



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Member of CGCI

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

Valley Lode District – Pacific Region

please
renew
YOUR
membership

CONSIDER DONATING

We love our garden club.
This year will be a financial difficulty since we have not been able to hold our annual fundraiser, the Spring Garden Tour. Help us by paying your dues renewal soon. Dues help fund our operating expenses and scholarships.

HOW

- 1 Fill out the membership renewal form **INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER.**
- 2 Renew **ONLINE:**
www.modestogardenclub.org
Click on **PAY DUES** on the home page.

Thank you for the donations we have already received!
Please consider making a donation to our general fund. Donate by mailing a check to the Garden Club office or online:
Click on **DONATE** on the home page.

Share Your Garden With all your Garden Club Friends

Last month we had a good response, Thank-You very much for your Help! Go to our (<https://www.modestogardenclub.org>) to see many new additions to our Website, including last month’s virtual tour.

These are unusual times that require us all to think out of the box. Having to practice “social distancing” and “sheltering at home” are new terms in our everyday vocabulary. Multimedia is trying to come up with ideas that will keep us all in touch, if not physically then visually. It is our hope that all of you will provide us with the content to produce a monthly Reality Show that we can share on our website (<https://www.modestogardenclub.org>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/modestogardenclub>) **perhaps even Smilebox if we are able to get your permission.**

Please send us 5 photos of your garden (don’t forget to catch that butterfly or bumblebee or hummingbird) and help us with some text captions. You know, like what that flower or veggie is or tell us why you decided to plant it. Maybe it’s a volunteer and you just can’t get rid of it. I know there are all sorts of interesting and funny stories out there. Let’s help each other get through this tough time with friendship and humor. You could chronicle the growth of a one of your favorites through the whole summer, sharing it every month.

I’m getting excited just thinking about this! Just send your photos and anything else you would like to share to me, Mary Lou Rice mlour@msn.com or Multimedia@modestogardenclub.org so we can get started right away. Our multimedia group is ready to produce these new Reality Shows.

TIPS: Using your phone or camera include enough of the surrounding area to give perspective. Include a closeup. Don’t face your camera into the sun. Morning and evening are the easiest times to capture an image with good color. Use the large setting when you send the photos.

President's Message

This is What Love Looks Like

Mother Nature rarely disappoints, and this spring is no exception. As I drive around town it seems to me that many of our fellow citizens have used their extra time to spruce up their gardens. And it's beautiful. I always love those first blooms which are so vibrant in color. I wish more of our members could have seen the Office garden this year. The flowers and bushes were such a knock out to view. It has made my weekly treks to the Office worthwhile.

Our civic gardens are still colorful as well. Have you seen our rose gardens? Wow! Don't miss these nor the Senior Center, George Lucas Plaza and Aileen Gallo Memorial Flower Clock. Hopefully we will be replanting the downtown pots and flower clock this month. Watch for more information on our website and eBlasts. We will need volunteer planters.

All of our other meetings, tours and events have been cancelled or suspended until social distancing has been discontinued. We are tentatively planning our September General Meeting and a fall Vendors' Faire but we cannot confirm this until later this summer. Watch for more news of these events. Our annual Yearbook will be ready in October and as we approach that month, we will provide more information on how we can distribute these.

Since we could not have our General Meeting this month, I decided to announce our Volunteer of the Month at the April Zoom Board Meeting. Congratulations to Dan Yockey, VP Civic Affairs! He received applause and virtual hugs and kisses at our virtual meeting. In the past several weeks, undaunted by our quarantine restrictions that cancelled our major fundraising event, the Spring Garden Tour, Dan was able to procure major donations to fund the replanting and maintenance of the flower clock and downtown pots for the coming year. This totaled about \$8,000. See Dan's article describing these donations and the wonderful partners who truly showed their appreciation for the many years of Modesto Garden Club's dedication and volunteerism to beautify our city. Job well done, Dan!

In addition, many members have also made donations (which are tax deductible) in addition to their dues payments (which are not tax deductible). Some donated the cost of tickets for cancelled events and tours. Some added extra money when making dues payments. *We sincerely thank you all!* At the present time we anticipate about a \$20,000 short fall to our budget due to the SGT cancellation. Your dues payment will greatly impact our budget this year. If you have not yet paid your dues, please consider doing so before July 31 so we can include you in the next Yearbook.

The Board decided to fully fund seven \$1500 college scholarships from our savings. See Judy Spencer's article announcing our outstanding student awardees. Our 2020-21 Budget will be done this month and more information will be provided in our June Newsletter.

As we continue to remain quarantined and remodel our daily routines to the new normal, let me share the following perspective on life as we know it today:

Love in Action: "...how much we do care for each other."

"When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself, "It looks like the end of the world." What you're seeing is love in action.

What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, our parents, our brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet.

People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses. And some will lose their lives.

All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love. Let it fill you and sustain you. It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness."

From the COVID Response Team, Belfast, Northern Ireland, April 20, 2020

Stay safe, stay healthy!

Mary McNicholas, President



Garden Club Scholarships 2020

By Judy Spencer

For a number of years, the Board haapproved six scholarships per year. The scholarships are \$1,500 each and the student has to have an educational plan and a career goal that somehow involves plant life. That is pretty broad and could include everything from floral arranging to forestry to viniculture to plant genetics and more. Just imagine any career that somehow involves plant life. The annual Spring Garden Tour is important to the scholarship program because that income is really needed to support scholarships. Because we had to cancel the tour this year, I expected the Board to say we had to skip a year and not hand out any scholarships. However, the Board feels very strongly about this program and they are hoping to find a way to fund all six scholarships plus a seventh one which was partially funded by money from Modesto Home and Garden Club when they disbanded. So, we proceeded. Usually a committee gets together for a nice morning of coffee and scoring, but we could not do that this year. So, Mary Lou Rice helped me with a way we could do the whole thing online. Well, Mary Lou's techie brilliance

did not meet up with my techie skills so that didn't work. But a really big thank you to Mary Lou for her help and her efforts to get more of us techie competent. We were able to do the scoring by having each member read and score the applications in her home. Normally I would not let the applications out of my sight, but adjustments needed to be made, and the scoring committee are incredibly competent and reliable people. So, the scoring was completed, and it was one of the most difficult years we have ever had because the applications were so good. That's a good thing, but it also makes us feel bad because there were excellent students who did not make it into the top seven. So, before you read the seven applicants who will receive awards, let's make sure we have all the thanks.

First of course, thank you to our Board who believe in this program and want to support it, even during this difficult time period.

Then thank you to Mary Lou for her techie skills – unused, but still very much appreciated.

I was not able to score this year because I knew one of the applicants,

so thank you to the other six members who scored: Jill Fisk, Bonnie Jones Lee, Joanne Meinhardt, Sara Rhoads, Bev Schlegel, Yvonne Taylor

And now the top six, listed alphabetically, not listed in order of scoring.

**Michelle Borges ~ Lauryn Cabral
Abigail van Klaveren
Saida May-Woodruff
Bailey Scheuber
Sarah Siegel ~ Tiago Soares**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Dues are Due and Payable**
- **Until further notice all Activities have been Cancelled**
- **June newsletter Deadline is June 1st**
- **Next Newsletter should arrive the second week in June**
- **Check your Emails, Eblasts and our Website: modestogardenclub.org for updates during the coming weeks**

Over the Garden Gate

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*Stay Safe During
the Pandemic!*

Remember:

Social Distancing

**Wear a Mask When
Required**

Avoid Unnecessary Trips

**Keep Your Family and
Yourself Safe So
You Can Join Us
in the Future**



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Education Update and Thought for the Day

By Cheryl Koff

Like many programs across the country, most have shut down due to the spread of COVID-19. Programs such as the Therapeutic Gardening, was one of the first to be notified of the restrictions into the senior facilities. This meant we were unable to continue to maintain our planter boxes. Pat Logan reports schools started their programs prior to closing but school staff will continue to maintain during the closure. If you checked out books from the Lavender Library at the March meeting; please continue to enjoy and return at next meeting.

In closing, I was asked to present the Thought of The Day at the May Garden Club Meeting. Since we are not having a May meeting AND in honor of Renate Glinskas, I would like to close with The Wonders In My Garden On Watering Day written by Renate, a member of our club and a volunteer with the Therapeutic Gardeners since 2000.

The Wonders In My Garden On Watering Day. . .

The sprinklers come on and create a lace curtain as the sun hits the sprays of water.

The leaves of the Japanese Maple Tree move gracefully in the unseen wind.

The red umbrella flops around.

Flowers dip their heads in the shower of water.

The big stones, now wet, shine like new pennies,

There's a water puddle building and the cat gets a drink.

The sprinklers stop and there is the wonder in drops of water

On the asparagus sprengeri, as they become

Diamonds nestled in green and sparkle, rather than in a Tiffany

Blue box with a white ribbon.

The magic is there, just take a good look, it's free.

In a while all is dry again until the symphony starts anew,

My next watering day is Friday.Renate Glinskas

Volunteerism in Action! ~ You are Needed Today

We have several open positions for our coming program year. Please consider volunteering for these important and rewarding club positions:

- **Director of Membership**
- **Raffatunity Chairperson**
- **Director of Workshops**
- **Garden of the Month Chairperson**

If you have any questions about these position, feel free to contact Mary McNicholas at 209-544-6549 or marymac4967@yahoo.com. I am waiting with anticipation to hear from *you!*

Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP



To apply for membership please complete all questions

To renew your membership:

1. Review your information in the current Yearbook.
2. Write your first and last names on this form.
3. Add to this form any changes or corrections to the current Yearbook information.
4. Turn in this form with your dues payment (\$40.00) at a General Meeting or mail form and a check to: Modesto Garden Club, 622-14th Street, Modesto, CA 95354 or renew online at **modestogardenclub.org**
5. **Dues are due in May and late by the end of July.** To ensure inclusion in the upcoming Yearbook, return this form no later than July 31st.

Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
First Name <input type="checkbox"/>		Last Name	
Address/Street <i>New address (If renewing)</i>		City	State Zip Code + 4
Primary Phone Number		Alternate Phone Number	
Email Address			
Birthday Month		Birth Day	
Automated Calls <input type="checkbox"/> Automated Calls from the Club are OK <input type="checkbox"/> No, I DO NOT WISH to receive automated calls			
Email Messages <input type="checkbox"/> Email messages from the Club are OK <input type="checkbox"/> No, I DO NOT WISH to receive email messages			
Newsletter Preference <input type="checkbox"/> Mail my newsletter (I have included my zip +4 above) <input type="checkbox"/> Email my newsletter			
I will pay my dues by: <input type="checkbox"/> Today w/check <input type="checkbox"/> Today w/cash <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing check to MGC office <input type="checkbox"/> Online			
I have corrected my address, email and all information on this form.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Due to the forced cancellation of the Spring Garden Tour, I am donating the tour ticket price of \$25 or \$_____ to the Modesto Garden Club. Modesto Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are fully tax deductible.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a receipt for my donation to the address above.			

I have special talents/skills I wish to share with the Modesto Garden

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Table Setting | <input type="checkbox"/> MS Word or Excel Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting at Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Crafting and Leading Craft Workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming New Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted Living Center Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding Homes for Garden Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Researching Speakers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting or Bookkeeping | |
