NIGC's 2025 – 2026 Highlights

Bridges in Bloom – Our New Naples Tradition

In 2024, a simple idea blossomed into a vibrant new community tradition. The mission was clear: bring festive holiday cheer to residents and visitors alike by transforming the five iconic bridges of Naples Islands. Dedicated teams of members set to work, draping lush green garlands along both sides of each bridge. Adorned with colorful ornaments, twinkling lights, and elegant ribbons, these crossings were turned into shimmering holiday landmarks. This breathtaking display has now become a cherished annual event known as Bridges in Bloom.

Chair - Valerie Rich







NIGC's 2025 – 2026 Highlights

Beautification Award

"All in the Family"
at 5655 Riviera Walk
The Turpin Home

Leslie Turpin's love of gardening runs in her family. Leslie's grandmother painted her own gardens in New York on canvas, and her mother, Lorraine, also inspired Leslie. She and her architect husband, Mark, created a warm home with white picket fence, arched gate, periwinkle blue door and deck chairs splashed with pink pillows on a raised front patio. Roses, hydrangeas, daisies, delphinium, pansies, daffodils and poppies brighten this charming spring garden.

Chair - Patti Martin







Holiday Luncheon

Naples Islands Garden Club continued a cherished holiday tradition with its annual Christmas Luncheon at Virginia Country Club. One highlight is always the arrival of volunteer firefighters to collect toy donations brought by attendees for the *Spark of Love Toy Drive*. Another highlight was a performance by carolers from LB City College's Choral Dept. Event co-chairs were supported by a 17-member planning committee that decorated the room in festive gold, green, and white, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the luncheon, attended by 117 guests. Along with the mountain of toys, guests donated gift cards totaling $1,620 in support of families in need during the holidays.

Chairs – Arleen Tolle







Flower Show

In April, the Naples Islands Garden Club hosted its 52nd annual Flower Show and luncheon, "Zen In Bloom," at the Long Beach Yacht Club, welcoming 110 guests to a tranquil, Japanese-inspired setting. Three accredited floral judges evaluated 108 floral and horticultural entries, awarding ribbons of recognition to the finest exhibits. Top honors went to Catherine Steisel for "Zen Waters in Bloom." Organized by Lisa Mauck and her fabulous committee, the event concluded with a raffle, raising nearly $1,900 for beautification projects.

Chair - Lisa Mauck











The June Installation

Tropical Chic set the tone for the Naples Islands Garden Club's June luncheon and installation of officers at Old Ranch Country Club. More than 100 members and guests enjoyed colorful tropical décor, beautiful centerpieces, live piano music, and a festive beach-themed photo area.

Following lunch, six members were recognized with long service awards. Outgoing President Linda Frame was honored for her service. Pam McCredie administered the oath of office to the newly-elected officers for the 2026–2028 term. The afternoon celebrated the club's accomplishments, honored dedicated leadership, and welcomed a new team to guide the organization forward.

Chairs - Tish Camp and Susie Armstrong











Descanso Gardens

In February, thirty-two members traveled by motor coach to **Descanso Gardens** in La Cañada. A self-guided tour featured the Japanese Tea Garden in bloom, the Camellia Forest, Boddy House, and the Sturt Haaga Gallery. Scenic trails through oak and ancient forests offered mountain views dusted with snow. The visit concluded with a four-course, farm-to-table lunch at the newly opened Farmhouse restaurant.

Chairs – Pam McCredie and Sandy Davidson











NIGC PAST PRESIDENTS & AWARDS



Past Presidents at the Flower Show - Top row from left: Marilyn Bittle, Barbara Jordon, Pam McCredie, Deborah Smith, Sharon Civalleri and Sandy Davidson. Bottom row from left: Donna Malbon, Laurie Scanlin, Cindy Murphy and Kathy Owens. (Not shown: Marianne Huntley, Mary Nimocks and Linda Frame)

Cassie Curtis*..... 1974-1975	Adra Kober*..... 1988-1990	Marilyn Bittle..... 2010-2012
Lou Phelps*..... 1975-1976	Mary Lamb*..... 1990-1992	Kathy Owens..... 2012-2014
Audrey Hand*..... 1976-1977	Phyllis Poper..... 1992-1994	Sandra Davidson 2014-2016
Cassie Curtis*..... 1977-1978	Joan McDonald*..... 1994-1996	Barbara Jordon..... 2016-2018
Milber Segerblom*..... 1978-1979	Mary Nimocks..... 1996-1998	Marianne Huntley..... 2018-2020
Sunny Gerardi*..... 1979-1980	Donna Malbon 1998-2000	Rose "Ducky" Caswell*.. 2020-2021
Helen Coon*..... 1980-1981	Tina Szafaryn*..... 2000-2002	Pam McCredie..... 2021-2022
Bernice Perry*..... 1981-1983	Laurie Scanlin 2002-2004	Deborah Smith..... 2022-2024
Jennie Mae Walton*..... 1983-1984	Ginny Clark*..... 2004-2006	Linda Frame..... 2024-2026
Gene Page*..... 1984-1986	Cindy Murphy..... 2006-2008	
June Rozier*..... 1986-1988	Sharon Civalleri..... 2008-2010	

*Deceased

NIGC roster receives 2025 Awards:

- **First in California and First in The Pacific Region for Yearbook**
- **A Certificate of Appreciation from CGCI**
- **A certificate for maintaining a Blue Ribbon Garden Club.**













Plant Boutique

The NIGC Plant Boutique bloomed with success at this year's Pancake Breakfast on June 7th. Highlights included a striking Green Wall showcasing history of our Club, a kid's craft table, and fabulous potted creations. The Club raised a record-breaking $4,000, selling out all plants. The combined efforts of loyal donors and a hardworking committee of thirty-five, led to another successful event.

Chairs - Valerie Rich and Nancy Emslie

Experiences

Our NIGC members who love entertaining generously open their homes and share their creative ideas to host fun fundraising parties. At the Installation Luncheon, experiences are offered to a limited number of members to purchase. There is always a waiting list, as the events fill very quickly. Some of the experiences for 2026 and 2027 include:

• "Sip, Savor & Socialize" Evening Sunset Cocktail Party for 25 Guests - Hostess: Catherine Steisel

• "An Evening in Paris" Chef's Demonstration for 10 Guests - Hostesses: Carrie McCarthy & Annie Brown

• Sunset Cruise Aboard "Chaos" for 8 Guests - Hostess: Tina Everson

• "Vintage Wine & Exceptional Tastes" Food Pairing for 12 Guests - Hostess: Lisa Mauck



• "Progressive Dinner on the Rivo Alto Canal" for 16 Guests - Hostesses: Pam Kellogg, Carrie McCarthy, and Nada Szafaryn.

This year we expect to raise over $7,325 for our Beautification Fund.



Fabulous Fall Fundraiser

The 2025 Fall Fundraiser generated more than $6,000 in donations to support NIGC's community beautification projects! The event featured a week of City Lights and Cityology shopping, a private champagne reception, and a three-day dine-out at Domenico's. The fundraiser drew strong participation from members and guests, and delighted 25 raffle winners who received prizes donated by members and local businesses.

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Chairs - Helen Freeborn and Deborah Smith

Bunco

Due to increased participation, the Bunco group expanded into two separate monthly sessions. Participants gather for friendship, dice rolling, and scrumptious appetizers. The entry fee increased this year to $6, since another winning category was added for "Most Mini Buncos." Collectively, just over $600 was generated for the NIGC operating fund.

Chairs – Marge Hohly and Nada Szafaryn





Dine-Outs 2025-2026



Participation from members and their guests made the dine-out fundraiser at Naples Rib Company a notable success. A 20% contribution from meals totaled $492.80 which was increased to $703 after a generous guest donation. Special thanks to Dave Ursini for his continued charitable support.

Chairs - Barbara Jordon and Alison Lohfeld

Book Clubs 1 & 2

Book clubs continue to be a favorite among members, prompting the creation of an additional group to better accommodate the increased interest. Monthly meetups go beyond thoughtful book discussions, fostering lively conversation and lasting friendships. This year, annual membership fees also contributed $625 to the General Fund.

Chairs – Annie Brown and Ania Sullivan

Club 1





Club 2

ARTICLE XV

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 15.5 Use of Member Information.

Member information may be used for Club purposes only.

No member shall use, permit to be used or disclose information about members for any other purpose.

RULE 1. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS

A. Regular General Membership Meetings (consisting of a program and business meeting), shall be held on the second Monday (September through May), or at other times as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

B. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the fourth Monday of each month (except July and December) at a Board Member's home.

C. Any member may attend Board meetings and shall be recognized at the option of the presiding officer. The hostess will be notified in advance of member(s) who will attend.

RULE 2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A. Annual dues are due and payable by May 1st.

B. All Active Members shall participate in at least one Club project or committee during each year of membership. Bylaws Article 111, 3.1 (a) (iii)

C. All Active Members shall attend a minimum of three complete general meetings of the Club, (including attendance at the full business portion of the meeting). Luncheons are not General Meetings.

RULE 3. SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

A. Sponsors are required to maintain regular contact with those whom they sponsor, especially for the first year of membership, and to encourage, help and support the new members.

B. An Active Member in good standing is allowed to sponsor candidates for membership during the Fiscal year, July 1 - June 30th. The active member must follow the requirements for sponsorship as they guide and assist the new member. Membership requirements must be completed in a twelve-month period once the completed application has been activated.

C. Sponsors will advise the Second Vice President, Membership, when their applicant attends the three required functions (two general/business meetings and a club activity).

RULE 4. APPOINTED CHAIRMEN ON THE BOARD



Each member of the Board shall keep a procedure file of the duties and achievements of her office and shall pass the file to her successor.

A. **Beautification:** To coordinate and supervise beautification projects in Naples and to research new projects and awards.

B. **Community Liaison:** To maintain contact with community groups and civic organizations, in order to promote and coordinate activities of mutual interest and benefit, and to supervise Hospitality and Sunshine.
C. **Fundraising:** To coordinate Club fundraisers as determined by Club membership, and supervise Book Clubs, Bunco, Plant Boutique, Fall Fundraiser and Dine-Out.
D. **Member Activities:** To coordinate and supervise Arbor Day, Excursions, Horticulture, Luminaria, May Day, Travel and Veterans Day.
E. **Publications:** To coordinate and supervise Distribution, Publicity, Roster and Webmaster.
F. **Scholarship:** To coordinate the scholarship program for students in Long Beach schools. Prospective candidates who meet NIGC criteria will be presented to the Board for approval.

RULE 5. SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

A. **Arbor Day:** To arrange a program for Arbor Day which includes a memorial to the Club members or their immediate family who have passed away in the previous year.
B. **Audio and Projector:** To store, set up and take down audio and/or projector equipment as needed for programs and events.
C. **Beautification Award:** To select honorees for the Beautification Award and present the awards at a club function.
D. **Bridges in Bloom:** To install appropriate holiday decor on Naples bridges.
E. **Community Beautification:** To explore and facilitate beautification projects in Naples and schedule maintenance of medians.
F. **Dine-Out Night:** To select a local restaurant and ask owner if they would participate in donating a percentage of the sales on a determined date.
G. **Distribution**: To distribute club invitations, pamphlets and rosters.
H. **Email Blaster:** To send messages to members via email advising of urgent news, reminders, updates and requests.
I. **Excursions:** To arrange tours and take reservations to places of interest.
J. **Fall Fundraiser:** To organize the main fundraising event of the year as selected by the Board for the purpose of raising funds for Beautification.
K. **Horticulture:** To research and give reports to the Club on suggested and appropriate gardening jobs current to the season and to give tips and advice on special planting procedures.
L. **Hospitality:** To plan refreshments for meetings, to arrange for members to serve as hostesses and to provide supplies as needed which will be paid for by the Club.
M. **Luminarias:** To form a committee to acquire, assemble and place luminarias around La Bella Fontana. Coordinate with the Beautification Committee and Bayshore Community Church.
N. **May Day:** To advertise and promote a May Day celebration.
O. **Newsletter:** To receive and edit articles and publish the monthly Club newsletter, The Poppy.
P. **Parliamentarian:** Advises on rules of order, proper procedure for meetings and assists with bylaws, using Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised.
Q. **Plant Boutique:** To organize a booth for the sale of plants, flowers and gardening items in conjunction with the NIA Pancake Breakfast for the purpose of raising funds for Beautification.
R. **Publicity:** To submit news releases of Club activities and accomplishments to media.
S. **Roster:** To compile the annual roster in conjunction with the Membership, Program, Hospitality Chairmen and President. Publication to be completed for distribution to only the General Membership by the first meeting in September.

T. **Social Media:** To manage and maintain the Club's social media platforms, such as Instagram and Facebook, in support of club communications, events, and outreach.
U. **Sunshine:** To send cards to members as appropriate, e.g. get well and sympathy.
V. **Travel:** To arrange tours for extended trips.
W. **US Flag Custodian:** To maintain a supply of flags and have them placed on La Bella Fontana flag pole as needed.
W. **Veteran's Day:** To arrange recognition event at the flagpole in La Bella Fontana Park.

RULE 6. AWARDS

A. Beautification: Awards for outstanding displays of gardens in Naples shall be given upon the recommendation of the Beautification Chairman.
B. Recognition of Service: At the discretion of the Board, special certificates of appreciation may be given in recognition of members who have performed extraordinary service to The Club.
C. Flower Show: Awards shall be determined by professional independent judges and given to members who display outstanding entries in each of the flower show categories.
D. Honorary Membership: At the discretion of the Board, a one-year honorary membership certificate may be awarded to persons other than Club members.

RULE 7. PRINTED MATERIALS

A. The Club roster will be made available to members only by the September general business meeting. The roster may not be given to non-members and remains the sole property of the Club. The Club roster is for internal use only and is, therefore, not to be used for outside solicitation purposes.

RULE 8. GUEST POLICY

A. Invited guests are welcome at general meetings. Sponsors of applicants for membership should refer to Article III of Bylaws, section 3.3.
B. Applicants in the process of becoming an Active Member may attend social events and excursions.

RULE 9. EXPENDITURES AND ACCOUNTS

A. The Treasurer shall hold all money in a Naples Islands Garden Club Account.
B. In reimbursement for Club debts, obligations to vendors shall be paid only upon completion of a check request form with receipts attached. Money will not be advanced to members.
C. The Board of Directors is authorized to approve unbudgeted expenditures, without the approval of the general membership, and not to exceed $1,000.
D. Where feasible and fiscally responsible, the Club shall patronize businesses located on the Islands.
E. To honor our Garden Club President, our Club shall pay for her lunches at the Christmas, Flower Show and Installation events.
F. Annual contributions shall be made to the Naples Improvement Association and Naples Business Association.

RULE 10. MEMORIALS

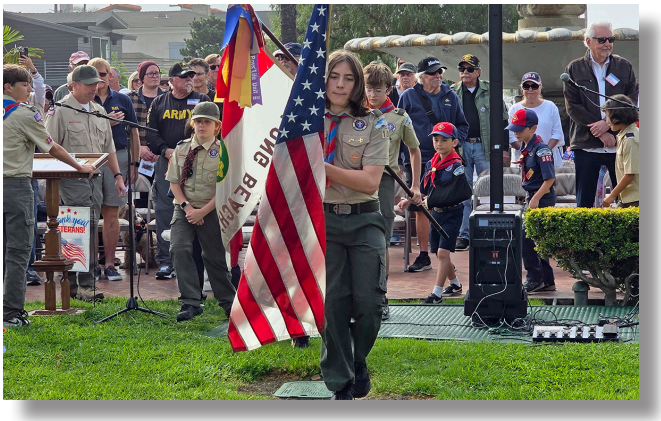
A. Arbor Day: Memorials shall honor deceased Club members and immediate members of their families.

RULE 11. DUES

A. Annual dues shall be $100 for Active, Associate and Sustaining Members, and are due and payable by May 1st.
B. Honorary members and Past Presidents are not required to pay dues.
C. New members joining after January 1st shall pay $60 dues for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Veterans Day Commemoration

The Naples Islands Garden Club hosted its annual Veterans Day ceremony November 11 at La Bella Fontana Park, welcoming nearly 100 residents, officials, and veterans. President Linda Frame opened the program, followed by the Presentation of Colors and Pledge led by Scout Troop 105 and Cub Pack 007. Veteran Michael Frame delivered keynote remarks, and Council member Kristina Duggan, offered the City's gratitude. About 40 veterans, including WWII veteran Dr. Howard Davis, shared reflections. The meaningful ceremony chaired by Valerie Rich and Becky Jones, honored the service men and women. The event began with refreshments and concluded with a stirring rendition of "God Bless America."



Chairs Valerie Rich and Becky Jones

Arbor Day 2026

The Naples Islands Garden Club held its annual Arbor Day Memorial Tribute at Naples Elementary School, honoring members and loved ones lost over the past year. About 60 guests were welcomed by President Linda Frame. Co-chairs Sherry Yanagisawa and Dawn Doeve coordinated the event with Principal Paula Spenker, as students presented poetry and songs. In advance, members planted an eighth crepe myrtle and refreshed the school's landscaping, continuing a meaningful Club tradition.



Chairs: Sherry Yanagiswa and Dawn Doeve

Beautification Ongoing COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Beautification of the Naples Community continues to be the heart and soul of Naples Islands Garden Club (NIGC). Beautification efforts are promoted by Beautification committees as they meet throughout the year to maintain and enhance the community's treasures. Committee chairs regularly schedule clean-up days and promote gardening and socializing for members.

La Bella Fontana Park

Co-chairs Susan Townsend and Valerie Rich lead a group of about thirty red-aproned Bellas every month to weed, trim, and paint metal vault plates, as well as plant flowers around the flagpole. Included in the park's care is an extra sprucing for Veterans Day and Luminaria Night.

Chairs - Susan Townsend and Valerie Rich



Naples Plaza Median



Since 2002, when the Garden Club first planted white iceberg roses, dedicated members have faithfully maintained the Naples Plaza Median. Today, sixteen volunteers care for the roses and olive trees, regularly trimming, weeding, and deadheading, while also managing mildew, rust, and insect issues seven to eight times each year. Equipped with their own tools, rakes, and brooms, these volunteers help ensure the community's entryway remains welcoming and beautifully maintained.

Chair - Esther Duran

Naples Elementary School

The Red Apron Ladies volunteer monthly at Naples Elementary School. They keep weeds at bay, mulch the planting beds and replant agapanthus where needed. Over the past years, eight Crepe Mytle trees have been planted on Arbor Day to honor our past members. Their efforts enhance the school's appearance, and their work is greatly appreciated by the school and neighborhood.

Chairs - Catherine Steisel and Lynn Shober





2nd Street Planters

Twenty-one members, wearing their signature red aprons, continue to care for their "adopted" succulent planters while expanding efforts to beautify 2nd Street's tree wells and planters ahead of the 2028 Olympics. In one stretch, six Black-eyed Susan vines flourish around palm trunks. Members gently guide their growth with fishing line, tucking in tendrils to encourage upward growth, creating a splash of bright yellow blooms that enhances the street's charm and welcoming atmosphere.

Chair - Shelly Hoherd

May Day - 2026 Garden Club members joyfully participated by decorating their doors and gates with beautiful arrangements and/or giving brightly colored bouquets to neighbors and friends.

Chair - Donna Schilder

Scholarship Awards - The Naples Islands Garden Club is proud to award scholarships to outstanding horticulture students at Long Beach City College. Many recipients continue their education at four-year universities, making this program one of the club's most meaningful contributions to the community. We are grateful to Laurie and Joe Scanlin for establishing the foundation. This year's recipients are Scott Sholley, Jayden Set, Lauren Rios, Stephen Loureio, and Percival Guerin.

Chair - Tish Camp

Scout Base Clean-Up - On a scorching Saturday, a dedicated team of Red Apron volunteers revitalized the Sea Base garden. Eight members pulled weeds, cleared root-bound pots, and refreshed succulent beds with new clippings donated by fellow members. Sea Base Director, Jeb Price, praised the effort, noting how rewarding it is to see the two organizations working together to beautify their shared meeting space.

A One-Time group of Volunteers

Luminaria Night - Twelve members of the Naples Islands Garden Club gathered at La Bella Fontana on Thursday, December 18th to clean the park and light candles around the fountain. Holiday music performed by musicians from Jazz Angels under the direction of Barry Cogert was enjoyed by parents, children, and neighbors drawn together by the festive spirit. The result was a night filled with warmth, music, and community cheer.

Chair - Barbie Barker



Esther Duran gets surprised on May Day.



Sea Scout Base gets a Clean Up.



Luminaria Night.

2026 AFFILIATIONS



The National Garden Club, Inc. - The National Garden Club, Inc – President, Donna Donnelly's theme is "PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years." The Club supports communities by providing grants to enhance gardens and public spaces throughout the country. They invite us to join in creating beauty and fostering connections in our neighborhoods by providing grants to support public spaces and community gardens and cultivate a sense of pride within neighborhoods. Go to: www.gardenclub.org to make a donation.

The Pacific Region Garden Club, Inc. - Director of Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Tanja Swanson, chose "Firewise Communities" as her special project. This is a national program that could be the key to protecting nearby homes and businesses from the next catastrophic fire. FIREWISE is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. Through training and local fire prevention projects, FIREWISE aims to encourage property owners to take proactive measures to prevent fires from destroying their homes and businesses.



Abraxas Orchard Project

California Garden Clubs, Inc. - President Adele Kelly's project for 2025-2027 is the "Expansion of the Abraxas High School Garden." This year a $14,000 donation from California Garden Clubs Inc. assisted Abraxas High School expand its orchard. The goal is to raise $30,000 and transform the orchard by planting fruit trees and installing accessible pathways. Please consider offering an auction item at the Annual Convention for this cause. Contact Barbara Weiler, Chairman, (email:211BGW@gmail.com).

Orange County District, Inc. - Donna Hood, Director of the Orange County District, warmly welcomed 75 attendees to the beautiful, though currently under-construction, Sherman Gardens. Fourteen of the district's 17 clubs were represented. The creatively designed raffle baskets featured in the silent auction raised $1,350 in support of scholarship recipients.



NIGC ladies at the OCGI District Meeting

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Control ..... (562) 570-7387
Code Enforcement - homeless people and illegally parked vehicles ..... (562) 570-4550
Code Enforcement - signs in the medians ..... (562) 570-2633
Fire Department Non-Emergency ..... (562) 570-9400
Hospitals:
Long Beach Memorial ..... (562) 933-2000
St. Mary's ..... (562) 491-9000
Lifeguard Headquarters ..... (562) 570-1360
Marine Bureau ..... (562) 570-3215
NIA President, Ben Fisher - email: ben@benfisherteam.com ..... (714) 376-0782
NIBA President, Bob Lane - email: bobhoffmanlane@gmail.com ..... (562) 438-5333
Parking Enforcement ..... (562) 570-2866
Police and Fire Emergency 911
Police Department - Non-Emergency ..... (562) 435-6711
Report Graffiti ..... (562) 570-2773
Street Flooding (24hr) ..... (562) 570-2390
Kristina Duggan (Third District Council Member) ..... (562) 570-8756 Fax (562) 570-8760
email: Kristina@Kristinaduggan.com

NIGC Donations 2025 - 2026

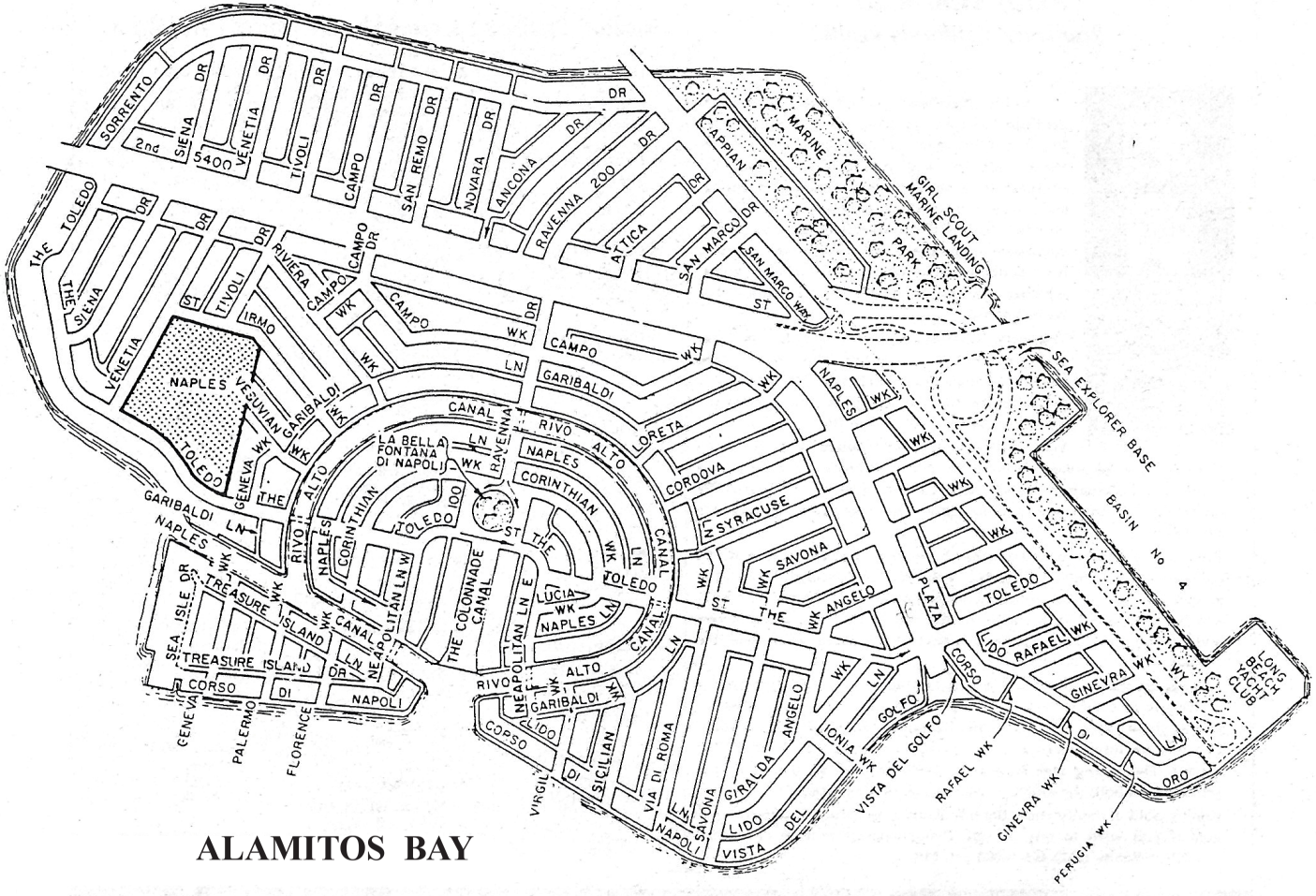
Penny Pines • California Garden Clubs, Inc., President's Project
• Long Beach City College - Scholarships to horticulture students
• Naples Improvement Association • Naples Islands Business Association
• Orange County District, Inc. Director's project and scholarship fund
• Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Total donations granted - $2,486

2025-2026 Donors for Veteran's Day, Plant Boutique and Club Activities
Keith Muirhead, Vista/Sotheby's • Susie Atwood of State Farm
• Kristen and Ben Fisher • Naples Rib Company • Don First • City Lights • Cityology
• Dominico's • Richard Nelson • Andy Dane Carter Realtor • Anchor Seaport Escrow

In-Kind Donors
Sheldrake Coffee Roasting • Gloria Dei Lutheran Church • Trader Joe's
• Devyn's Garden • H&H Nursery • Sweat Peas • Print N Copy

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Photographers ..... Trish Schooley and Contributing Members

NAPLES ISLANDS



ALAMITOS BAY


FPO
Front and back cover in another file for bleed
NAPLES ISLANDS GARDEN CLUB
est. 1973