



# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

NOVEMBER 2021  
MEMBER NEWS

*"I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new."* -Ralph Waldo Emerson

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Three places I love to shop are shoe stores, hardware stores, and garden centers. I enjoy roaming up & down the aisles looking for not necessarily things I need, but more for what I want.

Garden implements call to me. A new pruner, pair of gloves for working on my rose bushes, or even a kneeling pad to make close up work easier, makes my heart happy. *Green Thumb Nursery* posted an article outlining some great pruning tools that might also need to find their way into your

garden tool box. Just click on the link below to find out more. Happy shopping!

[https://www.greenthumb.com/fall-pruning-tool-guide-tools-you-might-use-in-fall-and-winter/?goal=0\\_a5d2f265c3-1e721b05d6-224965713&mc\\_cid=1e721b05d6&mc\\_eid=1b2e67ce8f](https://www.greenthumb.com/fall-pruning-tool-guide-tools-you-might-use-in-fall-and-winter/?goal=0_a5d2f265c3-1e721b05d6-224965713&mc_cid=1e721b05d6&mc_eid=1b2e67ce8f)



COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

### General Meeting Nov. 12

#### Rene' van Rems

International Floral Designer  
(see page 3)

9:30 am-  
Social/  
Plant Table  
in the patio

10:00 am-  
General  
meeting &  
guest  
speaker.  
Masks  
required  
indoors.



### Green Thumb Craft

A delightfully creative day was had painting Halloween & fall themed gourds (see page 5)

No Green Thumb Craft this month-see you in January!

### Trips & Tours

October found us at the Tree of Life Nursery enjoying a lovely fall day. (see page 6)

# Thankful and Grateful

Dear Members,

Happy November!!

November always reminds me how fortunate we are to live in Southern California. While much of the rest of the country is seeing the first snowfall of the year, we enjoy temperatures in the 60's, 70's and sometimes the 80's in November. Yes, there is rainfall for which we are grateful due to ongoing drought conditions.



Speaking of grateful, that is where my heart is this November. Especially when I compare this November to last during the pandemic...

1. Our club is meeting in-person this year and last year I was still learning the ropes of how to lead a Zoom meeting.

2. Many of us plan to celebrate Thanksgiving in-person with family and friends compared to being mostly in isolation last year.
3. Last year our membership numbers were dropping in November and this year we are adding new members every meeting.
4. I am grateful for the *Trips and Tours* we've had and for *Green Thumb* events, more already this year so far compared to all last year.

The list could go on, but you get the idea; we have much for which to be thankful and Thanksgiving is a perfect time to acknowledge that.



Like all of you, I am thankful for my garden and grateful for the rainfall we've been experiencing in Orange County. Plants I purchased at the *Plant Table* are thriving in my small garden space. Many thanks to those of you who bring items to share. I love that my garden is full of plants from cuttings and gifts from friends.

Enjoy a bountiful, happy Thanksgiving with those you love and cherish. My very best wishes and love to you and yours,

Mariann



## November Meeting

# Floral Fantasies Await

Rene' van Rems will share his passion for flowers with us

**W**e are honored to host **Rene' van Rems**, internationally recognized floral designer at the Friday, November 12 meeting. Award-winning Dutch Designer Rene' van Rems, a leader in master floral design, owns and runs the Rene Floral Training Center, which is a 3000 sq. foot state-of-the-art facility in Carlsbad, California. Originally from Amsterdam, Rene' has called San Diego his home for over 20 years. He is a member of the *American Institute of Floral Designers*, *The National Speakers Association*, and *the Professional Commentators International*. Rene' was formally educated in the entire spectrum of *Floriculture/Horticulture Institute*.

A frequent speaker at leading art museums, Rene' has also been featured in many national publications like *California Florists*, *Sunset Magazine*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, and many more. His work has been featured on *HGTV*.

Rene' will share his insights on the latest floral trends and speak about the floral industry on a broad range of lifestyle flower programs: incorporating the latest flowers, foliage, botanicals, containers and fabrics. His exquisite book collection includes *Rene's Bouquet for Brides*, a stunning five-chapter, large-format photo book, is a

must-have for brides. Another must-have is *Rene's Bouquet - A Guide to Euro-Styled Hand-Tied Bouquets*, a how-to-guide for bridal consultations, design rooms, and the coffee table of anyone who loves flowers.

His books will be available for sale at the meeting.

Due to a family emergency, the previously scheduled November speaker had to be postponed.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Open Garden Happy Hour- Holiday Member Tour December 10

This is a fantastic and fun way to celebrate the Holiday Season. Mark your calendar. You don't want to miss it.

**Sue Field** will graciously open her home & garden from 2 – 5 pm. Come enjoy the festive season with some delicious treats and beverages and enjoy her lovely holiday decorations and garden view of Coto Valley and Saddleback Mountain.

Her address is:  
4 Flat Iron Road  
Coto de Caza  
There are 2 entry gates:  
• **1st Gate**, tell the guard you are with Laguna Beach Garden Club.  
• **2nd Gate**, the code is **121021**.



If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sue by **December 6** (so she can plan accordingly). Sign-Up Sheet will also be at the November 12 meeting — see Lynn Jax at the Membership Table.

Email: [sueafield@gmail.com](mailto:sueafield@gmail.com) or Cell: 949-533-6570.



# Smartscape

Free succulents, rock painting and garden advice-what's not to love!

Once again the Garden Club participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual *SmartScape* at *Laguna Beach County Water District* on October 9 from 8 am to 2 pm. Thank you to all who donated succulent cuttings for this event, who helped transport the cuttings and the two buckets of rocks to the Water District after the last meeting, and a huge thanks to the nine intrepid club members who volunteered their Saturday to help out: **Jackie Knauer, Nancy Englund, Susan Denton, Diane Klope, Jeannine Layman, Trudy Josephson, Mariann Keenan, Synthia Scofield, and Lynn Jax.**



Succulent cuttings went home with very interested gardeners, and



the few leftovers were much appreciated by the couple who sold succulents next to our booth. Our resident “plant experts” offered advice on planting, shade/sun and watering. The extra seed packets also found good homes, looking forward to growing into a bountiful crop. Many were interested in picking up the beautiful “Save the Date” postcard announcing our *Gate & Garden Tour for May 7, 2022*. Pick up your postcard at the next meeting.

Several people expressed interest in joining the Club. Our rock painting was a hit, there was a non-stop parade of people (young and old) stopping by to put paint-pen to stone and show off their creativity. All in all, it was a successful community event. Be sure to attend next year.-  
Lynn Jax





# Getting Our Gourd On!

## October's Green Thumb Project = Creative Fun

October's Green Thumb, hosted by Elaine Davis, found seven members working diligently for over 3 hours. Halloween imagery was the theme and samples from the web were shared. Elaine had an endless collection of different types of paints, markers, transfer paper, and space at the tables to spread out and be comfortable and out of the sun. Perhaps the best part of the morning was being able to get to know each other better, to welcome new members and one guest.





## Trips & Tours

# A Glorious Morning at the Tree of Life Nursery

At the latest adventure of Trips & Tours on October 22, at least 20 members spent a delightful morning with **Katie Newman** at *Tree of Life Native Plant Nursery* in San Juan Capistrano, located on Ortega Highway, learning about native plants and the nursery's history. Tree of Life is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on its 400 acres. The weather was perfect and the company was enjoyable! We all bought plants we probably don't "need" but absolutely love. Several people are reimagining their gardens by adding CA natives, especially considering the drought California is experiencing.

Afterwards, several of us decamped to Morena's Mexican Restaurant and had a delicious meal. We also discussed places to visit for our January trip. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please let **Synthia Scofield** know. Her contact information is in your Membership Book.



# Taste of Laguna Beach Deliciously Returns

**T**he Laguna Beach Garden Club was proudly represented at the 14th Annual Taste of Laguna Beach on October 14. After a year's hiatus, Taste of Laguna returned to the Festival of the Arts grounds with 22 restaurants, great bands, DJ's and so much more.

Over 1400 people attended this year's popular event that included 33 booths with participants from local restaurants, businesses and organizations, including the Laguna Beach Garden Club.

Taste of Laguna provided us a great opportunity to raise awareness about all that we do for our community and to engage new prospective members who were not previously knowledgeable about what a vibrant and active club we are!



**Lynn Jax, Susan Denton, Karen Nelson and Trudy Josephson** distributed "spa water" from the gorgeous botanical water booth that brought many photographers to admire the club's lovely flora and botanical theme.

It was also another opportunity to get the word out about the Club's Annual *Gate & Garden Tour* that will be held once again at the gorgeous Laguna Beach Water District building in downtown Laguna Beach on May 7, 2022.

Tickets are currently on sale for \$60 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/laguna-beach-garden-club-2022-gate-garden-tour-tickets-175898596437>.





# Pollinator Garden - Updated News

Jorja Puma, our Community Projects Administrator, received this email in mid-October to inform the Club our the progress of the Pollinator Garden, which is located on the slope directly across from the "Whale" sculpture in Heisler Park. The Garden Club is providing the funds for this garden, which was approved by the city with a look to attract more pollinators to our coastline and community.

Hí Jorja,

We started work planting the first 14 plants yesterday. Reggie - who you mentioned to us — from the city of Laguna Beach was there and he was great! He helped together with Mel the parks manager and Christian another employee. Reggie removed a few more of the old plants to free up more room for our garden.

We are going to visit Tree of Life Nursery today to see what they have in stock from our native plant list.

I have attached a few photos from yesterday as we got started with some planting.

Thank you,

Laura





# December Raffle

## Getting in the Holiday Spirit With Goodies

### December RAFFLE Items Needed

A special Christmas raffle will be held at the December 10 meeting. We are seeking special items as donations. So far, the items we have include:

- Succulent Wreath by Jeanne Yale
- Christmas Ornament
- Christmas Gourd by Elaine Davis

Previously some of our raffle items included a Christmas Gourd, a basket with Gingerbread house & other German Christmas items, gift card from Green Thumb Nursery, handcrafted wooden goblets by Roger Taft, Gift Card + Orchid Arrangement from Plant Depot, and others.

If you would like to add some special to the raffle, contact Lynn Jax (E: [jax@cox.net](mailto:jax@cox.net) or Cell 949-294-1500).

I have created a Raffle Donation Request letter for any of you who would like to approach merchants you patronize. I will bring some copies to the meeting in November. Also, I can send a PDF version that you could print on your own. See letters on the following pages.

- Lynn Jax Raffle Coordinator



Images shown are similar to the raffle items available



Dear Merchant,

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. is requesting a raffle donation for one of our Raffles. Our next raffles will be held:

- **December 10, 2021** at our Christmas meeting – Deadline: December 3, 2021
- **February 11, 2022** at our Valentine meeting – Deadline: February 7, 2022
- **May 7, 2022**, at our annual Gate & Garden Tour, our major fundraiser for the year. Deadline: April 29, 2022

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a service organization founded in 1928 that now has more than 175 members from all over Orange County.

The money raised from these raffles is used to fund school gardens, specifically Top of the World Elementary, El Morro Elementary, and Thurston Middle School. Additionally, we offer scholarships to students at Laguna Beach High School and to horticultural students at Saddleback Community College. We also use the money for our monthly educational speaker series and to fund our civic beautification projects within Laguna Beach.

**Please complete the attached Raffle Donation Form.**

Lynn Jax can be contacted via email or by telephone to arrange for pick-up of any item donated, including a gift card. I am more than willing to stop by at your convenience.

If you prefer to donate a gift card, it can be mailed to:

*Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651*

*ATTN: Lynn Jax*

Benefits to Donors:

- Recognized with your name & donor level:
  - **LBGC website**, viewed by hundreds of members & non-members annually
  - LBGC *Weeder's Digest* (monthly newsletter)
  - LBGC 2022-23 **Membership Book**
  - **Gate & Garden Tour Brochure** – given to 600+ ticket-holders (local, surrounding areas, & other states).
- Name added to **In-Kind Donor Wall of Fame** – Levels:
  - **Monarch** \$1000 +
  - **Pelargonium** \$500 - \$999
  - **Poppy** \$100 - \$499
  - **Aloe** \$25 - \$99

Thank you in advance for your generosity. You have always been so generous in the past, and we are most appreciative. Consider donating to all three (3) events. Contact me — information below:

*Lynn Jax*

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership & Raffle Administrator

E: [jax@cox.net](mailto:jax@cox.net) C: 949-294-1500 or Home: 949-497-7363

Our Federal Tax ID number is listed below.

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization • email: [info@lagunabeachgardenclub.org](mailto:info@lagunabeachgardenclub.org)  
Federal Tax ID 23-7297058 • P.O. Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652 • Website: [LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)





## Merchant Raffle Donation Form

Return this completed form with your donation **OR** if using USPS, mail to:

*Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
ATTN: Lynn Jax*

**Donor/Company name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** you would like to be acknowledged: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:**

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Item Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Retail Value:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is item **No Exchanges or Returns?** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Garden Club Member name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info:** Email or phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# New Member Luncheon

Our first in-person New Member Luncheon was a huge success. On October 20 twenty-six new members and thirteen others, including Board members and Special Administrators, attended the luncheon, held at the beautifully fall-decorated home and garden of our gracious host, **Dalynn Malek**, who also is the Newsletter Editor. After a delicious buffet lunch, provided by Board and others, new members had the opportunity to learn about the Club and those in attendance. Each new member received a goodie bag and mingled with the rest of the attendees. Thank you to all who made this a fantastic fun event.



Goodie bags made by Lynn Jax await the new members



In an effort to acquaint all Garden Club members with our newest members, I asked

each attendee to complete a short questionnaire to enable me to write a mini-biography and Dalynn took photos. Please roll out the Garden Club Welcome Mat when you see our new members at meetings and outings. I truly enjoyed reading about and writing about each one. I know you will also.

*-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership*



**Nina Ackmann** – moved here two years ago, after living in Rhode Island and Massachusetts where she taught at Boston College, then became a clinical social worker, and now is an artist: painter, printmaker, and photographer. She joined the Club to make new friends and learn more about plants that grow on the West Coast, especially succulents and CA native plants. An interesting anecdote about Nina is that is directionally challenged. Her husband affectionately calls her the “180° Kid” because she goes right when she should go left. But somehow always manages to find her way.



**Stacy Anderson** – decided to join the Club because she was inspired by her grandmother who recently passed away and was an avid gardener, so she wanted to learn about the beautiful plants she sees all over Laguna and meet people with similar interests. Her son is in college and her daughter attends LBHS. Her past experience is as a project manager for a graphic design firm. Stacy is fluent in “Pig Latin,” so any like-minded people who want to converse in “ardengay lubcay,” please see Stacy, who additionally loves the beach but rarely goes in the ocean because it’s “too cold”. Brrr!





**Jane Barnes** – loves gardening and seeing gardens so Joni Knapp invited her to the Gate & Garden Tour in 2021. After spending most of her life in Colorado engaging in seasonal gardening, she moved to Southern California in 2013 and is excited about continuing to learn more about California natives and succulents. She is currently working for the American Cancer Society and has 30 years non-profit experience. Her father taught her much about gardening, especially tomatoes, but she must admit she hates those large green tomato worms.



**Marilyn Beard** – attended the Green Day event at the Sawdust Festival and went home with succulent cuttings given by the Garden Club, then she was hooked on our organization. Raised in the Hudson River Valley in New York, she attended Southhampton College with a major in languages/humanities and a minor in elementary education. After teaching for 33 years in LA Unified, mostly bi-lingual grades 4-6, she retired in 2003 and is delighted to live in Laguna Beach. Marilyn is currently one of the volunteer gardeners for Sister Cities Garden. She is also a passionate travel agent for Adore Travel for over 30 years, and that had assisted her global reunions with a high school friend, attending conferences all over the US and even into Mexico.



**Gloria Cleary** – was drawn to join the Garden Club because of the positive reputation of the Club for so many years. She was born in Havana, Cuba of Spanish and French ancestry, moved to Orange County at age 12, and owned a women's high-fashion boutique for 35 years. Her broad range of interests include gardening of flowers, vegetables, and fruit trees for more than 50 years and her artistic ventures comprise of painting, sewing, cooking and fashion since she was a child.



**Blair Contratto** – moved to Laguna Beach after spending 30 years in Palos Verdes, living in a rambling old Spanish style home with a garden of red, orange and yellow, where she and her husband raised two children. She hopes to make new friends who enjoy the challenges and rewards of gardening. Both she and her husband are attorneys, and she has been a hospital, health system administrator for 30+ years and is now a consultant with the Carmelite Sisters in Alhambra. Her grandmother was the first wife of Charlie Chaplin and has a Star on Hollywood on Vine on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



**Barbara Crane** – was invited to join the Garden Club by her friend, Cookie Lee, who knew she wanted to learn more about gardening and meet new friends. She grew up in Mississippi and lived in Washington DC for 15 years and worked on Capitol Hill. She is an investment banker for Schwab and has lived in Laguna Beach for 34 years. You would never know she was a Southerner because she does not have that “drawl”.



**Rosa Goldfind** – used to kill all her plants so her friend Maggie Owens thought joining the Garden Club would benefit her. She has lived in Russia, Austria, Poland, and Germany and the Bronx, NY. She has been a clothing designer, make-up artist, and real estate agent and her artistic talents include painting and sculpting. Hopes of becoming a better gardener and making new friends among the women in the Garden Club are her goals. Interestingly, when she was 4 years old, she lived in a yurt with a Kirgis family, for safe-keeping.



**Diane Groh** – has known about the Garden Club when she lived in North Orange County, so when she remarried and moved to Laguna Niguel she decided to join. In her first life she was a city planning director and after moving to back to California became a CPA. After her divorce she decided to work in a fun job and took on a job in a nursery, and eventually became a certified nurseryman. She hopes to become involved in the Club's fundraising activities and looks forward to joining others who share a love of gardening and giving back to the community. While traveling alone in a rental car in rural Missouri, she flushed the car keys down the toilet. The entire community rallied and helped her finally get on the road by finding a locksmith who was clever enough to take the lock to the trunk apart and make a new key. The locksmith's wife insisted that she come to her home because she didn't want her sitting by the side of the road. Truly a life affirming experience.



**John Holcombe** – met Nancy Englund when he agreed to have his garden in Woods Cove as part of the 2015 Gate & Garden Tour. He was impressed by Nancy's thoroughness and sense of humor. He was an Army Brat and East Coast native who has lived in California for 30 years and recently retired from medical field. His goal this year is to read and watch every Shakespeare play. Joining the Club will allow him to meet new friends, which is always fun, and learn more about plants that fit the local climate. Visitors to his yard during the Tour commented, "Wow! Your yard has lots of areas that are ...wild." He hopes the Garden Club will help him "tame" it.



**Harry Huggins** – decided to join the Garden Club because of the Club's longevity, and we are a non-profit organization that gets things done in the community. He says many people feel the Garden Club is "powerful". He attended the October speaker, Tom Betts Aranda (his friend) and the size of the crowd led him to believe these are like-minded people. He is an environmentalist who has lived in Laguna Beach for 23 years before moving to Laguna Hills. His work history includes: 3 years with the OC Probation department, 2 years with Garden Grove Parks & Rec, 2 years special assignment with the Police Department, 5 years with City of Irvine in research of Hazardous Materials, PR Director for American Red Cross for nearly 2 years, and OC Parks – Asset Manager for 24 years. He hopes to learn about the Club's organizational structure and how members are motivated to contribute time & money so that he can enhance a non-profit in Laguna Hills, Laguna Terrace Beautification Team. As you can tell he is very involved in community, also serving as Executive Director of 1989 Walk in Laguna Canyon, on the boards of Laguna Canyon Conservancy, Laguna Greenbelt, and Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks.





**Lauren Jarvis** – joined to continue to learn about gardening with the added benefit of making new friends and having fun. Her friend, Kat Meehan, introduced her to our wonderful group. Originally from the Bay Area, then moved to North Tustin and worked on forming a non-profit called SoCal Papa, which is a plein-air painting organization. She has worked as a professional artist and loves everything involved in that realm. Varied interesting facts about Lauren include: the only thing she has ever won was a bag of snail pellets at the nursery open house, was on Art Linkletter's "Kids Say the Darndest Things" in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, traveled in college on the World Campus Afloat (Semester at Sea), and played the Disneyland character of Snow White for 5 years.



**Gary Jenkins** – was recruited to join the Club by Cookie Lee, who can refuse Cookie? His wife, Betsy, was a member of the Club in the past but he has been the gardener of the house for many years. He is a retired pediatrician and has been active in the Laguna Beach community since 1980. He is interested in learning about pollinators plants, native plants, fruits and vegetables. Since retirement 5 years ago, he began piano lessons and is proud to say he has not been thrown out of the house yet.



**Joni Knapp** – bought a house that needs its landscaping redone. Because Joni wanted to do it herself as she loves to garden, her friend Cookie Lee encouraged her to join the Club. She is a Southern California native and has worked in the dental field as well as sold jewelry. She joined the Club for fun, friendship, and gardening tips.



**Jane Leary** – and her husband moved to Laguna Beach two years ago into a major down-size from Coto de Caza and loves it. She made fast friends with Dee Perry who encouraged her to help with the Gate & Garden Tour 2021 and she was hooked. She grew up in Fair Oaks, near Sacramento. Her father had an amazing garden of fruits and veggies along with pear, peach, nectarine, and cherry trees. Retired from medical device sales in February of 2021, she hopes that joining will offer her opportunities to make friends, have fun, volunteer and make a difference. She has run the LA Marathon twice — slowly — but did finish both times.



**Rosemary McDonald** – loves to garden, attended the Gate & Garden Tour and learned about the Garden Club from (Guess Who?) Cookie Lee – our resident recruiter. She lived in Pasadena for 30 years, but for the last 4 years full-time Lagunan. She recently retired after nearly 20 years as the Senior Counsel in the legal department at Hyundai Motor America. She is interested in learning about new gardening techniques and volunteering on committees. She was born in Dublin, Ireland.



**Susan (Sue) Moore** – was so impressed with the recent Gate & Garden Tour, she knew she wanted to part of the club. She lives in Los Angeles but has an apartment in Laguna. She loves to dig in her yard and is an avid tennis player. She wants to learn about new gardening ideas. Every year she orders and plants 150 tulip bulbs.



**Kari Nies** – joined the Club after a gracious spur-of-the-moment tour of Nancy Englund’s garden. After attending one meeting and being impressed with the speaker, she joined on the spot. Wanting to become more involved, at her second meeting the call went out for a Website Director and because she is a retired software engineer researcher for UC Irvine, she volunteered. She moved to Laguna after returning from grad school after attending U Mass, Amherst, in 1991. She hopes to find a cure for her “black thumb”.



**Gay Redcay** – is new to Laguna Beach and is happy to meet more people who enjoy gardening as she does. She grew up in New Jersey, went to college in Virginia, lived in New York and lived 40 years in the LA/Pasadena area. She is a retired Nurse Practitioner. She lives with her retired husband, has two grown children, and three little grandchildren. She joined the Club to have fun gardening, meet new friends and be of service to the community. She was once attacked by the dread Tomato Hornworm. Yuck!



**Linda Sholik** – agreed to have her garden on the most recent Gate & Garden Tour and loved meeting the members, so she decided to join. She teaches piano and voice lessons (online and in-person) and has taught music at Laguna Beach High School, St. Catherine’s Schools, and Orange Coast College. She hopes to learn how to plant and design gardens that are colorful and sustainable. She loves to hike at the Montage and photograph the butterflies and flowers. She sings with the Pacific Chorale and Pacific Symphony.



**Susan South** – also agreed to have her garden on the most recent Gate & Garden Tour, and by doing so learned more about the Club and wanted to join. She is a retired Registered Nurse and has lived in Laguna for 45 years in the same house, raising her two children there. She loves to garden and hopes to meet new people and pick up some gardening ideas. Her accomplishments are impressive and include: climbed to the top of Kilimanjaro in Africa, sailed as crew across the Atlantic on a 60’ sailboat with six other crew members spending 18 days at sea, and has run eleven marathons by the age of 50, now she walks them.



**Ruth Stafford** – attended the 2021 Gate & Garden Tour was so impressed with the amazing work the Club did in making this event a reality that she wanted to attend the monthly meetings and hear the speakers. She loves “Garden Ladies and [Men]”. She has lived in Laguna Beach since the opening of UC Irvine in 1965. She received her Ph.D. as a clinical psychologist (now retired). She has been on the Board of Hortense Miller Garden for years. She hopes to learn a few bits of garden wisdom. As a scuba diver, her wide range of travels affords her fascinating glimpses into the underwater gardens and unfortunately views of the destruction of the reefs by humans and global warming.





**Kathy Walz** – is another recruit to the Garden Club by Cookie Lee and her cohort Grace Balen, who invited her to join because she knew almost nothing about plants and thought it was a fun way to learn and be social. As a “California Girl” all the way, she grew up in Glendora and now lives in San Clemente. She retired eight years ago from a 38-year teaching career. Her gardening acumen includes the ability to kill a silk plant, so she wants to acquire skills to do better. In the 1980s she led a few tours for special events of the gardens and grounds of Casa Pacific (also known as the “Western White House”).



**Fritz Werner** – has been a gardener for years and her garden was on the Gate & Garden Tour in 2013. She is retired Registered Nurse who also worked in the OC Jail. Her other activities include a former interior designer, Laguna Beach business owner, teacher of ESL (English Language Learners), and a docent at museums. She wants to learn to garden better. For 10 years, her caseload was of drug users who were HIV+.



**Vicki Gumm**



**Deborah Sanchez**

Look for Vicki & Deborah’s mini-biographies in the December Weeder’s Digest.



P.O. Box 362

Laguna Beach, CA 92652

[www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)  
501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

For additional pictures of Laguna Beach Garden Club activities and information, go to our wonderful web site produced by **Kari Nies**

<https://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/events/club-albums/>