



Photo: Mary Jo Brown

# Over the Garden Wall

**BURBANK-VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

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

*And Pacific Region, National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

Newsletter Number 144

**November 2018**

Editor: Kathy Itomura

## **2018-2019 Executive Board**

### **Co-Presidents:**

Romelle Culotta and  
Terry Davis

### **1st Vice-President,**

### **Programs:**

Chris VanDeusen

### **2nd Vice-Presidents,**

### **Membership:**

Charlene Allen and  
Anne White

### **3rd Vice-President, Ways & Means:**

Susan Law

### **Recording Secretary:**

Vonda Neundorf

### **Corresponding Secretary:**

Janet Jack

### **Treasurer:**

Ingrid Nonnast

### **Parliamentarian:**

Roland Neundorf

### **Board Advisor:**

Grace Davis,  
Past Co-President

## **Garden Club Meetings**

are held at 10:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of every month, except on the second Thursday in June and no meetings in July and August, at

**Little White Chapel  
1711 North Avon Street  
Burbank, CA**

Please send comments to the editor at [kkitomura@gmail.com](mailto:kkitomura@gmail.com)

## **President's Message**

*Dear Members,*

It was wonderful to have our former member, Francesca Corra, return as a speaker for our last meeting. We heard from many members how much they enjoyed her program on how to surround ourselves with things we love to personalize our gardens. Thank you, Chris VanDeusen, for inviting Francesca, and thank you, Francesca, for your beautiful photos and innovative talk.

We would also like to thank members for donating so many wonderful plants to our Raffle. It is great to have members actively participate. Special thanks to members Bob and Susan Knox for donating their gorgeous euphorbia.

Member Anne White came up with a good idea to improve our Raffle. Anne suggested that after our business meeting we have a 20-minute break, then return to our seats at 10:50 to hold the Raffle and announce the winners. The last opportunity to purchase tickets would end at 10:50, and members would be seated and ready for the speaker once the Raffle is concluded. It also means that no one will be in the kitchen getting our lunch ready, making it easier and more efficient for our Raffle chairperson, Claire. Let's give it a try!

We have been eagerly looking forward to the November program as our member, Noella Ballenger, will share photos of her travels to "The Edge of the Arctic," where she observed and photographed mother polar bears with their cubs at the polar bear denning area in Churchill, Canada. Noella is a professional nature photographer and we all have had the opportunity to admire her work on page 30 of our 2018-19 Yearbook. Don't miss this program!

Many thanks to Susan Law and Grace Davis for arranging a special bus tour to Roger's Gardens on December 6th. If you attended October's meeting, you may have heard from numerous members how much they have enjoyed their visits to this famous nursery. I'd like to emphasize that Christmas is supposed to be the best time of year to visit Roger's Gardens, so please take advantage of this opportunity. The cost is \$20 per person. If you plan to attend (and we hope you are) please bring a check, cash, or money order to Ingrid Nonnast made payable to BVGC to our November meeting. We cannot hold unpaid reservations.

Also, Susan asks that each person attending the bus tour, please bring a wrapped gift worth \$1. "The Boss" and Robin Pokorski have cooked up some fun and frivolity to entertain us en route.

Terry and I wish you all a Happy Halloween and remind you that eating too much Halloween candy is not a good excuse for missing the Club meeting the next day!

*Warmest regards,*

*Romelle and Terry*

## November 1, 2018 ~ MEETING SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.	Arrive early to help set up, have a cup of coffee, meet with friends, and browse the Opportunity Table
10:00 a.m.	Business Meeting
10:30 a.m.	Break; Purchase Raffle Tickets, browse Opportunity Table
10:50 a.m.	Members are Seated and Raffle Winners Announced
11:00 a.m.	Speaker: Noella Ballenger, “A Journey to the Edge of the Arctic”
Noon	LUNCH—Please join us for our pot-luck luncheon, provided by members. Members, please bring serving utensils for your dish, as we may not use the Church’s. If you stay for lunch you must contribute by bringing a dish, whether prepared by you or perhaps a tasty item from your local market. Guests are BVGC’s guests and are not asked to bring a dish. ( <i>Note: kitchen is closed during the Presentation.</i> )

~~~ *Judy Howard will decorate our November tables* ~~~

### ABOUT OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER...

**Noella Ballenger**, a member of our Club, is a well-known and talented nature photographer. She has traveled to many beautiful, pristine locations in the world, and this month she will share with us her journey to the “Edge of the Arctic” near Churchill, Canada and the Hudson Bay. Her slide show features the famed Fletcher Lake polar bear denning area in Wapusk National Park for an adventure with mother polar bears and their young cubs.

Noella has generously contributed her exceptional photographs to our publications in the past (this year’s Yearbook features her lovely photo of Icelandic flowers on the cover). She has taught classes at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and has conducted her own workshops throughout the United States and New Zealand. Presently, she conducts online photography workshops for clients around the world. We are fortunate, not only to enjoy Noella as our Club member, but to see her most current photography presentation this month.

### GARDEN SNOOPS by Susan Eyraud

It was a beautiful sunny day as we set off to the heart of Hollywood. On the corner of Sycamore and Fountain is Mickey Hargitay’s nursery (yes, *that* Hargitay), 1255 N. Sycamore Avenue, (323) 467-8044. The nursery surrounds an old house that is filled with supplies, a gift section, and each room holds pots and garden decorations. The grounds are extensive and tightly-packed with both well-known plants and many unusual ones.

Of course, we each bought a treasure to add to our collections. I bought a plant with red berries as well as a piece of garden art. This well-kept, artful nursery is worth a visit.



Please remember to bring your **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** to the meeting for Jean Hladilek to take to Burbank’s Disney School where their refund value helps teachers provide extra supplies for classrooms. Thank you!

### LET IT GO, LET IT GO, LET IT GO

(excerpted from an article by Rosemary Ecker, Southern California Garden Club newsletter, *The Green Thumb*, January 2018)

Here are some tips from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to encourage overwintering pollinators in our gardens:

- Allow leaves to stay where they fall; leaves are mulch and keep the earth warmer, hold in moisture, and improve the soil
- Allow dry flower heads to remain for wildlife food
- Allow grass to grow a little taller, even letting some go to seed
- Allow a brush pile of fallen branches to create warmth and cover
- Leave dead tree snags in place if not a fire hazard; they provide nesting and perching areas
- Forget chemical use.

In all these ways, “let it go.” Make less work for you and more habitat for the birds and bees and butterflies.

### SOWING WILD FLOWER SEED by Kathy Itomura

If you didn’t sow your wild flower seed during the small rain we received in October, don’t fret; now through mid-December is still in good time to seed for spring flowers. Obtain California wild flower seed from Theodore Payne Foundation (they are native plant seed specialists). Clear the area of weeds no deeper than 3 or 4”. Combine your seed with 1 part seed to 3 parts horticultural sand (do not use beach sand, which contains salts). Scatter the mixture evenly over gently raked soil. Water in seeds immediately after sowing, using a gentle spray. If the rains don’t come, continue to water, keeping the soil consistently moist but not soggy until a few inches of growth are seen.

**CLUB NEWS** by Grace Davis

Welcome to our newest members, **Greg and Andrea Halloran**. Be sure to say hello when you see them at meetings.

Now that days are getting cooler, it is time to think about bringing warm food again for our lunch! The big old stove in the Church kitchen is always warm on top—a good place to keep your soups and casseroles warm. There are two outlets near the kitchen island to plug in warming pots. For cold items, the kitchen has two refrigerators. Our Club has a good supply of paper bowls for your use.

Please bring your holiday items for the Opportunity Table to our November meeting as we will not be at the Church in December. Instead, we hope you plan to join us for the **Holiday Bus Trip to Roger's Gardens** in Newport Beach on Thursday, December 6, 2018. Sign-up at our November meeting. Cost of the outing will be \$20.00 per person, which includes transportation, homemade snacks, bottled water and entertainment with a holiday theme. (**Robin Pokorski** will lead us in the “Night Before Christmas” game, so if you want to play, bring a wrapped, dollar gift to participate.)

It is with mixed feelings that we announce the conclusion of our Club’s 10-year ongoing volunteer effort to assist the Burbank Community Day School with their kitchen garden. The efforts of regular volunteers, **Sharon Springer, Susan and Ray Law, Teddi Shattuck**, and many others, have been a valued support to the school’s Culinary Program. All good things continue to develop, even as they change. Our best wishes go to the School for the future of their programs and students!

Reminder: if you haven’t picked up your 2018-2019 Yearbook, please do so at the November meeting. We do not mail them out due to the high mailing cost.

**IN MY GARDEN** by Charlene Gallagher

I continue to read and research about poisonous plants as until recently I was very unaware of many of the facts. I may have a few more columns in future to keep us informed about this sinister subject. With knowledge in hand, then perhaps we can relax and enjoy our plants.

The wonderful Aloe is a useful plant that can help heal burns and scrapes. It is great for smooth, moist skin, and it is a lovely plant to add to the garden. But!! The saponins found in aloe can cause convulsions, paralysis, severe irritation of mouth and throat and the digestive tract. Your pets may not bother this plant, but beware of its toxicity for animals. You never know when “Rex” or “Fluffy” will decide to dine on your one and only Aloe.

Daffodil and tulip bulbs contain toxins that can cause drooling, depression, tremors, and heart problems. Bulbs are often planted with bone meal, whose scent attracts dogs. If your dogs dig and chew your bulbs, it may mean a trip to the vet.

Kalanchoe is a lovely plant that flowers bright red, yellow, orange, or pink flowers, but understand that it contains a class of cardiac steroids that can damage the heart.

All parts of the beautiful lily plants are toxic to cats and may cause kidney failure and even death within 24 to 48 hours of ingesting. This is all lilies, be they the naked ladies that bloom in August, or our beloved “Easter” lilies we bring home during spring.

Marijuana, now a legal medicinal drug for humans, is nevertheless a poison for your pets. It can depress the animal’s nervous system, leading to seizures and coma. If you know your pet ingested marijuana, take it to the vet immediately.

We have already spoken of Nandina and Diffenbachia, both of which can be fatal to animals. It is wise to understand that some plants are not friendly to our pets. While artificial plants are looking better and better (no water, no feeding, perhaps no sick pets), to be forewarned should help us make our gardening life safer for our pets and ourselves.

**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO**



Photo: Kathy Itomura

- JANET JACK, 11/2**
- SUSAN KNOX, 11/2**
- ANNE WHITE, 11/2**
- SANDY TRAINOR, 11/6**
- LINDA BAILEY, 11/15**
- KRISTIN CULOTTA, 11/16**
- ELISABETH TRAFTON, 11/16**
- JUDY KENEHAN, 11/30**

**BURBANK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**



Member Susan Eyraud is also the President of the Burbank African Violet Society and she invites us to join them on Thursday, November 15th here at Little White Chapel from 10 a.m. to noon.

November’s speaker will be Erika Decker who, together with her husband, has been growing these lovely plants for over twenty years. She will also bring some of her products for sale.

**MY GARDEN BUDDY**  
photo By Charlene Gallagher



## ***NOVEMBER GARDEN EVENTS***

**CAMPO DE CAHUENGA** 3919 Cahuenga Blvd., North Hollywood. The birthplace of California is open and free the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, Noon to 4:00 p.m. Adults and children are welcome.

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY:** Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino; Free talk

- Tues., Nov. 13, 7:30p.m. to 9:00 p.m. "Nature in the City: How Restoring Native Habitat Benefits Plants, Wildlife, Water, Air and People," Esther Feldman, President, Community Conservation Solutions, discusses how we can restore and transform our urban landscape by combining ecosystem science, engineering and community needs, including what it means to restore functioning native habitat in the heart of dense urban areas of Los Angeles County.

**DESCANSO GARDENS** [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org) (818) 949-4200, South of Foothill Boulevard at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada, CA 91011. Open daily 9-5 except Christmas Day. Seniors \$6.00, General \$9.00, 5 years and under, free. The 165-acre garden includes a native plant section.

- Sat.-Sun., Nov. 3-4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Descanso Chrysanthemum Society's 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale, free with general admission.

**THE DOHENY-GREYSTONE ESTATE**, 905 Loma Vista Dr, Beverly Hills, (310) 286-0119

- Sun., Nov. 11, 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Take a self-guided tour of the Mansion's interior and the Gardens; free parking on upper level lot. The Friends of Greystone gift shop will be open. Limited disabled access. Comfortable, flat walking shoes recommended. Greystone Mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and is known informally as "Southern California's Hearst Castle." Tour also includes the demonstration garden and Greenhouse. Cost is \$20. RSVP online to [www.greystonemansion.org/Greystone-Mansion-Tour-Nov-11-TourNov18.htm](http://www.greystonemansion.org/Greystone-Mansion-Tour-Nov-11-TourNov18.htm)

**LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM** [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org) (626) 821-3222, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007. Open daily 9-5. Adults \$9, Students and Seniors \$6, children under 5 free. The 127 acres are filled with more than 30,000 plants divided into geographical sections.

- Sat., Sun., Nov. 3 and Nov. 17, 8 to 10 a.m. "Forest Bathing," Slow Down. Awaken the senses. Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin Yoku, Forest Bathing has been scientifically proven to boost immune strength, reduce stress, and improve cognitive functioning. \$25, members, \$35, non-members. Register online.

**NATURE GARDENS AT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org) (213) 763-3466, 900 W Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Open 9:30-5 daily except New Year's day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Admission: Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, 2 and under free.

- Sun., Nov. 25, 1:00 p.m., Harvest Tour: join a gardener to find out what we're harvesting in our Edible Garden. Meet in the Nature Gardens at the Rotunda steps. Free with paid Museum admission.

**RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN** [www.rsabg.org](http://www.rsabg.org) 909-625-8767, 1500 N. College Avenue, Claremont, CA 93013. Open 8-5 daily except New Year's day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Admission: Adults \$12, Seniors \$6, children under 12 \$4. Grow Native Nursery is open Thursday through Sunday, 9-4:30. Eighty-three acres of natural plant communities with native California plants. This private, non-profit is dedicated to the preservation of California native plants.

- Sat. Nov. 17, 1-4pm, IKEBANA WITH CA NATIVE PLANTS: Ikebana instructor Yumiko Kikkawa guides you through the ancient Japanese art form of flower arranging in a special demonstration and workshop. California native plants from the Garden will provide the palette for creating your own Ikebana arrangement. Material fee is included in the cost of the class. \$40 members, \$50, non-members. Register online.

**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION** [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org) 818-768-1802, 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nursery, growing grounds, wildflower walk, art gallery and book store all devoted to the propagation and understanding of native plants for the home garden. Free to the Public. Classes available year-round for fee.

- Thurs., Nov. 15, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. "Building Resilience with CA Native Plants " held at Los Angeles Metro, 1 Gateway Plaza, Union Station, Los Angeles 90012. This free class is co-sponsored by Theodore Payne Foundation and LA Metro. Nearly 30% of all water use is landscape related. This class will teach how to select drought tolerant native plants and raise awareness about the opportunities and challenges related to using native plants. Register online at TPF.