

OPAWL



Emilia Sugiyama
President

As we come to an end of 2022, the recap of the year flashes in front of my eyes like a 10-second Instagram reel.

- We hosted a beautiful and successful Membership Social
- We introduced new sections with activity in many of them
- Our Membership grew to one of the largest on record – 130 & growing
- Hosted first ever Champagne Brunch Fundraiser – raised over \$10,000
- Our Philanthropic goals of giving were met and exceeded
- Had the best-looking 4th of July float – over 8 ft orange tree with street signs
- Ladies got crafty with pumpkins and decorated them with succulents
- The holiday got kicked off with Carolers on horseback

Enjoy this holiday season and my wish for you as 2023 rolls around the corner is the unending success, prosperity, health, and much joy & happiness. May you get what you deserve and earn fulfilling results in all your future projects! But most of all, may you be surrounded by loved ones as the bell rings in for 2023!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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*For newsletter contributions
send your content to
opawomen.org@gmail.com*



CHRISTMAS DINNER OUTING

It was the annual League celebration, and it began like dine-out Christmas parties usually do, –until.

They were a troop of ten, heading out to Riverside for Italian food and a tour of holiday lights. The weather had been unusually cold, and it gave everyone the chance to dive into seldom-used, sweater drawers to find something festive and warm to bundle up in. All but a few, boarded a comfy van for the trip which, aside from the high-spirits and laughter, was uneventful and surprisingly quick.

Dinner was well-planned at Mario's Italian Restaurant. The food and wine were delicious, the service was excellent, and the holiday setting was perfect. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal, laughing and chatting and having a lovely time. It is the next part when things started to take a turn.



After dinner, it was a quick walk to the Mission Inn Hotel where glitzy websites had promised there would be a grand Festival of Lights! Being the 30th anniversary of the festival, it was to be a display unlike anything that had gone before. Needless to say, anticipation was high.



The group sensed something was a little off as they approached the welcome banner with its burned-out lights that said, "FELIZ NAVIDAD ___ONS GREETINGS." As the ladies moved to the entrance, they found their way

was barred. Bright cheery lights beckoned them from inside the Mission Inn Hotel, but they were told by staff that only hotel guests were allowed in. There were large burley men in dark security uniforms at every entrance to enforce the rule. What happens from here is where the details become murky, so if you'll allow a little literary imagination, I think the tale can be finished.

Disappointment did not sit well with this group. They had come a long way to be dazzled by holiday lights and there just had to be a way to get inside. They tried heartily to sway the minds of several different guards, using reason, charm, and guile, but it was a no go. Then, a plan was contrived and expertly orchestrated allowing them all to sneak inside. No one would divulge the exact details—most likely to protect the innocent.



Once inside, they were laughing hard, cheered on by their success. It was a wonder no one paid them any mind or sent reinforcements to send them back out into the cold. As they caught their breath they looked around and then at each other. Confusion settled on their faces. Yes, there were some nice

CHRISTMAS DINNER *Cont.*

Christmas lights, but nothing on the level they had anticipated for sure. Though, they came away with some very nice photo-op group pictures, it was agreed that they would not need to come back again.

What really made the trip memorable was not the food or the activity but the wonderful warm fellowship of friends and being “in it” together. This is exactly what the Women’s League is all about—bringing women together and sharing fun experiences.



This loosely reported tale was written by Julie Maurer

UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY ▪ Valentine’s Day Party

MAY ▪ Cinco de Mayo Eve Party - 5/4

JUNE ▪ 2023 Membership Year Begins

CAROLING ON HORSEBACK



The Hot Trotters had the pleasure of hosting the annual holiday parade on December 10th. Caroling on Horseback has become an OPA tradition, giving everyone the opportunity to be in a parade. The event is enjoyed by all but it's the joyful faces of the children that make it all so dear.

This year we had an impressive 28 riders turn out on decorated horses. Walkers with festive dogs, decorated golf carts, and moms with strollers completed the cheery line up. The group was accompanied by Christmas music and stopped at three houses

to entertain the surrounding neighbors with Christmas carols. Cookies and carrot treats were waiting for everyone at the last stop on Lois Widly's street where visiting guests had the chance to be close to a horse, some for the first time.

Many thanks go to Emily Neubert, Jon Bonafede, and Jennifer Holland for providing the wheels, holiday music, and sound system. Thank you to the caroling-house hosts, Mary Nori, Joanna Roberts, and Lois Widly. Thank you to the helpers in the background, Emilia Sugiyama, Peggy Granger, and Julie Maurer. Last but not least, we give a huge thank you to section leader Sarah Holtz for her great planning and supervision. The parade was thoroughly enjoyed by all and went smoothly and safely without incident.



Click on the [Picture Pile](#) below to see all the photos and watch the parade video by Jim Philipp.



HOMESTEAD GOES NATIVE

Coastkeeper Garden Santiago Canyon College Orange, California

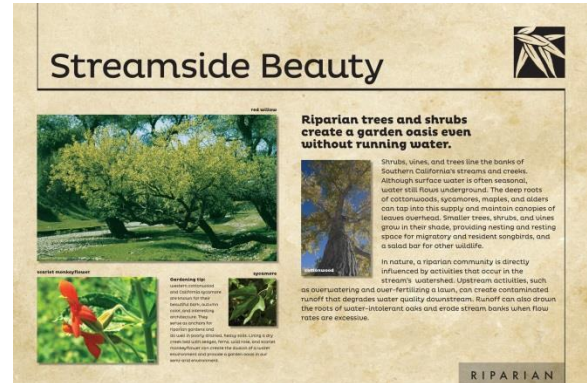


Situated on the campus of Santiago Canyon College, the 2.5-acre garden displays California native plants clustered into six plant communities and five themed landscape architectural vignettes. Their purpose is to capture the natural heritage of Southern California at the home garden scale. Plants and built features work together to inspire both the casual and professional garden designer and motivate them to adopt practices that conserve water supplies and reduce runoff.



Presented in the vignettes are pervious and permeable paving surfaces, innovative drainage and rainwater capture solutions, and design principles that can be easily implemented by the homeowner and designer.

The Garden’s purpose extends beyond creating an exceptional visitor experience to provide a palette of solutions the visitor can apply at home. The Garden’s ultimate aim is to change behaviors in order to reduce water consumption and the generation of runoff.



We developed the text for 13 interpretive panels, one welcome panel, and one orientation panel. We also created panel templates (several options) for client review and selection, helped coordinate the photography work, and sourced all the materials. The design that was selected required development of graphic icons to represent each plant community shown in a particular garden section.



The Coastkeeper Garden with its relaxed setting and walking paths is a unique resource located in our own community. It is the perfect place to learn more about California native plants and eco-gardening.

~ SECTIONS NEWS ~

Bridge

Bridge will meet January 16th at 11:00am at Moreno's. Thank you, Dorothy Neblett, for hosting our Christmas game! We meet on the third Monday of the month at 11AM at Moreno's. Contact Donna Aidekman at djaidekman@aol.com to join this section. --We are very patient players.



Bunco!



The Bunco Babes are back! Jamie Paino-Spence and Karen Ashford are breathing life back into the section as co-leaders. --Way to go, ladies!!!

You don't need any experience to play this simple and fast-moving dice game. It is well-known for its contagious laughter and the new friends it cultivates. Very simply, the rules go like this... Role – Chat – Repeat!
--Yes, it's that easy.

Beginning in January, the Bunco Section will meet on the 1st Thursday of each month. From 6:30pm to 7:00pm is the social gathering time. The game starts at 7:pm and finishes after the third game ends—usually around 9:pm. You can find more official game information if you [click here](#).

The first game night is Thursday, Jan. 4th. An Evite invitation went out to all members who have signed up for the section so far. Seating is limited to the first 12 who send in an RSVP. For more information, contact Jamie Paino-Spence, (562) 708-9309, jpgainospence@hotmail.com or Karen Ashford, (714) 496-6102, Klasa7506@gmail.com.

Entertaining In Pearls



Our section is about having fun while learning how to pair wines with food, create a show-stopping charcuterie board, put together a table scape for a simple dinner, do arts and crafts, AND it will all be done while wearing your fabulous pearls!! Typically the group meets once a month from 6:pm to 7:pm. For more information, contact leader Emilia Sugiyama, (310) 569-4662.

Homestead & Garden

Our January activity will be a visit to the Coastkeeper Garden where we will explore the topic of native plants. An email with a date and more information will be coming your way soon. Contact leader Pamela Sapetto, (714) 815-7771 for more info.



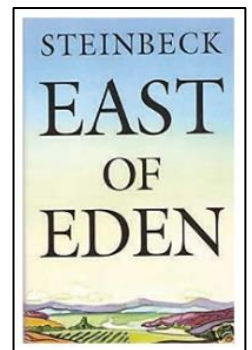
~ SECTIONS Cont. ~



The Hot Trotters are planning their next quarterly social to discuss and decide on activities and rides for the next few months. Watch for your invitation coming soon! We have been riding every Sunday morning at 10:am and will continue to do so unless the weather or a conflict interferes. For more info on the section, contact co-leaders, Sarah Holtz, (714) 487-0155, or Julie Maurer, (714) 742-1617.

Literature Group

The book we are currently reading is the novel East of Eden. Author John Steinbeck created some of his most memorable characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity; the inexplicability of love; and the murderous consequences of love's absence. We invite you to pick up the book and meet with the group for a lively discussion. We will meet on January 24th. We like to meet every 4th Tuesday, from 4:pm to 5:pm. For more info call leader Kathy Manulkin, (714)639-8686.



Pack Walkers



Hello everyone, our Dog Pack Walks are still on hiatus, waiting for longer days and warmer weather. We will reevaluate towards the end of January and see how it will be to start walking again!! Have a happy and safe New Year!! I will contact everyone later in January!! Leader: Julie Shaw, 714-329-3447.

Pickleball

Our section continues to meet each Wednesday at 9am at Tustin Hills Racquet Club. If interested in joining, please reach out! Hope to see you out on the court! Section Leader, Tess Breen, (714) 200-3004.



~ SECTIONS Cont. ~

Dear Members: Please reach out to the section leaders to join activities or for information. They are doing an amazing job of organizing events for us. Keep the sections alive by joining in often and be mindful to make RSVP's and cancelations in a timely manner. At times, a cost is associated with an event and a last-minute cancelation causes difficulties.--Thank you for being considerate of our hardworking organizers!

SECTION LEADERS

- Bridge** - Leader: Donna Aidekman, (714) 356-6545
- Bunco Group** – Co-Leaders: Jamie Spence, (562) 708-9309
Karen Ashford, (714) 496-6102
- Entertaining In Pearls** - Leader: Emilia Sugiyama, (310) 569-4662
- Foodies Group** - Looking for a leader. *Let's eat lunch! Interested?*
- Homestead & Garden** - Leader: Pamela Sapetto, (714) 815-7771
- Hot Trotters Group** – Co-Leaders: Sarah Holtz, (714) 478-0155
Julie Maurer, (714) 742-1617
- Literature Group** - Leader: Kathy Manulkin, (714) 639-8686
- Pack Walkers** - Leader: Julie Shaw, (714) 329-3447
- Pickleball** - Leader: Tess Breen, (714) 200-3004

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



- 1 Lisa Shuss
- 2 Annette Mason
- 5 Jennifer Troncale
- 6 Suzanne Seegers
- 11 Dena Durante
- 15 Belen Gallarza-Wilson
- 16 Linda Cannon
- 24 Peggy Granger
- 24 Lily NG
- 25 Andrea Blasco
- 30 Diane Skirzynski