



Photo: Kathy Itomura

# 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 142

**September 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*

## **President's Message**

*Dear Members,*

We are beginning our garden club year with 60 members. We hope all of you enjoyed your brief summer hiatus although the weather was too hot for many of us to spend much time in our gardens. Over the summer, our new First Vice President - programs, Chris VanDeusen has worked diligently to arrange a number of interesting and educational speaker programs for your enjoyment.

Our first speaker will be Rachel Young. Rachel has worked at Descanso Gardens since 2007, where she is presently Director of Horticulture. Her program will be about organic and wildlife friendly gardening and will include plant selection, creating habitat and organic weed and pest control.

Good news ... our 2018-2019 Club Yearbooks are ready and will be distributed at this meeting. Last year our 2017-2018 BVGC yearbook was awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> place from CGCI and Pacific Region and this year's yearbook promises to be every bit as colorful and entertaining as last years! We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who worked on the yearbook for their many ideas and outstanding contributions. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please arrange for a friend to pick up your copy. We will not mail the yearbook as the cost of postage is prohibitive.

Since September is usually one of the hottest summer months, the club will once again be providing a lunch consisting of croissant sandwiches, salads, dessert and water for the very nominal cost of \$5 per member.

We have a new position as Inspiration Chairperson that Lois Russo has kindly offered to fill. Lois will be phoning members each month to ask if that member will lead the flag salute or to read the inspiration. Thank you, Lois for volunteering. Terry and I think you will be ideal in this new position.

Linda Bailey has asked to step down as our raffle coordinator. Linda, we think you were terrific at handling the raffle, but we also understand how you may feel that it is time for someone else to "step up to the plate". We have asked our new member, Claire Torrey and her daughter, Anya, to fill this position. So, please welcome Claire and Anya and help make their job easy by asking to purchase a raffle ticket this month! The cost is only \$1 for a ticket or six tickets for \$5.

We also needed someone to oversee our Opportunity Table and another newer member, Jerry Lamb, volunteered for this position. We will be having an Opportunity Table and a Raffle at this meeting, so members please bring items to sell. If you haven't yet met Claire, Anya, or Jerry, now is the perfect time to welcome them into the fold. This is an ideal opportunity to tell them how happy we are to have them as members and that we appreciate their service to BVGC!

We eagerly look forward to visiting with our garden club family on September 6<sup>th</sup>!

Warmest regards,

*Romelle and Terry*

## September 6, 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
11:00 a.m.	Speaker: <b>Rachel Young</b>
Noon	LUNCH—Stay with us for lunch; the Club is providing a \$5 lunch, including croissant, salad, and dessert. Please note that guests are not charged for lunch, as they are our guests.

*Our tables will be decorated by Millie Eberhardt*



### **ABOUT OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER....**

Rachel Young grew up in Pennsylvania with a love for gardening and plants. After college in Minnesota she came to UCLA in 2001 to work on a masters in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology where her graduate research examined the overlap of ecology and genetics in California's native oak trees. She has worked at Descanso Gardens since 2007 where she is now Director of Horticulture. Rachel's gardening philosophy is simple: strive for a holistic garden ecology that uses practices and designs that are organic, sustainable and beautiful. Her talk today is about organic and wildlife friendly gardening - including plant selection, creating habitat, and organic weed and pest control.

#### ***SAN FERNANDO VALLEY***

##### ***DISTRICT MEETING***

The San Fernando Valley District meets Monday, September 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino. The Agenda for this meeting includes the following:

**9:30 a.m.** Sale Table: Plants, bulbs, cuttings, white elephant items provided by host clubs.

**10:00 a.m.** Business Meeting: CGCI Fall Board Report, Presidents' and Chairmen's Reports, NGC Projects and Products.

**11:45 a.m.** Program: Program: "CGCI Youth Awards" – District Youth Chairman, Pat Tjossas, will speak about the Smokey Bear Poster Contest. Rita Desilets will discuss the Sculpture, Poetry and Essay Contests.

**12:15 p.m.** Luncheon and Raffle: Hosted by Cherry Blossom Garden Club, Sherman Oaks Garden Club, Sunshine Garden Club and Toluca Lake.

If you would like to attend let Romelle Culotta or Terry Davis, co-Presidents, know in advance. These are fun meetings and you will learn more about garden clubs in our District.

#### ***CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. (CGCI)***

(The following is adapted from a CGCI article titled "Anza-Borrego Desert State Park" by Nancy Lee Loesch):

Borrego is Spanish for bighorn sheep. The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is home to about 600 bighorn sheep, a protected California native species. At more than 630,000 acres, it is one of the largest state parks in the United States. Park elevations range from 6,000 feet to just 15 feet above sea level.

Anza-Borrego Desert Park and its surroundings, including the small town of Borrego Springs, is a "dark-sky" community, one of few in the United States that has a mission to keep the night sky dark. Borrego Springs has no street lighting, only one traffic signal, and strict rules limiting commercial and residential lighting. The Anza-Borrego desert is one of the few places where one may still see a truly dark sky enlivened by billions of stars on clear nights.

In 2012 CGCI resolved to support the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for upgrades to the park Visitor Center. The restricted fund currently has \$531.89. To meet this obligation \$6,400 is needed. CGCI is *dependent on donations to fulfill the commitment*. Sally Theriault, a State Park Interpreter, notes there are two current needs for the Visitor Center, more desert plants and new walkway lighting to be "dark-sky friendly." For many reasons, a few mentioned above, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is one of our state's great treasures. Visit if you haven't yet. It is about a 3-hour drive from Burbank. If you are there on a clear, moonless night you'll never forget it.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." -- John Muir

**CLUB NEWS** by Grace Davis

Two of our fairly new members are taking on Club Chairperson duties for the coming year: **Jerri Lamb** is going to handle the Raffle, and **Claire and Anya Torrey** are taking on the Opportunity Table. Thank you both so much for stepping forward to help your Club! We also thank outgoing Raffle Chairperson, **Linda Bailey**, and outgoing Opportunity Table Chairperson, **Chris VanDeusen**—we are grateful for your jobs well-done!

We send good wishes to **Susan Eyraud** who is having surgery next month. Good luck and return to us soon, Susan!

Congratulations to our member, **Ingrid Nonnast**, who has assumed new responsibilities as our San Fernando Valley District’s Treasurer! Despite her added duties, Ingrid continues as our own BVGC Treasurer. Ingrid, many thanks for your dedication to our garden clubs!

Our Yearbooks will be ready for you to pick up at the September meeting! If you cannot come to the meeting, ask a friend to pick yours up for you, or just run in and see someone at the Membership Table to get your copy. We ask you to pick up your copy because the cost of mailing them keeps going up every year! Thank you, and I hope to see you all at the September meeting!

**THOUGHTS ON HOUSEPLANTS** by Charlene Gallagher

Houseplants are our friends, mostly. They decorate our home and filter the air, but that’s not all they do and some of what they do *isn’t* good. Be smart: enjoy them while you are also armed with knowledge of the secrets some plants may hide. Here are a couple of common houseplants having secret powers:



The Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*) really should have a different moniker, since more people call the poison control center concerning this plant than any other houseplant. Although this lovely arum (not a lily) resembles calla lilies and loves our living rooms, it contains calcium oxalate crystals that can irritate the skin, burn the mouth, and if eaten, cause nausea and difficulty swallowing. And be aware that most Philodendron plants also contain the calcium oxalate crystals and can cause similar effects. Still, I have owned and enjoyed many Peace Lilies as well as Philodendrons and never felt their sting. Perhaps I’m just tough-skinned; invite the Peace Lily and the Philodendron into your home, but beware what they can do.

Another very common houseplant with hidden powers is English ivy (*Hedera helix*), whose sap can cause blisters on the skin and whose berries, if eaten, can create severe stomach reactions. (My advice is to eat a strawberry instead of ivy berries.)



The Dumb Cane (actually better known by its botanical name, *Dieffenbachia*) is so called because it can cause burning of the mouth, if eaten, and can even paralyze the vocal cords (hence the name “dumb” cane, as it may cause inability to speak). This is a lovely houseplant with many varieties, all grown for their beautiful leaves. Just remember, it comes from South America where some native peoples used to mix its sap with other poisons to tip their arrows and spears for a fatal weapon. Don’t touch your eyes or mouth when handling it, and wash

your hands after touching *Dieffenbachia* leaves or stems.

Doubtless, you already have one or two these so-called “wicked” plants in your home; no need to toss them. Know what they do, watch your pets, and inform your children. Most of this information comes from **WICKED PLANTS** by Amy Stewart, published by Algonquin Books, Chapel Hill.

**HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO**

**PRADIP DOSHI, 9/19**



**NEWSLETTER**

**CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!**

Do you have information or photographs to share with your fellow BVGC members? Please, write it up and send it to the Editor at [kkitomura@gmail.com](mailto:kkitomura@gmail.com). If email is not convenient, send it by U.S. mail to Kathy Itomura, 549 N. Griffith Park Dr., Burbank 91506. It will be printed under your byline.

Please take note of member Charlene Gallagher’s article on this page. This is her second contribution (probably you remember her article on *Nandina* last spring). You rock, Charlene!

This is your newsletter. Contribute and become a resource to your fellow members!

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 our kids’ learning experience! Thank you!



## *SEPTEMBER 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.

**LUMMIS HOUSE** [www.laparks.org/historic/lummis-home-and-gardens](http://www.laparks.org/historic/lummis-home-and-gardens) (323) 226-1620, 200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles. Open Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free to the Public. Historic home surrounded by native plant garden.

**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.

- Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to Noon: WEEKEND WALKS; See what's happening in the gardens on these docent-guided walks that highlight points of seasonal interest. Walks begin at the Center Circle. Included in the price of regular admission, no reservations necessary. Walks are subject to weather and availability.
- Saturday, September 22, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. RAIN BARRELS: Rain barrels are an "old school" water conservation technique that is winning new fans. You can preorder discounted rain barrels for \$65 plus tax and pick them up at Descanso Gardens. Rain barrels may also qualify for rebates. Order barrels and find details at [www.rainbarrelsintl.com](http://www.rainbarrelsintl.com) (click on the "Events" tab and select "Descanso Gardens").
- Saturday, September 22, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. WATER HARVESTING CLASS: Join Cindy Berglund of Rain Barrels Intl. for a water conservation class all about saving precious water in your home. She will discuss the importance of rainwater harvesting, the benefits of a rain barrel, the installation process, helpful methods to conserve water on your property *without* rainfall, and rebate information. Advance registration required. Register at [rainbarrelsintl.com](http://rainbarrelsintl.com) (click on the "Events" tab and select "Descanso Gardens")

**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS** [www.huntington.orG](http://www.huntington.orG) (626) 405-2141, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108. Open 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed Tuesday. A dozen botanical gardens, covering 130 acres of the 200-acre estate, feature 9000 plant, shrub and tree varieties. The desert gardens contain the largest outdoor collection in the world. Admission: Adults \$25, Seniors \$21, children under 4 free. First Thursday of the month free admission with advance tickets.

- Every Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., RANCH OPEN HOUSE: Stop by The Huntington's urban agriculture site to pick up fresh ideas and seasonal tips for sustainable gardening.
- Thursday, Sept. 13, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., EMBRACING THE NATURE OF CALIFORNIA: The Trials and Rewards of Native Plant Gardening with speaker Kitty Connolly, executive director of the Theodore Payne Foundation. She shares her experiences with transitioning her own garden to a native plant landscape. Sale afterwards.

**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.

- Wednesday, September 5, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., Frank McDonough will talk about "Lawns and Groundcovers: How to Select the Right Lawn or Groundcover for Your Situation." (Every first Wednesday of the month Mr. McDonough speaks on some aspect of gardening where he will also highlight interesting plants, latest pests and diseases, and answer gardening questions.)
- Saturday, September 8, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., INTERNATIONAL FOREST BATHING DAY: Our new Forest Bathing program coaxes participants to slow down, take a few steps back from the stresses of urban life, and absorb the calm of the forest. "Immerse yourself amongst the trees, and leave mind, body, and soul at ease." 8 to 10 a.m., Forest Walks; 11 a.m. to Noon, Special Presentation (\$5, Members; \$10, Non-Members); Noon to 1:00 p.m., Book Signing with forest bathing specialist and author, Amos Clifford.

**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.

**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.

- Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Sept. 1-3, all day: BLUE STAR MEMORIAL: Military personnel, veterans and their family members receive free admission to the Garden in recognition of their service.

**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.

- Saturday, Sept. 8, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE, a talk with Lili Singer. Knowing native habitats can help you choose the right plants for your place. This course discusses local plant communities and their conditions, as well as how to assess the conditions of your garden site, including climate, soil, sunlight and space. A valuable class for beginners and the prerequisite for our Three-Part Native Garden Design Course. RSVP and pay online: \$25, Members, \$35 Non-Members.