



# OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Volume 2024, Issue 6

A Publication of Modesto Garden Club, Inc.

February 2024

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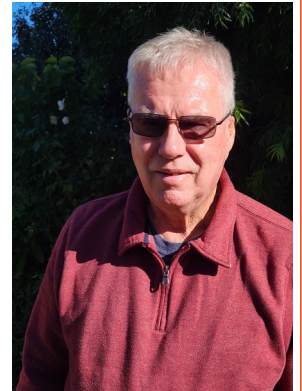
## Dave Provost, February 8th Speaker ~ by Bob Taylor

Dave started his career in the 'green' industry as a teenager at the Garden Center in Manteca in 1969. After high school and time with the military, he returned to the nursery industry with Zaiger's in Modesto while attending college. In 1977 he helped open a new nursery in Manteca. Two years later that business was sold and Dave began his great landscaping career.

In 1980 he took a position landscaping with the Manteca schools and by 1986 Dave started his own landscape business. Bill Morris lured Dave away to become part of the management team at Morris Nursery in 1993. In 1997 he became the nursery manager, a position he held until 2019 when he started semi retirement.

Dave still enjoys visiting with his many customers that have become friends on his 2 days a week at the nursery. He also enjoys sharing his knowledge and passion for gardening with his young coworkers.

Dave will start with a short presentation on how to espalier fruit trees for planting in small spaces or along the fence in the yard. Afterward, he has generously offered to answer any gardening questions from the members, so bring those questions and plan to be there!



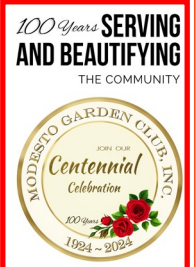
## Centennial Project ~ by Dan Yockey



Time certainly goes by fast! On February 12 at 10 a.m. we will have a Ground Breaking Ceremony and place a 25-year time capsule at the Centennial Garden. Everyone is invited to attend and lend their support. Speakers include MGC President Nancy Robinson and Modesto Mayor Sue Zwayhlen. If you have an item you feel would make a great addition to the capsule, bring it to the General Meeting on February 8.

Janis Perkins is Chairman of the July 4 Parade Committee. Our club is this year's Grand Marshall and she has great plans to make it a fantastic float for our Centennial Year!

More information coming soon. Thank you ~ Dan





Organized: February 12, 1924  
Federated: September 24, 1946  
Incorporated: May 10, 1962

**A MEMBER OF  
THESE  
AFFILIATIONS:**



## Presidents Message ~ by Nancy Robinson

I'm sooo excited! Things are popping like popcorn! So much is happening. Lee Lundrigan is doing a fabulous job coordinating everything for the Spring Garden Tour. She has several committees going and moving right along. Congratulations to Lee.

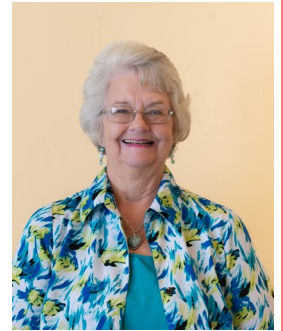
Cheryl Carmichael has agreed to take over the scholarships program. This will be a busy time for her. We look forward to learning who the recipients will be in May.

Janis Perkins is heading the float committee for Dan in this, our centennial year. What an exciting project with so many opportunities to help make the float!

I will be speaking before the County Board of Supervisors and the Modesto City Council on behalf of the upcoming (February 12) Ceremony on Tuesday, February 6. The Board of Supervisors meeting is at 9:00 am and the City Council meeting is at 5:30 pm. I invite any of you who would like to support the Club to attend these meetings. Arrive 15 minutes before the meetings in the basement of 1010 10th Street.

We are still looking for someone to take over the monthly General Meeting Raffatunity. This is not a difficult position and it helps earn a little money for the club each month. Mary Ann says she would be happy to mentor. Let me know if you or someone you know is interested in filling this role. There is potentially still time to get something set up for our February meeting.

Stay involved. This is your club. It takes many to run all the functions of such a large club as ours!  
Happy Gardening, Nancy



## January Meeting Highlights



*Waiting for the Meeting*



*Speaker Lauren Campana Shermeister*



*Volunteer of the Month  
Mary Lou Rice*



*So Many New Members!*



## Civic Affairs ~ by Dan Yockey

Hello Fellow Gardeners. Good news, we now have a member in charge of the Flower Clock! Darla Dias has taken charge of the clock assisted by Elaine Graydanus who has agreed to mentor her during her start up period. She will be assisted by *Emily Ryslingle*, *Suzie Ryslingle*, *Sue Sheridan*, *Martha Anaya* and *Norma Barron*. I know they will do a fantastic job.

Next month I will be calling on many of you to assist in planting over 300 plants in the new Centennial Garden at Roosevelt Park on West Orangeburg Ave. Sign up at the February meeting.

Yours in gardening,  
Dan



## Budding Gardeners ~ by Janice Garcia



A new year is here! Does your group have fun activities planned? December was a busy month for my own group, the Gardenettes. We attended the McHenry Mansion Christmas Tea. Next we went to the always beautiful Modesto Garden Club Table Viewing and then the Elegant Luncheon at Del Rio Country Club. The Out of Town Tour at Filoli with all the lights was gorgeous! Finally, the Gardenettes all docented for the MGC Holiday Home Tour at one of my bestie's home—Debbie Wong Shippy. We covered all the docent time slots so it was a fun volunteer event for us!

So many events to help with and attend just with the Modesto Garden Club alone. In January we went to the Hands On Cork Heart workshop at the office. February is the perfect month to gather with your Galentines and form a new group! You could attend a tea at Dragonfly in Modesto or Tea at 202 in Oakdale and make new memories together. Need more ideas of what activities to do with your Budding Gardeners group? Call me, Janice Garcia, at (209) 202.7887. I'm here to help you get started!

## Modesto Garden Club Scholarships ~ by Cheryl Carmichael



I am delighted to announce that I have stepped in to help Judy Spencer, our intrepid Scholarship Director. Judy is an organized and thorough expert in the art of communication with all of the Stanislaus County High Schools in search of the 6 lucky winners of our \$1,500 scholarships!

Our club is proud to assist in the education of young people who are busy studying subjects that will promote the health of the planet and the health of its population.

Our first step in the process is to inform all high schools about the scholarship and assure that the application is available to the students on their school websites. Collection of the submitted applications is via a dedicated email.

A standard rubric is used to rate the applications. The rating process is "blind". In order to maximize objectivity, all of the identifying information on the application is redacted.

The winning applicants will then be honored at the May Modesto Garden Club meeting!

## Spring Garden Tour ~ by Lee Lundrigan



### **April 20, 2024 Centennial Spring Garden Tour Update**

The Modesto Garden Club hosted its first Spring Garden Tour with three gardens on May 10, 1932! This year, we celebrate the Club's 100th Anniversary, touring six gardens on Saturday, April 20. You can tour from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 each. Children 11 years and under are free.

### **2024 Modesto gardens on tour include:**

1) *Steve, Cheryl, Andrew Carmichael* at 2517 Bridle Path Lane; 2) *Sue Murry* at 1029 Mt. Vernon Dr; 3) *Sue Hudgens* at 3705 Corte Madera Ave; 4) *Rich & Patti Przybyla* at 301 Greewich Lane; 5) *Mike & Makayla Sousa* at 2504 Sunrise Ave; and 6) *The Modesto Garden Club Office* at 622 14th Street. All tours take place outside in the garden.

Our six gardens embrace an assortment of ideas, plants and focus. All are homeowner maintained by enthusiastic and knowledgeable home gardeners. Prepare to be wowed by succulents, citrus, Japanese maple, wildflowers, and a "small farm"! The Master Gardeners' booth has all kinds of gardening tips and information for you. Expect delicious refreshments, fabulous Raffatunity prizes and super docents. Wait..... that's you!

### **2024 Docent Guidelines & Opportunities**

Calling all Modesto Garden Club Members to sign up for a 2 hour shift to docent with your friends at one of the six gardens! Each 2 hour docent "slot" requires three docents. One of the three will act as Lead Docent. Leads are good communicators, talk with the home owner, sell tickets, and pass information from the previous team to the next team.

Docent signup sheets are available at Garden Club general meetings in February, March and April. Miss a meeting? We've got you covered! Skip the line and sign up by contacting our Docent Chairperson, Atlanta Jordan. Her home number is 209-522-8292. State and spell your name and leave a clear message with your return number. Atlanta is also in our yearbook.

Want to help out in a different way? There are tasks of all sizes to choose from! A Publicity and a Raffatunity Chair are waiting to be filled by all those leaders out there. Our next team meeting is 10 to 12 on Wednesday, February 21 at the Club Office Plan to join us!

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

## Late Bloomers (DIY) Contest ~ by Janis Perkins



### **FEBRUARY 8 MEETING: FRAMED ART**

**Registration 9:30 to 10:00**

**Subject: Nature** - Landscapes, Flowers, Leaves, Animals, etc.

**Media: Any** - Paint, pencils, stenciling, collages, etc. Kits are okay.

**Size:** No Restrictions, but please bring an easel or some type of support to display your artwork

**We are all looking forward to seeing what you create.**

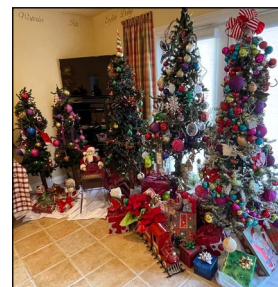
**Please call Janis Perkins for questions. 562-307-5954**

## Planters and Groomers ~ by Gerry Yockey

They say what goes up must come down! That's what faced the girls on the first Tuesday in January. We took all of the Christmas decorations down at the office. It was sad as the office looked great for the tour. Well there's always next year!

The third Tuesday looked like rain, but the girls came to work anyway. Lots and lots of leaves to rake and pruning the roses. Great desserts were brought by the girls, so there goes the New Years resolution to diet!

I want to thank the girls who helped; *Leah Meedom, Josie Parra, Mary Helen Alonzo, Susie Ryslinge, Emily Ryslinge, Sue Sheridan, Pat Williams, Shirley Miller, Roni Deleon, Martha Anaya, Norma Barron, Mary McNicholas*, and the lone man, *Dan Yockey*. Come join us!



## Did You Know....? ~ by Nancy Robinson



Did you know that our Modesto Garden Club, Inc. is not a stand alone garden club? It is a member of the Valley Lode District which includes 18 other garden clubs or flower guilds (floral design only) within the counties of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Mono, and Alpine!

With 28 districts dividing up the state, California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) is also part of a region of the eight western states of Washington, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, California, Hawaii and Alaska, making up the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. All 50 states plus the National Capital Area and International Affiliates makes National Garden Clubs, Inc. the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world!! Isn't that amazing?



The Modesto Garden Club has been, on a regular basis, a Blue Ribbon Achievement garden club. Blue Ribbon Achievement is the most prestigious status a garden club can achieve. It is based on the promotion, support, and involvement in the shared objectives and projects of conservation, beautification, and preservation as outlined by CGCI, PRGC, and NGC. A point scored system on the projects, programs, scholarships, tours, public relations and youth projects in which a garden club participates determines Blue Ribbon Achievement status. It is YOUR membership and participation within the Modesto Garden Club that continues to make this club one of the most premier garden clubs in the nation! Member Bernie Hendrix has agreed to apply for various awards that are available through NCGI that our club qualifies for. Thank you Bernie! This is potential income for our club.



### **Mission Statement of the MODESTO GARDEN CLUB, INC.**

“To educate, impart knowledge and skills of landscape design, floriculture, agriculture, arborvitae, insects, ornamental horticulture and ornithology. To instill the joy of gardening for Club members, school children, senior citizens and the community at large.”

Meetings for the **Valley Lode District** are held quarterly. While our focus should be on our own MGC activities, it is interesting to see what other clubs are doing. The next VLD meeting is Tuesday, February 13 in Stockton and includes breakfast, meeting, speaker and lunch! All MGC members are welcome to attend this great way to meet members of other local garden clubs. If anyone is interested in attending please let me know by February 2nd. I know this is short notice, so call me right away. My phone number is 209-968-6556.

~ Nancy Robinson, MGC President



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***Over the Garden Gate***

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(Open Wednesdays,  
 9 a.m.-noon)



***Dates to Remember***

February 6 9:00 am	Planters and Groomers MGC Office 622 14th Street
February 8 10:00 am	MGC General Meeting
February 14	Valentine's Day 
February 19	Presidents' Day
February 20 9:00 am	Planters and Groomers MGC Office 622 14th Street
February 21 10:00 to 12:00	Spring Garden Tour Mtg. Club Office ` 622 14th St.
February 29 8:30 a.m.	MGC Board Meeting Club Office - 622 14th St.
February 29	Leap Day!