



*Jardineros Meeting on Wednesday, **February 1 at the Las Placitas Presbyterian Church***

Dear friends,

It's not quite February yet, but nevertheless, mega March-like winds have piled up the most tumbleweeds I've ever seen around our house. As I write this, though, it's a calm, sunny, beautiful, blue skies day with the Sandias and especially the Jemez showing off their white frosting. Lovely, serene Placitas again, thank goodness!

The program for our Feb. 1 Jardineros meeting will feature speaker Katie Dix providing us with information about an area not far south of downtown Albuquerque – the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Walkers, birders and nature lovers enjoy the 570 acres of this designated Urban National Wildlife Refuge with ponds and fields next to the Rio Grande bosque.

For our Feb. 1 meeting, we'll start with light refreshments and visiting at 9 a.m. and then gather at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary for the program. That will be followed by more socializing and eating, and then closing with a business meeting, announcements and Happy Dollars.

Please don't forget that our Community Service donations for February will be given to the Rebuilding Together Sandoval County non-profit organization, which does important work in helping people in need stay in their homes by providing crucial repairs and modifications. Our 2023 Community Service chairs Debbie Webster and Margaret Bruch recently sent a Jardineros email about this collection, and it's also described in our new yearbook.

Also, I would like to recognize our outstanding Community Service chairs for last year, Susan Craycraft and Marilyn Levandoski, as well as the caring coordinators for our six 2022 collections, for their dedicated work. Thanks to them and the generosity of you, our Jardineros members, we raised more than \$8,500 in 2022 for six deserving non-profits aiding adults, children and animals in need in our area.

Now, here are some thoughts about our Jardineros Interest Groups. Linda Hughes on our Membership Committee graciously agreed to serve as a go-to coordinator to help members find Interest Groups to join or start.

For many of us, Jardineros Interest Groups are our special social and sometimes educational, brain-exercising, creative outlets. I recently heard of interest expressed in having a men's hiking group, an art/design-oriented group and of course, more book clubs. All great ideas!

Although a current group may be full because it is limited to a certain number of members due to meeting space or other reasons, that just means that it may be time to create a similar group. If you have concerns about time commitment, consider that a new group or an old, reorganizing group may meet just every other month or once a quarter, and/or consider having co-chairs to make the coordination work easier. Also, at least two of our Jardineros book clubs now have open spots to fill.

So, please do contact Linda Hughes with your questions or ideas concerning Interest Groups.

Prior to our Feb. 1 meeting, please review the Jan. 11 [meeting minutes](#). Minutes are also posted in the annual meeting binder on the Jardineros website.

Bringing valentines, hearts and flowers is optional, but I do hope to see you at our Wednesday, Feb. 1 meeting.

XOXO,
Linda Lockett

FEBRUARY
When ice has coated
lake and stream,
And skating is
the common theme
Of which the youthful
people speak
By night and day
from week to week;
The Brownies
are not left behind
But manage well
their sport to find.



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