

## “Going Green - Together” Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention, April 17 - 20, 2023

Please join us at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, 20610 44<sup>th</sup> Ave W., Lynnwood, Washington for the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. convention, “Going Green - Together.” Our convention team has planned many fun activities for you to enjoy with friends. Do attend for one day or all days, April 17 - 20, 2023. Following committee meetings on April 17<sup>th</sup> and banquet dinner we will enjoy a humorous collection of skits with Pacific Region members portraying unique characters in, “Fairy Tales from the Garden.” This energetic production includes costumes made from recycled materials, props made from junk, and wigs that have seen better days.



Our lunch speaker on April 18<sup>th</sup> will be James Gagliardi, Director of Bellevue Botanical Garden, a free 53-acre site visited by over 400,000 people annually. James came to the Northwest from the Smithsonian Gardens in Washington DC where he served as a supervisory horticulturist and was responsible for the landscapes and programming at the Smithsonian Castle, Enid A. Haupt Garden, Kathrine Dulin Folger Rose Garden, Mary Livingston Ripley Garden, National Museum of Asian Art, and National Museum of African Art. He was previously the Lead Horticulturist for the National Museum of Natural History and led the redevelopment of the Pollinator Garden and creation of the Urban Bird Habitat.

Tory Bennett’s enthusiasm for floral design is magnetic, as you will see in her design program, “Puttin’ on Another Hat,” our April 18<sup>th</sup> evening banquet entertainment. In high school, Tory received a garden club scholarship to attend college to earn her two-year horticultural degree. Tory is a Master Judge, the President of the Chinook District Designers Guild, as well as Corsage Chairman for Chinook District and Washington State. At the state level she is also the Page and Protocol Chairman. Tory will also present a corsage workshop on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Other workshops offered include “Engaging Youth” and making a “Bonded Recycled Design.” Space is limited in all workshops.



Our speaker for our April 19<sup>th</sup> lunch is Marianne Binetti a NW garden expert and the author or co-author of more than a dozen garden books. She writes a syndicated garden column that has been running for over 40 years (one of the longest running columns in the United States), appeared on HGTV, and hosted radio and various TV talk shows. She is also the host of “Container Wars,” held each spring at the NW Flower and Garden Show. She gardens on two acres near Enumclaw and leads garden and travel tours around the world with her husband Joe.

The last evening banquet festivities will include Awards, Installation and Reception for our new Pacific Region Director, Carol Norquist from Alaska. We can also thank Lana Finegold for her service as our Pacific Region Director 2021 - 2023. Results of the silent auction and the opportunity drawing will be revealed. But wait! There’s more! Please read about the post-convention tour of the Skagit Valley.

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