

VOL. 13



GROWING &

# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



JANUARY 2018  
MEMBER NEWS

- Get Involved
- Make New Friends
- Make a difference
- Have Fun

COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

### General Meeting Jan. 12th

#### Joann Situ Allen

Laguna Beach- *The Accidental Naturalist* (see page 3) Laguna Presbyterian Church • 9:30 am social 10:00 am meeting

### Green Thumb Jan. 19th

#### Thrift Store Container Magic

At the home of Elaine Davis  
32562 Sea Island Dr. Dana Point  
9:30 am (see page 6)



### Tours & Travel Jan. 26th

#### A visit to 2 of the largest nurseries in our area

Visit Moon Valley in Irvine & Village Nursery in Huntington Beach

Meet at 9:00 am at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace (see page 4)



### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Ahh the New Year! A time to set new goals, start new projects, and get your garden ready for spring. One task many of us face is pruning our rose bushes. This *Youtube* video will give you helpful hints about making this task less painful.



If you have a 4' x 4' space in your yard, consider making a square foot raised planter bed. The *Youtube* video gives a quick introduction to this concept that makes it seem easy enough for the home gardener.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2FxJimob84>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yCRY9VArIk>

President's Message

# LBGC 90 Years and Still Growing Strong

I wish all of my fellow Garden Club members a Happy New Year. I want to take this opportunity to wish you good health, new friendships, and prosperity in all your endeavors, especially anything related to your garden. It is my sincere hope that the sun shines and the water falls from the sky to nurture your garden. Here's to a fruitful and joyous 2018 for all.

If it is truly 2018, then it is the beginning of our club's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Laguna Beach

Garden Club was established in 1928, and I am proud to be an integral part of this historical community service organization and continue its legacy of community projects to enhance the beauty of our city. Please see page 49 of your Membership Book for the history of our club. At our February meeting we will *Celebrate 90 Years of Growing and Giving*. Look for our banner at many of our events commemorating our monumental accomplishment.

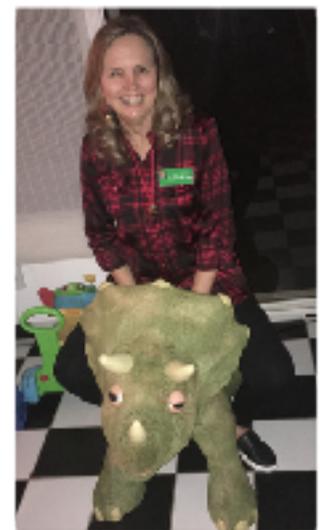
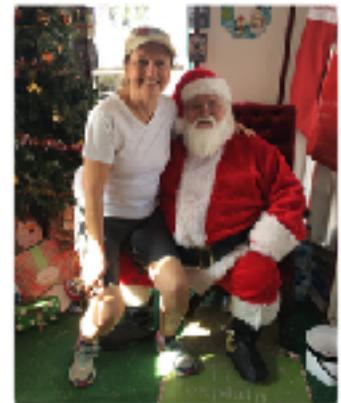
I've asked our Newsletter editor to include these two funny photos of me to showcase the quirky side of my personality. *Santa located on Forest Avenue had no children visitors. He looked lonely so I stepped in to let me know that as President of Laguna Beach Garden Club that I've been a good girl. Then the animatronic Stegosaurus in Tom Hensel's grandkid's playroom was just begging to be ridden, so I had to comply.*

See you at the January 12th meeting

Laguna Beach Garden Club  
*Celebrates*  
*90 Years*  
of Growing & Giving

LAGUNA BEACH  
GARDEN CLUB  
GROWING & GIVING  
SINCE 1928

LagunaBeachGardenClub.org 



# January Speaker Jo Situ Allen Shares How She Became *The Accidental Naturalist*

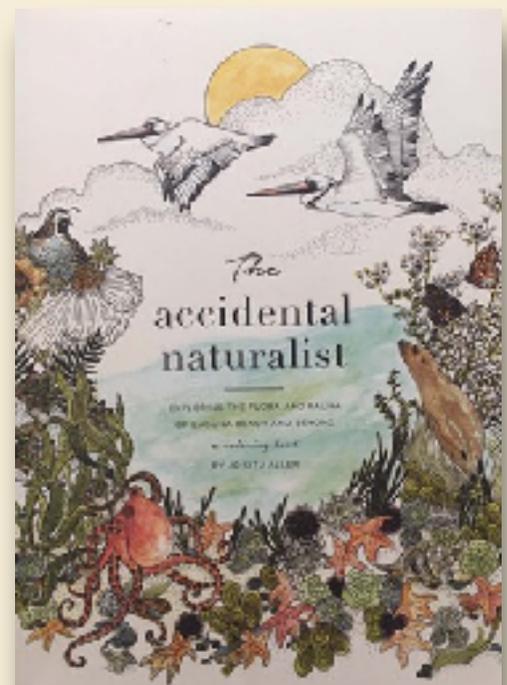
**J**o Situ Allen's lifelong passion for nature and plant life has driven her to earn a geography/environmental studies degree at UCLA, an MBA in sustainable management, and a career as a sustainability consultant. But the one activity that most reflects her sense of awe at nature's beauty is illustration. Throughout the years, she has maintained a side gig as an artist and comic-book illustrator, drawing various floral and earthy specimens in lush, intricate and detailed drawings. Jo has debuted the first in a series of coloring books that explore the various ecosystems that live within our urban

worlds, starting with a book focused on Laguna Beach. Titled *The Accidental Naturalist*, Jo's work aims to influence the user to go out and learn about plants within a specific environment. "A coloring book seemed to be the perfect means to start a conversation with someone who is looking to be a little more creative and meditative," she says. "My ultimate hope is that someone who is coloring in this feels a sense of wonder about these local species and looks up that species in the glossary to find out more." Hopefully, she says, the user "accidentally" becomes a naturalist.

Raised in Los Angeles and now based in Laguna Beach with her family, it's easy to imagine Jo getting swept away by the wondrous hills and greenery in her city, Laguna Beach. Within each page, a gorgeous arrangement of vegetation, animals, birds, leaves, ocean life and insects await a colorful interpretation while building your appreciation for the greener side of Laguna Beach. You can find her coloring book at her website [www.dirtyeraser.com](http://www.dirtyeraser.com) or at various local stores including Laguna Art Supply, Laguna Art Museum, Tuvalu, Montage and Laguna Beach Books.



**Jo will stay after her presentation to sign and sell her books. It will surely be a presentation you won't want to miss!**



## Balmy Winter Night Made for a Cozy Christmas Member's Home Tour

An Asian arch in Norman Powell's garden frames Lynn Jax, Jackie Knauer and Jeanne Yale as they tour his lovely garden.



Diane Kloke and Linda Humes listen to Tom Hensel's Christmas carols.



The sunset was spectacular on Kloke's deck for a group photo.



## January Tours & Travel • Jan 26th Moon Valley Nursery & Village Nursery

This month we will venture out to visit two nurseries, **Moon Valley Nursery** located in Irvine just off the 405 Freeway and **Village Nurseries** on Garfield Ave. in Huntington Beach. We will have a guided tour of each facility, with free plants and DISCOUNTS! Meet at St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace at 8:45am, tour leaves promptly at 9:00am.



## Valentine Container Auction Will Be Held at the February Meeting

The highlight of our February meeting is the annual Valentine Container Garden Silent Auction Fundraiser. Put your creativity to work and turn an everyday container into a visual delight.

Money raised at this event supports the school gardens at three local schools and scholarships for Laguna Beach students. Bring your credit card or checkbook!

For more information contact  
Lynette LaRoche



## CLUB NEWS

### Green Thumb & Green Thumb Plus Days



We have one more, **Green Thumb** day plus one **Green Thumb Plus** day, to work on containers and garden décor to sell at our fundraising plant and garden sale. Please contribute to this club event by putting in time with friends on the following projects: rock painting, pot decorating, creating plant containers, and anything else you come up with. Your \$5 fee for these Green Thumb days will help offset the cost of supplies purchased by your Green Thumb hostess.

9:30 AM at the home of Elaine Davis –  
32562 Sea Island Drive, Dana Point RSVP at January 12 General Meeting or [edavis1@cox.net](mailto:edavis1@cox.net)

**Also, many thanks to everyone who took up nursery pots or are using their own and are growing fantastic plants.**

### December Raffle Winners

**Norah Koenig** was the grand prize winner at the December Raffle. She took home this beautiful orchid arrangement.



**Chris Lutz** was also a winner of a yummy gingerbread house.



Proceeds from the raffles help to fund the school's gardens and scholarships.

## New Members

### *December Introductions*

#### **Barb Bowler**

She is thrilled to have joined the garden club! She was raised in Spokane WA, and educated and worked in Seattle for several years and moved to sunny California at the age of 26.

She has traveled to many European and Middle Eastern countries and love Hawaii. She has lived in Laguna Beach since 1984.

Barb has three grandsons and loves getting her hands dirty in the garden. Her mantra is "I Love Laguna !"

#### **Dale Palas**

Dale has lived in Mission Viejo for 30+ years.

Dale retired earlier this year after working 45 years for various manufacturing companies in Supply Chain Management. She and her husband love to camp and explore old mining areas of California. They have no children but plenty of nieces and nephews. Dale just became a great-aunt last week. Gardening is the greatest passion in her life, and she loves collecting plants of all kinds. Roses and Plumeria are her favorites. Dale also raises desert turtles, 12 in all, and one cat. She has really enjoyed the Laguna Beach Garden Club's meetings and tours over the years.

# Club Member Wins Award for Rose Parade Float

Our very own **Carolyn Bent's** latest floral handiwork won this year's 129th Rose Parade's Theme Award. The theme was "Making A Difference". The float, entitled "Donate Life", was designed to create awareness of organ

donations. The organ recipients rode on the float and donors walked alongside. Carolyn was the lead floral supervisor for the float. Her association with the famed parade began as a volunteer in 1978 when she met her husband, who was the medical

director of the Laguna Beach Community Clinic. His parents owned the largest float company in the world at the time, and Carolyn owned florist

shop in Glendale. Eventually her in-laws sold the company to Paradiso Floats and now she works for them. Laguna Beach Garden Club is fortunate to have Carolyn as a member who donates her artistic talents to the club on many levels, including our entry in the Patriots Day Parade on the first Saturday in March. Congratulations Carolyn!



## Valentine's Plant & Planter Sale

**S**aturday, February 10, 2018 the Laguna Beach Garden Club presents their first annual **Valentine's Plant & Planter Sale** at Tankersley Hall, Laguna Presbyterian Church from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Exhibitors will present unique garden art, stunning jewelry, hand carved wood bowls, succulents of all kinds, an exceptional variety of flowering plants, fairy garden décor, colorful hand painted pots and much more for Valentine's Day shopping. This is Laguna Art at its best, join the fun and

find beautiful gifts all while supporting the city of Laguna Beach's School Gardens and the Laguna Beach High School Scholarship. The Duchess of Pearls offers unique pearl jewelry from around the world. Admission is FREE! Celebrate the season, join the fun and enjoy delicious home baked treats and coffee provided by Laguna Beach Garden Club members. There will be

opportunity drawings as well, so bring your friends and make a fun day in Laguna all while supporting a great cause in your neighborhood!



*Adapted from an article in  
Dec 17th StuNews*

## **Passion points to a place where plants proliferate in Powell's picturesque piece of paradise on Panorama**

**Written by SUZIE HARRISON  
Photos by Mary Hurlbut**

Located in North Laguna in the lovely tucked away Panorama neighborhood, **Norman Powell's** landscape extraordinaire is populated with a perfection of plants, 40 varieties, mixed in a stunning aesthetic. A visual delight punctuated with texture, shape, size, and form, his colorful collection includes over two dozen types of succulents, as well as a dozen varieties of plants and trees. With a design covering 2,000 square feet of outdoor space, Powell thinks of himself as a landscaper.

"I often say I am more of a landscaper than a gardener. It depends on what you think the words mean," Powell said. "What's the difference between landscape and garden? Well, they overlap a lot, don't they? But I look at what I did as a landscape project - it's a broader thing."

Everywhere you look you find an exciting mix of plants and trees with gorgeous details of transformation and blooms living harmoniously with found art and other accent pieces, adding color to his palette. There are two fire hydrants and a



large water valve stem in the garden. This collection of found objects is called "The Panorama Waterworks."

### ***Norman Powell enjoys the use of colors as well as art installations***

His installation pieces are amidst jade, agave, aloe, elephant plants, and black bark eucalyptus leaves. Touring his garden, his many towering cactus were remarkable.

"This is commonly called candelabra. It will grow 30 feet 40 feet high. That's why I planted them out away from the house," Powell said.

Among his treasures, he showed me red hot poker, California holly, rosemary, Carolina cherry, and lemonade berry.

"These are the ones that I told you that are edible, natal plums. There's very few of these that look like a tree; they all trim it down into a hedge," Powell said, but he prefers a more natural look.

### ***Natal plums are a delicious treat, one of many edible plants in Powell's garden***



Despite the picturesque landscape, Powell has a penchant for the imperfect in a perfect way.

"I keep what I like and let the rest go. It's the same with what I plant. If it doesn't work, I don't baby it," Powell said. "It has to survive on its own in this environment, so I am looking for things that find a niche here. If they don't, adios. I don't struggle with it."

His soil is as dry as the desert, but he has a heart of gold. Powell is as friendly as he is knowledgeable.

"I have found that many plants can live quite happily without irrigation, consuming only rainwater. I believe that many plants adapt to the absence of water by slowing or stopping their growth; but they do not necessarily die."

In the dry season, Norman said he waters most of the garden for three minutes every three nights, using about 350 feet of drip line. And he does not water in the rainy season. Yet, beauty proliferates and plants thrive and multiply.

"What you might say is my favorite flower is my nasturtium. They are just coming up, they don't start blooming, but as you saw this whole thing will be covered," Powell said. "I have thousands of seeds that I put out. Now is the time to put them in

before the rain. It's like a wild flower."

"Now as I pointed out, when you drive by, this looks like a hillside of agave, but you can see here that the natal plum is working its way in. That little blue echiveria, that's what all the succulent garden people use to put blue into their garden. It gives you all the blue you want. That's how blue it is," said Powell.

### ***Powell's garden is full of succulents in all shapes, sizes, and colors***

Toward the back side of his house, Powell showed a special project that he's excited about. "So I want to show you this project that I am working on. It's kind of my quasi Chinese garden. This is a genuine



antique Chinese swing, so it sort of set me in that direction," Powell said. "I am going to repaint that different colors because look at the intricate work it has. This used to be just a hill and this is the latest wall I built here and will plant fig ivy to grow up on this."

### ***The Chinese Garden will be a great place to relax, have coffee, and meditate***

As for the **Laguna Beach Garden Club**, he's basically addicted to it.

"I am a new member. I have a new member badge. I joined this year. They cover every detail," Powell said. "I think everybody enjoys the meetings. They're fun, f-u-n. And it's entertaining even during the run of the mill business part; it's still fun."

Walking up the street a bit to check out a neighborhood garden, I pointed to his garden from a vantage point. I said look how beautiful your landscaping is.

He said, "You know what, actually standing here it's really starting to look good. I hadn't really stopped to look at my own place," he said with a huge grin. "Yah, it's really starting to look good."

## *New greenhouse at Top of the World Elementary will expand learning opportunities for students*

**L**aguna Beach Unified School District has completed construction on a greenhouse at Top of the World Elementary that will in time become a place for students to learn first-hand about sustainability concepts, and will also provide fresh produce for the Laguna Beach Food Pantry, launching the Giving Garden Food Program. The Top of the World PTA presented the idea for the greenhouse and the Giving Garden Food Program when they decided to apply to the Seeds of Change Grant Program, an annual initiative funded by one percent of Seeds of Change net sales as a part of the brand's commitment to helping create healthier and greener communities.

The idea was for the greenhouse to provide a space where students could become more involved in the seed handling process, increasing the yield and therefore the garden's contributions to the Laguna Beach Food Pantry.

*New greenhouse at TOW Elementary helps students to learn about sustainability*

A public voting process declared the Giving Garden Food Program the second-place winner, securing a \$10,000 grant that was matched by Top of the World PTA, resulting in a \$20,000 budget for the project.

"Top of the World Elementary is

the District to select a greenhouse and prepare the site for installation. They selected a geodesic dome greenhouse designed by Growing Spaces® for year-round gardening. The design includes a solar-powered central air system, an above



excited to add the greenhouse to our upper-grade garden. This will enhance the outdoor classroom allowing us to make further connections to the standards, as well as have the ability to produce even more food that we can donate to the local community," said Michael Conlon, principal at Top of the World. He added, "Kudos to the PTA for securing this grant and to Ryan Zajda, director of facilities, for his coordination of this project." Members of the PTA worked with

ground pond, and automatic vents that will keep heating costs low. The greenhouse will be a space for students to learn and understand how living organisms within an ecosystem interact to be self-sustainable. The above ground pond will eventually feature koi fish and water plants that will help keep the greenhouse humid, in addition to providing nutrient-rich water that will be used for planting.

**January 2018  
Refreshment Volunteers**

Synthia Scofield  
Maggie Siegel  
Ora Sterling  
Jackie Souadjian  
Marilyn Ghere  
Peggy Rushing  
Maggie Owens  
Laura McCants  
Diane Lannon  
Barbara Deubert  
Elizabeth Gemora  
Carolyn Bent  
Becky Martin  
ElizaBeth Chapel

**Thank you to the  
December 2017  
Refreshments Volunteers**

Polly Dix  
Synthia Scofield  
Marriann Keenan  
Shirley Case  
Lisa Mahar  
Lisa Fecteau  
Linda Humes  
Elizabeth Gemma  
Brigitta Schoen  
Patricia Weir  
Dana Victorson  
Sue Goldberger  
Beate Loomis  
Lynn Pries  
ElizaBeth Chapel

**December Volunteer of the Month**

**Polly Dix** was the December Volunteer of the Month. Polly is the Sunshine Special Administrator and always has a smile on her face as she welcomes new members, brings treats to a meeting or sends a card of support to a member.  
**Congratulations Polly!**



**Recognition Awards**

Four awards recognizing club members and their tremendous efforts that support the club will be awarded this spring. All members are encouraged to nominate a fellow club member to take notice of their activities and volunteer efforts in which they participate.

Nominations will be accepted at the **April 13, 2018** general meeting. Forms will be forthcoming. Be prepared to write a short explanation for your nominee. The winners will be awarded at the **May 11, 2018** general meeting.

Categories are:

1. Club Member of the Year
2. Rookie Member of the Year
3. Gardener of the Year
4. Garden of the Year



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[www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)

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