



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



June 2020
MEMBER NEWS

Education in the Garden

“Use the dirt life throws at you
to plant the seeds of your success.”
-Matshona Dhliwayo

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

While walking on the beach at Strands last month, I came across this tree that someone “planted” in the sand. There wasn’t a note or an explanation for the installation, but it did provide a moment of comic relief to those who passed by. Maybe it was a moment of Covid-19 Craziness, but this lone tree with its toes in the sand brought a smile and giggles to the beach goers that



day. Plants are like that, they clean our air, provide us with fruit & flowers, and bring peace to the heart during stressful times.

The tree isn’t on the beach any longer, hopefully it was moved to a more suitable site, but that day I couldn’t think of a better place that it could be.

COME JOIN IN THE FUN

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Mariann Keenan sows the seeds for the new year. See page 2

OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Nancy Englund reflects on her tenure. See page 3

BOARD MEMBERS NOTES

Mariann Keenan & Cookie Lee take on new Board positions and look forward to the future. Thank you to members leaving the Board. See pages 4-5

THIS & THAT

Random good stuff to share.
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TIME TO RENEW

Membership renewal form is located on page 7. Send it in now so you won’t miss out on anything next year.

Plant the seed of **HOPE**
Water with **COURAGE**
Fertilize with **STRENGTH**
and bloom **SURVIVE**
In the garden of **LIFE**

President's Message

Meet The New President: Mariann Keenan



Happy summer, everyone! I hope you are staying safe and healthy and doing well during these difficult times. It is my privilege and

honor to be your new club president for the next two years. I would like to recognize my predecessor, **Nancy Englund**, for her tenure of tireless and excellent work as president during which the club grew in the number of its programs, members and community outreach. Thank you, Nancy!

Laguna Beach Garden Club first came on my radar in February 2016. I arrived a little too late to bid on Valentine's Day container gardens made by members, but in plenty of time to witness all the excitement. There was lots of laughter and activity as members claimed their prizes, as the event wound down and clean-up began. I asked for the March meeting date and joined at that meeting — and the rest is history!

Before finding our wonderful garden club, I had joined several cactus and succulent groups in the area. Yes, I am a bit obsessed with succulents; there is so much to learn. But these clubs, while fun and interesting, are not our Laguna Beach Garden Club. **We are unique in having New Member Luncheons, Trips & Tours, Green Thumb Craft activities and Open Garden Happy Hours.** Not to mention our robust series of guest speakers each month. And someone is always standing at the door welcoming members to every meeting.

Laguna Beach is one of my favorite places (and my husband's too). So, after leaving Southern California in 1997 and moving more than a dozen times in a 35-year career in commercial insurance, it was an easy decision to move back here in 2012. My husband, Bob, and I bought a little house, remodeled it, and settled in. And for the first time in my adult life, there was time to explore the outdoor space and to tend a garden — my garden. I come from a long line of gardeners. My mother and my maternal grandmother were avid and excellent gardeners in Ohio. My grandmother grew all her own vegetables — several varieties of lettuce, cabbage, onions, garlic, beans, squash, and cucumbers -- to make the best dill pickles ever. Both she and my mother grew beautiful flowers, including roses, peonies, daffodils, irises, and tulips. All my teachers delighted in hand-picked bouquets from our yard.

So, imagine my surprise and dismay when the plants in my own garden started to brown and yellow or rot or become overrun with bugs! Happily, before settling for a rock garden, I discovered succulents and fell in love. There are so many beautiful varieties, and I was in the right climate to grow them, so these plants thrived in my care.

Since I joined the club four years ago, I have eagerly attended every meeting and volunteered for everything — every event, every auction, every parade, every Gate & Garden Tour. It turns out this

club is my cup of tea, the cat's meow.

There are two big rewards of membership I want to share — wonderful benefits and gifts of our club:

Friendships -- They bloom when we garden with other members; help at meetings and events; go on trips and tours; participate in workshops; lend an ear or share a laugh — and so much more. These friendships can deepen as we share stories of our lives and dreams.

Education – For the many ways we offer and support **“Education in the Garden,”** each of us can take pride. We provide scholarships to students pursuing horticulture and related fields; we support educational gardens at schools; we give free gardening advice and succulent cuttings at community events and our monthly plant table; and we present informative and engaging guest speakers at our monthly meetings.

*My focus as president will be **“Education in the Garden”** — supporting and providing gardening education for members and the community.*

In closing, I send best wishes to you and your families. Be safe, be well, be happy, and keep on gardening and loving gardens and nature everywhere — especially in our beautiful town of Laguna Beach.

Outgoing President's Message

Celebrating Two Years in the Garden



Dear Members of the Garden Club,

It has been my immense pleasure to serve as your president. I

am delighted that Mariann Keenan is stepping into this role and know she will bring her warmth and dedication to the job.

As President, my theme was ***"Celebrating Art & Science in the Garden."*** I saw this as an opportunity to focus the enthusiasm and wisdom of the garden club not only on what we personally define as our gardens but also the "garden" we all live on, the planet Earth. I'll give myself a B



grade. I brought my truth. I don't think I changed any minds but I hope I encouraged people to think and maybe incorporate a few easy tricks to save the world.

Over my two-year tenure, I shared things that I care about and learned what ignites your passion. Who knew squeezing toilet paper to make a roll last longer would be such an important life skill?

As a Californian, I am proud of all we do to save water. As a result of our partnership with the water district there will soon be a public bottle-filling station at their office on 3rd Street. This is an opportunity to eliminate the need for thousands of single-use plastic bottles, and save millions of gallons of water. With your support, we are making this a reality.



I wanted to learn more about all the community projects the club is involved with. I became a fifth-grade garden volunteer and saw how enriching an educational school garden is. I had the chance to not only experience

first-hand how well spent our club's money is, but also share my lifetime of knowledge with others and learn some things, too. I plan to return as a garden volunteer at Top of the World.

I will continue on the board not only as past president but also as **Director of Ways & Means**. I look forward to getting to know the new board members and continuing to be active as the club evolves to meet new challenges.

See you soon,
Nancy England



Meet Members of Our Board of Directors

New Officers Begin Working on the New Year's Activities

Cookie Lee joined the garden club after moving to Laguna Beach in 2019 from Newport Beach. She retired after a 30 year career as owner of Cookie Lee Jewelry, Inc.

Cookie is a newbie gardener and loves to grow succulents. She now considers herself a true “Succiest”! She says that the garden club has taught her the love of gardening. Cookie has chosen to give back to the garden club by **Co-Chairing Membership** and looks forward to more fun gardening adventures to come!



Even Cookie's dog, Muchi, dressed up to walk in the Patriot's Day Parade in March with the garden



Mariann Keenan joined the garden club in 2016 after retiring from a 35 year career in commercial insurance. She loves gardening, especially in containers with succulents and enjoys sharing plant knowledge.

As a new member Mariann started volunteering for many club activities which led to her first board position as Vice President. Now, it is her honor and privilege to serve as the new **President** of our wonderful club.



Mariann and her husband Bob enjoyed their tour of the Robinson Mansion, LBGC's Trips & Tour in February. Bob also became a member in 2020.

Retiring Members of Our Board of Directors

Their Dedication to the Club Was Invaluable

Thank you!

As President I was supported and inspired by a strong board who guided my decisions and ensured that we honored the mission of the club and had fun. Key to the success of any club is some turn over in the make-up of the board, giving new voices an opportunity to be heard and new ideas the chance to circulate. I'd like to thank the women who are leaving the board.

Lisa Fecteau quietly and efficiently managed Ways & Means. Always ready with a smile or the correct size gloves, Lisa made sure we had an uninterrupted supply of garden club swag for sale, and organized the Valentine plant sale with quiet grace. Thank you, Lisa.

Linda Homscheid has done a splendid job of keeping the website up to date, even during our migration to a new server. She gracefully prodded the stake holders to provide information so she could post and publicize. Her attention to detail extended to copy-editing many pieces I wrote, each time deftly improving my words. Thank you, Linda.

Karen Nelson pried the *Gate & Garden Tour* from my control and did a terrific job presenting the 2019 tour of Emerald Bay. She rethought the tour and worked her butt off, exploring new sources of revenue, expanding tour publicity and enriching our major fund raiser. She had another winning tour all lined up for this year. Thank you, Karen.

Barbara Balossi and **Diane Lamboley**, the yin and yin of the membership team. Barbara, thank you for your fresh perspective and determination, and Diane, thank you for your quiet wisdom and insights. It has been a pleasure to serve, knowing you were all there to show me the way.

Thank you.

Nancy Englund



Lisa Fecteau



Linda Homscheid



Karen Nelson



Barbara Balossi



Diane Lamboley

This & That

Random Fun Stuff To Share

Some of My Favorite Things *Members Share About Garden Items They Love*

Wendy Caufields's Favorite

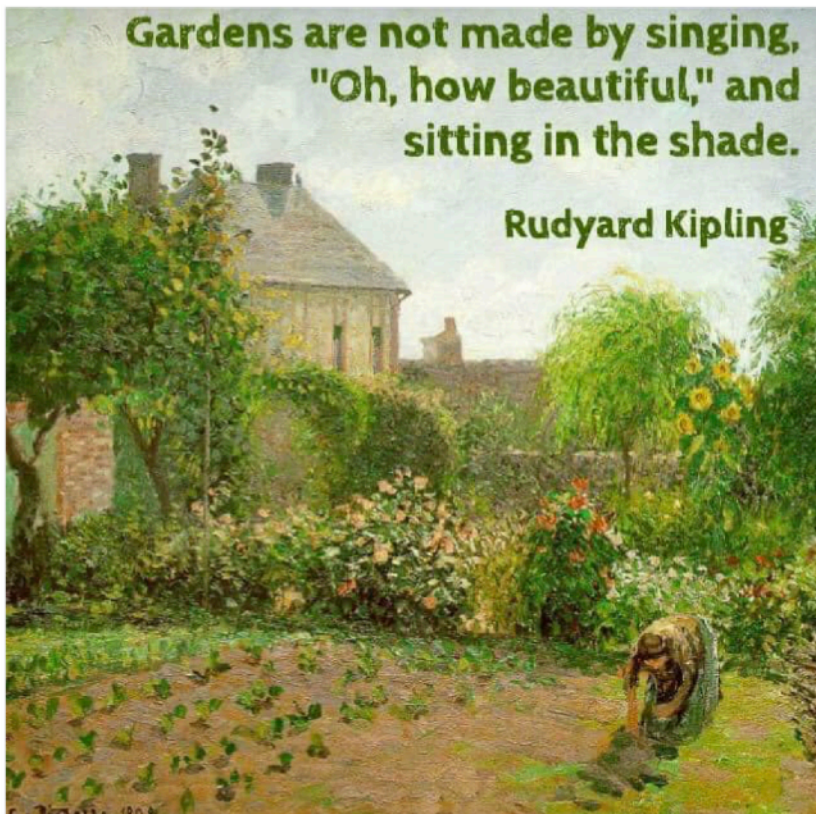
This Hori Hori knife is by far the most used and loved tool I own (even more than my pruners). It's like a Swiss army knife, full of fun and function.

I purchased it at Orange County Farmers Supply. Obviously it's not for kids, even if they are in a good mood!

Orange County Farmer's Supply
1826 W Chapman Ave, Orange, CA 92868

Do you have a garden favorite to share with our members? Send your suggestions to Dalynn Malek- dalynnmalek@gmail.com

Please include photos and purchase information if applicable



The UCCE Master Gardeners Website is a Treasure Trove of Information



If you have questions about gardening that requires expert help, check out the Orange County chapter of the UCCE Master Gardeners website. They have podcasts on a variety of subjects that address most all plant issues. <http://mgorange.ucanr.edu/>



Laguna Beach Garden Club 2020 - 2021 Membership New Member Form

* Complete this form and attach a check for \$65, made payable to **Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.**

Mail To:

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92652

- * Membership can be obtained on our website: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.
- * All membership dues paid by Credit Card will be \$70.
- * Please consider making a tax-deductible donation above the membership fee to offset some of our expenses. All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated. Donations \$25 or more will be recognized in our newsletter and on our website.

Please Print neatly!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

THIS AREA MUST BE FILLED OUT

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving the club permission to use any photos taken at club functions for publicity and in social media

Signature _____

Total Amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash ☐ Check ☐ Check Number _____ Credit Card ☐

I can help LBGC with: _____



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www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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