



*New Mexico Gardener*  
Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 50 No. 4

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# Spring 2022 Issue





*Growing in Harmony in the  
Land of Enchantment—  
Christine Longthorp*

## *President's Message*

**Greetings to NM Garden Club members**

All of our holiday parties are over and I thank all of you who sent me invitations to attend your gatherings. It was good to meet you all face to face again.

Our NMGC Fall Board was a great success even though the attendance was down. Those that came had a great time and District IV hosted us in true New Mexico style. NMGC adopted a new policy to only hold Fall Board meetings with the Executive Board and District Directors present. This would be held in the District that the President resided and would be a one day event. The purpose of this was to reduce the expense of both finances and time and put all the focus on the Spring Convention. This can always be reversed if our membership participation increases but for the present time it makes sense to ask less of the active members.

The deadline for Awards is here and I look forward to presenting them at the Spring Convention which will be held in Artesia on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The schedule for the Convention has also been reduced to two days having the Awards banquet be on the closing evening. Again for the same reasons that I stated in the case of the Fall Board meeting. A condensed event can be every bit as fun as our previous schedule so let's show up and have fun seeing each other and getting the inspiration to bring back to our individual clubs. If you are having difficulty finding program ideas please call me as I hear of many great speakers and field trips. I myself am traveling to Lincoln County and Los Alamos to assist give design programs and workshops –all you have to do is ask.

Our Districts are planning their meetings before the Convention and I have invitations to District V and District I where I also will give a program on Spring flower designs.

## *President's Message continued .....*

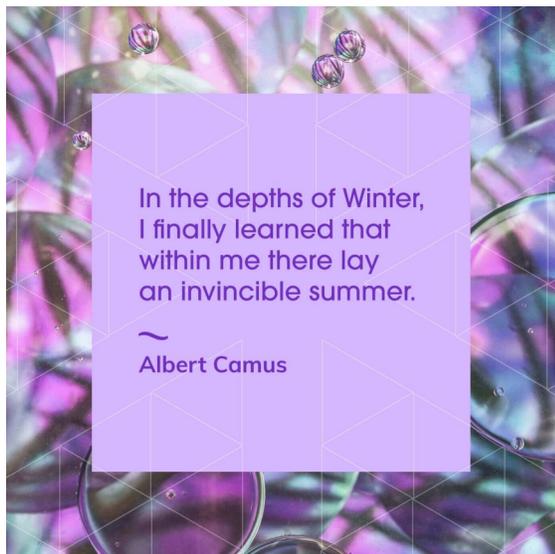
NMGC will also be represented with a booth at the "Think Trees" conference in February. This is one of our outreach events to advertise our organization.

Several of our members are attending the South Central Region to be held in Galveston in April and the National Convention to be held in Orlando in May. I will return with all kinds of good news to inspire you. Once these meetings are over I am taking my annual trip to see family in the UK. This year will be for fun as last year was to put my parent's remains to rest. My pleasure last year was to use garden hydrangeas and foraged flowers to make the church designs for their service. Early June is always so beautiful in my home county of Cornwall and now that all Covid restrictions are lifted it will be a joy to visit the gardens and coastline that I grew up loving.

You will all be planning your field trips and Civic programs for the summer and I look forward to hearing about them in your reports. Take lots of good photos, share some with the NM Gardener and breathe some beauty and life into a world that has been hurt. Nature and our Creator have the power to heal and in my world I have never been let down.

Happy planting and happy playing New Mexico.

*Christine Lenthorp, President*





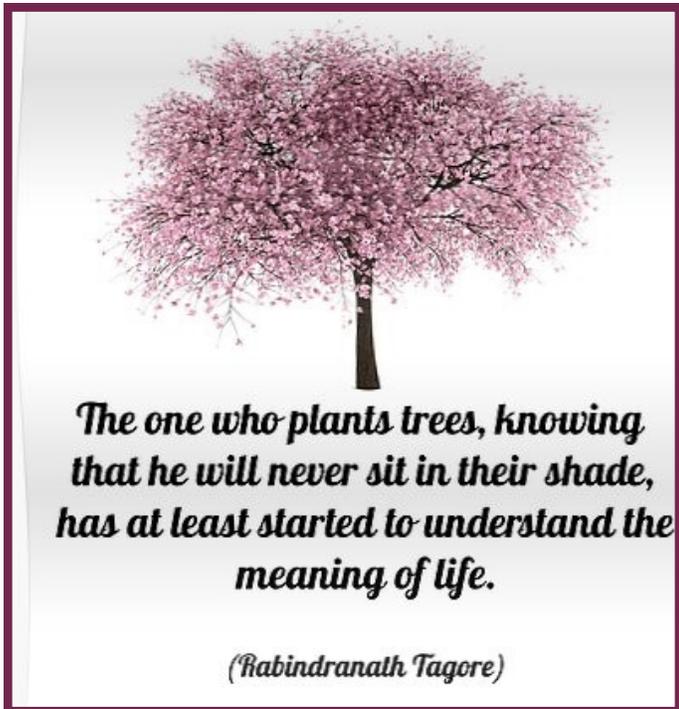
## Message from Our First Vice President, *Debra Sorrell*

Here we are again, anxiously awaiting Spring and the beauty it will bring. Amid all the craziness of our times, flowers coming up out of the ground is a constant we can rely on.

Preparations are well under way for our Spring convention in Artesia. I urge you to make plans to attend! The hotel is beautiful, the location is new and interesting, the food will be great and the chance to see each other again is exciting! I have really missed the companionship of fellow gardeners around the state. Conventions are a wonderful place to rekindle friendships and get new ideas. Please support our clubs in District V and make this a successful spring meeting with your presence.

As club meetings begin to happen this year, remember that you have resources around the state. Many of us are willing to travel to you for programs, installations, celebrations and support. I am just a phone call away and would love to come to your events!

New Mexico Garden Clubs is a terrific organization! Let's see if we can grow our membership this next year and share the wonder of growing, showing, designing and loving the diverse plants of our area!





## Message from Our Second Vice President,

### *Joyce Zaugg*

I am still attending the once-a-month virtual membership seminars presented by the National Membership Committee. Here are some of the things they suggest trying to increase membership.

- \* Follow-up with potential new members is an important step in recruiting new members. This may include a one-on-one meeting or phone call to answer questions and personally invite them to attend a meeting.
- \* Have a sign-up sheet with name, email, address, and phone number to circulate at meetings. This is crucial for follow-up. Potential members are kept apprised of meeting dates and activities via email, phone, or text.
- \* Gardening in the community provides opportunities to speak with individuals as they walk by the gardens. They often stop and talk to the members working in the gardens seeking information about the Club. Members can provide information about upcoming meetings or opportunities to learn more about your Club. Have business cards available that can be handed out to people who stop.
- \* A club flier can be placed at various locations throughout the community.
- \* The President should greet and introduce guests at the beginning of each meeting.
- \* Ask guests how they found out about the club, i.e., invited by a member, Facebook, newspaper article, etc.
- \* After joining, make sure they are given your new member handbook and yearbook.
- \* Encourage new members to sign up for committees and take part in gardening efforts at your community projects.

Our membership has increased a little bit since my report in the winter issue of the NMG. We went from 481 to 498 members in 23 adult clubs.

**In the next month or so I will be sending all the clubs a copy of their 2021 rosters to update. Remember that your dues of \$8.00 per member need to be sent to me by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.**



### Message from District Director, *Sonia James*

Hello Club Members,

District 1 is busy planning for our Spring Board Meeting and Lunch to be held on March 7th . We are going to have a brunch instead of lunch. Our 1st Assistant Director, Debi Harrington will cater the Brunch. Christine Longthorp, our NMGC State President will honor us with a special design program. Hope you are all doing well and looking forward to seeing you soon.



### Message from District III Director, *Johnese Turri*

The calendar says Spring is just around the corner, but here in Angel Fire it will be a while for us to start tilling our soil! For those who will be able to get their gardens going, we will all be excited to see pictures of their gardening efforts!!

Amor de la Tierra's President, Hannalisa Jacobsen, has been hard at work on creating their Policies and Procedures as well as revising and updating their bylaws. They are planning a plant and seed exchange for their members. Angel Fire Garden Club has been organizing and planning for the new year. They just got their new slate officers for this year. Was so wonderful to have members step up and volunteer! Their membership chair, Camille Thomason, created a new and improved membership form. Santa Rosa Garden Club's President, Colleen Hinker, has been working with her membership to have each of them organize and plan a meeting. They are planning a rummage sale in June.



### Message from Our District V Director, *Julie Foster*

**Looking forward to seeing everyone at the  
New Mexico Garden Clubs Convention  
in Artesia,  
March 23 & 24, 2022**

## Archives Chairman, *Becky Fuller Chairman*

I am able to take any materials to the library for archiving. The library is almost back to normal. We are going to learn about a new site that will enable us to go into Archives online. I'll let you know what I learn.



## Penny Pines Chairman, *Mary Ann Moreno*

Keep Collecting Your Pennies for the Penny Pines Projects. I know we have several new plantations to acknowledge. Come to convention to hear who donated and in honor of whom.

If you need information or a form, contact me at [jbmamoreno@gmail.com](mailto:jbmamoreno@gmail.com)



## Life Membership & Scholarship *Sue Ferguson, Chairman,*

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS or HONORS for ANYONE!**

THE NMGC Annual Scholarship is funded by the sale of NMGC Life Memberships, NMGC Membership pins, and Book of Memory donations. A NMGC Life Membership comes with a Commemorative Life Membership pin and costs \$40. They make great gifts for anyone! The NMGC Membership pin costs \$20 and again makes a great gift for yourself or a friend. More details about the Scholarship Program can be found on our website. Please visit and see the different ways you could help support this most worthwhile project.

#### Order From

Sue Ferguson  
5065 Bright Sky Road  
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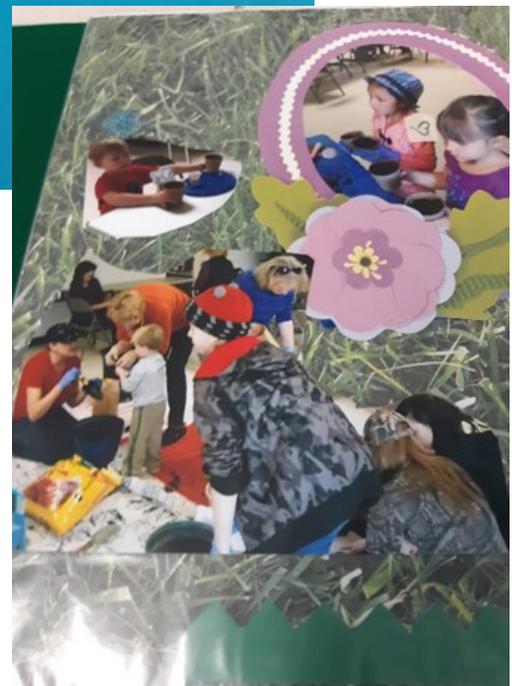


## Youth Activities, Lynnette Walker, Chairman

Once again due to the Covid virus restrictions, youth activities are not occurring. With that in mind, Dorothy Duff made a wonderful suggestion at our recent Judges Council meeting. She stated that she gifted two youth acquaintances with seedlings for them to care for and then enter in the 2022 State Fair. It is her hope that it will increase our entry numbers at the State Fair Youth flower shows in addition to encouraging the enjoyment in caring for a plant.

**I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE EVERYONE TO DO THE SAME. GIFT TWO PLANTS, SEEDLINGS OR EVEN SEEDS TO YOUTH ACQUAINTANCES AND CHECK ON THEM OCCASIONALLY AND GET THEM EXCITED ABOUT ENTERING IN THE 2022 YOUTH SHOWS AT THE STATE FAIR.**

Renate Reisel Home garden club thought it would be nice to look back on the memories of her youth interacting with plants.



# Have you ever been to National Garden Clubs Headquarters in St. Louis, Mo.?

*New Mexico Garden Clubs is very well represented there!!  
Below are a few snap shots from National Garden Clubs Headquarters:*



## Headquarters Outdoor Patio Pavers



## Headquarters Entry Way rug

## Horticulture Chairman, Ellen Reed

### Making the Most of Microclimates

When approaching a new garden site or renovating an older garden, consider where the sun and shade areas fall and what is causing the shade. (What is the compass orientation?) The areas facing southwest will be the warmest and a Southwest corner might protect a fig or other tender plants. House foundation, walls, walks and large rocks also absorb heat and keep nearby areas warmer. A north slope is cooler than any other garden location and may be good for tulips or other plants which like a well-drained cooler site.

Existing plants must be considered and the first questions are; do you like them and are they thriving? If not, remove them and replace with more pleasing choices.

The root zones of deciduous trees and shrubs make ideal areas for bulbs that need low moisture when dormant and sun in early spring. Bulbs such as *Lycoris* (spider lily), *Muscari* (Grape hyacinths) and some crocus will benefit from the sun on their winter foliage and be dormant when the trees leaf out and shade them. Large deciduous trees can be pruned higher to allow morning and afternoon sun underneath. Planting under evergreens is more difficult as there is less light and their surface roots are greedy, making the surrounding area very dry. Junipers allow planting at the base but the Blue Spruces are most attractive when their lower branches sweep the ground. They also require a huge amount of water and space as they age.

Roses, especially ones that require drastic pruning in the spring may do better in an area that is not the centerpiece of a spring or winter garden. Some shallow rooted annuals such as *Nigella damascene* (Love in a Mist) may work well as a self-sowing filler. A low Lavender border or Creeping thyme will give an edge to the bed.

When adding plants to your garden consider what you like for colors and forms and what it looks like when not in bloom. Is there a void that can be filled with neighboring foliage or annuals?

Plants in full bloom in nurseries or catalogs are hard to resist. Consider the zone that is suggested on the plant label or description. Microclimates in your garden may allow you to grow plants not recommended for your area. How the unusual varieties will grow in your condition will depend on their adaptability and how much you are willing to cater to their requirements. There are several strategies to find an area where a new plant will adjust. The sunny edges of beds with deep shade can be used for plants needing more sun. Try the new variety in several places to observe where it grows best. Beware of new introduction

***(Continued on next page.)***

## **Making the Most of Microclimates (continued)**

that appear too aggressive by vegetative runners or self-sown seeds. Eliminate them before they become pests.

If the new plant has especially desirable attributes, try them in different spots. Usually I feel that after the third try, it is “murder” or I treat it as an annual. I like tulips scattered among the early green leaves of *Hellebores* and later blooming perennials. They usually don't return a second year, so I just replant them every fall.

I am always searching for plants that bloom very early or very late. Over the nearly fifty years I've gardened on my double lot I have killed (had them not survive) hundreds of plants. My lot had an established thirty year old landscape when we moved in and I have replaced all but about six trees and shrubs. After my fifty years here, it has become difficult to find spots to plant the new varieties that tempt me, but I will still try to find a spot for some new introductions.

My flower beds have gradually gotten wider. In an attempt to control their spread and keep the grass out, green steel edging was installed. This has worked pretty well except now I line the lawn edges with narrow nursery flats of plants dug for the Annual Spring Plant Sale at the Albuquerque Garden Center.

The irregular ground around a large seventy year old Mountain Cottonwood tree is ringed with a bed surrounding it its prominent roots and is solidly planted with various bulbs which bloom throughout the season. The tree roots keep the area dry for the dormant bulbs and the bare branches allow in enough sun for the early bulbs which require sun. This is probably my favorite area of the yard because of all the small bulbs that thrive here. Additionally it is no longer necessary to mow over the prominent cottonwood tree roots. *Platycodon* (Balloon Flower), which is dormant in winter, can provide summer color along with other low ground covers.

There is now something in bloom every day in my garden from *Galanthus* (Snow drops) in December through later perennials such as *Chrysanthemum parthenium* (Fever Few), *Achillea* (Yarrow) and some *Salvias*. Fall garden color also comes from foliage.

Microclimates allow you to enjoy your garden year round.

**(Photo of Ellen Reed's garden).**





## Garden Club News from Around the State

### **Mesilla Valley Garden Club, District 4, Becky Fuller, President**

Mesilla Valley Garden Club is slowly rallying. Our meeting in November was on growing an avocado tree from a seed. We had growers at every stage. Charlene Brock's was the most mature with Carolyn Bergsagel running a close second. Judy Laird's was just getting started and mine had just been put in water. Mine is almost to the point of its first pruning and Carolyn just sent me a picture of hers and it must be at least a foot high. We had a wonderful Christmas party at the Laird home and Christine, Suzy and Ellie (our District IV Director) helped us celebrate. Georgina, from Wild Birds Unlimited, gave a program on wintering over our bird population. Very informative. January's meeting welcomed back an old member, Linda Frank, who had been sorely missed. We brainstormed ideas for programs. This month, February, we are having an archivist from the NMSU Library give us the low down on archiving our information for NMGC, INC. They have a new site that enables us to go into Archives online and retrieve materials. As the Archives Chairman, I am looking forward to learning about it. I will include the information in the Annual Report.



Iris from Judy Laird's Garden

### **Lincoln County Garden Club, District V, by Isabel Olsen**

These are the flowers we made in our workshop at our February meeting. It was a great project. Photos of Isabel, Judy, Sophia and Cynthia. Such a fun activity for a garden club meeting!!!



## Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, Kersti Rock, LAGC president

November was a time of shifting focus in gardening as the growing season came to an end for the year. The Los Alamos Garden Club put the Memorial Rose Garden to bed in style this fall. Due to a high presence of deer and a lack of sunshine due to large overhanging trees, the garden was in need of extra care. Compost and peat moss were recommended to enhance the soil in the garden. Our local hardware store, Metzger's, generously donated 30 bags of manure and discounted 15 bags of peat moss. The store delivered everything to LAGC's shed near the Rose Garden. Club members mixed and applied the manure and peat moss. The County Parks department then provided several large deliveries of mulch that Garden club members applied to a depth of several inches.

The Club transitioned from talking about outside gardening to inside gardening with a November meeting program on houseplants led by Joyce Zaugg and Marke Talley. Some members brought potted starter plants and spoke about how the plant was started as well as the care and maintenance of each plant. This inspired a lively discussion with many insights from all the attendees. Members were invited to take home the plant of their choice at the end of the meeting.

The November meeting also included a special award presentation. Club president Kersti Rock presented Selvi Viswanathan with awards that Selvi had received in absentia at the Extended Fall Board Meeting in Las Cruces. Selvi won 1st Place Individual in both the Birds and Butterfly Gardening in New Mexico categories. She also won 1st Place Butterfly Photo and 1st Place Wildlife Photo. Her butterfly photo was selected as Photographic Print of the Year in Butterflies. Kersti also presented the awards that LAGC received: 2nd Place 2020 Standard of Excellence Class II, 3rd Place 2020 Club History Class II, a World Gardening Certificate, an Honorable Mention for the 2019 Club History Class II and an NMGC Presidential Citation issued to Kersti Rock.



[Joyce and Marke with the table of houseplants



Kersti giving Selvi the framed Photo Print of the Year]

LAGC got into the holiday mood in early December with a festive Holiday Luncheon. Several members organized to bring the main course and other members brought a wide variety of desserts. Still others provided linens and tableware and decorations.

## Los Alamos Garden Club, (continued)

January's meeting was conducted via Zoom due to rising Covid-19 case numbers in New Mexico. One of the topics discussed was the possibility of installing a deer fence to stop the severe depredation of the Memorial Rose Garden by the local mule deer. Judy Handy and Kersti Rock have met with the local Historic Preservation Board and County representatives to better understand the requirements for a fence in this area. The club also set April 30 as the date for a fundraising event to support the scholarship that the club awards each year to a graduating high school senior.

For the January program, Cindy Hills demonstrated how to build a table water fountain. The supplies for the project had been distributed prior to the meeting and many of the attendees built their water fountains during the Zoom session.



LAGC Holiday luncheon, Dec 6, 2021

Table water fountain

In February, as we begin to look toward spring and outdoor gardening again, the club will hear a program on garden safety practices from Tracey Speyrer, rosarian and work safety expert. And in March, just as it officially becomes Spring, NMGC president Christine Longthorp will present LAGC and present a program on making either posies or small table arrangements. We hope that our sister clubs from District II, Floral Designers and Summit, will join us for this meeting.

LAGC plans to have a program on small and side yard gardens in April and we will try our hands at decorative rock painting in May. I am sure that many of us are already looking forward to the start of the growing season!

## El Jardin Encanto Garden Club, District 1, Shar Marquez, Co-President

Our year has started off really busy. NMSU Agricultural Science Center in Los Lunas celebrated their annual Field Day in August. We had a nice club information table setup and passed out sunflower seeds and spider plant starts. Most members were taken on a tour of the fields and shown all the experimental plants the Researcher are working on and at the end was a nice barbeque lunch. Our Installation took place in September with State President Christine Longthorp conducting the changeover of new officers and thanking the old officers for all their hard work.



We met at the beginning of October to make bee-hive centerpieces for the District I Meeting at the Albuquerque Garden Center. We had a fabulous time at the District I Board meeting, there

were lots of great raffle prize given out and the Mexican themed lunch was

tasty with pineapple upside-down cake for dessert. Suzy Andregio was our October speaker and gave us a fabulous demonstration on the proper way of successfully planting bulbs and how to care for them. Marisa Thompson Ph.D., NMSU Extension Urban Horticulture Specialist was our November speaker and gave a superior presentation on Fall and Winter Landscape Care.



Adrienne David arranged for us to setup our Christmas tree at the entrance of Lowe's Hardware in Los Lunas where it set from 21 Nov 21 – 4 Jan 22. I was very festive and most of the decorations were made from recycled products. The first week in December we had a Holiday Luncheon at Pete's in Belen, a pure local favorite. Ruth McDaniel celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in December with a lovely party at her family home. Ruth, El Jardin Encanto Garden Club charter member, has been an active member for 55 years. She was a master flower show judge and had judged flower shows at local, county and state fairs from 1970 – 2010. She was state garden club district director for two terms and was involved with the creation of the Albuquerque Garden Center. Through Penny Pines, 600 seedlings will be planted all over New Mexico in her honor and she was also presented with a bouquet of flowers from the club.





# Ruth McDaniel Of El Jardin Encanto of New Mexico Garden Clubs, District I Celebrates her 100th Birthday!

## Ruth McDaniel to celebrate her 100th birthday

Ruth McDaniel, who has been a resident of Peralta since 1958, will be celebrate her 100th birthday on Dec. 19.

She will celebrate on Dec. 18 with a family dinner, and a friend's reception on Dec. 19 at her residence.

Ruth was born in Chickasha Okla. Ruth grew up in Clovis with her nine siblings. Ruth was married on June 24, 1941, to Alfred Zera McDaniel. They were married 75 years.

She has been a member of the El Jardin Encanto Garden club for 55 years and is a charter member. Ruth is a master flower show judge, and has judged flower shows at local, county and state fairs from 1970 to 2010.

Ruth served as the state Garden Club district director for two terms, and was involved with the creation of the



**Ruth McDaniel**  
*Celebrating her 100th  
birthday on Dec. 19*

Albuquerque Garden Center. Ruth taught gardening to children at Peralta Elementary. In the early 1970s she was a substitute teacher at the high school.

Ruth served as the choir director at the Methodist church for 16 years, and was active in the women's ministry. She is a founding member and a Deaconess of the Los Lunas English Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Ruth has been blessed with four daughters and son in-laws, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will be celebrating this milestone with her.

The Garden Club has donated 600 pine trees to the forest service in Ruth's name, and her picture will be on a Smuckers Jelly jar on the Today show.

## Sunshine Valley, District IV – Linda Brandis, President

The Sunshine Valley Garden Club met at El Faro Restaurant in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico on November 12, 2021. After a meeting and lunch, the Club went to the wonderful Rio Bravo Art Gallery in T or C. Cards by Artist Delmas Howe, brother of member Doris Adams, were purchased to be sent to Officers on their birthday.

Our annual Christmas Party on December 10 was a huge success with lots of good food and gifts.

The Club made a \$60 contribution to “Wreaths Across America” which purchased 6 wreaths placed at Fort Bayard National Cemetery on December 17, 2021.

Poinsettias compliments of the Club were delivered to the Veterans Home, Nursing Home and Assisted Living.

The January meeting was our Annual Business Meeting. We discussed items for 2022, including Programs, Yearbook, Projects, Dues, Committees and Facebook. There was a delicious lunch buffet of Green Chili Chicken Lasagna, Ziti Marinara, Salad and Garlic Rolls.

We are looking forward to the many great programs for the year, such as our Annual Membership Tea on February 11, a presentation from the Soil and Water Conservation District, a planting party, a Plant and Garage Sale on May 13, and our Flower Show at the Annual Sierra County Fair in October, amongst others.

***“To plant a garden is to  
believe in tomorrow.”  
Audrey Hepburn***



## High Desert Design Club, District I, Shirley Tetreault, President

It is hard to believe that High Desert Design Club, founded November 20, 2013, will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. It is amazing to watch the growth and interaction of this club. September, October, November and December are very busy months working on the State Fair Flower Shows, Harvest Fair, Holiday Fair and our annual Christmas party. October was very exciting as each member created a chili ristra to take home and hang in their courtyard. They were beautiful. We work very hard and play hard. Our membership continues to grow monthly. We now have 34 members.

### **Making a Chile Ristra Video**

Shirley helped Suzy Andrego do a segment on Chile ristras which they submitted to National Garden Clubs for the “Home for the Holidays” presentation.

**Click on the link below** and watch Shirley make a Chile ristra.

<https://youtu.be/RBMa3FNTRtk>

***Enjoy!***



### **Cleaning Your Tools Video**

Suzy Andrego created a short 5 minute video on how to clean your gardening clippers for National Garden Clubs quarterly newsletter. She gives you all the supplies you need and shows you how to do it! ***And, YES, she does NOT even break a nail while doing it.***

***Go to YouTube and search National Garden Clubs Cleaning Your Garden Tools 2022 to view the video.***



## Morning Garden Club, District V, Renate Reisel, President

A few members of the Morning Garden Club visited the neighboring Artesia Garden Club for a lesson on using recycled materials in floral design. Also taught was how to incorporate illumination techniques.



Photo two uses spray painted prescription bottles to keep flashlights safe and dry!



Morning garden club members enjoyed their Christmas celebration with beautiful music presented by the Pecos Valley Brass Quintet, and a delicious brunch afterwards.

Each year our club puts up our Christmas Memorial tree, this year we added two velvet hearts in memory of Gorgia Schoenecker a longtime, and very active member, and Mrs. Ginsburg also a longtime member. Our new year started out with a wonderful presentation about Roswell's splendid resources given by Jim Burrell, who is the Parks and Recreation department director. A couple of our members took advantage of a master garden class offered at our local extension office, also were excited to attend Artesia's Garden Club design class, presented by District 5 Director Julie Foster. Our weather is still a bit cold, but that doesn't discourage our club members to continue



cleaning two butterfly gardens, adding spring bulbs to all our flower beds plus all the containers in different areas in Roswell.

Each year Morning Garden Club invited different guests to our butterfly garden from different garden clubs, including children from our local learning center, Los Pasitos. As Morning Garden Club youth chairman, I thought it would be a great idea to let the young children enjoy their own little garden areas in the butterfly Garden for planting flowers, making new friends, and learn to enjoy playing outdoors.

**New Mexico Floral Artists, District I, Christine Longthorp, President**



NM Floral Artists study's all the NGC Design Types. Each month we study something different. We have studied petite designs, all foliage designs and Line design.



## Uptown Garden Club, District I, Mary Ann Moreno, President



We ended the year with a wonderful Potluck luncheon in December at the home of Member Ellen Reed!

THANK YOU Ellen for opening your home for us!

Our January program was a floral design program presented by Member Kathleen Flanders! Beautiful work Kathleen! We hope you enter your beautiful designs for the Design of the Year Award for NMGC and or in the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar!

March will be Show & Tell ... we are looking forward to learning about all the great things we each love and use.



Member Steven Hong-Elder presented the February program on the History of Japanese Hina Dolls for National Girls Day. We had Japanese treats as well made by Steven. GREAT program! THANK YOU Steven!

## Valley Gardeners, District I, Dorothy Duff & Gigi Zacharias, Co-Presidents

Valley gardeners have appreciated the opportunity to meet again in person and the process of catching up with one another is ongoing. In December we resumed our holiday luncheon tradition and white elephant gift exchange. It was not surprise that members were not the least bit timid in commandeering another member's gift. "Ooos" and "aahhs" and lots of laughter. The next week we gathered to prepare a gift of house plants for Saranam. Saranam is a program that helps families regain stability in their lives after a period of homelessness. They provide housing and training and the plants would go to the family apartments. We gathered over twenty house plants enough for each family to have at least one. Members met at the Garden Center to groom, repot and add a bit of holiday decoration to each plant.

Among the plant donations was a lovely large ficus which will go in the Saranam family room.

With all the Covid interruptions we are not sure over what period the Pennies for Pines accumulated but it was enough to



purchase 3 seedlings for the Penny Pines Program. With monthly meetings planned for 2022 we hope more seedlings will be on the way.

At the January meeting Debra Sorrell presented information about NMGC Awards and inspired those who have never submitted for an award to do so. There are so many different categories for both clubs and individuals. Awards cover floral designs, photography and various aspects of gardening.

## Blue Star Chairman, Shirley Tetreault



Here we are in the middle of winter and already looking forward to Spring and all the beautiful flowers that begin to break ground. It is also that special time of year that we need to begin cleaning up and restoring our Blue Star Markers. Is the paint chipping, or does it just need a good cleaning to keep the marker looking fresh to honor our veterans? This may be a good time to order new plants to refresh the garden area. Some ideas in roses: Peace Rose, Veteran' Honor Rose, WWII Memorial Rose, Purple Heart Rose, Bronze Star Rose, Silver Star Rose, Memorial Day Rose, America Rose, Honor Rose, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Lasting Peace. Red and White Flowers can be Geraniums, Petunias, Salvia, Dahlias, Cannas, Zinnias, Celosia, Verbena, Snapdragon, Cosmos, Begonias, Caladium, Poppy and Penstemon. Blue flowers can be Ageratum, Petunia, Salvia, Heliotrope, bachelor Button and Forget-me-not. These are just a few suggestions to help you get excited about this special project. I'm always happy to receive pictures of your efforts.

## New Mexico Judges Council, Suzy Andrego, President

*New Mexico Judges Council will be holding a Judges Symposium July 29-31, 2022, at the Albuquerque Garden Center.*

*Creative Vs. Traditional Designs, along with Floor Designs will be presented by Gina Jogan, National Garden Clubs Design Instructors Chairman. Evergreen Shrubs and Container plantings will be presented by Darlene Newell, National Garden Clubs Horticulture Instructors Chairman.*

*We are hoping to have a fabulous Silent Auction of Design Containers!*

*You DO NOT have to be a judge to attend. Attending a Judges Symposium makes you a better exhibitor. It also helps you understand what judges are looking for.*

*For more information, contact Suzy Andrego, Email: [Sandrego@qwest.net](mailto:Sandrego@qwest.net)*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- |                       |                                    |                 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ March 23 & 24, 2022 | NMGC Annual Convention             | Atresia, NM     |
| ◆ July 29-31, 2022    | NM Judges Council Judges Symposium | Albuquerque, NM |
| ◆ October, 2022       | NMGC Executive Board Fall Meeting  | TBA             |
| ◆ April 11 & 12, 2023 | NMGC Annual Convention             | ABQ, NM         |

# *New Mexico Gardener*

Quarterly Newsletter of the New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. (NMGC)

A Non-profit Organization

[www.newmexicogardenclubs.org](http://www.newmexicogardenclubs.org)

Organized 1950

Incorporated August 5, 1952

25 Clubs

525 Paid Memberships

2 Youth Clubs

54 Youth Members

**NMGC, Inc. is a Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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**VISIT the *Members Only* area**

**on the our website:**

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## **Instructions for Publication**

The *New Mexico Gardener* is published quarterly: March, June, September and December. The Editor reserves the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements. It is the responsibility of the article writer to ensure that names are spelled correctly. All articles need to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (unformatted) attached to an e-mail or submitted as email text.

Deadline	Date
Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1

**Photos must be sent as .jpg files, maximum three per file, as an email attachment. Do not frame or otherwise enhance. Poor quality photos will not be accepted (i.e. out of focus or grainy.) Photos that are submitted with the photographer's name will receive photo credit.**

**Articles/Photos for the next *New Mexico Gardener* must be submitted by May 1, 2022**