



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 26 Issue 8

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club Inc.

April 2026

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Garden Club Speaker Bio

Janine Dias-Avila

(also known as The Corner Coach®)



Janine Dias-Avila (also known as

The Corner Coach®) is an

inspirational speaker, coach, and

motivator with more than 30 years

of experience helping people embrace

their potential and enjoy life with a

positive, "can-do" spirit.

She has spoken across the United States,

Canada, and beyond—engaging audiences

with humor, heart, and practical insights

that inspire real change.

Janine believes that growth—in life, work,

and even gardening—begins with simple

actions and a hopeful mindset. She's

passionate about helping others discover

joy in everyday pursuits and empowering

them to accomplish goals with confidence.

April Showers, May Flowers... and June Tomatoes!

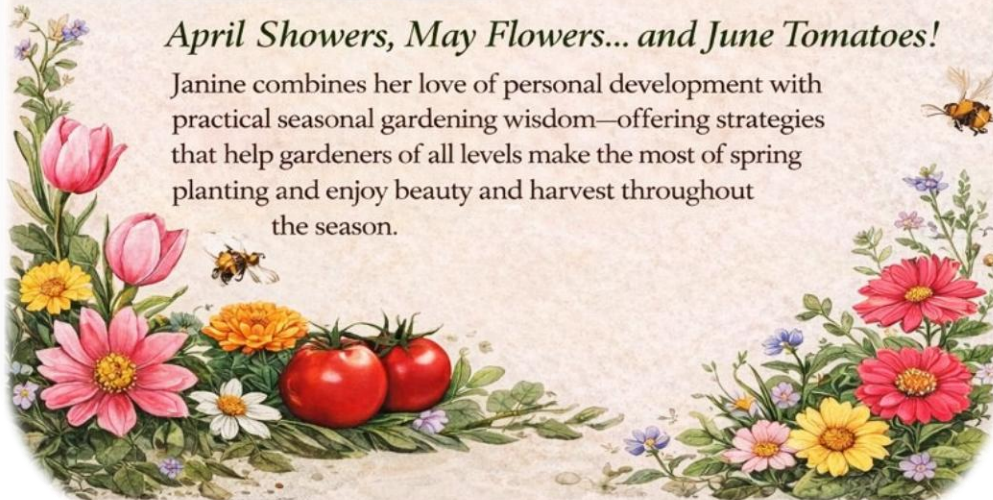
Janine combines her love of personal development with

practical seasonal gardening wisdom—offering strategies

that help gardeners of all levels make the most of spring

planting and enjoy beauty and harvest throughout

the season.



Nancy Robinson, President

Happy Spring everyone. What beautiful weather we've been having (except we still need rain). This is an extremely busy time of year. The Garden Club has so many activities planned. The first and biggest event is our Spring Garden Tour. It will be on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Be sure to check out all the details in this newsletter as to where to buy tickets and the other details of the tour.



The Pollinator Festival will be on Saturday, April 11. The time is 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The location is 2000 Encina Ave. There will be a children's Pollinator Costume Parade at 10:30. Bring your children and grandchildren to take part. This is a free and family friendly community sponsored event. The Garden Club will have a booth there to bring awareness of the club to the community. We will have a couple of days to paint rocks to sell at this event. If you are interested in helping to paint rocks, please call me to find out when. My number is 209-968-6556.

Less than a month after the Spring Garden Tour is our Plant Sale and Craft Faire. The date is Saturday, May 9. That's the day before Mother's Day. The time will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the Plant Sale ending at 2:00 p.m. Dave Provost and Lydia Smith are coordinating the Plant Sale with many members propagating and growing plants for the sale. Jeanette Robinson is the Coordinator for the Craft Sale. We already have 18-20 vendors who will be selling their handmade crafts or food items. This event is free of charge and open to the public. It will be held in the parking lot at the church where we have our monthly meetings – 913 Floyd Ave. There are more club and community events coming up. Please check the Coming Events to see what they are. Happy Gardening!

Dave Provost, Vice president, Civic Affairs

Hi, everyone. April is here, and we are set up for a busy month. This is probably the biggest gardening month of the year with all the Summer annuals and planting your vegetable gardens. It won't be long before we'll be picking those homegrown tomatoes!

This month is the Spring Garden Tour, then Love Modesto the next week. Also this month, some of the local high schools are having their plant sales. Gregori High's sale is April 11th and 12th from 8 to 2. Downey High has their plant sale April 11th through 16th, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 9-1. Mon- Thurs. 2:30 to 4:30. Let's all get out and support these great programs.

So have fun this month and get your hands dirty!

Dan Yockey, Vice President, Donations



Once again, I'd like to express my thanks to the four individuals who were the *first* to jump aboard our Club's recurring donations program. Your show of support for the Modesto Garden Club must be contagious!

Huge thank you and welcome to the recent donors! Since last month, more caring people have also decided to jump on board the \$20 a month program!

Our little garden fairy is chugging right along on the tracks to successfully meet her goal of **\$20 - by 26 people - in 2026**

Gerry Yockey, Director, Planters and Groomers

Hello!

I have been so lucky over the past years being a part of a special group called The Planters and Groomers who maintain the gardens at the Modesto Garden Club office.

Those who have volunteered to work in the garden have turned out to be long time friends and are such hard workers. I could not ask for more.

They go by 'Gerrys Girls' and work at the office gardens on the first and third Tuesday of the month. I am so proud of them and the work they do.

I also want to thank Keith Uyeno and Dan Yockey for their help distributing the heavy bags of mulch around the garden.

We are all working very hard to get the yard ready for the Spring Garden Tour. We want it to be outstanding. As a special treat Debbi had all of us to her beautiful home for lunch and since my birthday is the 26th we celebrated it as well. Thank you, Debbi, for your generosity.

If you want to join this wonderful group, call me at 209-484-0359-- Gerry

Lee Lundigran, Uice President, Fundraising 2026 Spring Garden Tour is here!



SATURDAY, APRIL 18th from 10 a.m. To 4 p.m.

Our 2026 Spring Garden Tour is this month! Circle the date and tell all your friends. \$25 tickets available at our office, April 9 General Meeting, ModestoGardenClub.org, VENMO, and each garden location on tour day.

2026 GARDENS / REFRESHMENTS / RAFFATUNITY:

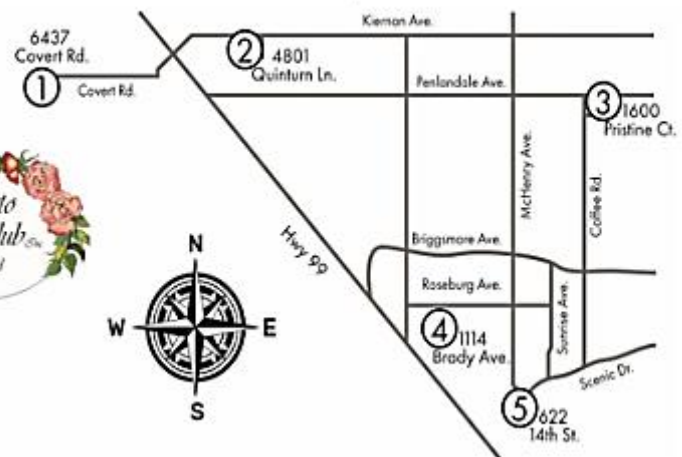
- 1) 6437 Covert Rd.;
- 2) 4801 Quinturn Lane;
- 3) 1600 Pristine Court;
- 4) 1114 Brady Ave.;
- 5) Modesto Garden Club, 622 14th Street, Modesto

Garden #3 features a Master Gardener's booth with gardening tips and information.

Garden #5 features REFRESHMENTS and RAFFATUNITY.

DOCENTS: Just a few docent positions are still available. Call our Docent Chair, Atlanta Jordan (209-522-8292) or Spring Garden Tour Director Lee Lundigran (209-303-0011) right away to spend a 2-hour shift at one of the gardens. Want to help out in a different way? Both Raffatunity and Refreshment teams have space at the Garden Club Office on tour day.

Plan to join us! Call/ text/ email me with questions: 209-303-0011 or Lundigran@bigvalley.net



Janice Garcia, Vice President, Education Budding Gardeners



The Wildflowers recently enjoyed an outing to lunch and a trip to the car museum. Looks like they had a wonderful time!

Budding Gardeners: To have your events listed here, send your pictures and text to newsletter@modestogardenclub.org by the 15th of the month!

Carla Latimer Hands-On Workshop

May's Workshop will be,
"Flower Pounded Hankies!"

Sign up in April & May for this fun workshop!
Pound out some stress while making something beautiful!
May 18th from 9-11 am at the MGC Office!

\$30 pp.

Questions? Call Carla Latimer at 209-324-354

Editor: From Google AI – Flower pounding, or Tataki Zome, is a natural dyeing technique that transfers flower pigments onto fabric or paper by hammering. Using fresh, vibrant flowers (like pansies or geraniums) placed face-down, you create a design, cover with wax paper, and gently smash them with a mallet to create permanent or semi-permanent botanical art.



March Workshop: Sea Glass Birds





Volunteer of the Month

**** Pat Logan ****



Thank you

Michael Merritt

Modesto Garden Club members were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of recent speaker and friend of many, Michael Merritt. Michael passed away on March 3, 2026, at the age of 80. Born on November 28, 1945, Michael was a resident of Carmel, California and owner of the Twiggery, a floral design business. A longtime member of the American Institute of Floral Design, he was a renowned and maverick floral designer whose visionary approach to floral design was loved and appreciated the world over. A scholarship in Michael's name has been created with the AIFD Foundation. To donate to this fund, please visit: <https://aifdfoundation.org/DonateOnline>



News and Notes

More Coming Events

May 2 – Downtown Pot Planting

May 9 – MGCI Plant Sale and Craft Fair

Modesto Covenant Church, 913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto
 Plant Sale: 10 am – 2 pm,
 Craft Faire: 10 am – 4 pm

May 12 – Valley Lode District Meeting

Hosted by Foothill Garden Club
 Fiddletown Community Center
 14445 Fiddletown Road, Fiddletown
 9 am – 1:30 pm
 RSVP by April 19

June 3 & 4 – Summer Luncheon and Table Viewing

Del Rio Country Club

If you are interested in joining the new Budding Gardeners group, the Socialites, or taking part in its activities, please contact Dee Godfrey, (209) 765-6390, email darilynng@outlook.com.

MEETING CHANGES

The Late Bloomers contest will be held at the **MAY** General Meeting and the theme is Tropical Vacation.

The New to You table will be available at the **APRIL** General Meeting.

September 2026 – Fall Gathering TBA





fourteenth annual
2026 Spring GARDEN TOUR
 6 Beautiful Gardens
May 2 | 9am - 2pm
 Adults-\$25 • Children under 12-\$10

Purchase Advance Tickets At: **THE GREENERY**
 742 E. Olive Ave., Turlock
 Cash or Check Accepted

Day of Tour Tickets Available At: **GARDEN #2**
 1838 Abigail Lane, Turlock
 Cash, Check or Credit Card Accepted

Purchase Tickets Online At:
www.turlockgardenclub.com
 Turlock Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Spring Garden Tour

Saturday, April 18, 2026
 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Modesto Garden Locations



- #1 6437 Covert Rd
- #2 4801 Quinturn Lane
- #3 1600 Pristine Court
- #4 1114 Brady Ave
- #5 622 14th Street

Tickets \$25

children under 12 years old are free

Tickets May Be Purchased At

MODESTO Fresh Idea Flower Co / Westurf Nursery
 Farmers Daughter / The Paper Habit
 Suite 52 Living / Garden Club Office

RIPON Thompson Building Supply & Nursery

RIVERBANK Morris Nursery

TURLOCK The Greenerly

at any of the homes on the day of the tour
 or on-line at ModestoGardenClub.org

Refreshments & Raffatunity

Available at the Modesto Garden Club Office & Garden
 Garden #5 622 14th Street
 downtown Modesto, California

Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

STOCKTON ROSE GARDEN TOUR

Enjoy a lovely day with friends as you stroll through five beautiful rose gardens enjoying refreshments, live music and floral demonstrations.

Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 10:30am to 2:00pm

University Park World Peace Rose Garden
 Magnolia and California Streets

Private Rose Garden of Gerry Dunlap
 at the home of Jane and Jerry Butterfield, 925 Bristol Avenue

Faye Fotini Spanos Rose Garden
 at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, 920 W March Lane

Gerry Dunlap Rose Garden at the Haggin Museum
 1201 N Pershing Avenue

The Rose Garden at Knoles Lawn
 UOP, Burns Tower, 3601 Pacific Avenue

\$25 per person

(cash or check made out to the Stockton Garden Club)

You may visit the gardens in any order that you wish.

Wear a lovely hat and be entered into a drawing!

Over The Garden Gate

Published 10 times a year, September – June, by the
 Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

President: Nancy Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Dee Godfrey

Submit articles to: newsletter@modestogardenclub.org
 (deadline is the 15th of the month prior)

Submit ideas and comments to:

newsrequest@modestogardenclub.org

Contributing writers: Janice Garcia, Dee Godfrey,
 Carla Latimer, Lee Lundigran, Nancy Robinson,
 Barbara Page, Janis Perkins, Dave Provost, Virginia
 White-Scoble,

Gerry Yockey, Dan Yockey

Advertisements, Fliers, Photos: Mary Lou Rice (209)
 484-3584, mlour@gmail.com

Website: www.modestogardenclub.org

Email: email@modestogardenclub.org

Office: 622 14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505

General Meeting



New Member Social



Arbor Day



Out Of Town Tour





Coming Events

April 9 – General Meeting

Modesto Covenant Church
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto
Hospitality: 10 am – 11:15 am
Business: 11:15 am – 12 noon
Speaker: 12 noon – 1 pm
New to You

Janine Dias-Avila

“April Showers, May Flowers...and June Tomatoes!”

April 10 – Spring Garden Tour Team Meeting

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
1 pm – 3 pm

April 11 – Pollinator Festival

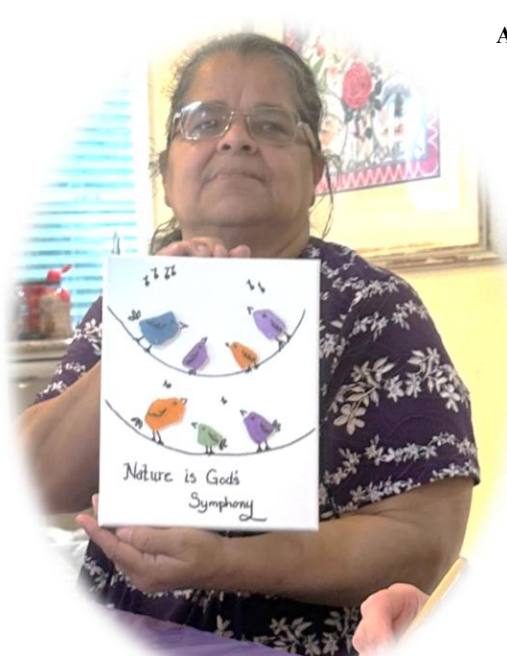
La Loma Native Garden
2000 Encina Ave, Modesto
10 am – 2 pm

April 11 – Linden Plant Sale

19147 East Highway 26, Linden
9 am – 1 pm

April 11 – Modesto Junior College Plant Sale

East Campus Nursery
Corner of Coldwell and College Avenues
8 am – 2 pm



April 11 & 12 – Gregori High School Plant Sale

3701 Pirrone Road, Modesto
Behind the high school
8 am – 2 pm

April 11 through 16 – Downey High School Plant Sale

1000 Coffee Road, Modesto
Saturday: 8 am – 3 pm
Sunday: 9-1
M-Th 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

April 14 – Multimedia Team Meeting

Modesto Garden Club Office
622 14th Street, Modesto
9:30 am – 11:30 am

April 18 – Spring Garden Tour

April 25 – Stockton Rose Stroll

April 30 – MGCI Board Meeting

Modesto Garden Club
622 14th Street, Modesto
8:30 am – 11 am