

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

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

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 214 October, 2025 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

October 2, 2025—Agenda

9:30 a.m. Doors Open
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
11:00 a.m. **The Fascinating World of Mushrooms:
Study of Fungi/Mycology**
Speaker: Sam Shoemaker, MFA, Author



October 2025 — President's Message

Happy Fall Gardeners,

It feels good to finally feel the cool breeze of fall. I, like you, have been anxious to begin working on my fall garden planting. During this transition from summer heat into fall take time to think about what cool weather crops you will be planting, e.g. snow peas, fava beans, root veggies, lettuces as well as a variety of herbs. Don't forget about getting those spring bulbs in the ground. Or tossing the wildflower seeds around your garden.

The Burbank Community Garden at Hollywood Way/Clark is already working with Kathy Itomura on designing their Native Landscape garden outside the garden fence. Kathy has begun working with the ploholders on identifying plants to be planted in the space based on what plants worked well at the Chandler Pass Garden. For all club members wanting to help plant, please Save the Dates of November 14-16 for native landscape planting of the Hollywood Way Native Garden. Kathy will be on hand to guide and educate everyone on how best to plant natives.

Thank you to all who have already purchased a 2026 Garden Calendar. We will continue this fundraiser through December. So if you have not yet had a chance to purchase your 2026 Garden Calendar for holiday gifts we will have them available at our meeting. Remember proceeds from our Calendar sales will go toward our Student Scholarships.

Our speaker this month is Sam Shoemaker. Sam is an artist by training. His love of art led him to explore the world of mycology/fungi. He will share with us how he transformed ordinary mushrooms into gorgeous art sculptures. He discovered a wide array of uses for mushrooms/fungi as he learned more about the world of mycelium. Sam began exploring how fungus might be used in ecology, conservation, remediation, agriculture, and sustainable solutions to environmental dilemmas. His latest project led him to create a mushroom kayak which he used to cross from Catalina Island to San Pedro.

As usual we will meet the first Thursday of the month on October 2nd at 10am at the Little White Chapel. Located at 1711 North Avon St Burbank, CA 91505.

I hope you will all be able to join us. I look forward to meeting new members and catching up with each of you.

Robin

Floral Design

Robin Gemmill

Walking through the Farmer's Market the other day, I noticed all of the customers buying beautiful fall flowers. Buckets of Sunflowers, Asters, Canna lilies, Dahlias, Zinnias and Chrysanthemums. I usually buy the assortment bunch. When I get them home I never know quite how to arrange them. Do I arrange according to color, or around the various leaf material, cut them long or short, mix big and small flowers? Do I use a stem vase, a flat vase or a cube vase? Usually, I am very random in my choices, just going with what feels right. I guess you could say, I am creating my own personal style.

Turns out the art of arranging flowers using both flowers and plant material to create a display encompasses 7 principles and 5 elements. Floral design encompasses traditional arrangements to contemporary styles, for table settings, centerpieces, social events and gatherings. Floral arranging is considered a therapeutic horticulture activity. Found to help relieve stress and anxiety, improve mood, and increase self-esteem. I think we can all agree, looking at a beautiful bouquet of flowers instantly makes life seem brighter.

If you are thinking like me, I should learn more. Every 4th Tuesday of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino, the Woodland Hills Floral Designers Club meet at 10am. They come together to learn from one another, share their creative ideas, and learn how to Judge a Floral Show. You are welcome to join them for free. Bring your flowers and a vase. You might discover a new passion.

First Meeting of the Garden Club Year— 2025-2026 — Lots of Fun



Burbank-Valley Garden Club

Scholarship Recipients

Robin Gemmill



During our September meeting we met our Student Scholarship awardees. Sophia Adams, a graduate of John Burroughs High School was accepted at University California San Diego. Sophia was the President of the Environmental Club while at Burroughs, organizing local beach clean ups as well as local Burbank community improvement projects. She will start working on her career goal of being a marine conservationist beginning mid-September.

Lauren Delaney, a current student at California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo, is pursuing her degree in environmental earth science, hoping to someday work as an environmental city planner. During the summer she worked as a paid intern for a large engineering firm in Orange County, working on several environmental impact projects.

We wish both our recipients continued success in their chosen field. With all of our fundraising efforts we were able to award each student with a \$1000 scholarship. Thank you for all of your hard work, without which it would not have been possible to support these two young ladies.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
UC Master Gardener Program
UC Master Gardeners of L.A. County

Photo and text by Master Gardener
Catherine C

Gardening Tips:

Fall is a transitional time in the garden. On one hand, we have lingering summer heat and the start of Santa Ana winds.

On the other hand, days are becoming noticeably shorter and there is less sunshine to help grow vegetables. In the fall we gardeners should focus on maintaining the last of our summer crops, but also preparing for the cool-season planting window.



To start, survey the plants in your garden. Pull out ones that have stopped producing or look spent. Add old plants to compost.

Watch for aphids, spider mites and other pests. Plants that are already stressed from the heat are especially susceptible to infestation and disease. Remove foliage to prevent spread, but do not add diseased or pest infested foliage to compost. Place in green bins for the city to compost.

Cool season vegetables to plant: beets, bokchoy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, collards, endive, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, green onions, short-day bulb onions, parsnips, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Herbs: cilantro, chervil, chives, parsley.

Flowers: alyssums, asters, cornflowers, begonias, calendulas, carnations, chrysanthemums, clarkias, columbines, coreopsis, delphiniums, forget-me-nots, foxgloves, gaillardias, gerberas, heuchera, hollyhocks, impatiens, larkspur, lobelias, pansies, penstemons, phloxes, Iceland and California poppies, rudbeckias, salvias, snapdragons, statice, sweet peas, verbena, and violas.

High temps and Santa Ana winds can dehydrate plants quickly. To maintain healthy plants, monitor soil moisture closely. Mulch garden beds to retain moisture and regulate soil temperature. Newly planted seedlings and seeds need to be kept well watered on hot days. Happy gardening!

The Elf-Man

One sunny Autumn day
When I went out to play,
An Elf-man in a tree
Dropped colored leaves on me

[Gertrude P. McBrown](#)



Happy October Birthday!

October 3	Terry Davis
October 3	MaryAnn Deal
October 3	Laura Duran
October 5	Pat Steen
October 9	Terri Alderete
October 24	D. Jean Collins
October 31	Bill Van Deusen



In My Garden

Charlene Gallagher

Sitting on my front porch enjoying the late afternoon... I always have two companions visiting me, Mr. and Mrs. Butterfly. Think they might be monarchs...and they have been here since Spring.

Love my sunflowers,,, lazy susans ... margolds...all the colors of their wings. Anyway, they flit about like they own the place. They just do! I just don't know it!

They are amazing to watch. So much action and fluttering about...and they come every day. They also come very close to me as I walk out to look at the flowers. I prefer to think they are saying: "Thank you, Mrs. Gallagher, love your garden..." That is probably the nicest compliment I have ever heard.

I call them "Maude and Jake." Don't ask me which is which. I just enjoy their company and make up names. My contribution to nature.



Welcome New Members

MaryAnn Deal	818 679-9162
1813 North California St Burbank, CA 91505 maryan2788@aol.com	

Lisa Posso	818 489-7337
3740 Ramsdell La Crescenta, CA 91214 09alisap@gmail.com	



2025-2026 Executive Board

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Robin Gemmill

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Rosalia Peralta

2nd Vice-Pres., Membership:

Judy Shaloub

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Anne White

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Ingrid Nonnast

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Ann Foose

Happenings

October 2—4, 9 a.m.— 12 p.m. Arboretum-Mt SAC Horticulture Plant Sale

626.821.3222 • 301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007

Mt. San Antonio College's Horticulture Unit will host its popular plant sale at the Arboretum with this three-day event.

Mt. SAC will be selling plants grown by students working on degrees in Ornamental Horticulture, Park & Sports Turf Management, Integrated Pest Management, and Equipment Technology.

October 16 — 10:00 a.m. Burbank African Violet Society Club Meeting

Little White Chapel, 1711 North Avon St, Burbank,

Everyone welcome. Program: "Dawg Show" for information
call 661-940-3990

October 18 — 3:30—5:00 p.m. Arboretum—Autumn Potions Walk

626.821.3222 • 301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007

A magical autumnal walk through the gardens while we explore the plants that inspired traditional and folkloric potions throughout history. We will discuss the intriguing cultural and historical relationships between humans and plants.

October 23—24 Gardening School—Course 4, In-Person Classroom

Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino, California

Contact Greg Pokorski gregpokorski@earthlink.net

