



THE GREEN THUMB

The GARDEN CLUB OF DALLAS



www.thegardenclubofdallas.com



VOLUME LXXXIX, Number 2

DALLAS, TEXAS

February 2026

Garden Club Meeting

February 18, 2026

Gone Totally Tomatoes

by Janet Nevil

Janet's passion is tomatoes. She endeavors to grow every tomato in the Totally Tomatoes seed catalog and has grown about half of them. Janet grows 50 tomato plants annually, down from 200 each year prior to 2025 and specializes in unusual colors.

Janet lives on an 18 acre farm in Sunnyvale where her family raises a variety of animals. Her 3000 sq ft garden is watered by rainwater from her harvesting tanks and fertilized by the animals.

Janet travels a great deal and always snaps pictures of plants and ancient water cisterns, which find their way into her Rainwater Harvesting presentation.



President's Message

Oh Anna, of little faith!

I have a little story. In the spring, my 7 year old granddaughter and I shared an apple. She wanted to plant the seeds from the apple, knowing that I garden. I told her that apple trees usually do not grow here in Texas, because of the heat, lack of enough cold, soil, and other elements. I told her to not expect much, if anything. But she persisted and I said sure, who can refuse a gardening fan? So she planted her couple of seeds. I treated her little pot just the way I treat other pots in my yard, without much care. And nothing happened. Nothing. She would ask, check on and water her pot when she was at our house. Nothing. One day while clearing out the fallen leaves, I noticed something strange in the little pot. It was a plant I didn't know, but figuring it was a weed. A little research shows that it is an apple tree! Oakleigh is growing an apple tree! Now, this tree may never produce an apple. I don't even remember what kind of apple it was. So, what am I going to do with it? I am going to give it the best care that I can. The faith of a seven year old is an amazing thing. May this be a lesson to me and perhaps you. I say that gardeners are people of faith and hope for the future. Planting seeds, because you have enough faith to expect them to grow. Keep having faith. Keep planting.



Visitors Welcome

Club meeting Location

At the Dallas JCC

7900 Northaven Road, Dallas

Next to North Haven Gardens

Meet & Greet @ 6:30pm

Program @ 7pm

2026 OFFICERS

President	Anna Williams
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<i>Hospitality Assistant</i>	Laurie Pessetto

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**DAHLIA**

Dahlia

Meanings:

Eternal love

Commitment

Origin:

The dahlia flower is often called the "Queen of the Autumn Garden" because it blooms for an extended period of time, living well into the fall months. Frequently used in wedding bouquets during the Victorian era, the flower symbolized longevity and commitment.

Pair with . . .

Tulip for a newly engaged couple

Myrtle to show love and devotion

Courtesy of FLORIOGRAPHY by Jessica Roux

Coquito Cookies

Ingredients

1 cup (2 sticks) of butter
 2/3 cup (65 g.) granulated sugar
 ½ tsp. kosher salt
 1 large egg, lightly beaten
 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
 ½ tsp baking powder
 ½ tsp ground cinnamon
 ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
 1 ¼ cups (210 g.) all-purpose flour
 ¾ cup (50 g.) unsweetened shredded coconut, toasted

Glaze

1 cup (115 g. powdered sugar
 2 Tbsp crème de coco
 4 tbsp. white rum
 ½ cup (30 g.) unsweetened coconut flakes, toasted

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment
2. In the large bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment beat the butter, granulated sugar and salt on medium high speed until pale and creamy. Beat in egg, then add vanilla, baking powder, cinnamon, and nutmeg and beat 45 seconds longer.
3. Add flour and shredded coconut, then use a rubber spatula to fold in until combined.
4. Using a 1-ounce cookie scoop, scoop dough into 2 tablespoon sized balls and arrange on prepared baking sheet, spacing 1" apart. Flatten into ¼" thick coins about 2" wide. Use a flat measuring cup slightly dampened with water. Chill 10 minutes
5. Bake cookies until edges are light golden. 12 to 14 minutes. Let cool 5 min. on sheet, then transfer to a wire rack and let cool completely.

In a small bowl whisk powdered sugar, crème de coco, and rum to form a thick glaze. Spread glaze over cooled cookies allowing a little to drip over the edges. Sprinkle with coconut flakes.

Key Facts about the Coquí:

The most famous frog in Puerto Rico is the [Coquí](#) (pronounced "ko-kee"), named for its distinctive, loud "ko-kee" call, and it's the island's beloved national symbol.

- **Name Origin:** The name "coquí" comes from the two-note sound males make to attract mates.
- **National Symbol:** It's deeply ingrained in Puerto Rican culture and heritage, appearing in art, jewelry, and even Taino history.
- **Appearance:** They are small (about 1-2 inches), typically brown or green, with toe pads for climbing trees.
- **Habitat:** Native to Puerto Rico, they are arboreal (tree-dwelling) and nocturnal.

According to Taino beliefs, the coqui was created by a goddess to help call for “Coqui” her lost love. Today, the coqui remains a symbol of cultural pride for the 3 million U.S. citizens, predominantly Hispanic or Latino and Spanish-speaking, who call Puerto Rico home. Coquito means “little coqui”. It is also a drink based on coconut and rum served during celebrations and at the holidays. It is extremely labor intensive to prepare. It requires coconuts to be cracked and the meat cut out and shredded. It is mixed with crème de coco and of course a large amount of white rum. There are easier recipes but they are looked down upon by traditional Puerto Ricans

Submitted by Marti Ives

Kiss me,
I'm iris

Puzzle 43: Romantic Flowers

Z	L	X	D	B	J	S	A	I	N	E	D	R	A	G	N	C	X
M	S	B	H	C	A	B	N	T	T	U	L	I	P	S	E	V	R
Q	L	L	K	A	E	L	J	O	E	O	F	U	S	A	M	Z	U
E	A	E	R	L	L	E	L	L	I	L	F	O	E	I	A	H	Q
E	Z	R	P	I	K	E	N	O	K	T	T	S	K	L	L	N	Z
A	Y	G	I	L	C	D	A	I	O	U	A	R	F	L	C	A	X
L	N	U	N	I	U	I	O	Q	M	N	Q	N	Y	E	Y	I	Z
O	O	V	K	E	S	N	B	W	D	S	F	O	R	M	C	A	E
I	E	E	A	S	Y	G	N	C	Q	X	A	L	H	A	F	E	Y
H	P	P	S	L	E	H	C	Q	S	J	N	J	O	C	C	G	I
T	C	J	T	O	N	E	M	T	E	G	R	O	F	W	Q	N	J
T	U	C	E	W	O	A	I	V	L	A	S	D	E	R	E	A	O
A	W	Y	R	D	H	R	S	U	L	U	C	N	U	N	A	R	B
M	Q	O	S	U	H	T	N	A	I	S	I	L	J	W	C	D	B
H	S	D	R	G	W	A	G	W	K	H	S	Z	S	H	P	Y	K
J	L	L	G	R	U	P	S	K	R	A	L	F	I	X	T	H	W
R	E	B	J	U	A	F	K	D	H	G	K	D	I	L	D	P	V
U	B	Q	D	K	P	Y	J	L	P	E	S	O	R	D	E	R	D

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Mystery Search

This month on the *website*, **NOT IN THE GREEN THUMB**, we will have a hidden **CUPID** for you to find. This is for members only and the first one to find the Cupid and emails us by Noon on February 24th at info@thegardenclubofdallas.com, will win a PRIZE.



Laurie Pessetto is our January winner. She discovered that the LUCKY CAT was on the Meetings page on the table next to Mark Johns. Congratulations to sharp eyed Laurie.

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This club welcomes beginner “wannabe” as well as experienced gardeners. We all can learn something about gardening at each meeting.

Visitors are welcome. Membership is open to men and women, teenagers and young adults. \$50 annual dues (\$60 for couples) includes *The Green Thumb* and membership in the national organization: **Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.**



Bruce Miller

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If anyone has a favorite flower, plant, recipe or joke, please send it to info@thegardenclubofdallas.com for inclusion either in the Green Thumb or on the website. Thanks

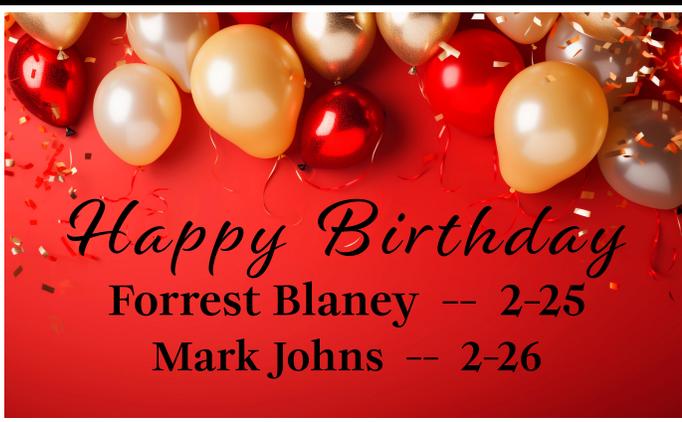


Board Meeting

7 pm

February 12, 2026

at the home of
Mark and Tatianna Johns



\$50 Door Prize Winners

Brumley Gift Card

Jacksons Gift Card



Brumley Winner Jerry Burrows and Deborah Burrows won a Cactus from the Cactus Queen



Winner
Bob Grossman



Corn Plant
aka:
Cornstalk Dracena,
Fragrant Dracaena,
Mass Cane or
Happy Plant



Connie Grossman has had this plant for over 12 years and this is the first year that it has bloomed. What a pleasant surprise! Every night the blossoms open up and fill the room with their fragrance and then close in the morning.

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Gardeners of America
National Headquarters
<https://www.gardenersofamerica.club>
Go to Members login: password "lily"

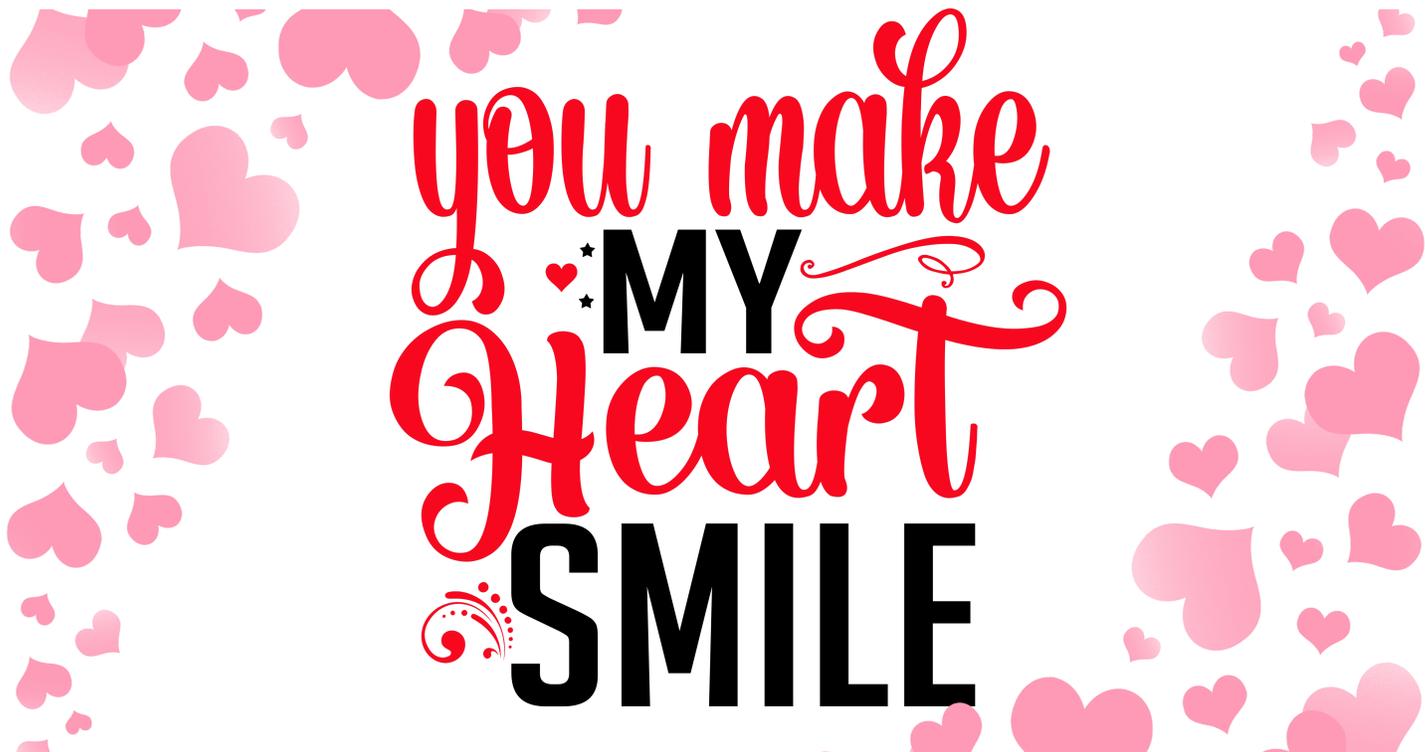
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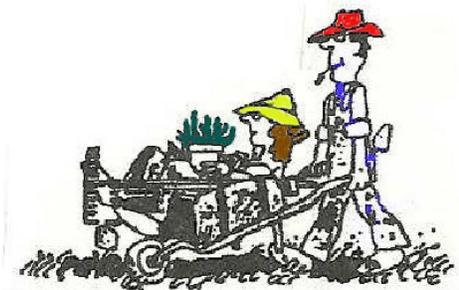
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The club welcomes men and women