

THE SEEDLING

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MARCH 2019

PRESIDENTS LETTER



I hope everyone had a very special Valentine's Day. You are all sweethearts of BVGC. Thank you for all of your participation in our very busy month of February. A big thank you goes to Cynthia Stojeba for hosting our board meeting. Our tea and fashion show was absolutely wonderful. I have so many people to thank beginning with Sarah Tolley for securing the venue and our garden gurus, Jackie, Sarah, Ronni, Susan Kirby, Susan Rierson, Darlene, Sandy Marking, Cheryl, and Jere, whose hard work cemented the deal by working in the church gardens. The church was a perfect and spacious setting. Rebecca Moretti took on this huge event and did a wonderful job. Thanks to everyone who provided mentoring and assistance to her and especially to Judy Silver for doing all the work on the seating charts. Our table hostesses were fantastic—Sarah Tolley, Susan Currie, Lynne Batchelor, Kathy Taylor, Carvill Veech, Sarah Tolley, Pauline Waters, Sonia Wilson, Jean Bibb, Glennalie Coleman, Lisa Mercier, Pat Crisafulli, Irwin Pellerin, Leslie Schroeder, Irasema Taylor, Rebecca Moretti. Even though I did think of the theme myself, I think it proved to be very successful providing lots of latitude for our table décor. Chico's was a great choice and Sandra Graff was able to secure it for us and did her usual sterling job of narration (lifetime job perhaps?). A big thank you to our models as well Ronnie Russell, Sandy Duncan, Mary Lu Gultekin, Debra Munley, Irasema Taylor, and me. Our state winter board meeting was in San Diego last month and our own Kathy Taylor was one of the two workshop presenters. Everyone loved her presentation and there was a great variance in the flowers produced by attendees. I appreciate everyone who was there to help Kathy and to learn about our state organization. Our club was well represented at the symposium which followed the winter board meeting. Some of our members also attended the environmental school which was held in Chula Vista. At the Palomar District Meeting we had the 2nd largest participation numbers and heard a very informative and interesting program on raptors. Kudos go to Darlene Montgomery who on Feb 27 hosted a Succulent Identification party in preparation for our March flower show. Don't forget to get your succulents ready for their showcase opportunity! I appreciate those who agreed to serve on the nominating committee, Vera Mathias, Nancy Scheffler, Joanne Westover. If you would be willing to serve in a leadership capacity for BVGC, please contact one of them.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Lynne



BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY MARCH 5 AT 9-30AM

Host, Darlene Montgomery, 3934 Country Trails, Bonita 91902

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 AT 9-30AM

PROGRAM; TILLANDSIAS- THEY HAVE AN AIR ABOUT THEM

ANDY CUFFEL OF CUFFEL FARMS, will teach us all about the wonderful sold of Tillandsias, the perfect easy care plants for water starved San Diego

SET UP: Martha Gillard, Pat Malone

REFRESHMENTS: Maria Balalong, Judy Grobbel, Darlene Montgomery, Susan Rierson, Irasema Taylor.

RAFFLE: Susan Currie, Michele Kownacki, Darlene Montgomery, Susan Rierson, Irasema Taylor.

CLEAN_UP: Aida Eberline, Michele Kownacki

Lunch following the meeting at La Finca de Adobe. All members welcome

SUCKERS FOR SUCCULENTS BVGC FLOWER SHOW

HORTICULTURAL ENTRIES RECEIVED

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 4-6-30PM**WEDNESDAY MARCH 27, 7-9AM**

DESIGN ENTRIES RECEIVED

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27 7-9AM

SHOW OPEN HOURS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27 2-5PM**THURSDAY MARCH 28 10AM TO 3PM**

APRIL 4 AT 12-30PM DESIGN FORUM at Shinoda Design Center
ENSENADA GARDEN CLUB
A show not to be missed

PLEASE NOTE THAT ON JUNE 4 THE BOARD MEETING WILL BE AT CYNTHIA STOJEBAS' HOUSE WHERE ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL TRANSFER REPORTS

MARCH PROGRAM

One of the benefits of being program co-chair is that I get to choose programs that interest me. That is how I found myself at Andy Cuffel's Clairemont home a year ago checking out his Tillandsia (a.k.a. "air plant") nursery and assessing whether I thought he would be a good speaker for our club.

Andy couldn't have been nicer or more generous with his time and he was extremely knowledgeable about his subject, even though he didn't acquire his first Tillandsia until 2015! His interactions with me were just as he describes on his web site, "At Cuffel Farms, you can expect honest information and pricing, quality products and plants, and unparalleled customer service. I want every customer to feel like they have the confidence and knowledge to care for their plants and enjoy them for years to come. I want customers to come back because they enjoyed their experience and their plants are doing well, not because they all died and they need more!" I can attest to the honest information, excellent pricing, and unparalleled customer service. I bought a *T. tectorum* for ~ \$11 or \$12 that I've seen elsewhere for

\$50! I learned many new things about Tillandsias from him and he offered guidance and moral support as he let me have the hands on experience of separating pups from a

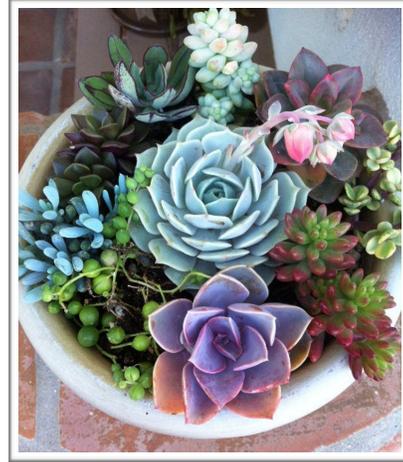
mother plant. In addition to his Tillandsia nursery, Andy offers interior plantscape services, plant rentals, wedding decor, living walls, and plant parties.

At our March meeting Andy will focus on understanding the difference between a tropical and desert Tillandsia, best practices for care, and some design ideas for people wanting to bring Tillandsias into their homes. He will have a power point presentation as well as a "show and tell" demonstration. I think you will be as delighted as I am with his enthusiasm and passion for Tillandsias!



This photo was taken in mid-February, right after a cold night (very low 40's) and several days of rain. I was about to grab the dead leaf on this Kalanchoe, and tip the water out of the saucer when I came eyeball to eyeball with this, a SoCal Pacific Diamondback rattlesnake, the one responsible for the majority of bites to humans in California.





PLEASE PREPARE YOUR PLANTS FOR THE UPCOMING FLOWER SHOW, BRING GROOMED SAMPLES, IDENTIFIED BY GENUS AND SPECIES. PLEASE CONTACT CARVILL OR KATHY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENTER A DESIGN

DOCENTS FOR BVGC FLOWER SHOW

Wednesday, March 27, 2-5 p.m.

Thursday, March 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Contact Mary Lu Gultekin at 703-725-2465 (text or call)

What will you do? Welcome visitors. Help guide people through the exhibits. Do NOT need to be an expert. Be ready to talk about BVGC.

Please write your name under the time slot when you would like to volunteer.

Wednesday, March 27, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

1. Irasema Taylor
2. Darlene Montgomery

Wednesday, March 27, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

1. Val Bolger
2. Susan Currie

Thursday, March 28, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

1. Maria Balolong
- 2.

Thursday, March 28, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

1. Laura Disharoon
2. Susan Kirby

Thursday, March 28, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (closing)

1. Linda Allen
- 2.Carolynn Gibbs

March 16-17, 2019: 10-4
Ikebana International Spring Flower Show
Casa Del Prado Room 101



Thank you so much to Darlene for holding a much needed program at her home to identify succulents

We will not have a Market Table at the March meeting. Please bring your items March 27 to the museum. We will have a Market Table during the Flower Show. The table will be located on the sidewalk outside the museum.

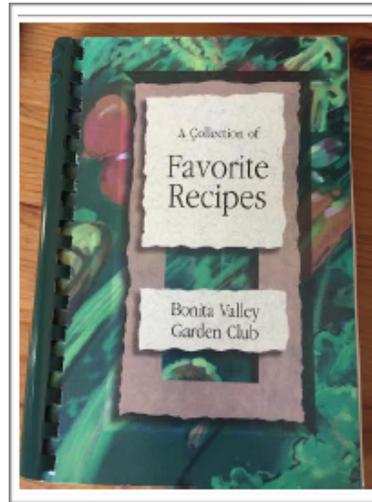
JAPANESE GARDEN TOUR

Monday, March 18, 2019, 10.30 at the Japanese Gardens, Balboa Park, 9.00am from the library if you are carpooling.

This is our tour to see the cherry blossoms! The walking tour is about an hour and 45 minutes so wear your walking shoes, hat, and bring water. I am **NOT** planning lunch that day because I'm not sure of the final time for the tour. Please make your own arrangements. There is a restaurant at Japanese Gardens if you would like to get something there.

We will meet at 9:00 at the library parking lot to carpool to the Gardens. We will park at the old Balboa hospital parking lot (also known as Inspiration Point) and be shuttled from there to the Gardens.

Our tour starts at 10:30 and we have our very own garden member, Maria Balalong's daughter, Alexis, to be our docent guide. The cost is \$9.00. You can pay me ahead of time. I will have a sign up at the next meeting. Should be another fun tour. It is a full week prior to the opening to the public of their official cherry blossom tours. With the rains help, I am hoping we'll see some beautiful blooms. Please feel free to call or email with any questions. Sharon Louder
salouder5@gmail.com
(619) 246-0168



Cookbooks for sale \$12
See Diane



PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Get Your Business Done!

Sponsored by the CA San Diego Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians®

Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:00 am– 12:00 noon
Christ Lutheran Church
4761 Cass Street @ Chalcedony Street (Pacific Beach)

Space is Limited. Please register early.

8:00 am — 8:15 am	Registration
8:15 am — 8:25 am	Introductions
8:30 am — 9:30 am	Making a Motion at Your Meeting — H. R. (Bob) Hall, PhD (Take Action; Bylaws Amendments; Planning; Budgeting . . .)
9:30 am — 9:45 am	Break with Light Refreshments (coffee/tea/juice/light snack)
9:45 am — 10:45 am	How to Participate in Discussions (aka, Debate) — Dennis Spillane, RP (Rules of Debate; Difficult Members)
10:45 am — 11:00 am	Break with Light Refreshments (coffee/tea/juice/light snack)
11:00 am — 12 noon	Improving a Main Motion by Amending — Charles A “Chuck” Nolan, RP (To Change Content; Add Detail; Give it More Thought . . .)
12:00 noon	Adjourn

For More Information and to download additional registration forms, visit our website:
www.bobn10ab.com/csapsd/events.php
Workshop Contact: TennieBee Hall, bobn10ab@ieec.org.

Registration fees are non-refundable.

✂

RSVP by March 25, 2019

Cost: \$20 per person Make check payable to CA San Diego Unit of NAP

Mail Registration Form to: H.R. (Bob) Hall, Treasurer, 8585 Via Mallorca #7, La Jolla, CA 92037-2585

Name (Please Print) _____

Organization/ Company _____

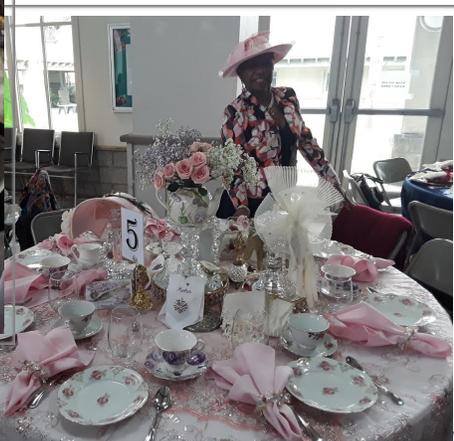
Street, City, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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FEBRUARY TEA AND FASHION SHOW PICTURES. THANK YOU TO REBECCA AND JUDY FOR A WONDERFUL DAY. THANK YOU TO ALL THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR THE DELICIOUS FOOD.





March Blue Ribbon Yard Award

A home on Winnetka Dr. caught our eye as being one of those "special front yards". It turns out Bill & Sharon Coleman purchased their home at 3427 Winnetka Dr, six years ago. Getting really tired of lawn, a small driveway and a serious drainage problem, it came time to rethink the entrance area. The owners chose drought tolerant plants and two Gold Medallion trees and hired a landscaper for the planting. Included was widening of the driveway using interlocking paver stones and building a small wall for sound proofing and safety. Bill is a native San Diegan and Sharon is from Pennsylvania. Interesting enough, Bill does woodworking in his home shop as a hobby, and then during the day roasts coffee as a business for the past 24 years. He mentioned Katy's Cafe in Imperial Beach carries his coffee. You might run into Sharon at one of the Sweetwater Valley Civic Assoc. monthly meetings. We're looking forward to their attending our club meetings. P.S. A day after we presented our award, Sharon called thanking us for being recognized. She hopes to meet us all one day.
Sandy & Ronni



What is a succulent? BY JACKIE RIEKSTINS

First, a couple of things about what is not a succulent. A 'succulent' is not a family of plants, nor is it a genus or a species. Cakes can be succulent, as can many other things. The reference point 'succulent' is used in the plant kingdom quite similarly to its' use in other non-plant descriptions. Very simply, it implies that a plant is thick, juicy (sounding a little like a cake, or even a steak here) and contains a water holding ability that may not be present in some or other members of their species. This water storing/holding ability can be characterized by fleshy water-storing tissues that act as water reservoirs but are often also represented by specialized 'hair' or cells. Each of the following are features of **some** succulents but you would be hard pressed to find any one succulent that contains all these features.

- **STOMA:** Fewer stoma (respiratory openings) on the top surface of a leaf will serve the water conserving succulent more than normal plants because it reduces the amount of water lost during respiration. These stoma can also be closed during the heat of day in some (the Saguaro cactus), again reopening at night when the humidity is higher.
- **ROOTS:** The roots of many succulents (not just a succulent feature) tend to grow nearer to the top of the soil enabling them to absorb the moisture of a light dew, few and sparse rainfalls, or high humidity. If a plant has fat, succulent roots (special adaptation) they usually do not absorb water by contact, but through the moisture in the air. This, among several other reasons, makes fast draining soil necessary or the roots can rot and succulents are likely to shrivel and start turning black. Some succulents, particularly larger tree types, may have very deep tap roots, the better to reach water when it is not available on the surface.
- **COLORATION:** Many succulents have a light green, white, or white-like covering which serves to reflect a lot of sun or heat, which is a water conservation ploy. A few are also able to photosynthesize using this light green covering without the use of leaves, adding to their food making ability without wasting water.
- **SPINES:** Of course, there is a whole family of succulents that mostly do not have leaves, the Cacti. The evolution of spines helped to conserve the water-storing capacity of this group of succulents. Spines do not transpire water, they somewhat protect the plant from predators, they provide some shade and reflection from the sun, and they aid in something else many succulents are good at—reproduction. A little more about this later.
- **EXPANDABLE SHAPES:** We have all noted the ability of many succulents to go from skinny, shriveled and almost dead (looking) to fat, sassy, and juicy almost overnight with little to no harm to its' skin. One day a cacti might be an accordion and the next day it is a Baby Grande! Expandable skin is many a succulents' calling card-kind of like Uncle Louie at Thanksgiving!
- **REPRODUCTION:** Many succulents have the ability to produce roots, pups and plantlets from easily dislodged leaves, stems, or bristly sections that cling to fur or clothing. Most succulents bloom and fruit wonderfully, support moths, butterflies, bats, birds & bees but they also often root fast and well, taking advantage of that short lived season following a rain. Having thorns or spines also allow many succulents to hitch-hike on fur or clothing.
- **TRICHOMES:** Specialty cells called trichomes—these may allow a plant to quickly absorb water, repel water, open or close stoma for water-storage, and reflect the intense rays of the sun. These often give a plant a ghostly white-like (or grey) look, sometimes even fuzzy. This feature often renders a plant able to withstand extreme windy surroundings. Not all trichomes serve a water-storage purpose.
- **WATER-STORAGE: This is the signature feature of all succulents. It may be short term or long term (several weeks to a month, up to much more than a year). To be considered a succulent all should have this feature. Storage may be in plant tissues in the leaf, the stem, roots, or in specialized cells anywhere in or on the plant. The succulent may absorb water from the air, from seasonal rainfall, from fast**

PLANT SALE MAY 4

Our plant sale is scheduled for May 4. Please start growing seedlings and grooming plants for this sale. Due to redevelopment of the nursery site at Cuyamaca this year, we do not anticipate our usual bounty of plants from the college.

FEBRUARY TEA by SANDRA GRAFF

The table designs for our Bonita Valley Garden Club's annual tea and fashion show on February 13th at St. John's Episcopal Church Hall in Chula Vista were an amazing interpretation of our theme "Celebrate the Holidays"! The presentation of the delectables was spectacular; the enthusiasm in our new venue was unquestionably high and then with several large tea makers... the audio system went into overload. A sincere thank you to Father Jack Tolley in his attempts to resolve the situation with three different microphones, but alas it was not to be. My voice projection was nearly nil due to the onset of mild bronchitis. Therefore, I want to share with you the complete palate of my descriptions, so as to do justice to the creative work of our members.

In our path forward, it is my utmost recommendation that we immediately prioritize and obtain a wireless microphone system. It would be most beneficial and enhance all of our future events!

Thank you and have wonderful days! Hugs, Sandra Graff ☺

Here is the synopsis:

Black History Month- Sandra Graff: The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week". This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglass on February 14. The month long celebration gives all Americans a chance to reflect on the history of African Americans, from their many achievements to the struggles they endure (to this day). Philanthropist-Franklin Thomas and former President of the Ford Foundation stated "One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender, instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings."

Valentine's Day- Model's Table- Rebecca Moretti: Valentine's Day is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world. Martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14 are presented in martyrologies,[2] including a written account of Saint Valentine of Rome imprisonment for performing weddings for soldiers, who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire. When you think of February and flowers, you probably think of a dozen red roses. It's not all about roses in February, though, because the birth flowers are violets and the primrose. Violets symbolize loyalty, so they make a great birthday gift for your most loyal friend. Primroses are a colorful perennial flower, and sending them means you can't live without someone.

Day of the Dead- Kathy Taylor & Carvill Veech: Dia de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and throughout the world on November 1 and 2. It's a celebration of life that honors friends and family who have passed away. The multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and help support their spiritual journey. Colorful altars are erected in homes and public spaces featuring favorite foods, drinks (most notably, tequila) and personal mementos of the deceased. The altar decorations usually include hand-cut paper marigolds or fresh marigolds. The marigold most commonly used in celebrations is the Mexican marigold or Aztec marigold, otherwise known as flower of the dead. Mexican marigolds are quite tall and can reach up to 3 feet. Why Marigolds? It is believed that the spirits of the dead visit the living during the celebration. Marigolds guide the spirits to their altars using their vibrant colors and pungent scent. Marigolds represent the fragility of life.

July 4th- Pat Crisafulli. The Fourth of July is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as free and independent states, the United States of America and were no longer connected to the British Crown. The Congress actually voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2. Political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States, Independence Day is the National Day of the United States.. Although the official birthday of America is July 4, 1776, the first official celebration took place a year later in Philadelphia, with many of the same festivities we observe today. Decorating for the holiday is as easy as red, white and blue. You can utilize flowers and floral arrangements in unique ways to really accentuate the spirit of the day. Red roses, carnations, gerbera daisies and blue delphinium are popular flowers for Independence Day arrangements, especially when paired with white lilies, gladiolus or mums.

Saint Andrews Day- Lynne Batchelor & Susan Currie: Celebrated on 30 November - 3 December. Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Saint Andrew is represented in the New Testament to be the disciple who introduced his brother, the Apostle Peter, to Jesus as the Messiah. St. Andrew has been Scotland's patron saint since the country declared its independence in 1320. Relics of the martyred disciple have been enshrined in a Scottish monastery since the eighth century, making the town of St. Andrews a destination for pilgrimages. The blue and white "saltire" design on the Scottish flag is known as St. Andrew's cross. Scotland's national flower is the thistle. Legend has it that in the 13th century an invading army of Vikings tried to sneak into the country barefoot—until they stumbled onto a thorny patch of thistles, alerting the Scottish clansmen who turned them away. Scotland's affinity for thistles is also represented by The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, the highest honor the nation can confer on any individual.

Earth Day- Judy Silver. The first Earth Day celebrations brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform." [It now is observed in 192 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, chaired by the first Earth Day 1970 organizer Denis Hayes. Walt Kelly created an anti-pollution poster featuring his comic strip character Pogo with the quotation "We have met the enemy and he is us", to promote the 1970 Earth Day. Environmental groups have sought to make Earth Day into a day of action to change human behavior, provoke policy changes and a day of education about environmental issues. It is a global celebration that's sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green living. Plant a Tree-With this simple act- you celebrate the earth by increasing the leafy canopy. Grow Your Own-Nothing tastes like vegetables that you've grown yourself. Plant Milkweed-Though it may be a weed to some, this plant is the only food eaten by the kind of caterpillars that become monarch butterflies. Use Less Water- Find ways to make your garden water-wise. Choose plants that tolerate dry conditions and use. Take a Walk-Each day. A stroll through nature can revive our work-weary souls with fresh air and (sometimes) sunshine. Take a moment to feel your feet on the earth.

Mother's Day-Sonia Wilson & Jean Bibb: It is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Father's Day, Siblings Day + Grandparents Day. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. The modern Mother's day began in the United States, at the initiative of Ann Reeves Jarvis in the early 20th century. This is not (directly) related to the many traditional celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have existed throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration (originally a commemoration of Mother Church, not motherhood). However, in some countries, Mother's Day is still synonymous with these older traditions. U.S.-derived modern version of Mother's Day has been criticized for having become too commercialized. Founder Jarvis herself regretted this commercialism and expressed a view on how that was never her intention. Perhaps the most traditional Mother's Day flower is the carnation. Pink carnations represent gratitude and love while red carnations signify admiration. White carnations are traditional flowers to give or wear in remembrance of a mother who is no longer living.

Halloween-Sarah Tolley. It is a celebration observed in several countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. The time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed. It originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Top 10 Spooky Flowers- The Bat Orchid due to its almost-black color, long tendrils and obvious resemblance to the flying mammal. The Ghost Plant is a parasite and can survive with no natural light. It lives by draining nutrients out from a host plant and is often completely white in color due to a lack of chlorophyll, making it the closest thing to a vampire. Glow-in-the-dark Roses emits a ghostly green glow once plunged into darkness. Doll's Eye or White Baneberry- Its white berries resemble a doll's eyeballs, complete with little black irises. Devil's Claw or Grapple Plant features seed pods that fall onto the ground and resemble giant black crabs. Large hook-like protrusions rise up and can snag legs. Porcupine Tomato-Bright colors/ strong smell, through its massive red spikes. From Madagascar, this beastly-looking plant is poisonous and extremely invasive. Kharos is a plant that looks like it has been stepped on by something. Vegetable Sheep is an alpine shrub that has the quality of looking like a sheep lying down. Large, off-white in color and slightly fuzzy, Just be careful if you do decide to go up and poke one – it might actually be a sheep! Bleeding Tooth Fungus-The 'blood' seepage is actually a pigmented juice that is has anticoagulant and antibacterial properties. Star Flower is large, hairy and thoroughly unpleasant-looking flower that looks like a skinless octopus, but also emits a foul aroma of rotting meat to attract insects. Lovely...

Peace Day-Pauline Waters. International Day of Peace, sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access. The day was first celebrated in 1982, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and people. In 2013 the day was dedicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to peace education, the key preventive means to reduce war sustainably. Inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters in New York City. The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents, except Africa, and was a gift from the United Nations Association of Japan, as "a reminder of the human cost of war"; the inscription on its side reads, "Long live absolute world peace". According to *The Language of Flowers*, it is the cattail that symbolizes peace. However, the more traditional outlook is that the flower found on the olive plant, often depicted in the mouth of a dove, indicates peace.

Chinese New Year -Glennalie Coleman & Lisa Mercier: Chinese New Year is a festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The festival is usually referred to as the Spring Festival in modern China,[b] and is one of several Lunar New Years in Asia. Chinese New Year is associated with several myths and customs. It traditionally was a time to honor deities as well as ancestors. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the New Year vary widely, and the evening preceding Chinese New Year's Day is frequently regarded as an occasion for Chinese families to gather for the annual reunion dinner. Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday was traditionally a time to honor household and heavenly deities. Pomelos-Hooking yourself up with a pair of these doesn't just give you a pair of biodegradable stress balls, they bring good luck and are a symbol of family unity Oranges-The mac daddy of CNY fruits – these are everywhere at this time of year, and for good reason. Looking somewhat like the sun and being aligned with the yang principle, oranges are a never-ending party of abundance and happiness. Grapes, plums, kumquats and jujube, these small bites aren't much. But combined all together, good luck, wealth, fortune, gold, prosperity and fertility are yours. Peach Blossom customarily placed in an expensive vase to reflect their lofty status in Hong Kong, these flowers represent romance, prosperity and growth. Pussy Willow is meant to symbolize growth and the coming prosperity. Narcissus- Good fortune and prosperity are the name of the game. Narcissi are one of the most auspicious flowers around and they smell like an absolute dream

May Day-Irwin Pellerin & Leslie Schroeder: May Day is a public holiday usually celebrated on 1 May. It is an ancient Northern Hemisphere spring festival and a traditional spring holiday in many cultures. Dances, singing, and cake are usually part of the festivities. In the late 19th century, May Day was chosen as the date for International Workers' Day by the Socialists and Communists of the Second International to commemorate the Haymarket affair in Chicago. International Workers' Day can also be referred to as "May Day", but it is a different celebration from the traditional May Day. As Europe became Christianized, the pagan holidays lost their religious character and May Day changed into a popular secular celebration. A significant celebration of May Day occurs in Germany where it is one of several days on which St. Walburga, credited with bringing Christianity to Germany, is celebrated. The secular versions of May Day, observed in Europe and North America, may be best known for their traditions of dancing around the maypole and crowning the Queen of May. Fading in popularity since the late 20th century is the giving of "May baskets," small baskets of sweets or flowers, usually left anonymously on neighbors' doorsteps.[It is also an occasion to present lily-of-the-valley or dog rose flowers to loved ones.

Easter- Guest Table-Irasema Taylor: Easter, also called Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance. Most Christians refer to the week before Easter as "Holy Week" it contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Maundy and Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. You won't find them in the Bible, but many cherished Easter traditions have been around for centuries. The exact origins of the Easter Bunny tradition are unknown, although some historians believe it arrived in America with German immigrants in the 1700s. Rabbits are, in many cultures, known as enthusiastic procreators, so the arrival of baby bunnies in springtime meadows became associated with birth and renewal.