



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

www.elkgrovegardenclub.org  
June 2022 Vol. 14 Issue 10

### Monthly Meeting

June 9, 2022  
Chicago Fire Pizza  
7101 Laguna Blvd, Elk Grove  
Social time at 10 am on the Patio  
No coffee service; bring your own drinks  
Meeting at 10:30 am includes installation  
of officers for 2022-23

**The party is sold out!** If you would like to be on a waiting list in the event there are cancellations, please call, text or email Mary Adams-Wiley. Or to cancel, contact Mary even if it is a very last-minute decision.

### Roll Call Question

Do you have summer vacation plans?

### Birthdays

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Vivian Sellers       | 6/5  |
| Janice Prater        | 6/9  |
| Martha Morris        | 7/2  |
| Linda Brett          | 7/8  |
| Chris Duane          | 7/21 |
| Mary Gress           | 7/23 |
| Leslie Haynes        | 7/26 |
| Linda Rivera         | 8/7  |
| Margrethe Reed       | 8/19 |
| Mary Anne Strohmaier | 8/31 |

### Editors:

Silvia Boggs  
Olinda Cortez

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Adams-Wiley

As our memorable 2021-22 club year comes to an end, I want to thank everyone who participated in meetings, brought food, worked on the 4 community service projects, served as officers, signed up for committees or became assistants, enjoyed the fun times together and supported each other through the not-so-good ones too. I especially want you all to know how very much I appreciate the way you stepped up and helped me as I suddenly became President. You are an awesome group!

There will be no meetings or newsletters in July or August, but we will stay connected with informal summer bulletins, through our community service projects, Facebook, our new Book Club, and the reinvented Botanical Arts and Crafts Group.

As usual there will be a July Board Meeting for planning next year's activities. The Board is expected to show up, but the rest of you are invited to come and bring your enthusiasm, ideas, suggestions, and your lunch in a brown paper bag. Drinks and homemade dessert will be provided. Watch for the bulletin with the time and place — likely mid-July.

### The Elk Grove Garden Club Scholarship recipient for 2022 is Anuj Kumar.

Submitted by Nancy Baldwin



Anuj has a vocational background, and is now pursuing a college degree. His interesting life story is told on the next page through his answers to two of the questions on his application.

**Describe your educational goals in detail.**

I am a Fijian who has been residing in California for the past 4 to 5 years. This is my fourth semester at CRC. I plan on graduating with a major in geography and minor in environmental studies. During my childhood years, in Fiji, I had always been fascinated by the National Geographic Channel documentary videos which used to be played on the television every Saturday. All the other boys of my age would be trying to mimic the Bollywood actors while I would be more interested in documentaries about how life began on planet Earth. I always told my mother that I would become a National Geographic Journalist (not knowing the correct job title back in 1995).

Growing up into my teen years, the dream of becoming a National Geographic scientist was lost. I started to look at the world in a more practical sense and noticed that no one had become a scientist in my family nor in my neighborhood. I took up Math, English, Accounting, Economics, and Computer in my high school years only to switch to doing Heating and cooling certification in a technical institute. My career as a Refrigeration technician (HVAC) was interesting but it was not fulfilling. At the age of 25, I was employed at the Department of Environment in Fiji as an Ozone Depleting Substance Inspector. One of the goals of the Ozone Depleting Substance unit was to train the HVAC technicians in Fiji to transition from anthropogenic refrigerants (causing harm to the environment) to natural refrigerants (low global warming potential). These trainings were the obligations that Fiji was serving under the Montreal Protocol.

I found that the job at the Department of Environment to be very fulfilling but I had to resign as I migrated to the United States. I again started working as a HVAC technician in America. I decided to take up college education as I was unable to work in the Sacramento summer heat which goes up to 120 degrees (on the rooftop). At the moment, I am enjoying my school courses (Geography, Anthropology, Environmental studies, and English). In regards to geography, I was fortunate to be tutored in 4 courses by Prof. Sharkey whom I have become a fan of.

In terms of English, I enjoy learning objective argumentation and it also enables me to further develop my English. My college life has been great as I am learning about this planet we live in and how we affect it. I want to get college education so that I can play a more pivotal role in terms of advocating for climate change at its solutions.

**Discuss your career goals, and your plans to achieve them.** Generally speaking, I would like to be in a career field that will enable me to do service to my planet. My aim is to be fulfilled and rest assured that I have done my part in terms of trying to mitigate climate change before I leave this earthly bound body. I have a few career options that I am still contemplating on the path that I should choose. My aim is to work for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). One of the largest contributors to global warming is the heating, cooling, and refrigeration sector as it uses refrigerants that cause harm to the environment. Having more than 8 years of experience in the HVAC sector and paired that with my qualifications as a geographer, I could use my skills to put forward comprehensive socio-economic and technical ideas which had worked with the success story of the Montreal Protocol.

The issue regarding the ozone depletion has been dealt with (CFCs) but the factors of global warming with the drop-in refrigerants remain (HFC). I have had the privilege to work in both the developing world and the developed world as this will be essential to implementing phase down plans for countries based on the demographic scale. The other career option that I have recently been paying attention to is teaching (High School). I have been told by my professors (Prof. Debra Sharkey and Prof. Sandra Wheeler) that I explain concepts really well and I should consider a career in teaching. This could also be a way I could rely the message to the younger generation about the essence of our environment and advocate about environmental philosophy as a geography teacher. I also take deep interest in psychology. Two years ago, I was going through depression and battling depression has given me the pivotal motivation to help those who are a victim of mental health issues. My long-term goal is to do a thesis on Latitudinal Depression where I would likely discuss on the notions of lack of sunlight, fewer people in the higher latitudes versus the tropical Island countries that are still intact with the tribal lifestyle which are located closer to the equator. Living in Fiji, we mostly had a collectivist lifestyle and coming to America I had to adapt to the individualist lifestyle.



## **DUES PAYMENTS FOR 2022-23 ARE DUE BY JUNE 9, STILL ONLY \$25!**

A big thank you to more than half the membership that paid their dues at the May meeting. Let's give the new Treasurer, Scott Nicholas, a big stack of checks for his very first deposit. Please don't make him send out late notices. If you cannot attend the June meeting, make your check for \$25 payable to the Elk Grove Garden Club, and send it to EGGC, P O Box 385, Elk Grove, CA 95759.

## **MAY 16 FIELD TRIP TO THE 856-ACRE EMPIRE MINE STATE HISTORIC PARK IN GRASS VALLEY**

Submitted by Mary Anne Strohmaier

Two docent-led tours were provided: The English Manor Home, and the gardens with many heirloom roses. The entire estate is irrigated by water that has filled the abandoned mine shafts so that everything is kept lush and green. The tours gave us a glimpse of the mine's history starting with the gold rush of 1849 to the closing of the mine in 1956. The park is well worth a visit.

## **OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING**

Submitted by Nancy Baldwin

You may recall we needed to redevelop the site because our software platform became obsolete. We took this opportunity to think about the purpose of both our Facebook presence and the website. The end result is Facebook has been working great for our internal sharing of photos, plants, gardens, garden tips and upcoming events. Our new website is focused externally toward the community to let people know what we are doing around town, and toward potential new members who would like to check us out before deciding to join us.

It's also a great resource for our members, It collects in one spot information about our projects and public gardens we support, and it is a recruiting tool in case you know someone who might be interested in our club. It's also a resource for those who might be soliciting charitable contributions from businesses in the community. They too may be interested in what we do with donations, and there is a link called "Donate" on the new website for that purpose.

The web address has not changed: it is still [www.elkgrovegardenclub.org](http://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org). Check it out!

*Editor's Note: This didn't just happen easily, of course. Nancy Baldwin, with her webmaster skill set, investigated the options, made a plan, put in the hours to bring this update to us, and got us a very good deal on the cost as well. Thank you, Nancy. Martha Morris is the new webmaster tasked with maintaining the site.*

## **Q & A**

### **Q: WHERE ARE THE FUN PHOTOS?**

### **A: ON FACEBOOK**

Photos were submitted by Susan Muckey (participants in the Garden Hat Contest), Donna Williams (lots of photos from the May Meeting), and Silvia Boggs (Empire Mine State Park Field Trip). There are some great ones, so head to Facebook now. If you need help in joining Facebook or using it, contact Tenley Willock, she is always willing and able to assist you. Don't miss out on these 16 pics. Please share your gardening photos too.

## **CALENDAR**

### **EGGC EVENTS**

**EGGC Book Club**, Tuesday, June 7, 10:30 am at Cafe Elk Grove District 56, 8230 Civic Center Dr, Elk Grove. The book to be discussed is *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*, by Peter Wohlleben.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

**Master Gardener Open Garden** Saturday, June 18, 9 am-noon at 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks. <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem-521777>.

**Bromeliad/Carnivorous Show and Sale**, Sat/Sun, June 18/19, 9 am-4 pm at 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento.

**Master Gardeners HARVEST DAY**, Saturday, August 6, 8 am-2 pm, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks. <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/?calitem-521788>.

### **THE LAST WORDS**

**Look for the May photos on Facebook, and post something of your own. Decide to attend the mid-July planning session for next year.**



Have a good Summer!

