



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

### **A Message from our Co-Presidents**

**Ana Weekley**

Dear Members,

Standing in my yard this week, surrounded by a blizzard of falling leaves, I was struck by how the colors can lift the soul. Even as the seasons shift, nature has such a beautiful way of reminding us to slow down and take it all in

We also had our first “cooking class” with seven members, and what a joy it was! While we know each of you is a wonderful chef in your own right, the real delight was gathering together, bonding, laughing, and cooking with herbs harvested straight from our gardens. It was a lovely reminder of the community we’ve grown here.

We are still waiting for confirmation from the Center regarding the days and times of next week’s meetings. As soon as we hear, we’ll be in touch.

Lastly, the club will be donating to the Food Bank this year, as so many in our broader community are struggling. As this is the season of giving, please bring dried and canned goods for donation to our next meeting on December 11th.

Wishing you warmth and color in this changing season,

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### **Turn Off Your Phone**

Please silence your phone during the meeting. If you do need to take a call (hopefully your phone vibrated), please step into the hall to answer your phone.

###

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### **Thursday, December 11**

10 to 11am – social

11am – meeting begins

Gil Albani Recreation Center  
8830 Sharkey Ave.

### **December Speaker**

Our own Marilyn Peterson will be guiding us in making our Holliday Centerpiece. And our Refreshment Committee will provide a Soup Luncheon.

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### **Refreshment Committee**

**December** – Winter Soup Luncheon - Pat Baeta & Annajean Neill, Team Leaders; Mary Adams-Wiley, Colleen Barnett, Inge Biggs, Marianne Folkers, Susan Muckey, Brenda Price, Margrethe Reed, Maria Schiffler, MaryAnne Strohmaier, Ana Weekley and Juana Zamoira

**January** – Karen Lewis, Team Leader; Chris Duane, Jane Evans, Kathy Kirkorian, Loren Lewall, Nancy Norlen, Jane Olson, Pat Pereira, Sharon Saint

###

## December Speaker

Marilyn will be guiding us in the making of holiday centerpieces.

### What you will need:

1. **Container** - must be able to hold water.
2. **Oasis** - Dark green only, presoaked. Light green is for faux flowers and will not work.
3. **Greenery** - Ferns, Redwood, Pine, Nandina, Citrus, or any evergreen. Sharing is encouraged.
4. **Clippers** – to trim greenery
4. **Embellishments** - You can never have enough! Battery operated candles, fairy lights, acorns, bows, ornaments, candy canes (not edible) or any holiday accents, glitter anything.

Hope this helps, Marilyn

###

## December Birthday



Brenda Price

12/26



The flowers for the month of December are **holly** and **narcissus**.

- **Holly:**  
**Symbolism:** Protection, strength, resilience, and festive cheer.  
**Characteristics:** An evergreen plant with sharp leaves and bright red berries that stands out in winter.
- **Narcissus (specifically Paperwhite):**  
**Symbolism:** Rebirth, hope, new beginnings, and purity.  
**Characteristics:** A fragrant bulb flower that blooms indoors during winter, often associated with fresh starts and celebrations like the New Year.

Beyond the Garden Gate



## The Recipe Corner

We have so many good cooks in our Club. I thought it would be fun to share our recipes. Especially those brought to the meeting that have been a "hit". So email your recipe to [vrsellers@frontiernet.net](mailto:vrsellers@frontiernet.net).



Christmas Meringue Kisses

2 large egg whites  
1/8 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. cream of tartar  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
2/3 cup sugar  
1 cup mini chocolate chips  
3 TBSP. crushed peppermint candy

Beat egg whites until foamy, add salt and cream of tartar, beat until soft peaks form.

Add vanilla and sugar 1 TBSP. at a time, beat until stiff and glossy.

Fold in chocolate chips and crushed peppermint candy.

Preheat oven to 275°. Adjust oven racks to upper middle and lower middle.

Line cookie sheets with parchment paper. Using 2 teaspoons, mound kisses on parchment paper or use piping bag and plain tip.

Bake until cookies begin to crack and are light gold, about 25-30 minutes. Rotate cookie sheets halfway through baking.

Let cool on cookie sheets 5 minutes, and then transfer on to wire racks to cool completely.

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## Did you know?

- **Cranberries** are not just any fruit – they are **America's Original Superfruit**.
- **Cranberries** are a versatile, nutrient-dense fruit that contains Vitamin C and antioxidants, especially anthocyanins and flavanols.
- In 1912, Marcus L. Urann developed a sauce that he canned and sold under the name of Ocean Spray Preserving Co. He later formed a cooperative now comprised of more than 1,100 small family farmers – many of them fourth, fifth or even sixth generation.
- **Cranberries** are grown in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington.
- Massachusetts is home to the oldest continuously cultivated cranberry beds – some vines are more than 150 years old.
- **Cranberries** grow on low, long-running vines in bogs and marshes.
- **Cranberries** have air pockets that allow them to float. The night before the berries are to be harvested, the farmers flood the bog. The next day they churn the water with giant water reels to shake the fruit from the vines. Then, crews wade in and corral the bobbing berries with large broom.



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## December Garden Checklist

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By Jan Fetler



- Plant seedlings of lettuce and kale.
- Protect citrus, tender perennials, succulents and tropical plants when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Apply a second copper spray on peaches and nectarines to reduce peach leaf curl, apply towards the end of December.
- Apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees and grape vines to smother overwintering insects and help prevent disease.
- Clean up plant waste and fallen fruit to reduce disease and insects next year.
- Start winter pruning of fruit trees in late December. Bare branches allow a clear view of a tree's framework.
- Start shopping for bare root fruit trees.
- Start pruning roses starting in late December.
- Add mulch to garden beds.
- Turn the compost pile a few times, if it gets too wet from rains.

###

## Flora Fresh

Good news! We have successfully established an account with Flora Fresh. Our club members can now shop at Flora Fresh and obtain wholesale pricing (as opposed to public pricing that is approximately 20% higher). They have a vast supply of stunning fresh flowers, Christmas and holiday greens for garlands and wreaths, plants, floral arrangement supplies, containers and decorations.

If you go, make sure to wear a jacket as they preserve the flowers in cold storage. Let them know you are a member of the EGGC or, if needed, talk to Lydia as she is the representative that helped us to set up the account.

Flora Fresh is located at:  
1127 FEE DR.  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95815  
(916) 927-9767

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## Calendar Upcoming Events

**December 6** (Saturday) 10am till 2pm

### **Frosty Winter Market**

Big Oak Nursery

10071 Grantline Rd, Elk Grove

Local vendors, refreshments and Santa!

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## **Sacramento River Valley District Meetings**

Meetings held at the Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento Open to all members. Cost is \$15.00 for meeting which includes lunch. A clipboard will be passed around at meeting for those who are interested in attending SRVD meeting.

**February 17, 2026** – Margaret & Nancy – “How to Garden Until You’re 100”.

**May 19, 2026** – Laura Halpenny, Landscape Designer – “From Blah to Fabulous”.

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## **Elk Grove Garden Club Leaders**

Co-Presidents – Ana Weekley and Juana Zamora

Vice-President – Marilyn Peterson

Secretary – Mary Lou Lange

Treasurer – Susan Muckey

<https://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org/>

**Elk Grove Garden Club is a member of:**

Sacramento River Valley District

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs Inc.

## **The Newsletter Team**

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Ana Weekley, Juana Zamora, Marilyn Peterson and Jan Fetler

