

Golden Gardens eNews

www.californiagardenclubs.com

April 2020, Vol. 15-12

Member:

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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cgcpresident@cagardenclubs.org

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3rd Vice President Adele Kelly

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Corresponding Secretary Milly Benson

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Golden Gardens eNews

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californiagardenclubs.com

Greetings CGCI Members:

My recent visit to Montana de Oro District meeting was another example of how productive our garden clubs are in their district and community. Many questions were asked regarding the Blue Star Memorial Markers. Lots of ideas regarding their markers and how they should get their markers restored. So, it appears that our clubs are very interested in Blue Star Markers and keeping them in the best conditions possible. The host club, Floral Design of San Luis Obispo, displayed designs throughout the room to the delight of the other attendees. Great Ideas regarding their flower show and their relationship to the community's participation in the flower show was shared by the entire membership.

The Valley Lode District hosted the CGCI Arbor Day (see article) Celebration at their Course 1 of Gardening School. The Stanislaus Fairgrounds was the location for the planting. Joining the thirty school attendees at the Celebration was the Fair Manager and a member of the Stanislaus Fair Board of Directors. I also attended the school for the two-day course. The instructors made the subject matter fun, educational and easy to understand. I learned that I can remember plant part names by relating them to arms, legs and hands. Never thought of that before. Berni Hendrix, Valley Lode District Director, was the chairman extraordinaire. Congratulations on a very successful course and the CGCI Arbor Day Planting!!!

Hopefully you received the special eBlast sent on March 21, 2020 announcing cancellation of CGCI's 2020 Convention scheduled May 26-30, 2020 in South San Francisco. NGC also cancelled its 2020 Convention scheduled May 11-16, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. These difficult decisions for both organizations had to be made for the safety and health of our members as well as our organizations. In addition, NGC Headquarters in St. Louis closed effective March 23, 2020 for thirty days to comply with Missouri's mandate issued. **GOOD NEWS** (keeping my fingers crossed) is **CGCI's 89th Annual Convention, Flower Show, Gently Used Jewelry Sale, etc. has been rescheduled for May 30 – June 4, 2021 at Embassy Suites in South San Francisco and continues to be hosted by Bay Ocean and Santa Clara Valley Districts. We invite you to put this on your calendar and join us!**

We are all navigating uncharted waters during this worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. NGC President Gay Austin recently said, "I want to remind our members to look to our future. As garden club members, we are strong, committed and dedicated to NGC and our world." I find that gardeners support each other in times of need, and this is one of those times. Remember, **together we will get through it.**

Stay Safe, Healthy and Informed...

Shane

President's Travel: Many cancellations. Pending travel schedule:
Buttes District Blue Star Installation - May 20, 2020,
Diablo Foothills District Meeting - June 25, 2020,
NGC Fall Board Meeting, Fargo, ND - September 22-25, 2020



CGCI Calendar

californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

- **May 26-30, 2020: Cancelled**
CGCI Convention
Embassy Suites, So. San Francisco
Co-Hosts: Santa Clara Valley and
Bay Ocean Districts
- **Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2020:**
CGCI Fall Board Meeting
Crowne Plaza Hotel
North Sacramento
- **January 24-27, 2021:**
CGCI Winter Board Meeting Van
Nuys
- **May 30-June 4, 2021:**
CGCI Convention
Embassy Suites, So. San Francisco
Co-Hosts: Santa Clara Valley and
Bay Ocean Districts



CGCI Schools Chairmen

Environmental: Michael and Leticia
Biedenbender: mikeb.cvgc@gmail.com

Flower Show: Gudrun Kimmel
gudron56@att.net

Gardening: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Landscape Design: Alexis Slafer
aslafer@ca.rr.com

Gardening School
April 18-19, 2020 Course 4

Sponsor:

Valley Lode District

Location: Turlock

Contact: Berni Hendrix
distdirvld@gmail.com

The Gardening School in Turlock is proceeding as a virtual school via online instruction during this time of coronavirus travel and gathering restrictions

NGC Schools

All registration forms are on the
CGCI website Calendar page
californiagardenclubs.com/calendar

Board Member Directory

The Directory will be published for 2020-2021 and
mailed to all Board Members in June.

If you have corrections to be made under your listing, and have not contacted me on the matter, please do so before the end of April via email.

Thank you,
Elisabeth Tufo
elisabethtufo@earthlink.net

Liability Insurance and COVID-19

Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California (NIAC) provides some timely information on the current coronavirus pandemic as related to CGCI's master liability insurance policy that many clubs and associate plant societies participate in.

COVID-19
coronavirus

Every claim is reviewed based on the facts of the particular claim. The facts will dictate whether there is coverage or not under the language of our policies. With that caveat, NIAC provides the following summary:

- General Liability policy may respond to the extent the member is found negligent and a claim it is not otherwise excluded.
- Workplace Violence/Crisis Incident additional coverage found in the General Liability NONPROFITS OWN™ Enhancement does not apply.

Please make sure you follow today's federal, state, county and city public health guidelines and restrictions currently in place. Both NGC and CGCI have canceled their annual 2020 conventions to comply.

We suggest that you **not hold meetings/events that violate any governmental mandates** that may expose COVID-19 to attendees as it may not be covered by CGCI's liability insurance policy. Please do not take unnecessary risks and jeopardize insurance coverage for all those who participate as well as CGCI itself.

Governor Newsom issued an executive order that ALL individuals who reside in California have been ordered to stay home or at their place of residence effective March 19, 2020 until further notice. Visit the California Department of Public Health website link for details:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

Please stay informed and stay well.

Julie A. West
2019-21 Liability Insurance Consultant

CGCI Programs & Projects

Go to californiagardenclubs.com
for details

- Membership**

Chairman: Adele Kelly
P.O. Box 27179
San Diego 92198-1179

- Insurance**

Chairman: Robin Pokorski
512 Newton Street
San Fernando 91340-2421

- Group Tax Exemption Program**

Chairman: Sue Bennett
7560 Shelborne Drive
Granite Bay 95746-8617

- Penny Pines**

Chairman: Nina Blonski
Checks to US Forest Service
Online form

- President's Project 2019-2021**

- Project Mission Blue**

Chairman: Julie West
850 Grandview Road,
Sebastopol 95472-2930

- Scholarship Applications**

Chairman: Martha Smyser
4949 Mammoth Ave.
Sherman Oaks 91423-1319

- Stamps**

Chairman: Terry Sampson
10596 Orchid Avenue
Hesperia 92345-5380

- Donations to the following projects are mailed to:**

California Garden Clubs
P.O. Box 75, Graton 95444-0075
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
Blue Star Memorials
CGCI Endowments
CGCI Scholarship Fund
Sempervirens Fund

Arbor Day Celebration Tree Planting Ceremony

7:30 a.m. Sunday, March 8, 2020
Floriculture Building, Stanislaus County Fair, Turlock, CA



ABOVE Left to right back row: Olga Psomostithis, Berni Hendrix, Dianne Mondonza, Rachel Dyer Manjeet Dosanjh, Diane Davis, Susie Nystrom, Linda King, Bob Taylor, Sandy Mann, Tammy Lucich.

Left to right front row: Linda Zier, Barbara Cox, Mary Deleon, Marilyn Taylor, Nancy

Bright and early on Sunday morning March 8, a tree was planted in celebration of Arbor Day. As students in the Series 26 GARDENING SCHOOL, Turlock, gathered to witness and celebrate together, Shane Loooper, CGCI President, read a personalized ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION which was accepted by Ray Souza, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Stanislaus County Fair.

Planted was a California native "Chitalpa" tree which will shade the Floriculture Building and offer comfort to fair-goers for years to come.

AWARDS UPDATE

The Awards Committee is working on the announcement of award winners and the distribution of the entries, certificates, ribbons and checks for the 2019 Awards Year, which, as you know, usually happen at Convention (late May/early June).

Tentatively, here is what will take place this May:

- In mid-May, all award entries, certificates, ribbons and checks will be mailed.
- In mid-May, an Excel sheet with award information regarding all applicants will be placed on the website.
- We are working on the possibility of placing a shortened Awards PowerPoint Presentation (in pdf format) on the website in May.
- Trophies for special awards will be presented to the four recipients at the Fall Board Meeting.
- California award winners from Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. will be announced at the Fall Board Meeting.

As of this date, we do not know when we will receive California's award winners from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

I am sure that you have questions. Please note that we are currently working out the final details. We will keep you apprised of further information in the May *Golden Gardens eNews* and on Facebook. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay well!

Pat Clayes, Awards Chairman

Awards, Honors & Recognition

CGCI offers many ways to say
"Thank You" or "Good Job"

NOTE: Check the forms for the
correct mailing address

californiagardenclubs.com/forms

♥ Awards Program

Chairman: Pat Clayes

californiagardenclubs.com/awards

♥ Business Commendations

Chairman: Judy Bates

Online request form

♥ California Consultants Council

Chairman: Sue Bennett

Sue_c_bennett@att.net

Consultant of the Year,
Environmental, Gardening, &
Landscape Design awards.

♥ Honor Book

Chairman: Bette Langford

102 Calle Cuervo

San Clemente 92672-2423

♥ Life Memberships

Chairman: Carlotta Wixon-Welker

14216 Karry's Place

Grass Valley 95945-7934

♥ Long-Term Certificates

Chairman: Judy Bates

Online request form

♥ Member Award of Distinction

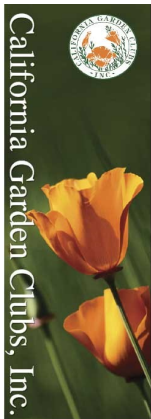
Chairman: Judy Bates

5075 Valley Crest Dr #246

Concord 94521-4914

Promotional Materials

Did you know that CGCI offers
promotional and informational
materials and many are FREE*!



- Banners
- Bookmarks*
- Rack Cards*
- Pamphlets*

(Check the website for
ordering details)

2019-2021 President's Project

Author Waylon Lewis says "Generosity, kindness, honesty and humor - makes us truly rich." In these uncertain times as we isolate ourselves in our homes, I want to share the good news that we have surpassed reaching the halfway point of our \$20,000 goal. The president's project is richly rewarded with an additional **\$2,250** due to your generosity and kindness for a total of **\$11,203** since July 1, 2019. Charitable donations were received with gratitude from **Burbank Valley Garden Club, Judith A. Burkhartsmeier, Channel Islands District, Chula Vista Garden Club, Fort Bragg Garden Club, Long Beach Garden Club in honor of Gudy Kimmel and Rob-in Pokorski, Mendo-Lake District, Patterson Garden Club, Peninsula Succulent Club, San Fernando Valley District, Southern California Garden Club in honor of President Looper, Sunshine Garden Club, Carol Vallens and Emily Wisenski in honor of John Hibbert.** CGCI appreciates your support for our important work.

With the cancellation of CGCI's 2020 Convention, we will postpone the *Gently Used Jewelry* FUNdraiser to the 2021 Convention. That gives us all an extra year to find gently used items to contribute. I am happy to collect your donations at CGCI's Fall and Winter Board Meetings.

Please join us with your support to complete the President's Project for the restoration of the San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden. You may send your donations payable to CGCI in any amount to P.O. Box 75, Graton, CA 95444-0075 - note President's Project on memo line. Visit CGCI's website for additional information:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/presidents-project-2019-2021>

Now let's go find some humor to help make ourselves "truly rich." Stay healthy and safe as we weather this pandemic together!

Julie A. West

2019-21 President's Project Chairman

Valley Lode District Sponsors NGC Gardening School

In keeping with NGC's focus on "Plant America," the Valley Lode District, under the directorship of Bernie Hendrix, is sponsoring a National Garden Clubs, Inc., Gardening School. This program is designed to provide educational information to individuals interested in gardening, horticulture, and related topics.

The Gardening School consists of a series of four courses covering all aspects of growing, from understanding basic botany, soil structure, pests, and growing plants from seeds, to many related areas of interest to gardeners.

One of the most interesting and always exciting aspects of gardening is that there is no end to the learning curve. No matter how much we know, there is always more to learn. For example, GMO's typically generate a negative connotation; however, did you know that rice, one of the most important food sources on our planet, has been modified to include more beta-carotene to help in developing the eyes of children?

In a more recent development, between the first two weekends and the last two weekends of the Gardening School, Californians were mandated by the governor to stay home and shelter in place due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus. Quickly regrouping, those in charge of the School arranged for the last two weekends to be held virtually, with assignments and tests done online. This shows that as gardeners, we remain cheerful, flexible, and able to meet any challenge.

Nancy Compton

**President 2019-2021****Gay Austin****Headquarters:**

4401 Magnolia Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
 Telephone: 314-776-7574
 Fax: 314-776-5108

Email: headquarters@gardenclub.org**Publication:** *The National Gardener***Website:** gardenclub.org**Conventions: 2020 Cancelled**

May 11-16, 2020: Milwaukee, WI

May 17-20, 2021: Rutherford, NJ

Ongoing projects:

- Plant America
- Ames Garden Tools
- Blue & Gold Star Memorials
- US Botanic Butterfly Garden
- School Gardens
- Spring Planting for Butterflies
- Water Projects

(Go to gardenclub.org for details on these
 and other projects)

**Director: 2019-2021****Robin Pokorski****Publication:** *WACONIAH***Website:**PacificRegionGardenClubs.org**Conventions: 2020 Postponed**

Aug. 17-20, 2020: Silverton, Oregon

April 9-11, 2021: Las Vegas, Nevada

2022: Washington

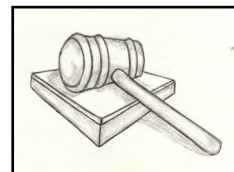
Are you receiving *WACONIAH*, the
 newsletter of the Pacific Region?

If not, you can subscribe here
 (it's FREE):

[californiagardenclubs.com/
 cgcnewsletter](http://californiagardenclubs.com/cgcnewsletter)

Parliamentary Impact of Coronavirus

I have been receiving questions related to the suspension of garden club activities due to the many restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic. Who is empowered to cancel meetings? How do we make decisions that need to be made in the short term? How do we hold elections without a meeting? What happens if we cannot install new officers?



For starters, many answers depend on what your bylaws say, and I cannot answer specifically without seeing your bylaws. Questions are often asked in the context of "what does *Robert's Rules* say?" *Robert's* is irrelevant if the situation is addressed in your bylaws, and *Robert's* is irrelevant if it is not defined as the organization's parliamentary authority. Always start with your bylaws. Most bylaws do not address emergency situations that have occurred. Identify these issues to work on future amendments that will address such situations. Federal, state and local law supercedes bylaws. Bylaws supersede the parliamentary authority (such as *Robert's Rules of Order*).

Email voting is illegal for California corporations. This restriction does not apply to most of our clubs and districts which are not incorporated, but these organizations still need to provide for email voting in their bylaws. There are ways around the email voting restriction for corporations, such as having signed consent agreements from directors in advance. See page 6 of the April, 2019 issue of *Golden Gardens eNews*. If action is required, have a phone meeting or videoconference if possible. Ideally all participants in a meeting to be able to hear and see each other.

We are currently in an unprecedented situation, reacting to circumstances not of our making and out of our control. In order to keep our organizations functioning, some actions may need to be taken that are not in strict compliance with bylaws. I share the input of a paid professional full-time parliamentarian that the fundamental concerns in any organization and with respect to parliamentary issues are: 1) does everyone know what's going on?, and 2) are anyone's rights being violated? If everyone knows what is going on and nobody's rights are being violated, then it may not matter that all the I's are not dotted and all the T's are not crossed. If organizations need to take emergency actions that are not provided for in their bylaws or are contrary to bylaws, be sure to be transparent and communicate fully to the board and/or membership, as applicable, and document everything you do, with a record of any such actions going into the minutes for the next meeting. This is not the time for the "correctness police" to bring activity to a halt or drive members away.

For those clubs that have to deal with elections, can you postpone until the resumption of meetings (possibly in June)? It may be time to consider what I have long advocated: that clubs have two-year terms that are in sync with district, state, region and national levels of garden clubs. I know that in many organizations nobody wants the officer positions in the first place, but getting officers to take two-year terms, rather than one-year terms, means you have to find officers less often and reduces or eliminates the work of nominating committees in the first year and eliminates devoting club meeting time to elections in the first year, creating more time for gardening-related activity. Arguably, once an officer has a year of experience in a position, the second year is easier. For clubs that have two-year terms, there are no nominating committee reports or elections to deal with during this crisis.

If you work your way through elections, don't worry about installations. *Robert's* says if formal installation is prescribed, failure to have it does not affect the time at which the new officers assume office. Your bylaws should indicate when officers-elect take office. I don't want to discourage installations, but since they are ceremonial they may be conducted at a later time.

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Parliamentarian



Nina Blonski, Chairman
 pennypines@cagardenclubs.org

Total Donations Year to Date: \$6800

| District | Club | Memory (M) or Honor (H) of Whom | | Amount |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| Bay Bridges | Pinole GC | M | Robert Allan York | 68.00 |
| Bay Bridges | Eden GC | M | Pat Elam | 68.00 |
| Bay Bridges | Eden GC | M | Elaine & Bill Howard from Verline & Art Rice | 68.00 |
| Bay Bridges | Eden GC | M | My parents Col. & Mrs. Inder S. Brar | 68.00 |
| Cascade | Lake California GC | | | 68.00 |
| Cascade | Redding Wonderland GC | M | Ruth Miller | 68.00 |
| Channel Islands | Conejo Valley GC | | | 136.00 |
| Costa Verde | San Pedro GC | H | Arbor Day | 272.00 |
| Costa Verde | Long Beach GC | H | Long Beach Garden Club Members | 272.00 |
| Diablo Foothills | Livermore-Amador Valley GC | M | Jim Kane | 68.00 |
| Golden Foothills | Placerville GC | H | Placerville Garden Club | 68.00 |
| Golden Foothills | Roseville Better Gardens Club | H | Susan Johnson | 68.00 |
| Golden Foothills | Roseville Better Gardens Club | H | Nancy Northam | 68.00 |
| Golden Foothills | Roseville Better Gardens Club | H | Janet L. Todd | 68.00 |
| Luther Burbank | Petaluma GC | | | 68.00 |
| Orange County | San Juan Capistrano GC | | | 68.00 |
| Orange County | Newport Hills GC | H | Julie Blumberg | 68.00 |
| Orange County | Niguel Shores GC | M | Marti Poivre | 68.00 |
| Palomar | Fallbrook GC | | | 204.00 |
| Sacramento River Valley | The Fairfield GC | M | Betty Ann Warner, "Avy" Ionne Messerli | 136.00 |
| Sacramento River Valley | Shibui Arrangers Guild | H | Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall, American Legion Post 101, VFW Post | 68.00 |
| San Fernando Valley | Southern California GC | H | Steve List and Sylmar High School Agriculture Dept. | 136.00 |
| Santa Clara Valley | Green Thumb GC of Milpitas | M | Danny Weisgerber | 68.00 |
| Santa Clara Valley | Green Thumb GC of Milpitas | M | Emily Smith | 68.00 |
| Valley Lode | Manteca GC | M | Fire Victims | 68.00 |
| Valley Lode | Foothill GC | H | Carol Dickow | 68.00 |
| Yosemite | Atwater GC & Camellia Society | H | Sandy Torgerson, Mary Cruser | 68.00 |
| Yosemite | Atwater GC & Camellia Society | M | Mary Louise Michie | 68.00 |
| | | | | |

What's Cookin' in the Pacific Region

The Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention scheduled for April 27 – 30 in Silverton, Oregon has been re-scheduled for August 17 – 20, 2020. The Oregon Garden Resort has graciously agreed to honor the same pricing and all contract specifics. To the best of our knowledge, the Post-Convention Tour will take place Thursday afternoon August 20 and conclude on August 22.

Our intention is to provide our members with something positive to attend with lots of networking and ideas to bring home to their clubs, districts, councils and states. In the meantime, focus on positive thoughts instead of panic.

I hope you all will support OSFGC (Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs) and make this a success for them as well as the Pacific Region!

Let's make this work for everyone!! See you in Silverton where we will **"Reconnect with YOUR Pacific Region!"**

Robin Pokorski, Pacific Region Director