

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

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

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 207 January 2025 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

January 2, 2025— Agenda

9:30 a.m. Doors Open
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
11:00 a.m. “**Birds, Birds, Birds**”
Speaker: Noella Ballenger



Burbank Valley Garden Club Newsletter January 2025

President’s Message

Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season spending a memorable time with friends and family. We celebrated the holiday early in December with our annual Christmas Party. While Jason Keene played Christmas music, we enjoyed each other’s company, munching on delicious handmade appetizers and desserts. Yum. A fabulous time was had by all playing Christmas trivia, hosted by our wonderful garden friends Greg and Robin Pokorski.

We start off the New Year getting our Scholarship and Nomination Committee’s up and running. Our Scholarship Committee will be working to identify a deserving high school senior or college student pursuing a degree in horticulture, environmental science or other sustainable career, to receive a \$1000 scholarship. We will also begin working on organizing our Nomination Committee. Every two years we elect new Board members to represent our club at San Fernando District meetings, identify speakers for our monthly meetings, plan our community outreach projects, and fundraise to build a scholarship fund. Board Officers serve for two years. As a Board we have a lot of fun sharing our love of gardening through organizing and working together hosting our annual plant sale, fundraisers, monthly meeting speakers, local garden field trips and community outreach projects. I invite you to consider running for a Board position, joining in on all the fun.

This year the City of Burbank Parks and Recreation staff are already busy organizing and coordinating our upcoming April 2025 Earth Day event to be held at one of our parks. There will be a variety of events and workshops covering an array of environmental initiatives including; circular economy, clean transportation encouraging use of our city bike pathways, environmental justice, home electrification, environmental stewardship addressing health and biodiversity/regional resilience planting California Natives. Garden Club Board members were very excited to hear about the planning and suggested the club participate in some way. The Board would like to create a 2025 Earth Day Committee. Members of this Committee will work together to identify and plan a community education workshop to be offered during the city 2025 Earth Day event. Please let me know if you are interested.

For our speaker this month, we have our very own Noella Ballenger, a professional nature and wildlife photographer. Her program, Birds, Birds, Birds will cover some of the extremes in the bird world, how to find and identify them and how to attract them to our own back yard. Every season and every location has local and migratory birds visiting gardens, bird refuges and public parks. Noella will share her beautiful photos and her knowledge of our feathered friends.

I hope you all will join us on Thursday January 2, 2025 at 10 am at the Little White Chapel located at 1171 North Avon St. Burbank, CA 91505.

Robin

Speaker: **Noella Ballenger**
 Birds, birds, birds; that is what Noella, 3VGC member, will be talking about. Noella is a professional photographer and has photographed animals and birds all over the world. She will share some of the beautiful birds that has photographed and visited her garden.



Luther Middle School Garden Seed Money Grant

Robin Gemmill

At our holiday celebration, we held a raffle of a beautiful quilt made and donated by the Joslyn Center Quilters. We had a very successful raffle and earned \$185 which we are donating to the Luther Middle School Garden Seed Money Grant. **Thank you Joslyn Center Quilters!**

Audience with the Pope

Millie Eberhardt

During my recent pilgrimage to Italy, my daughter and I were fortunate to be at the 500th Papal Audience with Pope Francis. He came from the outside pulpit, greeted us and gave us his blessing. His photographer took pictures. The highlight of our tour!



It was a Fun and Delicious Holiday Celebration



Luther Burbank Middle School Garden Greenhouse

Robin Gemmill

Mrs. Raluy, Culinary Arts teacher for Luther Burbank Middle School, has had a vision to have a Farm to Table Program. She convinced the Burbank Unified School Board to support opening a school garden. Once approved, she was able to get parents to work in the garden, clearing the space, installing irrigation, building raised beds and creating walkways.

Over this last year, 7th and 8th graders have been busy learning how to care for their garden, growing a variety of fruits and vegetables, such as, tomatoes, peppers, basil, lettuce, grapes, plums and apples. Fruits and vegetables from the garden have been used in the culinary kitchen to make tasty lunches for school staff.

Prior to back-to-school night this year, culinary students learned to make plum jam using plums from the school garden. They sold their jam to parents during back-to-school night raising \$500. Over the last couple of months students have been learning how to prune their plum and apple trees, refresh their garden beds and identify winter vegetables for planting.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Raluy, asked for school garden support from the garden club. After we voted to support the garden, several club members signed up to work in the garden. Several weeks ago Mrs. Raluy asked me to help her find grant money to purchase a greenhouse for the garden. She wants to boost student confidence in growing plants from seed. Using the greenhouse to save water, teaches students how to start seeds prior to transplanting seedlings into the raised beds and integrate STEM curriculum into their experience.

The school garden was approved for a Seed Money grant. This challenge grant provides challenge money based on money raised from donors from November 15-December 15. During the November Burbank Valley Garden Club Board meeting, board members voted to donate Christmas Quilt raffle proceeds to the SeedMoney Grant for the garden greenhouse. Thank you to all who purchased Christmas Quilt raffle tickets. We raised \$185 which has been donated to the school garden. These funds will help put the school garden meet their goal. With the challenge grant money they will be able to purchase their greenhouse. Here is the link to learn more.

<https://donate.seedmoney.org/> Ctrl + click



Culinary Teacher **Lisa Rulay** and her culinary students tending the garden.

Raffle Opportunity

One of the many ways we are able to offer student scholarships is through our monthly Raffle. Our Raffle tickets go for \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. We are grateful to our members for donating garden items for the Raffle. This year we are going to be giving away a FREE Raffle ticket to anyone who donates a garden item for our Raffle. So when you see a good deal on a garden item at the yard sale down the street, please remember our Raffle. Please let a Board member know before our meeting if you have a garden item to donate so that we parse out the items over time. Thank you all for supporting our Raffle.

Donations to Burbank Temporary Aid Center

Bring cheer this Holiday season for our friends in Burbank who turn to Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC) for help with food and other services. We will be collecting canned and packaged food and hygiene items at our January meeting. We will have a table set up for donations.. Monetary donations are always needed. Make your check payable to BTAC and Anne White will deliver all donations and checks to BTAC.

Fall is for planting & maintaining California natives!

You and your new plants will appreciate cooler air, your soil is still warm enough to encourage root growth, and you can take advantage of our annual rainfall to water your plants through winter.

Some natives will grow slower than your non-natives, and while it's tempting to buy more mature plants, larger pot sizes aren't always better. Smaller pots are economical and easier to plant. Young root systems adapt more readily to your soil after planting. Just thoroughly wet your plant and the hole beforehand so as not to shock the root system.

Why not leave the leaves of your deciduous trees? Banish the leaf blower! Leaves make for great habitat and free, nutrient dense mulch that will break down and feed your soil.

With rainfall, you might notice weeds cropping up. It's best to manually remove weeds so that they don't outcompete your young natives for nutrients. Weeding doesn't have to be a chore. It can be serene, cathartic and instantly gratifying!

Before heavy rains arrive, prune spent blooms and wayward foliage on your woody perennials like California lilac (Ceanothus) or desert mallow (Malacothamnus, Sphaeralcea and Abutilon spp.). But if rain is in the forecast, it's best to postpone pruning to avoid introducing pathogens to your plants pruning wounds.

And there you have it: a long, but fun "do to" list to ensure a springtime show in your California native garden!

- MG Rocsana S
- UC MASTER GARDENERS OF L.A. COUNTY

Burbank-Valley Garden Club
907 North Clybourn Ave
Burbank, CA 91505-2701

**2024-2025
Executive Board**

President:
Robin Gemmill

1st Vice-President, Programs:
Rosalia Gomez

2nd Vice-Pres., Membership:
Janet Jack
Susan Law

3rd Vice-Pres., Ways & Means:
Laura Duran

Recording Secretary:
Anne White

Corresponding Secretary:
Nancy Bryant

Treasurer:
Ingrid Nonnast

Parliamentarian:
Ann Foose

Happenings

January 16, 2025—10:00 a.m.

Burbank African Violet Society
Little White Chapel, Burbank
Program: Winter Care for African Violets with Pat Steen.
Learning Lab: How to Set Up a Wicking Tray with Luis Pineda.



January 20, 2025 — January 22, 2025

Landscape Design School Course 3—Louisville Ohio
Virtual Course via Zoom
Venue Louisville, OH
Organizer: **Bert Nero**—bertnero@gmail.com

January 27, 2025 - January 29, 2025

CGCI Winter Board Meeting 2025
The Winter Board meeting will be held virtually via Zoom

**Happy
New Year!**