

December 2008

Member of:
Desert Empire District,
California Garden Clubs,
Inc., Pacific Region,
And National Garden
Clubs, Inc.

Desert Planters of
Ridgecrest,
PO Box 841
Ridgecrest CA 93556
Website: [www.
desertempiredistrict.
org](http://www.desertempiredistrict.org)

Desert Trumpet

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Editor
- Shirley Craver
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Penelope LePome
Poem, Page 4
Contributors

The President's Corner

By Shirley Craver

THEME: *Gardeners We Are, We Plant Our Gardens With Beauty*

Holiday Greetings to all Members and your Family.

It is so hard to believe Santa will be running over our roads in just a couple of weeks !! Goodness, where have the days gone!!

Don't forget to come to the Christmas dinner/party on December 13th, at Lucille's home at 811 Randall Street, corner of Los Flores and Randall Street. We start gathering about 5:15 PM and eat soon after that. Bring your husband, wife or a friend, if you wish, all are welcome!!!

Please bring a food of some sort. LaVerne and Dwayne are bringing the turkey and gravy. Members bring the rest of the food.

Also, bring a gift to exchange, or if you choose not to exchange a gift, please come and enjoy the food and fun .

After the holidays we really need to get down to business in the garden club. We are doing great now, but there a couple things you might want to consider in the new year.

Upcoming events in January: Program about California Wild Flowers, by Donna Thomas CGCI Wildflower Chairman. February, TBD.

CGCI Winter Board Meeting at Carriage Inn, Ridgecrest, January 22 to 25.

March 14: Ten Essentials of Good Landscape Design. Speaker: Taryn Tree.

April 8 to 10: CGCI Wild Flower Conference at the Carriage Inn.

April 11: DPR meeting : "No Dig Gardening." Speaker: Pat Marfisi, who joined World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, an international cultural exchange program.
www.wwoof.org.

DON'T FORGET TO COME TO THE CHRISTMAS DINNER/ PARTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME 377-4629, NO ANSWERING MACHINE, JUST CALL BACK OR CALL LAVERNE at 375-9505, YOU CAN LEAVE A MESSAGE.

Thanks to every one who helps so much at the meetings, your in my thoughts and prayers,

MERRY CHRISTMAS *Shirley*

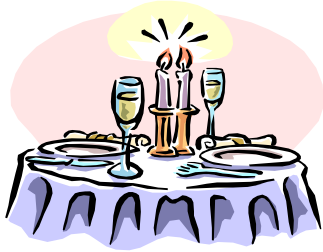


DPR Christmas Dinner Menu Suggestions:

Turkey & gravy	Dwayne & LaVerne
Potatoes & Stuffing	Wanda
Cranberry salad	Lucille
Pumpkin bread	Renee & Crystal
Sweet potatoes	Art & Judy

Continued next page, col. 1

**Charter Motto:
"Make Ridgecrest Clean and Green"**



**DECEMBER 13,
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT
LUCILLE
NIELSON'S HOME:**

Hostess: Lucille Nielson

DATE/TIME: Saturday,
December 13, 2008—5:15
PM

LOCATION: 501 North
Randall Street., Ridgecrest

**HANUKKAH
DECEMBER 21**



Dinner Suggestions:

Continued from page 1

Pumpkin pie Shirley
Salad Shirley
Rolls & butter
Additional Salads
Any Vegetables
Fruit salad
Desserts
Or bring one of your
favorite dishes.

Amaryllis

By Wanda Church

Many lucky people will receive a beautiful amaryllis for the holidays, in a package with a bulb and all the equipment for growing it included. Here are some tips for a successful adventure.

When you receive it, pot it as soon as possible. If you follow the directions on the package, you will probably have good results. When potting the bulb, it should be in light, rich soil in a pot that is only 1–2 inches larger in diameter than the bulb. The upper half of the bulb should be above the soil. After planting, water it well, and then allow the soil to dry out. When the flower stalk comes up, water it more often but not if the soil is still moist. Keep the plant in a warm, sunny spot until the flower buds appear and begin to show color, and then move it out of direct sunlight.

After it blooms, cut off the flowers and put it in a bright location indoors until it's warm enough to move it outside. It needs four to six hours of sunlight each day, but our summers are just too hot to put them in direct sun. Dappled shade or back porch is best.

You can grow this bulb again either by the "forcing" method or by keeping it actively growing year round. Bloom time may be altered if kept actively growing, and they still need annual repotting, light and fertilizer.

Wanda Church

BOARD

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nov. 30, 2008, DPR
Business meeting.

- It was moved seconded, and passed, that the club accept and become guardians for the \$100.00 as a designated fund for Jim Appleton tree purchase and/or marker and placement. Art also included that he would donate another \$40.00 dollars towards this fund.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed to put the \$40.00 donation towards the "Jim Appleton Fund" to purchase a marker. It was also moved and second, that the club pick up the difference of the bill for this tree/marker purchase for the "Jim Appleton Fund."

Happy
New Year
AND
Prosperous
Gardening To
All

**Plant Exchange and
Sale at Monthly
Meetings**

Remember: to bring plants to the January 10th meeting for the "Plant Exchange." To become involved bring a plant to the meeting to exchange or you can purchase one.

**UPDATE — DED
HOSTING CGCI
WINTER BOARD IN
RIDGECREST**

Shirley Craver and Wanda Church put together two charming baskets for the CGCI Winter Board Meeting raffle, January 22 to 25. One basket contains items for tea, including a tea pot, cups and of course various types of tea.

Another basket includes a trowel, gloves, hand lotion and other handy garden items. *Editor*

**HELP NEEDED AT
CGCI WINTER BOARD**

Cecile could use more help.... Anyone who would like to be a host please call Chairperson Cecile Campbell of California City — Phone (760) 373-3517... Anyone who has questions on this topic contact Cecile.

Renee Oliver

- DESERT EMPIRE DISTRICT (DED). To download the *Desert Trumpet*—www.DesertEmpireDistrict.org.
- CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. (CGCI) State Garden Club information www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org.
- PACIFIC REGION www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org.
- NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. for National Garden Club information—www.GardenClub.org.

CALENDAR 2008—2009

- Dec 1** Decorate Ridgecrest Library for Christmas, 9—11 AM, 131 E. Las Flores Avenue. All members can participate.
- Dec 13** DPR Christmas Party, 5:15 PM at Lucille Nielson’s home, 501 Randall Street. Potluck and gift exchange. From Downs Avenue turn on to Los Flores, then left onto Randall Street.
- Dec 18** DED planning meeting for the CGCI Winter Board Meeting—Time 11 AM., at the Oasis Garden Club Meeting room at the Desert Empire Fair Grounds.
- Dec 23** No DPR Board Meeting in December.
- Dec 30** CGCI Winter Board Registration Form due to Registrar, Donna Thomas. See registration form attached or down load from www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

2009

- Jan 5** Take down Christmas decorations at Ridgecrest Library at 9—11 AM, 131 E. Las Flores Avenue. All members.
- Jan 10** Desert Planters Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd. Program: California Native Plants, Speaker: Donna Thomas, CGCI California Native Plants Chairman, Oasis Garden Club President, DED Treasurer, former DED Director and member of Water Board.

Horticulture Chairman: Taryn Tree — Bring plant specimens from your garden for *Show and Tell*.

Refreshments: Renee Oliver and Crystal Tripp - Call LaVerne 375-9505 to volunteer for refreshments.
- Jan 22 to 25** DED hosts CGCI Winter Board Meeting at the Carriage Inn, 901 North China Lake Blvd.
- Jan 27** DPR Board Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake. All members welcome.
- Feb 9** DPR hosts the Desert Empire District Board meeting 9 AM, at Crossroads Church, China Lake Blvd. Call President Shirley to make a lunch reservation or to volunteer.
- Feb 14** Desert Planters Meeting, 1 PM, Immanuel Ministry Center, 1201 N. China Lake Blvd. Valentines Day. Refreshments—Judy and Art Spiegel.

CGCI SPONSORD SCHOOLS

- **Landscape Design Study Program, Series 23, Course III, February 4-5, 2009,**
Temecula Public Library, Temecula
Sponsor: Palomar District,
Chairman: Felicia Hogan, 951-587-8181 or felicia10@roadrunner.com,
Registrar: Joan Patten, 760-749-3766 or JoanPatten@vcweb.org.
See www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org for registration form.

Library Christmas Decorations

Visit the Library and check out the Christmas decorations. Some members got a jump start on the Christmas spirit by decorating the library on Monday. Librarian Marsha Lloyd served juice, Penelope LePome cookies and LaVerne Harms muffins. Other elves included: Wanda Church, Art Spiegel, Shirley Craver and Joann Lemberger, LaVerne’s sister from Orange.

Desert Planters of Ridgecrest,
P. O. Box 841, Ridgecrest CA 93556-0841
USDA Zone 8/9; Sunset Zone 10/11

IRS Non-Profit Group Exemption Number: 5358

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the
sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

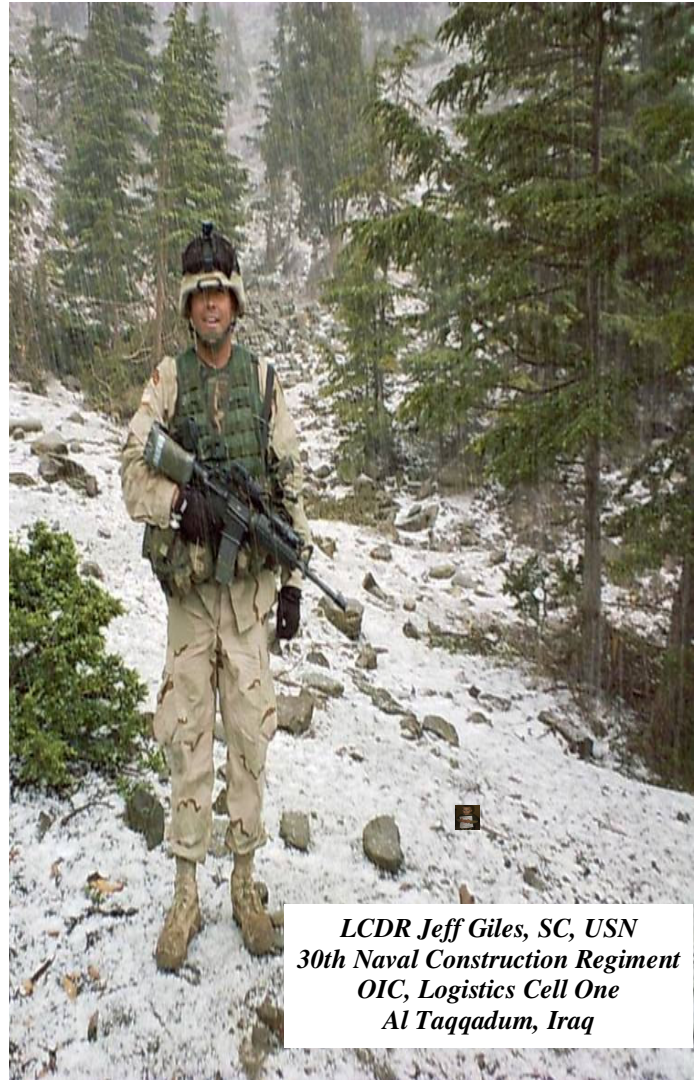
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.



*LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN
30th Naval Construction Regiment
OIC, Logistics Cell One
Al Taqqadum, Iraq*

I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

" So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

California Garden Clubs, Inc. Winter Board Meeting
January 22 – 25, 2009 “Experience the Mojave”

Carriage Inn, 901 North China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
 (760) 446-7910 FAX (760) 446-6408

REGISTRATION FORM

One form per person

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Board Position _____

CHOOSE PACKAGE PLAN OR NON-PACKAGE PLAN AND OPTIONAL EVENTS

Package Plan – open to all – includes registration fee, Friday lunch & dinner; Saturday lunch & dinner (indicate meal choices below)

Postmarked by December 31, 2008 \$115.00 _____

Postmarked after December 31, 2008 \$125.00 _____

Optional Events – open to all

Parliamentary Workshop, Thursday, January 22, 2009 \$12.00 _____

Tour, Friday, January 23, 2009 \$15.00 _____

Breakfast

Thursday, January 22, 2009 \$15.00 _____

Friday, January 23, 2009 \$15.00 _____

Saturday, January 24, 2009 \$15.00 _____

Sunday, January 25, 2009 \$15.00 _____

Non-Package Plan – open to all

Registration Fee \$25.00 _____

Registration Fee (late – after December 31, 2008) \$35.00 _____

(indicate meal choices below)

Friday, January 23, 2009

Lunch Beef sandwich Ham sandw. Turkey sandw. \$17.00 _____

Dinner – Tri-Tip w/mushroom sauce \$25.00 _____

Chicken w/fine herbs \$25.00 _____

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Lunch – Chef's Salad \$22.00 _____

Cobb Salad \$22.00 _____

Hawaiian Chicken Salad \$22.00 _____

Dinner – Salmon w/dill butter sauce \$40.00 _____

Chicken Parmesan \$40.00 _____

Explain here if you have special dietary/vegetarian needs _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OWED \$ _____

Make a copy of this form for your records. Make checks payable to **Winter Board - Desert Empire District. Mail to: Donna Thomas, 8158 Panorama Trail, Inyokern, CA 93527-2036**