

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

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

Pacific Region, and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Newsletter Number 222 June, 2026 Editor: Ingrid Nonnast

June 4, 2026 — Agenda

9:30 a.m. Doors Open
10:00 a.m. Tea Party



June 2026 — President's Message

Hello Gardeners,

To close out our garden year, we will be celebrating our annual June Tea, taking place on Thursday June 4, 2026. The June Tea Committee has been very busy organizing and planning for this event. Board members voted to purchase the food for the event. So to stay within budget we made this a members only event. Music and entertainment will also be provided. We are grateful to Judy Kenehan and the lovely ladies from the Joslyn Center for donating a beautiful quilt for our June Tea raffle.

Thank you to club members, Eula Warren, Anne White, Ann Foose, Judy Shalhoub, Claudia Ackley, Nancy Bryant, and Paul Palmquist who volunteered to host our table at the City of Burbank Earth Day event on Saturday April 25. It was a wonderful morning of visiting with neighbors, introducing ourselves to the community and meeting new friends. We answered resident gardening questions, gave away seeds, seedlings, succulents and even signed up a new member or two.

Our annual Field Trip this year was a great success. Forty gardeners and friends joined our bus trip to the California Botanical Garden in Claremont. Following our hour long drive to Claremont, we met garden docents for the 1 hour guided tour focused on the history of the botanical garden, their research projects and wildflowers in bloom. At the completion of the tour, the garden had a special opening of their native nursery for gardeners who were interested in purchasing native plants. On this cool sunny spring day gardeners enjoyed lunch under the coastal oak tree picnic area.

Just a quick reminder, we are taking Membership Renewals for the 2026-2027 Garden year. Membership is \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Please remember to turn in your Membership Renewals by June 30. Over the summer break we will be creating the 2026-2027 Yearbook and scheduling our program speakers. If you have a recommendation for a speaker or a topic you would like for us to consider, please let Rosalia Peralta know.

One of the highlights of our annual June Tea is being able to award our Student Scholarship to a deserving senior student or returning college student pursuing a career in horticulture, environmental ecology or sustainability. This year you will meet our newest senior student Scholarship awardee from Burroughs High School, Mackenzie Walker. She will be attending our June Tea along with her mother. We are grateful to all club members who have supported our fundraising events this year so that we can give this \$1000 scholarship to a deserving student. I hope everyone will be able to join in on all the fun beginning at 10am Thursday June 4, 2026 at the Little White Chapel at 1711 North Avon Ave, Burbank, CA 91505.

Robin

Iceland April 2026

By Molly Whitman

My bucket list is getting smaller each year. This year I scratched a big one off my list, a trip to Iceland. We arrived in Reykjavik after a 2 ½ hour flight to Seattle, then at 7-hour flight to Iceland. We flew over Greenland and it was beautiful. Icelanders are very proud of their geologic island and its history, being the first country to establish the European oldest Parliament in Thingvellir in 930 AD and today Thingvellir is a National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2004. Walking through the park is seeing geology in action. From the overlook down to the place where the Parliament was established is walking through huge lava rocks. The park sits in a valley where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates pull apart approximately 2 cm each year and I stood with one foot on either side of the plates!



Iceland has 131 volcanos, however, none were erupting while we were there and we did not get close to one. The landscape outside of the cities is mostly ancient lava fields that are covered in wooly fringe-moss and common leaf-like lichen known as Iceland Moss and it was hazardous to walk on it. However, while we were there it was not green but a grey brown. We saw many waterfalls that were the result of the glaciers in the north part of the island melting.

One of the most interesting things we observed were geothermal plants near large geysers that bubble and steam all of the time. Hot water was sent from these plants to the neighbor towns and cities for hot water. Cold water was the best tasting water I ever have had. Rain and snowmelt filter through porous lava rock into the aquifers below and then pumped to the cities for their very cold water. No treatment of the water is necessary because of minimal pollution, underground aquifers, natural volcanic filtration and underground cold temperatures.

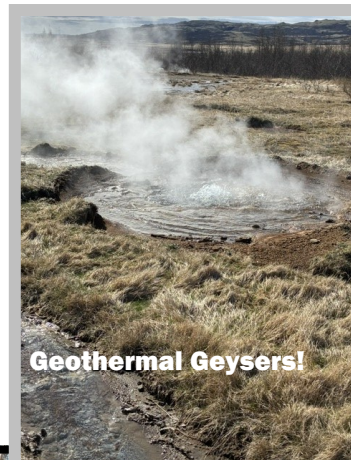
We traveled to Fridheimar greenhouse tomato farms to have a tour, seminar and lunch. The greenhouses are today 11,000 m² where the emphasis is on growing tomatoes all year around where green energy, clean biological pest-control contribute to fresh and healthy tomatoes. They were liberal with passing around cherry tomatoes and we all scarfed them up. The whole operation is managed by computers with the greenhouses connected to a 200 F hot water geothermal plant 200 miles away that travels to all the green houses keeping them warm. Glass roofs let in sun daily but because Iceland does not have a lot of sun light grow lights are managed by computer giving the tomatoes 14-17 hours of light a day. The computers also manage the watering of the plants. There are approximately 27,000 plants in their greenhouses and they ship approximately 2 tons of cherry tomatoes to the market daily and 700 tons annually.

Each tomato plant is on a string that goes to the roof. The greenhouses have little problem with pests as they have tiny packets of a fly larvae that kills butterflies but to be honest there are not many butterflies in Iceland. They have bee hives in the greenhouses for pollination. The best of the tour was the tomato soup lunch with a basil plant on each table with tiny scissors to cut some basil for the soup. The soup was luscious and the bread to accompany it. So, for me I thought a Bloody Mary must be good there and I was right, I may always use fresh tomatoes for Bloody Mary's

Icelandic horses were plentiful for people to ride. Our tour guide thought there were too many, he did not see the fascination with them.

The last day of our tour was spent 2 hours at the Blue Lagoon Thermal Spa. Lots of sanitary rules to keep the pools clean but it was fun to be in the warm water while the fog was all around us and it was cold.

All in all, it was a nice trip but if you plan to go to Iceland, please go in the summer. The weather cold, rainy and windy put a damper on our trip.



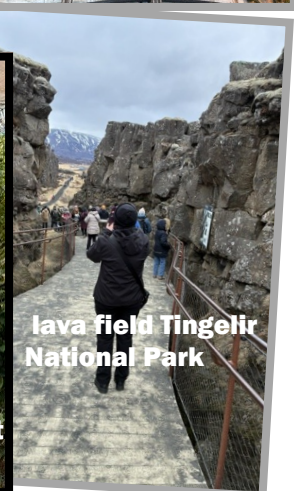
Geothermal Geysers!



1 row of the 27000 cherry tomato plants



Fridheimar Tomato Farm Restaurant



lava field Thingvellir National Park

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June 7	Patti Spencer
June 12	Shirley Thomas
June 19	Ann Foose
June 23	Janine Saltis



MARVELOUS ANNUAL BUS TRIP TO CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN



The bus trip was a wonderful experience to see this huge property growing lots of California native plants.

Photos by Rainer Tischler

2025-2026 Executive Board

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Robin Gemmill

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Ingrid Nonnast

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Ann Foose

In Memory of Ray Law

By Robin Gemmill



It is with great sadness I share with you Ray Law, a long time member of the Burbank Valley Garden Club, passed away peacefully on May 7. I first met Ray in the spring of 2018 at the Burbank Day School garden. He and Susan were busy weeding the garden. It was a mess. I joined Sha-

ron Springer, Ray and Susan Law in rehabilitating the school garden for the culinary student program. Ray had the strength and height we women lacked. He quietly lifted heavy branches and heavy wheel barrels of garden waste for the compost pile. That was Ray, quietly going about helping others in any way he could in the school and community gardens and during our meetings. I will miss his strong gentle spirit .