



# OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 26 Issue 5

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club Inc.

January 2026

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## JANUARY SPEAKER - ERIN AGUIAR: LANDSCAPING FOR SMALL SPACES

**D**o you admire those beautiful gardens but think you don't have room? How about that unused corner where you don't know what to do? Smaller gardens pose a unique challenge where minor choices have a big impact! Explore how to prioritize functional space, identify and solve issues, and create a simple cohesive garden.

Erin Aguiar is a landscape designer based in Turlock, Ca with over 25 years of experience in the field of horticulture. She grew up in Modesto, Ca and studied horticulture at MJC while working at Scenic Nursery before transferring to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where she focused on Landscape Design and minored in Sustainable Environments. After 10 years at Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar as Horticulture Director, she came back to her roots in the Central Valley. She enjoys the freedom that comes with designing new projects but enjoys the challenge of updating mature landscapes. Erin also provides three-hour Garden Consultations for those who simply need guidance. She believes: "A great garden

design uses plants and materials to balance color, texture, and form to suit the clients needs and provide a unique garden experience." When she's not *designing* gardens, she *is* gardening, creating ceramic sculptures, or chasing her kids-chasing chickens.



MGCI General Meeting

January 8, 2026

Modesto Covenant Church  
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto

Hospitality: 10 am – 11:15 am

Business: 11:15 – 12 noon

Speaker: 12 noon – 1:00 pm

## NANCY ROBINSON, PRESIDENT

Here we are at the beginning of another new year. I'm looking forward to many new events and projects for the garden club. I'm looking forward to working with all of you and especially our new (some younger) members. We really need to encourage younger people to participate in our club to keep it going. Don't forget our first meeting of the year is Thursday, January 8. It would be great if you could bring a goodie to share for the meeting.

I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed our Holiday Home Tour and the Elegant Holiday Luncheon. I'm so impressed with both of these events. December was certainly a busy month.

If there is a particular job you would like to do in the club, or if you have suggestions, please let me know. I'm always open to new ideas. There are lots of opportunities to get involved. Get ready for a fun, busy spring.

Happy Gardening,  
Nancy

## GERRY YOCKEY, PLANTERS AND GROOMERS

It has been a wonderful time for all of us this last year at the Modesto Garden Club office garden.

So many memories we have had through the year, cleaning the yard, planting flowers, trimming the trees and bushes, and keeping the Garden Club beautiful.

We all looked forward to our breaks.

The ladies brought all kinds of goodies and we talked about everything.

So many subjects and laughed out loud at our jokes.

If you feel that this is the place for you to be and love garden call me at 1-209-484-0359 join me.

## DAN YOCKEY, DONATIONS

I am happy to announce that our log in button for donations on our website is now operational.

Next month it will also be available on social media.

Help keep Modesto blooming: join our monthly giving circle. For over Century the Modesto Garden Club has worked to "instill the joy of gardening " throughout our community, our work is rooted in the generosity of neighbors like you.

To ensure another 100 years of beauty, we are pleased to announce a new way to support our mission.

WHY \$20 DOLLARS A MONTH?!

A constant gift of \$20 provides the steady, predictable funds needed to maintain our local projects year-round.

Set up your monthly gift on our website now.

Thank you for your support!  
Dan Yockey

## DANICE GARCIA, BUDDING GARDENERS



We are so lucky to have Carrie Loschke as one of our newest members in our Hummingbirds Budding Gardeners Group. We have been remarkably busy as a group this holiday season with all of the Christmas events in December: bus tour to Sacramento for the Fabulous Forties Festival. Next, the Christmas Private Tour at the Perry's beautiful home.

Then, docent duties for the table setting before the Holiday Luncheon.

Day of the table setting where Jennifer Wright, also a new member of the hummingbirds and Carrie hosted this fabulous table so we could all be together!

Those were the top 4 events for our Garden Club and the Hummingbirds Budding Gardeners group attended them all!





## LEE LUNDRIGAN, FUNDRAISING

### APRIL 18, 2026, SPRING GARDEN TOUR



Preparations have begun for the 2026 Spring Garden Tour taking place the third week in April on Saturday, April 18th from 10am to 4pm. Tickets are \$25 and children 11 years and under are free.

Our 2026 gardens include several glorious botanical wonders showcasing a wide variety of flora that you won't want to miss.

Want to lend a hand? There are tasks of all sizes for you to help. Hello to all of you workers out there - we'd love to teach you how to do any of the jobs!

Our first Lead Person meeting is Friday, January 9th at the Garden Club Office, 622 14th St. including:



SGT director  
Asst. Fundraising  
Lead Docents  
Lead Tickets

Lee Lundrigan  
Atlanta Jordan  
Atlanta Jordan  
Dee Godfrey

Lead Photography & Ticket Design  
Lead Publicity  
Lead Refreshments  
Lead Raffatunity  
Logistics

Mary Lou Rice  
Sue Hudgens  
Jeanette Robinson  
Bernie Durossette  
Lydia & Scott Smith

Docent sign-up sheets will be available at the January, February, March, and April Modesto Garden Club General Meetings. Miss a meeting? We've got you covered! Skip the line and sign up by contacting our Docent Lead - Atlanta Jordan. Her home number is 209-522-8292. Say and spell your name and slowly leave your number. She is also in the Garden Club Year Book.

Interested in donating a Raffatunity prize? We'd love it! Just let us know what you have in mind.

Call/ text/ email me with questions: Lee Lundrigan, 209-303-0011, [Lundrigan@bigvalley.net](mailto:Lundrigan@bigvalley.net).



## CARLA LATIMER, HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

### Chrysanthemum Accent Mirrors!!!

MONDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9am – 12noon

At the MGC office.

We will be making beautiful Chrysanthemum Accent Mirrors!

It will be a 16-person class and will cost \$30.00 to be paid when you sign up.

The class will start at 9 am and end at 12 noon.

Yummy snacks, hot coffee, and tea will be provided for you!

If anyone has extra buttons to donate to this project, please call Carla Latimer @ 209-324-3549





## DID YOU KNOW? LATE BLOOMERS CONTEST

February is right around the corner and that means it's time for the next Late Bloomers contest. Held three times per year (October, February, and May), each contest is one-of-a-kind with themes announced in the Year Book as well as the monthly newsletter one month in advance. The contest started in 2022 to showcase the amazing and sometimes hidden talents of our members. Previous contests included Footwear Into A Plant Container, Miniature Gardens, and Painted Pumpkins. Contest rules must be followed and vary by theme.

Each attendee at the general meeting, members and guests, is given one bean to vote for their favorite among the entrants; a difficult job! Ribbons are awarded for First, Second, and Third places. In the event of a tie, two ribbons will be awarded.

Did you know why it's called Late Bloomers? According to Janis Perkins, Contest Coordinator, "What I kept hearing from our entry members *was* 'I never thought I could do that!' But they did try and some won, surprising themselves on the compliments they received and sometimes winning."

The theme for February's contest is The Sound of Music. Entries must be musically-themed; use of store-bought embellishments is allowed.

"All-in-all, it's a lot of fun; members and guests enjoy seeing what our talented members come up with." Janis continued. "Who knows, maybe you are a Late Bloomer..." For more information, contact Janis Perkins, Contest Coordinator.

## NEWS AND NOTES

- ✱ Over 220 people recently attended the Holiday Table Viewing on December 10th while the luncheon itself on the 11th was sold out. The tables and displays were absolutely fantastic! Great job, everyone!
- ✱ Corresponding Secretary Louise Nelson needs unused greeting cards: Thank You, Happy Birthday, Condolences, blank cards, etcetera (please, no holiday-themed cards). Her contact information is in the Year Book.
- ✱ Rose pruning will take place on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at the monthly meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Memorial Rose Garden on West Orangeburg at 10 am on the 24th.

*Each moment of the year has its own beauty, a picture which was never seen before, and which shall never be seen again.*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## 2025 HOLIDAY HOME TOUR



## 2025 OUT OF TOWN TOUR



## Music Themed Contest

### RULES:

1. Who can enter: any MGC Member
2. DIY Project Requirements are: musical themed, may embellish with store bought items to make it a one of a kind entry.
3. Location Modesto Covenant Church Date: Feb. 10
4. Top 3 winners receive Ribbons
- ✗ 5. Great ideas on Pinterest



## 2025 ELEGANT HOLIDAY LUNCHEON











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President: Nancy Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Dee Godfrey

Submit articles to: [newsletter@modestogardenclub.org](mailto:newsletter@modestogardenclub.org)

**(deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior)**

Contributing writers: Janice Garcia, Carla Latimer, Lee Lundrigan, Nancy Robinson,

Dan Yockey, Gerry Yockey

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

Website: [www.modestogardenclub.org](http://www.modestogardenclub.org) Email: [email@modestogardenclub.org](mailto:email@modestogardenclub.org)

Office: 622 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto, CA 95354-2505



622 14th Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

## COMING EVENTS

### **January 8 – MGCI General Meeting**

Modesto Covenant Church  
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto  
Hospitality: 10 a.m.  
Business: 11:15 – noon  
Speaker: noon – 1:00 p.m.  
*Erin Aguiar, Landscape Design for Small Spaces.*

### **January 19 – Hands-On Workshop**

Chrysanthemum Accent Mirrors  
Modesto Garden Club Office  
422 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto  
9 am – noon  
Cost: \$30 paid at sign-up

### **January 24 – Annual Rose Pruning**

Meet at Memorial Rose Garden  
West Orangeburg, Modesto  
10 am  
Sign-up at the January 8 General Meeting

### **February 10 – Valley Lode District Meeting**

Manteca Garden Club  
305 N. Union, Manteca  
9 am

### **February 12 – MGCI General Meeting Budding Gardeners Contest – Sound of Music**

Modesto Covenant Church  
913 Floyd Avenue, Modesto  
Hospitality: 10 a.m.  
Business: 11:15 – noon  
Speaker: noon – 1:00 p.m.  
*Andrew Carmichael, Repotting Plants in Containers*

**APRIL 26, ANNUAL  
SPRING GARDEN TOUR**