

LAS BRISAS

Costa Verde District Newsletter

Member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Summer 2025 CVD Newsletter Director's Message



It is difficult to believe that this term will soon be over. Two years seemed like it would be such a long time when I first took office as the Costa Verde District (CVD) Director...but the time has flown by. We have had such a wonderful term and I am proud of our accomplishments. The District recovered from the situation created by the pandemic and its aftermath. I represented CVD at the CGCI Board Meetings and Conventions and attended the District Director's Forum; acting as a liaison by bringing information from our parent organization to the clubs.

CVD became an active and vital District. A brief list shows that CVD

- ✿ Provided excellent programs
- ✿ Revised the CVD Bylaws
- ✿ Hosted the CGCI 2024 Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch in Coalinga
- ✿ Held a Leadership Workshop with Robin Pokorski
- ✿ Welcomed sister San Fernando Valley District to visit us at the South Coast Botanic Garden with a Meet and Greet -- tour and lunch

- ✿ Held field trips to the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSU Long Beach and Descanso Gardens
- ✿ Donated to the CGCI Presidents Project... as well as other groups
- ✿ Sponsored the CGCI Award #41 California Arboreta/Botanic Gardens Photography
- ✿ Purchased a National Garden Clubs paver for the Path of Success at the NGC Headquarters in St. Louis

Our efforts and accomplishments were recognized by CGCI, PRGC, and NGC with 26 awards that were received by CVD members, clubs and District. Costa Verde received awards for both our District Newsletter and Yearbook...and the biggest honor was receiving a CGCI Sweepstakes Award Rosette. In addition, all six clubs within the District received a CGCI Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement.

Thank you for the support you have given me. Working with the members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors was a privilege and a joy. These two years have been so much fun! Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your District Director -- as we see our theme Your District: A Great Place to Grow is indeed true!

As I say goodbye, please welcome new CVD District Director, Cindy Kovacs, and her board -- as we enter the Costa Verde 2025-2027 term. Let's continue to grow and have just as much fun!
Alexis Slafer, Director
Costa Verde District



CVD Meeting Monday June 9

10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Host: Long Beach Garden Club

BYO Beverage

\$5 per person

All are welcome -- bring a friend!

Program: How Climate Change Affects Your Garden

Mike Garcia, owner of Enviroscapes, offers complete and sustainable native garden landscaping design, ponds, waterfalls, drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting system installation, and residential and commercial properties in the cities of the Los Angeles South Bay. He will be presenting information on gardening in our various micro-climates due to climate change.

**RSVP to your club president
by June 5th**



June Speaker Mike Garcia

February 2025 Meeting Highlights



Guest Speaker Michael Friedman and First Assistant Director Ellyn Meikle



Refreshments provided by
Riviera Garden Club



Alexis keeping the meeting
running smoothly.

Costa Verde District Bylaws Update

CVD bylaws were last updated June 25, 2014. According to Article IX Amendments, the bylaws amendments were provided to Board members January 5, 2025. The Board met on February 3rd to discuss the proposed amendments. The Board of Directors approved the revised bylaws and the recommendation that they be presented at the next general meeting.

The next step is to notify the full District membership prior to a general meeting. The bylaw amendments approved by the Board of Directors will be emailed to all Club Presidents by May 9, 2025, and the presidents will forward them to their members. The bylaw amendments will be discussed at the June 9th meeting. Following the discussion, there will be a vote to approve or reject.

The current bylaws call for a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors to approve. The Board of Directors consist of the Executive Committee and the Club Presidents.

The club presidents were provided with the existing bylaws, revised final proposed bylaws, a comparison chart, and the cover letter from Alexis to the Board of Directors. They were notified to forward this to all club members. If you have not received a copy, please contact your club president. Club Presidents are to represent their club and use their judgment in voting to approve or reject the proposed bylaws based on member feedback.



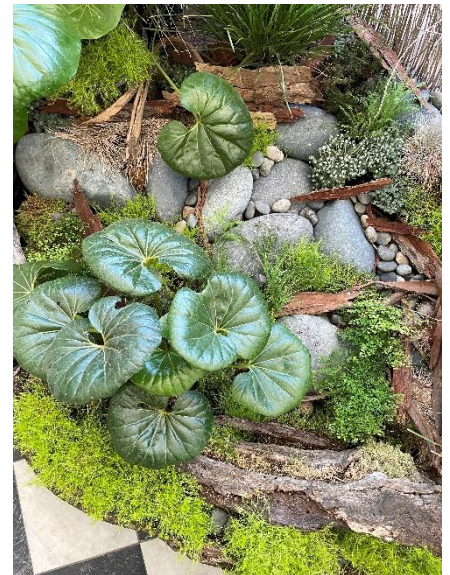
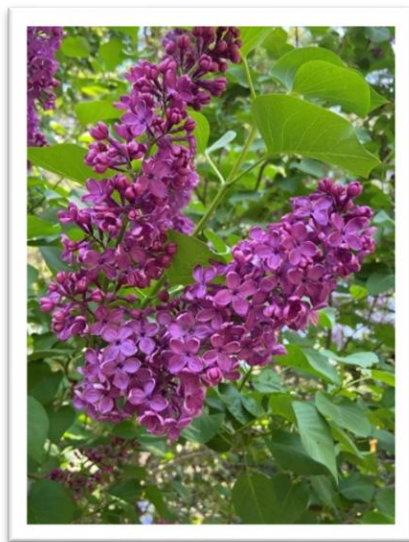
CGCI June Convention



Descanso Gardens Field Trip

On April 21, Costa Verde sponsored a bus trip to Descanso Gardens. It was a perfect day for our visit, with many spring flowers in bloom and mild weather. It was spring break and the drive there was quick and easy. Overall, a most delightful day.





Photos by Alexis Slafer
and Ellyn Meikle



CLUB REPORTS

San Pedro Garden Club

San Pedro Garden Club is winding down for the summer. Early this year, our club reconnected with Harbor Terrace, a Retirement Living Center who we had a long-standing Arbor Day connection and had gifted to Harbor Terrace different plants in the past. Also, the Director has offered to host our monthly Board meetings. On May



20th, our Club will dedicate a Fountain which they've ask us to design, and our 1st VP, Mark Horn beautifully accomplished. Bravo Mark. Following this activity will be our May luncheon, as we bid each other a good "summer-off". A few of us are planning to attend the June convention luncheon and participate in the Market place activities.

Myrna Cabanban
SPGC President

South Bay Floral Designers

Our most recent floral design was one that many



of you aren't familiar with. We explored a floral design that has its roots in history. The Tussie Mussie can be traced back to ancient times. Even today, the style can be seen in modern arrangements. It is fun arrangement of flowers that is small and round. There is one main flower in the center and the other flowers work out from the center.

The Tussie Mussie had great significance for the Victorian Era. Each flower had a special meaning. For example, different colors of roses had different meanings. The red bud of the rose meant innocent hope, young and beautiful. The red rose meant passion, desire, victory, harmony, joy, and luck. White roses meant unity, silence, love, respect, and beauty.



Other flowers had different meanings. Baby's breathe means pure heart,

gaiety. Daisy means innocence, simplicity. Jasmine means amiability, elegance, and grace.

Judy Unrine

Long Beach Garden Club

Long Beach Garden Club has been busy this spring. We continue to maintain and beautify the El Dorado Nature Center Entrance Garden. Speakers for meetings were Catalina Conservancy, Community Gardens by John Walker, and Carnivorous Plants by Dean Shoffeitt. We had a Members Garden Tour, seeing many different kinds of Gardens that our members have. We are hosting a booth at the Long Beach Poly Festival of Gardens and Butterflies on May 21st. On May 14 and 15, we went on our President's Tour in the Santa Barbara area, visiting gardens, growers and nurseries. We will wrap up June with a planning session for next year's speakers and events; installation of our new officers, and a gala potluck lunch.

Rosalie Rowe
LBGC President



LBGC at Lotusland in Montecito



UPCOMING DATES

All meetings take place at
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

Monday June 9, 2025

CVD General Meeting

Next Year Schedule will be
available this summer
August 2025

*Las Brisas Editors,
Cindy Kovacs and
Myrna Cabanban*

