

Tuesday Thoughts for June 8, 2021

My Dear Garden Club Friends!

This is my last "Tuesday Thought". I started these to keep in touch with my Executive Committee, but when the Pandemic shut everything down I hoped these "Thoughts" would cheer you up and keep in touch with all of you.

I missed seeing you in person, or getting to know you. But through Zoom I got to know some of you better than I would have otherwise.

I want to thank all of you who have been so supportive during this unusual term and worked together to make the best of it.

Garden Club is not a one-man show, it is a community of people working together and that is the beauty of being a part of Garden Club!

Thank you for trusting me with being your leader!

I am going to finish with the beginning; my acceptance speech from June 2019 in Klamath Falls. It all started with so much hope and fun and plans.....

"Thank you Gaye and thank you to all the amazing presidents that are here and have inspired me for so many years. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the guidance and help from all of you!

I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the support of my husband Andy, who has been putting up with all my Garden Club projects! And I wouldn't be here if he hadn't been driving me all over the State!

Thank you!

I would like to tell you a bit about my background: You know that I was born in Holland.

My first contact with nature was when my parents were inspecting the house they were building in a village, Blaricum, about 20 miles outside of Amsterdam. I was less than 6 months old and my Mom found a nice soft spot in the grass! On top of an Anthill!

Growing up in Holland was a wonderful experience. Blaricum is located between a nature preserve of heather on one side, and farm fields on the other. I had a big sandbox in the backyard where I built castles with bridges and tunnels from the wet sand. I also played greengrocer in the wild part of the backyard with all the weeds and native plants like sour dock, dandelions, and clover.



The new owners painted our house white



The heather
and the farm
fields



Inside the house that my parents built we had a windowsill that was made out of brick and about three feet wide. It was easy to water, because spills didn't matter and my Mom had hundreds of plants growing and blooming.

My Mom must have been one of the first people in Holland to read "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson. She talked about that book to whoever would listen and I would sit on the steps by the living room and take it all in.

So when my friends and I decided to start a Club in 1960, it wasn't hard to choose "Nature" as our objective. We named ourselves after the Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker.

Jooke was Crocus, I was Cornflower and Mary was Narcissus. All together : Crokona. Later Soenia joined the Club and she was Pansy and Lettie was Apple Blossom. Sadly Lettie passed away almost ten years ago. But the rest of us are still friends! Mary or Daffodil is here to see me installed as President of a real Garden Club!

We got together at Mary's beautiful home. Her Dad was the vicar and so she lived in the vicarage next to the church. The house had all

kinds of nooks and crannies. A beautiful yard with lots of berry bushes from which we ate till we were sick to our stomachs. We did nature crafts, we dug up antiquities in her yard, had a sleepover in the attic above the garage where I got drunk for the first time... on Coca-Cola... Not used to all that sugar!

Mary's older sister's boyfriend, who studied Biology, showed us how to raise tadpoles that we found in a nearby pond. We pledged to be good to nature!

Mary became a Biology teacher, Soenia has always had a beautiful garden, Jooke always cared for animals.

So when I first was invited to Northside Garden Club in Klamath Falls in 1995 it felt very familiar.

Besides our "Crokona" Club I had never been a member of any club. But I felt welcome and the lady who was sitting next to me presented me with a special dishcloth that she had made. The lady, Doris, now lives in Florida, but she still pays her dues to our Club!

In Holland I studied to become a Fiber Arts teacher

and I worked as an Activity Director there and also here in the United States after I married Andy and we moved here in 1976. After the first of my three children; my daughter was born, I moved from caring for seniors and Alzheimer patients to childcare. Besides Mirjam, Kit and Tyrone, I took care of many, many kids for about 30 years.

Inside we had a lesson plan as far as that is possible with kids varying in age from six weeks to 9 years old. But outside I let them roam our yard. I sometimes felt that I should think of things for them to do.





A few years ago though, Sandy Robinson, our national President from 2015-2017 gave a very inspiring speech. She mentioned the book “Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv.

A few months later I found the notes that I made and I ordered the book. I felt better about letting the kids explore outside. He writes that it is very important for children to have unstructured time to explore and invent, especially outside. My childcare kids turned over every rock in my yard and found roly-polies. They even made beds with leaves and sticks for them. The kids would find all kinds of bugs and just be intrigued. When they would show their parents when they came to pick them up, the parents would be disgusted.... The girl who initiated the roly-poly game just graduated from college last year as the youngest in her class and is studying at the Oregon Health Center in Portland. (she is getting married in two weeks!).

Yes they also picked off all my daffodils buds before they bloomed, but even that was a learning experience.... I helped them enter flower designs in the Klamath County Fair and the Potato Festival. They were so excited when they won actual money!

So with my background of working with kids and still feeling like that 9 year-old from years ago, that is why my theme is: “kids, Community and Creativity” and my special project is “Nature Play grounds”.

Plant Oregon with Nature Playgrounds!

Thank you so much for allowing me to be your President.

I wouldn't be here without all the support and encouragement from the Members of my Club and my District!

I love you all!



I hope you all will sign up for our Zoom Convention! It's not too late!

Besides business we have some nice programs!

Be there on Monday night for different ceremonies and all the Members of Distinction!

On Tuesday morning Gay Austin National President 2019-2021 will open the Convention, Kristin Babbs from Keep Oregon Green will talk about the new Smokey Bear Contest that OSFGC is partnering with. All you artists should attend that section for sure. Because all ages are now invited to participate and the winners will get their winning art work on a billboard along Oregon's freeways.

On Wednesday Morning we will hear from the District Directors. We will vote for the new officers and two people who know all about Nature Playgrounds will show you why and how to get one started!

Wednesday afternoon we'll hand out the major awards and Mary Warshauer National President 2021-2023 will install the new officers and District Directors.

We'll make it fun!

So stay Happy and Healthy and Hopeful!
Love from Tanja who still feels like that 9 year-old girl!

