

JANUARY 2024

Newsletter



San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

2023/2025 Board of Directors

Co-Presidents

Mary Crawford and Kathy Dixon

Program Chair

Lynn Rollison

Membership Chairman

Lou Heimann

Treasurer

Maureen Gebelein

Secretary

Marilyn DeVitre

Happy New Year

January 15, 2024 Meeting
10am
SJC Hills Golf Course

Our Affiliates



Upcoming Events

January 15. Speaker Laurie Menosky Master Gardener.

February 19. Field Trip: Standard Nursery.

Events: go to our website and click EVENTS.

Saddleback Scholarships

We look forward to providing two scholarships for Saddleback students who are pursuing Horticulture or Landscape degrees/certificates.

Below is a Thank You to the SJCGC.

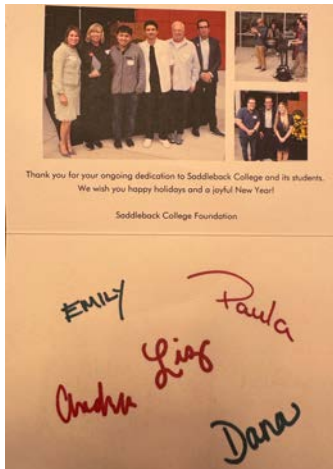


President's Message

Forty festive Garden Club members enjoyed our internationally themed "Holidays Around the World" Annual Brunch on December 11. The elves showed up early to make sure the room was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

A highlight of the morning was a performance by OC Sound Ensemble, including Garden Club member Carol Mansukhani. It turns out that they are 2023 Region 21 Double Medalists! It is fitting that their mission... "OC Sound Chorus celebrates the art of barbershop and a cappella music through education, performance, and competition thereby inspiring and empowering voices to joyfully harmonize the world"... fit so nicely with the spirit of the holidays as well as our international theme.

Our President created a table scape that displayed customs from other countries and cultures by depicting flowers and plants that are important in their observances. Thanks to everyone who shared the morning with us and we hope you learned something new and different about other customs around the world.



Membership

Lou Heimann, Membership Chairman

At our January meeting please add the year that you joined the club to the sign in sheet. We would like to have this information in our membership records. I'm giving you a couple of weeks to remember. When you pick up your name tag at the next meeting, remove the 23-24 garden club membership card which is on the back side. This card gives you a 10% discount at our local nurseries including Plant Depot, Green Thumb, Standard Landscaping and Armstrong. A nice perk for being a member. The latest roster is attached. If there are any corrections re your contact information, please send me an email. Thanks

Meet our new Member, Chris Losordo

Our club continues to grow in membership. Member, Janet Sperber, invited Chris Losordo to the club excursion at the Ecology Center Farm in October and she joined in November so she could attend the club activities for the remainder of the year. She has lived in San Juan Capistrano for 43 years and worked in the laboratory at Mission Hospital for over 30 years. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, traveling and of course gardening. Chris and her husband are planning on redoing their landscaping soon and will include California native plants. Please welcome our newest member, Chris Losordo.

New Member Mixer

Our newest members were invited to a new member mixer held at Sharon Dunn's home. We had a delightful evening getting to know each other, as well as sharing the programs and activities of the garden club. This will be an ongoing activity as we continue to incorporate ways to keep our club strong. Chris Losordo, Kathy Rowley, and Marcia Kelly, it was great spending time with you! We look forward to the future with you and all of our newest club members. The attending Board members were Mary Crawford, Maureen Gebelein, Lou Heimann, Pat Lussier, Lynn Rollison and Mary Crawford.



*Let's make
our new
members feel
welcomed!*



OC Sound Chorus Photos

We loved the beautiful music from the OC Sound Chorus and our own Carol Mansukhani.



Sowing Seeds in our Open Areas

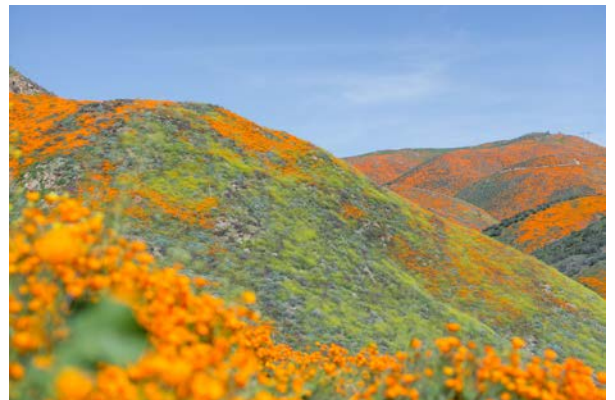
It's getting to be sweet pea time! Our long-standing La Novia hill is barrierred due to the construction of residential and business development. But we're willows and we can bend! We do want to keep our tradition going and have come up with an initial plan for this season.

Members have located a number of potential sites to sow the seeds. We will spread the love around town in a few places! And here's how it's all going to happen: Check your email regularly! Our seeds are in and ready to go. The next time a rain is the forecast, we will send an email to you about when and where to meet. It will be short notice for sure.

There is an area by the "bird house park" in Cook Park that is highly populated with different walkers – seniors, dog lovers, and young parents pushing their babies in strollers. It seems ideal!

We have a couple of areas nearby that have a lot of foot traffic and the potential for many people to enjoy the flowers. None of the sites are on hills or hard to access. In relation to that, it was suggested that in the new year, we find a time to gather together a couple of times of month to walk the easy trail.

We can meet at the trailhead, split into fast walkers and slow walkers and go in opposite directions, walk for 20 minutes and turn around and walk back and meet up again. Sound fun?



Sending Sweet Stems: A Holiday Gift-Giving Tradition

Our team is reaching out to our beloved friends at Atria Senior Living by sharing handmade holiday presents. We would love for you to join us in crafting these special gifts that are sure to be cherished. Delivering these presents is a wonderful experience, and it's also a great opportunity to meet new residents. *Much Love, Sweet Stem Senders*



Venus Fly Trap Update

Listen up, Plant Squad! It's time for a Venus Fly Trap update. Our plant babies are going through a lot right now, but thankfully, some are sprouting into their prime. However, with a heavy heart, we also have to admit that we've lost some of our green pals despite the tender love and care. Let's take a moment to honor Pat Lussier, Maureen Gebelein, Mozelle Sukut, and Inge Harris for their botanic skills and dedication to our leafy friends. Did we forget anyone?



Remember to bring your Cuttings to the January meeting

Remember to bring your cutting to the meeting for a free cutting exchange! The cutting table is in the back near the entrance at the meetings at the golf course.



Do you love reading the newsletter?

If you are reading this – thank you! We want to use the newsletter as a way of communicating events in our club. By reading this, you are meeting us halfway and we appreciate it. Please respond with “I read it” to gardenclubofsjc@gmail.com and your name will be put a raffle to win a special prize at the 1/15/24 club meeting. Winner must be present to win!

Welcoming the New Year with Fresh Gardens and New Beginnings

With the arrival of 2024, we will be hearing "*Happy New Year!*" for the next few weeks. As gardeners, we are familiar with starting anew all year round. Whether we're digging new holes for plants, pruning our favorite bushes to encourage new growth, or sharing cuttings with friends, every day presents a new and unique opportunity to explore our gardens. As we discover new buds or feel concern about our favorite roses, we remain engaged with the natural world. Our team wishes all gardeners joy and growth in their gardens, as well as in their personal and professional lives in the coming year.

