rookies of the Year: Patty Gaffney, Susan Denton, Diane Olson

### 2020-2022

- Club Members of Year: Elaine Davis, Nancy Englund, Lynn Jax
- Garden of the Year: Inge Bunn, Dalynn Malek, Madeleine McLendon
- Gardeners of the Year: Sandy Smith, Susan South, Monica Thompson
- Rookies of the Year: Grace Balen, Diane Groh, Mae Ho, Jane Leary, Cookie Lee, Kari Nies, Gay Redcay

### 2023

- Club Members of Year: ElizaBeth Chapel, Lynn Pries, Kari Nies, Karen Nelson, Pam Bisson
- Gardens of the Year: Brian Jones, Susan Denton
- Gardener of the Year: Ingrid Cebula
- Rookies of the Year: Kate Hershey-Guerra, Blair Contratto, Vicky Adams-Cuccia

### 2024

- Club Members of Year: Bee Mural Team (Blair Contratto, Nancy Englund, Jane Leary, & Karen Nelson) and Melissa Rapp
- Garden of the Year: Monica Thompson
- Gardener of the Year: Helga Yaillen
- Rookies of the Year: Mary Koebler, Mary Lewis, Joann Trejo-Magee, Jeff Whittiker

### 2025

- Club Members of Year: Mae Ho
- Garden of the Year: Wendy Caufield & Melissa Rapp
- Gardener of the Year: Marilyn Alexander, Shirley Matthews-Jagels & Patricia Weier
- Rookies of the Year: Bonnie David, Lisa Goodlad, Toni Kellenberg, Dorothy Moss, & Sharon Stephens



## Recognition Award 2026 Nomination Form

Check the category:

- Club Member of the Year
- Gardener of the Year
- Garden of the Year
- Rookie of the Year (AKA: New Member)

**\* Use a separate form for each Nomination.**

**DEADLINE: April 17, 2026**

Recognizing each other's efforts shows our appreciation towards our own, and to those who are acknowledged by their fellow club members for their spirit of volunteerism, it makes this award of distinguished merit mean so much more.

Nominate a club member who you know has done an extraordinary and/or consistent job for the club.

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Please Print clearly)*

Please write 2 to 3 sentences of explanation or description of this nominee's efforts for the category for which you nominated. (Use the back of the form, if necessary.)

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Please return to Mary Jones via:

- E: [ibjones@cox.net](mailto:ibjones@cox.net)
- or mail to: 635 Cuprien Way, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- or deliver in person at the **April 10, 2026** meeting.

Name of person nominating: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Photo Contest – Deadline for submissions April 17

It's that time again and the deadline to submit is fast approaching. Members submit photographs from their gardens for our annual photography contest. There are 2 contests: one for the Front Cover and one for the Back Cover featured on our Membership Book. The winners of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual contest were the front cover by Linda Richardson and the back cover by Brian Jones..

### Photo Contest Rules

1. Photo entries are due to the Photo Contest chair, Perry Stampfel, by **Friday, April 17, 2026**.
2. Garden Club members may submit one photo for the **FRONT** and one for the **BACK** cover.
3. Renewed membership is required.
4. Photos must be **HIGH-RESOLUTION**. If using iPhone or Android when sending the photo, be sure to send the photo in "ACTUAL SIZE" – not small, medium, or large. Minimum photo size of 4,000 KB is required.
5. To win the **FRONT** cover contest, the photo must be **horizontal**.
6. To win the **BACK** cover contest, the photo must be **vertical**.
7. The entry must be a **recent** photo of some part of the member's garden.
8. By submitting the entry, the member declares that he/she owns the rights to the photo.
9. Entries will be judged by the Board by the end of the club year.
10. The winner's photo will be featured on the front and back cover of the 2026-27 Membership Book.

**NOTE:** We encourage a variety of photos, including but not restricted to garden settings or features, mass plantings, and flowers.

Submissions should be sent to Perry Stampfel via email. You will receive a reply confirming that your photo has been received.

Rules are also listed on **page 47** of your Membership Book.

For information contact:

*Perry Stampfel*

Cell: 949-294-1502

Email: [stampfel@icloud.com](mailto:stampfel@icloud.com)



## Our Hive will Thrive with your Help

Are you looking for places for you to lend your skills, talents, and expertise to your beloved Garden Club?

You are in luck as the Club has several positions open for next year 2026-2027 – just waiting for you to snatch up the opportunity to be of service to our **HIVE**.



1. **Recording Secretary** – Board position. This entails attending the monthly board meetings (usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from August through May) and recording what occurs at the meeting, preparing the minutes for approval by the Board prior to the next meeting. For the months of November & December, the meeting is usually held the first week of December. There is also a Handbook of Board Responsibilities available on our website – or ask any Board member. – See Sharon Stephens for more details. Sharon Stephens will be taking on the position of Co-Vice President, as Bonnie David has decided to step aside. **Filled** by Sarah Jones ✓

2. **Past President** – Board position. The member filling this position does **NOT** have to have been a president previously, as the title suggests. This entails attending monthly board meetings (usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from late August through May) and acting as an advisor to the Board, the Bylaws Committee, and the Nominating Committee. There is also a Handbook of Board Responsibilities available on our website – or ask any Board member. See Mary Jones for more details. Mary has decided to step aside.

3. **Trips & Tours** – Special Administrator position. Previously for the past several years Patty Gaffney & Synthia Scofield have organized excursions to various nurseries, botanical gardens, and historic spots in Southern California; they have decided to let someone else take over. The number of venues and dates to visit is entirely up to whomever chooses to step up. Patty & Synthia are more than happy to share their experience with you. \* **NOTE** –President Nancy Englund has stated several times that if no one volunteers, this enjoyable club experience will **NOT** occur next year.

4. **Newsletter Editor** – Special Administrator position. Do you enjoy reading our informative monthly (September through May) *Weeder's Digests*? In May Dalynn Malek will have created her 100<sup>th</sup> edition in her 10 years as Newsletter Editor. She feels it is time to pass the torch. Dalynn is very willing to share all ten years' worth of newsletter, provide the template she uses, and offer any assistance needed. Basically, Board members and some other members write an article and submit it along with any pertinent photos to the Newsletter Editor who then formats the articles. Lynn Jax provides the proofreading prior to the final draft. The look of the newsletter is up to the creativeness of its editor. Dalynn's editions have evolved over the years, changing as she deems fit.

\*NOTE creating content of the newsletter is **NOT** part of the responsibility. Time involved is approximately one week per month (months of June & July are vacation), which includes gathering articles that have been emailed to you, formatting whatever time it takes, and sending the Draft to Lynn Jax to proofread.

*Lynn Jax, Mary Jones, Sharon Stephens* (Nominating Committee members)

## Green Thumb Crafts

### *Create a One-of-a-Kind Mosaic Plant Container*

Ready to unleash your inner artist? Join us for a delightful, hands-on **Green Thumb Workshop** where we'll transform simple white ceramic pots into sparkling, personality-filled works of garden art!

Using **broken plates, colorful glass gems, mirrored tiles, and little treasures**, you'll design and build your own custom mosaic container—perfect for your covered patio, a sunny windowsill, or as the most charming gift ever.

After creating your masterpiece, we'll **grout and finish** the pot so it's durable, beautiful, and ready for a plant. No experience needed—just enthusiasm!

#### ★ Workshop Details

- **Location:** Sharon Stephens' house, 25881 Pecos Road, Laguna Hills, CA
- **Two Sessions:**
  - **Friday, March 27th**
  - **Wednesday, April 1st**
- **Time:** 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM or when finished
- **Class Fee:** \$40 – Payable when you sign up at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting
- **Maximum:** 8 attendees per session
- **Includes:** All tools, materials, adhesives, grout, and the pot
- **Bring:** Just your lunch (creativity & snacks welcome)

#### ♥ Why You'll Love This Workshop

- Relaxing, colorful, messy-in-the-best-way of creativity
- A fabulous garden container to take home
- A perfect excuse to play with pretty broken things
- Great company, great conversation, and lots of laughs (as always!)

**Spots are limited.**

**Sign up with Jeanne Yale to reserve your seat!**

[Jeanne.m.yale@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.m.yale@gmail.com) 949-246-5777



# Valentine's Day Raffle

Thank you to all the generous donors and all the lovely people who purchased raffle tickets. Our Valentine Extravaganza Raffle was a wonderful success.

Item Won	Donated By	Lucky Winner
Succulent Wreath	Jeanne Yale	Pam Bisson
Valentine's Day Basket	Mae Ho	Chris Lutz
Sweetheart Day Gift Basket	Polly J. Parkey	Leslie Parkes
The Magic Castle Experience	John A. Barron	Dede Zeeks
A Benjamin Franklin Valentine's Day	Marti Bruno	Stephanie Reed
XOXO Gift Basket	Cookie Lee & Mae Ho	Georgia Zachariah
The Ecology Center Basket	Mary Sanchez	Cornelia Mallory
Prune & Cultivate in Style	Nancy England & Syd Barfield	Diane Reynolds
Garden Club Artistry	Susannah Kulikauskas & Lisa Tapper	Lisa Michelin
Flowers & Bees	Colleen McCallion & Polly J. Parkey	Ruth Stanford
The Joys of Hortense Miller Garden	Diane Lannon & Polly J Parkey	Marti Hall

A special thank you to Pam Bisson, JoAnn DeYonker and Jane Leary for their assistance selling tickets.

*-Polly J. Parkey, February Raffle Administrator*



## A VISIT TO THE LAST FABRIC FLOWER FACTORY IN THE U.S.

In January, club members **Jane Leary** and **Kari Nies** visited the **M & S Schmalberg** silk flower factory in New York City. Located on the 7th floor of 242 West 36th Street, M & S Schmalberg has been making gorgeous flowers in the NYC garment district for over 100 years. In fact, it is the last remaining flower factory of its kind in the United States. Owner **Adam Brand** is a fourth generation flower craftsman whose great-great uncles Morris and Sam Schmalberg founded the company in 1916.

Adam greeted us as we entered the showroom. He was extremely friendly and much to our surprise he offered to give us an impromptu tour of the factory where they are still using the original dies and molds and other vintage tools from the early 20th century. Adam explained how they first soak their fabrics in a natural starch solution then hang it to dry. Multiple layers of fabric are cut using vintage steel dies. Originally the dies were hammered with heavy mallets, but they now use a hydraulic press. The cut petals are then pressed into heated molds to give them their unique shaping. The factory is filled with shelves holding a staggering number of different sized and shaped cutting dies and molds which can be combined to mimic different flower varieties. Artisans then arrange the resulting molded petals into beautiful floral creations by hand.

Their fabric flowers are procured by couture houses and film and stage productions, but anyone can provide them with fabric and they will create a custom flower. Adam told us that many people send them fabrics from sentimental garments to make into flowers. Such a lovely idea! Most of their sales come through their online Etsy store at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/schmalbergflowersnyc/>. What a wonderful resource for your Gate & Garden Tour garden party hat!

If you'd like to see a tour of the factory, you can check out this youtube video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPz\\_FrdF4Ts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPz_FrdF4Ts)

Next time you are in New York, consider stopping into M & S Schmalberg for a visit and be sure and tell Adam that Jane and Kari say 'Hello'!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/f6TY3dyQQDYzvGms7> (photos)

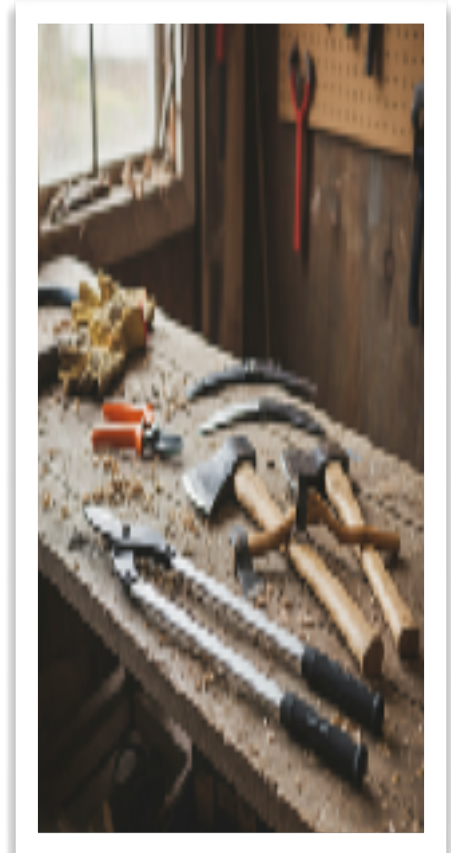


# TOOL SHARPENING

We heard rave reviews about the quality of **Razor Edge's GARDEN TOOL SHARPENING** at last month's Valentine's Extravaganza. Our members really appreciated the convenience of having our vendor onsite. So, we've asked Evan Richardson of [Razor Edge Sharpening \(Website\)](#) to come back for our last meeting of the season on May 8th to offer garden tool and kitchen knife sharpening service to our members.

In exchange, Evan has agreed to donate a portion of his profits to our Club.

Questions? Call or text Linda Richardson (949) 607-6633.



<i>Product</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Price*</i>	<i>Total</i>
Small hand-held pruners	Under 6"		\$8	
Mid-sized hand-held pruners	6-8"		\$10	
Heavy-duty hand-held pruners	8+"		\$12	
Two handed Pruning Shear			\$14	
Disassemble/Reassemble			\$2	
Rust Removal (not deliverable today)			\$2+	
Mower Blade			\$15	
Hatchet/Axe			\$15	
Knife – Small Pocket			\$7	
Kitchen Knives	2" - 6"		\$8	
Kitchen Knives	6" -10"		\$12	
Kitchen Knives	10" +		\$14	
<i>% of sales donated to LBGC</i>			Total:	<input type="text"/>

# Budget Committee Report for LBGC Proposed Budget for 2026-2027

Please review the Proposed Budget for 2026-2027. A request for approval from the membership will occur at the March 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

**Ordinary Income/Expense**

**Income**

4000 – Donations	\$10,000	
4050 – Plant Table Donations	\$1,000	
4100 – Garden Tours Income	\$45,000	
4300 – Membership Dues	\$15,000	
4500 – Raffle Income	\$6,000	
4700 – Restricted Donations		
4720 - Community Proj Restricted	\$3,000	
4728 – Centennial Celebration Restr	\$3,300	
4730 - Gate & Garden Tour Restr	<u>\$12,000</u>	
Total 4700-Restricted Donations	\$18,300	
4950 – Taxable Sales	<u>\$5,000</u>	
Total Income		\$100,300
Cost of Goods Sold		
5000 – Cost of Taxable Sales	<u>-\$3,000</u>	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	<u>-\$3,000</u>	

<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>\$97,300</b>
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**Expense**

**Direct Expenses**

5100 – Contributions and Donations	\$20,000	
5500 – Raffle Expenses	\$0	
5700 – Regular Speaker Expenses		
5710 – Professional Fees	\$7,000	
5730 – Air, Hotel & Meals	<u>\$2,000</u>	
Total 5700	\$9,000	
6000 – Restricted Expenses		
6010 – Community Projects Restr	\$30,000	
6020 – G&GT Restricted Expenses	\$12,000	
6028-Centennial Celbrtn Expenses	<u>\$0</u>	
Total 6000--Restricted Expenses	\$42,000	
6500 – Special Events Cost	\$500	
7000 – Gate & Garden Tour Expenses	<u>\$9,000</u>	
Total Direct Expenses		\$80,500
General & Administrative		
8100 – Accounting & Professional Serv	\$3,000	
8200 – Bank Charges	\$1,500	
8300 – Meetings	\$0	
8350 – Insurance	\$900	
8500 – Promotion/Publicity	\$400	
8800 – Dues & Fees	\$1,200	
9000 – Club Expenses	\$5,500	
9200 – Hospitality Supplies	\$1,500	
9500 – Rent	\$7,600	
9700 – Website, Email & Technology Serv	\$5,000	
9800 – New Website Project	\$10,000	
Total General & Administrative		<u>\$36,600</u>

<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$117,100</b>
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**Net Ordinary Income**

9900 – Interest Income	\$1,200	
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<b>Net Income</b>		<b><span style="background-color: yellow;">-\$18,600</span></b>
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## Calling all Leprechauns!

Are you 'wearin' the green' as you bake your Irish soda bread this month? Enjoying some green beer? Perhaps making green deviled eggs? However you get your Irish on, please remember to bring your cardboard egg cartons to our meeting on Friday, March 13 for our very own Laguna Food Pantry!



Between Sept 2025 and Feb 2026 we've collected **1510** cartons including another 60 from Mary Lewis's neighbors. That translates to about \$680 in savings that the Pantry has used for nutritious food. Not only do we help feed our neighbors we give those cardboard cartons a second life. We're well on our way to beating the Sept 2024-May 2025 total of 1422. That's definitely a way to save some greenbacks!

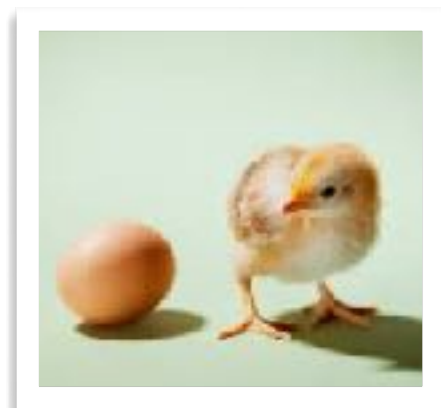
Remember to ask your neighbors to donate their egg cartons. It's fun for me to see a random bag of cartons at my front door and will be fun for you, too.

**Please bring only clean cardboard cartons, ½ or full dozen, with lids.** I haven't found any food pantries who want plastic. If you bring cardboard 18's or 24's we have a home for those thanks to Karen Nelson. Please open them and stack them for easy transport.

As always - a shout out to Club member Tom Hensel's son Casey, for being our pickup and delivery service for the Pantry. I sure appreciate him and each and every one of you for showing your Irish spirit to our Pantry.

I hope to see you all wearing green for our March 13 meeting!

-Jane Leary



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[www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)

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