

BURBANK-VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

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

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

Newsletter Number 217 January 2026 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

January 8, 2025 Agenda

9:30 a.m. Doors Open
10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
10:30 a.m. Nature Journaling
Terri Mando, Workshop Leader



Burbank Valley Garden Club January 2026 President's Message

Happy New Year Gardeners,

We begin our new year by sharing our good fortune with those less fortunate. Making our annual donations to the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC). BTAC has recently merged with Home Again Los Angeles in providing services for those who are unemployed, financially challenged, hungry and homeless. You can donate non-perishable food items, such as peanut butter and jelly, canned stews and soups, and family size hygiene items, like toothpaste, hand soap. You can also make a financial donation/check to payable to BTAC. We will have a table set up at the door entrance for your donated items. Thank you in advance for supporting our community with your donations.

In March we will hold our annual Plant Sale and Basket Boutique. Thank you to those who have already signed up to help with the plant sale. If you have not already started propagating, now is a good time to grow new starts such as a native plant or planting seed. I will be working with Sylmar High School Horticulture Program, Steve List and Stefan Strong, arranging to pick up spring veggie starts. If anyone is interested in taking the lead in coordinating this event, please let me know.

We need everyone to support the Basket Boutique. We ask that you think about contributing at least one item to the basket of your choice. We will have sign-up sheets available during our upcoming meeting. Here are the basket categories: Gardening, Book Lovers, Chocolate Lovers, Summer Fun, 250th Anniversary of American Independence, Mother's Day, Cat Lovers, Dog Lovers, Coffee Lovers, Weekend with Grandmother Basket. As we did last year, we will come together with all of the items to wrap the baskets.

This month our restaurant fundraiser is the California Fish Grill, located at 551 North Hollywood Way, Burbank. While they specialize in serving wild caught fish there are other items on the menu for all to enjoy. You can join club members for lunch or visit later for dinner. The fundraiser will go from 11am to 9:30pm. Thank you for supporting our club scholarship fund while enjoying a meal.

Terri Mando will be joining us to present her interactive Nature Observation in Your Garden Workshop. Terri will facilitate an interactive presentation of nature journal writing and drawing. Members will create a "mini-journal" of their observations. Please send me an email/phone call RSVP if you are coming. We want to make sure we have supplies for everyone.

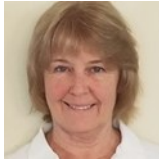
We will be meeting at the Little White Chapel, located at 1711 North Avon St, Burbank on Thursday January 8, 2026. Doors will open at 9:30am. We will have a brief meeting prior to starting our Workshop promptly at 10:30 for an hour and a half interactive activity.

Robin

January 8 Meeting—Nature Journaling

Terri Mondo—Workshop Leader Terri will speak on the “practice” of Nature Journaling techniques, using words, picture and numbers.

Members will create a “mini-journal” of their observations from the workshop exercises.



HOLIDAY PARTY

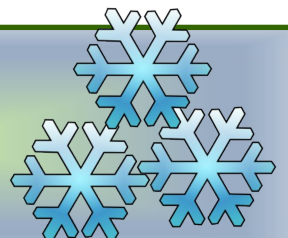


Please join us for lunch after our January 8th meeting,
California Fish Grill serves not only fish. There are also items other than fish on the menu.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY!

January 23 Joyce Davis

January 23 Connie Weir



The Process Of Growth

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

Sow some seeds, inside a pot or in a plot
With time and care, sprout they ought.
They drink the sunshine, they eat the rain
In the garden, your work is not in vain.

Be sure to water, plants need their share
Lace them with love, be patient and aware
The process of growth you cannot rush
Be patient and soon you'll have a garden of lush.

Birds All Around Us

Noella Ballenger

I have been hearing a number of different birds in my area lately and it is because birds migrate through the State of California several times a year. Burbank is fortunate to be in a wonderful location to not only attract these visitors to our yards but to have a large local bird population. All birds need food, water and shelter and if you can provide a feeder with seeds that they enjoy, a bird bath or source of water and trees, shrubs or perhaps a bird house or nesting box you might be surprised by the variety and number of visitors you have.

In addition to attracting them to your home, here are some wonderful locations in Burbank where you can learn more or walk or sit quietly and observe. Wildwood Canyon Park has several hiking trails that offer observation opportunities. Stough Canyon Nature Center in the Verdugo Mountains has some great educational exhibits and trails and Johnny Carson Park offers walking paths.

The City of Burbank also helps by engaging in eco-friendly ways to preserve its natural environment. There are City-wide recycling programs, water conservation to manage drought, and community tree planting events. These all help to attract and support the variety of birds that live in or visit our community.



California Scrub Jay



Spotted Towhee

"To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring."
- W.J. Vogel



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

User-Friendly Native Plants

As an avid California native plant collector and steward, I am constantly amazed by the incredible biodiversity we have in Southern California. I still have so much to learn about native plant care, and I've had my share of oopses in the garden. Plants that weren't quite adapted to the conditions of my surrounding plant community, but I gave them a go anyway!

While experiments are welcome in the garden, it helps to know a few solid natives that are well-adapted to most SoCal yards. For those who are new to natives, here's a little guide on some "user-friendly" plants to try:



Palmer's mallow (Abutilon palmeri): De la Mina verbena (Verbena lilacina 'De la Mina'): A beautifully fragrant and almost perpetually blooming perennial that loves dry, part/full-sun conditions and is a great 'alter-native' to ubiquitous lantana. This pollinator-friendly cultivar is wonderful in borders or planted near your veggie bed. (pictured above)

Palmer's mallow (Abutilon palmeri): An absolute champ in the garden. This mallow needs very little water once established, and will bloom almost every month of the year! This plant supports our native bees who like to nap in its sunny yellow cupped flowers. Plant these in a group and you've got a soft and easy-to-maintain hedge! As an added bonus, kids love to touch this mallow's super-soft leaves. (pictured below)

Pigeon Point coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point'): Meet the new star of your scorching parkway! This sprawling evergreen ground cover only grows to two feet tall and is as tough as nails! If you're aiming to remove your grass, this is a good alternative that is water-wise and looks lush year-round. (pictured below right)

Why not give these beauties a try?

Article and photos by MG Rocsanna S



Palmer's Mallow



Pigeon Point



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

2025-2026 Executive Board

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Robin Gemmill

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Anne White

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Nancy Bryant

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Ingrid Nonnast

Parliamentarian:

Ann Foose

Happenings



January 10, 2026, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 pm

Anza-Borrego's Active Faults

Adventure/Science Hike

587 Palm Canyon Dr. #110

ORGANIZER Anza-Borrego Foundation [17607670446](tel:17607670446) info@theabf.org

January 15, 2026, Thursday Morning, 10:00 a.m.

Burbank African Violet Society

Little White Chapel, 1711 North Avon St, Burbank

Program: Members' Hobbies

Monday, January 26, 2026—Wednesday, January 28, 2026 —All Day

Virtual Via Zoom

CGCI WINTER BOARD MEETING

Contact: Robin Pokorski

cgcirobin@gmail.com

Jan 30 - 31 2026

Landscape Design School Course 1 (Virtual)

Sedona, AZ

Organizer: **Peggy Ahola** azgardenschools@gmail.com

January 31, 2026 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Camellia Walking Tour, Descanso Gardens

Meets at Center Circle. free with admission.

Learn about Descanso's camellia collections and an introduction to rare and exotic camellias