

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
94th CGCI Convention –
Seeds of Liberty – Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday
San Diego – May 11-14, 2026

Registration

Your registration must be received by CGCI **by April 17, 2026, to avoid a \$40 late fee. No refunds will be issued after April 27, 2026, thereafter your remittance will be considered a donation. Registration must be received by April 27 – no registrations will be accepted after that date.**

Credentials

To attend with voting privileges, and you are not a CGCI board member (see Registration Form), you must submit a Convention Credentials form **by April 27, 2026.**

Hotel Information

Handlery Hotel San Diego
950 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108

Reservations

Make reservations online via this link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/98118?groupID=4930950>, or call directly at 619-298-0511 or 1-800-676-6567 and speak with the reservations department. When calling to make your reservation, reference **California Garden Clubs Inc., 2026**. The reservations department is open 7 days a week, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Our group rate is \$139 + local taxes and fees. Discounted parking for overnight guests is \$18.00 per night with complimentary in-and-out privileges. **The group rate is only available until Friday, April 10, 2026.**

The Handlery Hotel is centrally located in Mission Valley, the heart of San Diego, only minutes from SeaWorld, the San Diego Zoo, Old Town, and miles of breathtaking beaches. The hotel is adjacent to the Fashion Valley Mall, San Diego’s largest premier luxury shopping & dining destination.

Postcards Café and Cocktails

Daily Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Fiesta Hour, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Reef Lounge Poolside Bar & Grill

Hours: Sun-Thurs, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m., Fri-Sat, 4:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Eateries within two miles: Yard House, Bully’s East Prime Bistro, Café Coyote, North Italia, Wood Ranch, California Pizza Kitchen, and many more.

Day Parking

Guests attending the convention who do not stay overnight will be charged \$5.00 per day, without in-and-out privileges.

Travel Information

Airport: San Diego International Airport, 7 miles, no shuttle to hotel.

Automobile: The hotel is located just off the I-8 East Freeway.

2026 Convention Highlights

Flower Show – “Star-Spangled Bloom,” an NGC Design Specialty Show (Palm Area).

Hours: Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 14, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Market Place – Shop a curated selection of unique garden treasures (Terrace Room).

Raffle Baskets – You can't win if you're not in! The Raffle Drawing winners will be posted on Thursday, at 4:00 p.m. (Crystal Ballroom).

Monday May 11

Palomar District Floral Design Forum – “What Has Music Got to Do with It?”, Monica Lewis, NGC Flower Show Judge, will take you on a musical adventure with floral designs.

Workshop – “Make and Take Pressed Flowers,” Launa Gould, CGCI Financial Secretary.

Workshop – “The Art of Napkin Folding,” Carol Vallens, former CGCI President.

Tuesday May 12

Lunch – “Kumeyaay-Ipai – 1st People of San Diego County,” Robert Holton, President, Ramona Garden Club. Robert is a docent at the Interpretative Center in Poway, CA. He will present an overview of the Kumeyaay-Ipai people, who have lived in San Diego for over 1300 years, their culture, how they use native plants in the area, and how they live in harmony with nature.

Workshop – “Bokashi Basics,” Jennifer Galey, Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, Encinitas, CA. Jennifer is a Senior Environmental Educator on the Solana Center’s education team. She is the lead on all things relating to soil, from growing healthy plants to creating nutrient-rich compost.

Workshop – “Environmental Triggers of Neurologic Disorders,” Tom Krenek, retired Neurologist, CCC Environmental Vice Chairman. Disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are on the rise. Are environmental factors affecting this, and what can we do?

Dinner – “A Celebration of Award Sponsors & Award Recipients,” Pat Clayes, CGCI Awards Chairman, followed by DJ TeLynn.

Wednesday May 13

Workshop – “Bee Sippers,” Marie Waller, 1st Assistant Director, Palomar District, Fallbrook Garden Club.

Workshop – “Cards for Operation Gratitude,” Gail Vanderhorst, CGCI Recording Secretary. Join in writing cards to Military and First Responders who serve our nation, telling them that “WE CARE.”

Lunch – “Abraxas High School Garden – Abraxas Orchard,” President’s Project, Bob Luttkick, Biology, Agriculture & Aquaponics Teacher.

Dinner – “Growing Proteas,” Daniel MacDonald, owner of Mt. Woodson Flora Protea Farm, Mt. Woodson, CA. Learn about growing and propagating proteas.

Thursday May 14

Lunch – “Making Your Garden the Bee’s Knees,” Kira Olson, UC San Diego Master Gardener. Kira, much like the adorable, yellow-faced bumblebee, is a San Diego native. She has loved bees and bugs since she was old enough to crawl after snails in the garden.

Dinner – “Art of Bonsai: Appreciation through Demystification,” Kyle Icke, San Diego Bonsai Club. Kyle is a bonsai enthusiast and has been the chair of the Bonsai Section of the Coronado Flower Show. Our theme for the evening is Stars, Stripes & Success – AMERICA 250. **Celebrate by wearing Red, White, or Blue!**