

**2021-2023
Executive Board**

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Kathy Itomura

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Noella Ballenger

2nd Vice-Pres., Membership:

D. Jean Collins and

Anne White

3rd Vice-Pres., Ways & Means:

Susan Law

Recording Secretary:

Vonda Neundorf

Corresponding Secretary:

Janet Jack

Treasurer:

Ingrid Nonnast

Parliamentarian:

Roland Neundorf

Past Co-Presidents:

Grace Davis

Romelle Culotta



Photo courtesy The Huntington

April 6 Speaker and Program

Sandy Masuo is a writer, gardener, birder, and on the staff at Huntington Library and Botanic Garden. She lives in Burbank and was a favorite speaker at our Garden Club last year when she presented her talk on birds.

Plants are often viewed as passive organisms here to serve humans in their beauty or function. But nature is rife with

weird plants that defy this concept. Some upend the natural order by eating animals. Others are parasites or produce treacherous narcotics. Most survive by manipulating animals (including humans!) for their own purposes. Sandy will take us on a deep dive into their weirdly wonderful world.

African Violet Society Meeting

The next meeting of Burbank African Violet Society is Thursday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m. at The Little White Chapel, 1711 N. Avon St. in Burbank. Guest speaker will be Leonard Re, President of the Southern California Council of A.V.S.A. and a Senior judge. His topic is "Growing African Violets in Southern California." There is always something more to learn about America's favorite houseplant, the African Violet.

At this meeting we will celebrate our 37th year as a club. Guests are always welcome and may bring their violets to participate. For more information please telephone (661) 940-3990.

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CYCLAMEN photo: K. Itomura

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

BURBANK-VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Member of the San Fernando Valley District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.,

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 190 **April 2023** Editor, temporary: Kathy Itomura

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 AGENDA

- 9:30 a.m.** Doors Open, Greet Friends, Help set up for Meeting
- 10:00 a.m.** Business Meeting and Break
- 10:45 a.m.** Raffle and *Special Raffle*
- 11:00 a.m.** Speaker: **Sandy Masuo** — **"Weird and Wonderful Oddities of the Plant World"**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I am writing this message in the midst of all that rain. Later this year we'll look back on our rainy spring gratefully. For now, so many showers feel gloomy. And to continue in that mood, I'm also editing this issue of our newsletter because our editor Ingrid Nonnast is down with Covid, and so is our corresponding secretary, Janet Jack. Rest and heal!

We have a few exciting months left in this garden year, beginning with our April meeting speaker, Sandy Masuo, who will let us in on some of the weirdest secrets of the plant world – can't wait! April we will be circulating a sign-up sheet for the June Tea & Officer Installation. We need to know who's coming, who would enjoy hosting a table, who will help with tea food and beverages. We also need our members to sign up for the June 12 District meeting, where our club is hosting the lunch. The benefits to you are getting to carpool to a District meeting (they are always fun and informative), and in thanks for your help, enjoying a "free" lunch with your friends because Burbank-Valley Garden Club will pay for your lunch that day.

May is the most exciting of the remaining months before our summer hiatus. There will be no regular May meeting; instead, those with tickets will board the Bus and travel to the Getty Villa in Malibu. Please see the article about the May field trip on page 2. At the April meeting we will have a *Special Raffle* (in addition to our regular Raffle) to purchase a chance to win a \$25 value ticket for the Getty Villa Malibu trip. The special raffle cost is \$5 per ticket.

Many thanks to our member, Pradip Doshi, who is graciously donating to our April regular Raffle another of his original ceramic creations. This one he has planted with amaryllis bulbs – I estimate the value of this gift at \$100. Many thanks go, too, to Noella Ballenger, who has donated garden and cook books to the Raffle, to Susan Law for her donation of a knitted scarf to the April Raffle – thank you, dear members!

It takes all of us to have a successful meeting, and I thank all of you who step up at every meeting and do something *necessary* to keep our garden of friends growing, so thank you! And you, members, who help clean up and put chairs away, who graciously lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and tell us your Inspirations, thank you! I can't wait to see you all April 6 at our regular meeting.

We are saddened to learn of the passing of our long-time member, Vince Davis. Vince was a gifted artist and the beloved husband of former club President, Grace Davis, who mourns him. Our hearts go out to Grace for her loss.

Kathy Itomura

Judy and Janet's Big Alaska Adventure

by Janet Jack

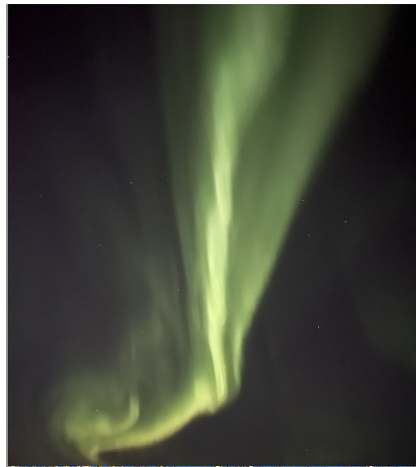
Alaska sounded like a great adventure to two Southern California garden girls. It truly was an exciting destination, but at 24 degrees below zero there was no gardening to be found. Our first stop was Fairbanks to see the Aurora Borealis lights and even if our Southern California feet got pretty cold at 24 below, it was thrilling to behold.

We then boarded a train to Denali Park, enjoying the magnificent scenery and lots of moose sightings. We enjoyed a stop at the charming town of Talkeetna where Judy was happy to find quilting supplies in abundance.

The final stop was Anchorage for the Iditarod dog sled race. We spent time with the mushers, hearing their stories, and even more exciting we spent time with the *dogs*. We were present for the start of the race, a test of intelligence and endurance of both man and dog from Anchorage to Nome, a distance of 1200 miles.



We never found our plants under the snow but we fell in love with this beautiful state and are sure that if we go back in the spring, the flowers will be there. (Photos: Janet Jack)



Getty Villa at Malibu—May 4, 2023

Please join us on Thursday, May 4th for our annual bus Field Trip. Instead of holding a regular meeting, we shall all go back in time to the Roman era just before 79 A.D. which marked the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in Italy. Much like our own times, the truly wealthy and powerful Roman families enjoyed magnificent second homes in beautiful natural locations. In the vacation towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum the most powerful constructed villas overlooking the Mediterranean sea. Fast forward to the 20th century, when rich and powerful J. Paul Getty had his architects build for him a near-replica of one of the largest of these, the Villa di Papyri, overlooking the Pacific ocean.



Image: The Getty

We will have ample time to see the galleries (Getty amassed many treasures of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, and they are all housed at the Villa), the gardens, and even the gift shop. We expect to be guided by docents through the four main, lovely gardens adjoining the Villa. We will lunch outside at picnic tables, so be sure to bring your lunch with you. You may also purchase lunch at the Café where prices for entrees range between \$15 and \$25 before tax. The club will provide water and snacks on the bus.

Do plan to join us that day. The bus will depart at 9:15 a.m. from Little White Chapel, 1711 N. Avon Street in Burbank, and return us about 4:00 p.m. We always have a lot of fun on our Field Trips, and we don't want you to miss any of it! The cost is \$25 per ticket. Your check payable to Burbank-Valley Garden Club may be mailed to Ingrid Nonnast at 907 N. Clybourn Avenue, Burbank, 91505-2710. If you have questions, please contact Susan Law, (818) 400-2970, or email her at susanlaw44@gmail.com.

Companion Planting:

Thrive Together Better Than Growing Alone

By Robin Gemmill

April is a great time to plant summer veggie seeds/seedlings. The ground is beginning to warm up so seeds/seedlings can become established. These summer veggies include, tomatoes, squash, pumpkin, eggplant, beans, corn, peppers, melons, and cucumbers. Remember when planting beans, melons, and cucumbers to set them out close to a trellis or structure, so they can climb freely. Many gardeners plant their beans, corn and squash using the hill planting method.

This method of planting corn, beans and squash, called the Three Sisters Agriculture, originated in North America by Iroquois and Cherokee indigenous peoples. Iroquois women responsible for farming placed 2-3 kernels of corn in the ground. As the corn stalk grew the women would create a mound of soil around the young plant. Eventually this mound grew into a hill one foot high by two feet wide arranged in rows. This system is often referred to as intercropping or companion planting. The women would return to the rows once the corn had been growing for about three weeks and plant beans on the hill around the corn.

These beans contribute nitrogen to the soil through a process called nitrogen fixing. Nitrogen-fixing rhizobia bacteria living on the bean roots deposits nitrogen into the soil, feeding the soil. The corn stalks served as poles supporting the beans' growth. In between the rows the women planted squash or pumpkin. Their large leaves shaded the ground and held in moisture, preventing sunlight from reaching the soil, greatly reducing weeds.

This is a very efficiently balanced method of growing these vegetables together and is America's first example of sustainable agriculture. Native Americans practiced growing food this way to take care of the environment, improve their quality of life, and increase the quality of the food and fiber production.

Through this method of farming the Iroquois women understood it is important for each of us to nurture each other like a family. Today we recognize this method provides sustainable, consistent, high yield and high quality produce with minimal environmental impact. More importantly, this method of farming reminds us that our cultural ceremonies, customs, traditions and stories are the definition of community. We thrive together better than growing alone.

(Image, courtesy Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation)



"I planted an orchard when I was 13. The impulse came from wanting to grow my own apples. That, and the nursery catalog showed an apple tree with a beautiful girl standing under the fruit. Whether the flavor or the picture that did it, I've been hooked since."
———Bill Pullman



In 1941, California's first Penny Pines plantation was sponsored by the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association. Recognizing the great need to restore these devastated areas, the association sent their donation to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northern California. Since that contribution, the number of

participating groups and individuals has grown each year and include such organizations as the Garden and Women's Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, civic and sportsmen's clubs, and many others. California Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted Penny Pines as a state project in 1957 and it remains one of our major projects today. Over the years these groups have contributed more than a million dollars to the Penny Pines Reforestation Program. Through these donations, more than 27 million seedlings have been planted, renewing 88,000 acres of national forest land in California—truly an outstanding achievement.

In Southern California, Penny Pines donations go toward preparing plantation sites for new trees and raising the seedlings in Forest Service nurseries. Burbank-Valley Garden Club's donations are spent in our local Angeles Crest National Forest.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please add these new members' names and contact information to your Yearbook and introduce yourself to them:

Joan Chandler, birthday 11/28

736 Hampton Road, Burbank 91504

PH: (818) 281-7184; Email joanchandler@att.net

Laura Duran, birthday 10/3

9636 Green Verdugo Drive, Shadow Hills 91040

PH: (818) 353-7673; Email dixjduran@yahoo.com

Deborah Jerd, birthday 12/11

2121 N. Pepper Street, Burbank 91505

PH: (818) 559-5327; Email dejdeb@att.net

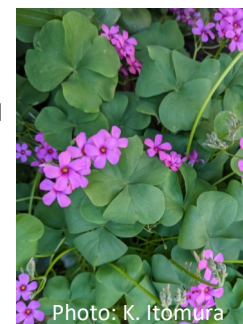


Photo: K. Itomura

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Noella Ballenger April 3

Dr. Sandy Keaton April 1

Vonda Neundorf April 7