

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 218 February, 2026 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

February 5, 2026—Agenda

9:30 am Doors Open
10:00 am Business Meeting
11:00 am **Seed Saving Library**
Stephanie Hiatt
Inclusion Librarian



Burbank Valley Garden Club February 2026 President's Message

Greetings Gardeners,

We have started off the year with a good soaking. Last I checked we have had about fourteen inches of rain so far. I don't know about you but, I enjoyed every minute of it. Even better, I have lots of barrels of rain water for my plants. They are loving it. Fourteen inches is usually what we get in a season. Usually January and February are our wettest months. So hopefully we will get a few more inches. If you do not yet have a 50 gallon rain barrel you can get one at Home Depot, Lowes, or order through Amazon. City of Burbank Water and Power offers Rain Barrel rebates for barrels you purchase. Here is the link for the rebate. <https://socalwatersmart.com/en/residential/rebates/available-rebates/rain-barrels-cisterns/>.

This month the City of Burbank will begin enforcing the new Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban to be fully implemented by January 2027. Be sure to speak with your gardeners or mow and blow folks about arranging for Electric Leaf Blowers. The city will be providing educational workshops with information about rebates to help gardeners pay for the purchase of an Electric Leaf Blower. Gardeners can check out the AQMD web page for their rebates..... <https://www.aqmd.gov/home/programs/community/electric-lawn-and-garden-programs/electric-lawn-mower-rebate-program>.

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. This year we will be opening up our Plant Sale to the community. This serves two purposes. First, we can introduce ourselves to the community. Second, we hopefully sell more plants. We will have flyers, so anyone interested in helping spread the word, let me know so that we can get you a flyer.

Thank you to everyone who signed up in support of our Basket Boutique. Whatever basket you signed up to support, please do not spend a lot of money on your item. No more than \$10. Think about visiting the Dollar Store or spending sometime in a Thrift Shop or dropping by a Yard Sale. If you were not able to sign up for the basket of your choice, here are the basket categories: Gardening, Book Lovers, Chocolate Lovers, Summer Fun, Theater and Music, Mother's Day, 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. We will keep you posted.

This month our restaurant fundraiser is at Mucho Mas, located at 10405 Burbank Blvd, North Hollywood. 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.

This month we will have Stephanie Hiatt join us to talk about the City of Burbank Seed Saving Library. She will speak on how the Seed Library came to be, why it is important to our community, how it has been received by residents, current seed donors and future plans for the Seed Library.

Please join us, we will be meeting at the Little White Chapel, located at 1711 North Avon St, Burbank on Thursday February 5, 2026. Doors will open at 9:30am. We will have a brief meeting prior to starting at 11 am.

Robin

January 8, 2026 Meeting

Nature Journaling.



Our members enjoyed learning about nature journaling and a drawing workshop including birds and leaves.



BURBANK-VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Let's get together after our February meeting!

Restaurant Fundraiser

Thursday, February 5, 2026

From 11:00 am to 9:00 pm



MUCHO MAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT

10405 Burbank Blvd CA, North Hollywood, CA 91601

please invite your family, friends and neighbors and let's have a great turnout!
Just inform your server that you are supporting the fundraiser for the
Burbank Valley Garden Club



Members enjoying lunch at California Fish Grill, a fund raising event.



Did you know?



Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United

States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

Excerpt from *Brittanica*

The Effects of Rats in the Garden: What Gardeners Should Know

Rats are an unwelcome sight in any garden, yet they are a growing concern in both urban and suburban areas. While gardens provide beauty, food, and relaxation for people, they can also offer shelter and nourishment for rats. Understanding how rats affect gardens is the first step toward preventing damage and maintaining a healthy growing space.



One of the most obvious impacts of rats in the garden is damage to plants and crops. Rats are opportunistic feeders and will eat fruits, vegetables, bulbs, seeds, and even tree bark. Root vegetables such as carrots and potatoes are especially vulnerable, as rats can dig underground and feed without being easily noticed. Soft fruits, tomatoes, and ripening produce may show bite marks or disappear entirely overnight. This can be frustrating for gardeners who have invested months of care into their plants.

Beyond eating plants, rats can cause significant structural damage in the garden. Their constant burrowing creates tunnels beneath lawns, flower beds, compost heaps, and sheds. These tunnels can destabilize soil, damage plant roots, and create uneven ground that becomes a tripping hazard. Burrows near patios, raised beds, or garden walls may also weaken foundations over time.

Rats can also disrupt garden ecosystems. They may prey on beneficial wildlife such as ground-nesting birds, frogs, and insects that help control pests naturally. In addition, rats compete with birds and other animals for food, especially when fallen seeds or uncovered compost are available. This imbalance can reduce biodiversity and the natural resilience of the garden.

Another important concern is hygiene and health. Rats leave droppings and urine wherever they travel, including on soil, paths, pots, and produce. These can contaminate harvested fruits and vegetables if proper washing is not done. While gardeners do not need to panic, it is wise to wear gloves, practice good hand hygiene, and keep eating areas separate from gardening spaces.

Certain garden habits can unintentionally attract rats. Easily accessible compost bins, fallen fruit, bird feeders, pet food, and dense ground cover all provide food and shelter. Overgrown areas, woodpiles, and cluttered sheds can become ideal nesting spots. Even water sources such as ponds or leaky hoses can encourage rats to stay.

Prevention is the most effective approach. Keeping gardens tidy, harvesting produce promptly, securing compost bins, and using bird feeders responsibly can greatly reduce attraction. Blocking gaps under sheds and raised beds with wire mesh can prevent burrowing, while regular garden inspections help catch early signs of activity.

While rats are a natural part of the wider environment, they do not need to become permanent residents of our gardens. With awareness, good garden management, and community cooperation, gardeners can protect their plants, support local wildlife, and continue to enjoy healthy, productive gardens.

AI tools, including ChatGPT, were used in the development of this column.

In My Garden

Charlene Gallagher

A walk in the garden in winter is not rewarding. Leaves everywhere, dead plants, and most of all brown is the color of my garden. So, I go for a walk and see the same elsewhere.

I guess that is what makes spring so special...the awakening of Mother Earth,,, grass begins to look greener, young plants begin to show up...birds are in voice again...none have sore throats from this dark chill.

We must have to wait it out. In California, we are blessed with no snow in the valley, or are we? Snow provides the moisture, protection from freeze, cold yes, and it is a quasi blanket for plants.

Snow also provides a lovely atmosphere of the season. Who am I kidding? That is why I came to California from South Dakota. Pretty, yes; cold, yes; miserable, yes. Season not worth it.

So gardeners...hang in there. We are lucky...our season of winter is short...how many red Poinsettias can you buy to cheer you up. Sadly, they all get thrown out by the end of January. That is, at least at my house.

Sit back, watch garden shows on television; pull out your favorite garden magazines; plan your planting season. Have a cup of coffee, and relax. Your back is now in place...no aches and pains to speak of.

Rejoice...a couple of months and back to the joy of planting, the pain of bending over, the dirty nails, and the satisfaction of a lovely garden coming to life again.

Happy Gardening!

Happy Birthday!



February 7	Mary Hudson
February 7	Kathy Itomura
February 7	Chris VanDeusen
February 19	Millie Eberhardt

Welcome New Member

Alex aka Tomato Girl Honadel
10514 Yarmouth Ave
Granada Hill, CA 91344
661 373-0310
alexhonadel@gmail.com

Did you know???

by CG

Hollyhock pollen has medicinal qualities?
Was used by early medicine people as relief
from toothache and headache!





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

2025-2026 Executive Board

President:

Robin Gemmill

1st Vice-President, Programs:

Rosalia Peralta

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Nancy Bryant

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Ingrid Nonnast

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Ann Foose

Happenings

February 7 @ 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Pacific Rose Society Annual Auction,

Los Angeles County Arboretum, Ayres Hall, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007.

The Society's annual auction of hard-to-find, unusual, new and direct-from-the-growers rose plants. More than 100 unique and beautiful roses will be available to the highest bidders. Free with Arboretum admission.

February 13-15 South Coast Botanic Garden Valentine's Day Weekend Just walking around the Garden and taking in the beautiful plants and flowers is a romantic date, but there are easy ways to up the ante. The Garden offers safe ways for everyone to add a little romance into their life right now. After all, love is more important than ever!

Have a picnic. Bird watch. Take a hike. Cloud watch.

February 19 @ 10:00 am Burbank African Violet Society

Little White Chapel, 1711 North Avon Street, Burbank
Guest speakers Natalie Bloxham and Diane Lerner from the Woodland Hills Floral Designers Club will present

Program: Floral Design

For more information call 661 940-3990

February 21 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Descanso Gardens Camellia Forest Tour, Meets at Center Circle.

Take a stroll through the enchanting Camellia Forest at Descanso Gardens alongside expert Richard Schulhof.

Learn the moving story behind these blooms and see firsthand rare and exotic camellias beneath a majestic canopy of native coast live oaks.

No advance registration required, free with admission.

