

SEPTEMBER 2026

THE FIG LEAF

Fig Garden Woman's Club Newsletter
Established in 1921



Important Dates & Events

General Lunch Meeting - September 9, 11:30 a.m.

Movie Review: September 11, 10 a.m.

Trash to Treasure drop-off - September 11, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

AnTEAques - September 16, 10 a.m.

Book Talk - September 17, 10 a.m.

Create & Connect - September 21, 10 a.m.

Trash to Treasure drop-off - September 25, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

National Day of Service - September 26

Sue Stephens Out to Lunch Bunch - September 27, 10:30 a.m.

Fig Leaf deadline - September 31

Marathon Bridge - October 1, 1 p.m.

Board Meeting - October 5, 9 a.m. social/9:30 a.m. meeting

Executive Officers

Co- Presidents

Suzanne Crosina-Sahm & Debbie Reuland

1st Vice President

Charlotte Singer

2nd Vice President

Tamara Hargrave

3rd Vice President

Suzy Wren

Recording Secretary

Judy Osterloh

Corresponding Secretary

Debra Riley

Treasurer

Susan Simpson

Assistant Treasurer

Linda Boyajian

Appointive Officers

Parliamentarian: Maureen Boyle

Social Media/Historian: Linda Gandolfo

Auditors: Sharon Garabedian & Jeanette Tate

District Representative: Karen Tozlian

Fig Leaf Editor: Suzanne Crosina-Sahm



Co-Presidents' Message

Suzanne Crosina-Sahm & Debbie Reuland



Dear Members,

As we begin our year as co-presidents of the Fig Garden Woman's Club, we want to start by saying how grateful we are for the trust you have placed in us. It is truly an honor to serve an organization with such a rich history, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year together.

We also want to extend a very warm welcome to our 19 new members! We are so happy to have you as part of the Fig Garden Woman's Club and hope you will quickly discover what makes this organization so special—the friendships, the fun, the opportunities to serve, and the wonderful sense of community. We look forward to getting to know each of you and hope you'll jump right in!

One of the highlights of this year will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our historic clubhouse. To mark this special milestone, our annual Fashion Show Fundraiser will return to the clubhouse, providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate this treasured part of our history while raising funds to support our club's programs and projects.

We're also putting a new spin on our January Card Party. The traditional bridge and mahjong event will continue, but we're adding a Friday Game Night featuring Bunco, Cards Against Humanity, and other lively favorites. We hope the two events will offer something for everyone and create even more opportunities to connect and have fun.

We've also been busy reviewing the member surveys and matching members with committees and leadership opportunities that reflect their interests and talents. A BIG thank you to Annie Anderson, who spent many hours managing this project, and to everyone who completed the survey or has agreed to serve.

Our theme this year, "Rooted in Tradition, Growing Together," perfectly reflects what we hope to accomplish, honoring the traditions that have made our club so special while welcoming new ideas, new friendships, and new opportunities to serve.

We're looking forward to a wonderful year together!

Warmly,

Warmly,

Suzanne Crosina-Sahm & Debbie Reuland

Co-Presidents, 2026–2027

Fig Garden Woman's Club





Fig Garden Woman's Club Joint Board Meeting Minutes June 1, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Desiree Ward at 9:31 a.m.

First Vice President: Vice President Deb Reuland thanked Denise Price for the lovely treats.

Approval of the Minutes: Recording Secretary Judith Osterloh informed those present that the 5/4/2026 Board Meeting minutes, which were attached to today's agenda required approval. There were no additions or corrections. Barb Moen made a motion to approve the minutes as written which were seconded by First Vice President Deb Reuland. The motion was voted on and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Assistant Treasurer Linda Gandolfo, reporting for Treasurer Susan Simpson reported that the Club's B of A checking account, as of 5/22/2026, had a balance of \$63,613.68. The investment accounts had a combined balance of \$150,724.07 for a total of \$214,337.75. Income for the month of May was \$25,679.61 and expenses were \$16,415.01 for a net positive balance of \$9,264.60. As of 5/22/2026 Penny Pines generated \$288.30. The running total from September to May, including the Vaughan Family contribution of \$680.00, is \$1880.57. Linda further reported that the Fashion Show income was \$23,609.00 and expenses were \$11,083.45, for a final net income of \$12,525.55.

Corresponding Secretary: Corresponding Secretary Tamara Hargrave informed those in attendance that the club received one donation request for Hope Now. Tamara also reported that the club received two newsletters from Heritage Fresno and Valley Center for the Blind. The Club also received one invitation to Valley Center for the Blind "Dining in the Dark" on September 24, 2026, held at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club.

President's Report: President Desiree Ward thanked everyone for fulfilling our mission and fundraisers, which exceeded all expectations. She continued to express that Fig Garden Woman's Club is so much more than a club, it is a lifeline for members.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Memorial Building Fund:

Chair Kim Gould reported as of June 1, 2026, the MBF Edward Jones account bank balance is \$16,158.00 which includes \$2,325.00 transferred by the Treasurer for MBF donations this year. Zero Funds were utilized 2025-2026, per Treasurer. Acknowledgement cards and brochures are available.

Preservation and Planning:

Chair Martha Stewart reported that we are starting the leveling and resurfacing of the parking lot on Friday June 5, 2026. This will complete one of the biggest and most expensive goals of the year. We will have six handicap parking spots. We will be moving the trash cans out of the way during resurfacing. Martha reported that she is in contact with the fire department about the resurfacing. Martha reported that we will need a sign that states: "No Parking Without Permission", further details to come.



June 1, 2026 Joint Board Meeting Minutes, continued

WAYS AND MEANS:

Handbook Advertisements:

President Desiree Ward announced that Chair Lillian Weiland is accepting requests for handbook advertisements. Members are able to order via the order form and an additional handbook is available for \$10. Members were directed to get orders in ASAP, as Desiree and Suzanne will be the only ones that will know the deadline. Lillian also advised members to submit a photo with good lighting, if they choose to update their photo in the handbook.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Penny Pines:

Chair Barb Moen passed the fishbowl and reported the total for May of \$1,200.57. Barb reported a donation from the Vaughan family of \$680.00, for a total of \$1,880.57. We had two members, Joyce Gaskins and Kelly Swertfager, each made donations of \$68.00, which is included in the May total of \$1,200.57. The total for 2025 was \$800.00, which surpassed by \$400.00 in 2026. Barb thanked the very generous group of contributors. President Desiree Ward thanked Barb Moen for a successful year for Penny Pines.

Turn Over Meeting to New Presidents:

President Desiree Ward turned over meeting to new President Suzanne Crosina – Sahm and Deb Reuland. Desiree states that today is very special as we celebrate new leadership and new beginnings, fresh ideas, renewed energy and continued commitment will carry this club forward to another successful year. Desiree said “It’s now my privilege to officially turn over the meeting to our incoming presidents. I know they’re going to lead with enthusiasm and dedication, and I look forward to supporting them throughout the year”.

Deb Reuland stated that she already has a rough draft of the 2026-2027 calendar including penciled in luncheons and there are no conflicts. We don’t know how many Get Acquainted coffees we’re going to have, so that will be forthcoming.

Deb Reuland continues to say that this year is the 100th anniversary of the Fig Garden Woman’s Club Building. She suggests that we hold the Fashion Show in the Clubhouse, in celebration of the 100th anniversary. The operation costs will be reduced by holding the event in our building and may increase revenue. The meals may be prepared in house. She suggests that silent auctions are held out on the patio and models will be able to change clothes in pop-up tents with drapery. Models will enter on the stage and come down the stairs, sort of like the Art & Flower Show. We are excited to pull this off.

Deb Reuland passes the mic off to Tamara Hargrove. Tamara states that the mailbox location will be moved from Caldwell Station to UPS Store on Bullard and West with 24-hour access. At this location, we can call to check if there is mail and packages, which will be held aside for pickup. The address and P.O. Box will be forthcoming.

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*June 1, 2026 Joint Board Meeting Minutes, continued*

It was stated that we do not need to vote on the change of location, as it is not part of the bylaws and is a safety issue.

SECTIONS:

Movie Review: No report.

Knitting and Needles: No report. The section will not be meeting through the summer.

Book Talk: Chair Margaret Nordstrom reported for Book Talk. The group will be meeting all summer on the 3rd Thursday, at 10 a.m.

AnTEAques:

Kim Gould reported that we will not be meeting until September. When meetings resume, members can bring their antiques to have them evaluated, may be given a prize and discuss the antiques. It is held the 3rd Wednesday at 10 a.m. Tea and snacks will be available.

Out to Lunch Bunch: Kim Gould, reporting for Chair Sue Stephens, announced the events. The first one will be held at Annesso's on June 10, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. We are currently at full capacity, if anyone is unable to attend, please let us know. The following event will take place at Los Amigos on July 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Members are still able to sign up. On July 29, 2026 at 11:00 p.m. we are meeting at Olive Garden near Herndon and Hwy 99. On August 5, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. we will be meeting at P.F. Changs on Blackstone Ave. We might do a Cracked Pepper Bistro brunch in August, details forthcoming. We will be having brunch at Fort Washington Country Club on September 27, 2026, details to follow. Kim also mentioned plans for Ovidios in August, and details will be forthcoming. The usual time for Out to Lunch Bunch is 11:30 a.m., however some reservations have been made at different times. She announced that we will no longer be calling for no shows for Out to Lunch Bunch. Members, please look out for the E blast with more details.

Sue Stephens will continue to serve for Out to Lunch Bunch until August and then will be stepping down. Riley Gould and Judy Osterloh will be taking over as co-chairs in September.

Health and Wellness: Chair Hope Rosky was not present to report. We will be walking at 9:15 a.m. and exercise at 10 a.m. on Wednesday June 3rd. This will be the last meeting for the summer and there was an E blast.

NEW BUSINESS/30 SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The incoming board and outgoing board are encouraged to meet. Positions are still being filled.



June 1, 2026 Joint Board Meeting Minutes, continued

The next FGWC Board Meeting will be on Monday, August 31, 2026 9 a.m. social hour and 9:30 a.m. meeting begins.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on June 5, 2026

Judith Osterloh

Recording Secretary

FIG GARDEN WOMAN'S CLUB

Membership

Suzy Wren, Third Vice President

Welcome New Members!

We're delighted to welcome 19 new members to Fig Garden Woman's Club! These women bring fresh energy, talent, and enthusiasm to our club, and we're so pleased they've chosen to join us.

They will be formally introduced at our September General Meeting, but in the meantime please join me in extending a warm Fig Garden welcome and help them feel right at home.

Jody Bertolucci

Joanne Berryhill

Grace Cavalla

Debra DeRosa-Parola

Jodie Ann Garabedian

Beverly Harmon

Beatrice Hensleit

Lisa Marie Horton

Mila Itsomina

Aimee Jacobs

Jill Kahrmanian

Susan Kercher

Margaret Lujano

Nikki Patricio

Pamela Ryder

Blair Sobba

Angela Wiens

Louise Yenovkian

Donna Zutler





SCAM ALERT: STOP, THINK, VERIFY

Recently, numerous Fig Garden Woman's Club members received a fraudulent email that appeared to come from Co-President Suzanne Crosina-Sahm. The scammer used Suzanne's name and Club title and asked members to purchase gift cards for a charitable donation.

Thankfully, no one we know of lost money, but it's an important reminder that scammers often impersonate people you know and trust.

To protect yourself:

- Check the actual email address, not just the sender's name.
- Never purchase gift cards in response to an email or text request.
- Don't click unexpected links or provide passwords or personal information.
- Be suspicious of urgent requests or excuses such as "I'm traveling" or "I can't talk right now."
- Verify before acting. Call or text the person using contact information you already have.

Remember: Fig Garden Woman's Club officers will never email you asking you to purchase gift cards on behalf of the Club.

When in doubt: STOP. THINK. VERIFY.

October Speaker

Tamara Hargrave, Second Vice President

In light of the recent phishing scams targeting several of our club members, we wanted to give you plenty of notice about a very timely program planned for our October luncheon.

Our guest speaker will be Nathan Gilbert, Regional Director for Better Business Bureau Mountain West and Pacific Southwest. Nathan has more than 20 years of experience in business leadership and community engagement and is passionate about helping people recognize and avoid scams, fraud and other threats.

Nathan will share practical information about how to spot common scams, recognize warning signs and protect yourself from becoming a victim—information that is increasingly important as scammers become more sophisticated and convincing.

We hope you'll make plans to attend and encourage your fellow members to join us. This is one luncheon you won't want to miss.





E-Blasts

Annie Anderson, Chair

We've seen an increase in e-blast requests that don't include contact information for members who may have questions or need to respond.

When submitting information for an e-blast, please be sure to include the name and contact information of the person members should contact with questions or replies. This might be an RSVP, a change of plans for movie discussion, or simply a question about the information being shared.

Please keep in mind that replies to club e-blasts do not automatically go to the person or committee that submitted the announcement. A notice has been added to the e-blast email signature reminding members not to use "Reply" when responding.

To help us make sure every e-blast is complete and ready to send, please include:

- Who members should contact
- An email address and/or phone number for replies or questions

Including this information will help members get their questions to the right person quickly and make our e-blast system run much more smoothly.

Additionally, please remember that if you have news to share, you should submit it for inclusion in the Fig Leaf. E-blasts are intended for last-minute announcements, so please plan accordingly.

Thank you for your help.



OUR CLUBHOUSE HAS A MAILBOX!

After many years of using a P.O. box for club correspondence, we now have a mailbox right at our clubhouse!

This change will make it easier for our officers to receive and manage club mail while also eliminating the annual cost of maintaining a P.O. box. Please discontinue using our former P.O. box address.

Going forward, all Fig Garden Woman's Club correspondence should be mailed directly to:

Fig Garden Woman's Club
4550 N. Van Ness Boulevard
Fresno, CA 93704

Please update your records and address books with our new mailing address.





Trash to Treasure

Ellen Vietti & Kim Garcia, Co-chairs

There are still four more drop off days Sept. 11th and 25th, and Oct. 9th and 23rd. Please bring your donations in a box and labeled with the department. All drop off days are from 8:30 AM-10:30 a.m.

To sign up for your shifts, we will be using electronic workbooks. We will also have sign-up sheets at the September and October luncheons, for those who will need help.

We would appreciate members using the electronic workbooks, so we do not duplicate efforts. Please sign up for your set-up and sale day shifts [CLICK HERE](#). You will receive a text message confirming your shifts.

We would also appreciate you signing up to bring food for a lunch during our prep weeks or sales days. Please consider putting a team of 2-3 together and claiming a day, or sign up alone and be paired with another member! [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up to bring food. Lori Hamada, our T2T Food Chair, will be in touch with all food volunteers.

Thank you for your support!



Social Media Report

Linda Gandolfo, Chair



Facebook

May Followers: 1,529

June-August +3

Total: 1,531



Instagram

May Followers: 571

June-August +13

Total: 586



Website

May Accounts: 84

June-August: no adds

Total: 84

A BEAUTIFUL NEW ADDITION TO OUR CLUBHOUSE!



The next time you visit the clubhouse, be sure to notice the beautiful new address plaque mounted by our front door!

Past President Desiree Ward generously purchased the plaque as her gift to the Club.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our historic clubhouse, it's a wonderful way to proudly mark our home and recognize a century of friendship, service and tradition.

Thank you, Desiree, for this thoughtful and lasting gift!

Menu

September

Fresh fruit cup starter, Asian chicken salad

October

Chicken salad on croissant, mesclun salad, fruit cup

November

Turkey, mashed potato, vegetable

December

Beef bourguignon, roasted potatoes, baby bells with onions

January

Tomato bisque starter, penne pasta with chicken, garlic bread

February

Corn chowder starter, chicken focaccia sandwich, orzo pasta salad

March

Choice of corned beef & cabbage OR chicken picatta, potatoes, carrots.

April

Italian bruschetta starter, Italian chicken wrap, angle hair pasta, fruit

May

Mesclun steak salad

Chef's choice dessert served with every meal

Vegetarian options available upon request

NO MEETINGS JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

AnTEAques
Wednesday September 16
10 AM

Theme: Antique and Costume Jewelry!
Bring some items to discuss and your favorite tea cup!





Federation Report

Karen Tozlian, District Representative

I attended the San Joaquin Valley District meeting on August 13, 2026, at the Woman's Club of Bakersfield. It was a real treat to see their clubhouse. Like ours, it is over 100 years old and has a stage in the main room, however, the facility is two-story and about four times as large. Bakersfield members who have visited our club house are envious of our large kitchen. Their main room can accommodate table seating for 300 and a dance floor. The club does rent the facility as it needs funds to maintain the club house. In the past year, they spent nearly \$500,000 on new air conditioning units.

The new president, Angie Nelson, and her officers planned a well-organized meeting with lots of participation. The guest speaker was Diana Contreras, Executive Director of Casa Esperanza, a transitional home that provides services to families. The home can accommodate up to six families who may stay up to two years while developing a life plan that focuses on education, finances, and career goals.

The high points of the meeting were the reports presented by three section leaders. The presentations were interactive, involved role playing, and costumes. We were treated to an arts and culture show, health and wellness activity, and membership skits.

The next meeting will be November 12, the location to be determined.



Penny Pines Year-End Report

Barbara Moen, chair

Monthly collections: \$1,200.57

Vaughan family donation: \$680.00

TOTAL: \$1,880.57



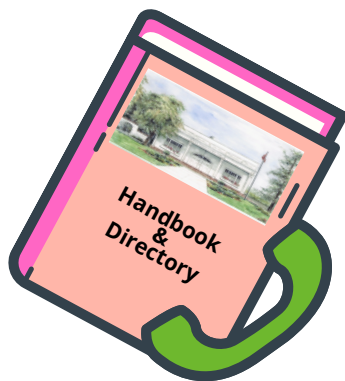
Two member donations from Joyce Gaskins and Kelly Swertfager of \$68 are included in our total which will supply trees to 2 acres of land. Thank you Joyce and Kelly. Our club total of \$1,200 will fund 17.6 acres and the Vaughan donation funds 10 acres.

Thank you to all our members for generously contributing your coins and dollars at our Board Meetings and General Meetings throughout the year. Our total collected for last year was \$800. We surpassed this by \$400.00. Congratulations to all!

The Penny Pines Reforestation Program plays a vital role in renewing California's National Forests. Our contributions specifically benefits the Sierra National Forest by planting seedlings and restoring the forest.

Handbooks

Lillian Weiland, Chair



HANDBOOKS ARE HERE!

The 2026–2027 FGWC Handbooks are done and ready for distribution! Thank you to our dedicated proofreading committee for all their time, patience and careful attention to detail. Please be gentle with us when you find errors. You can email Lillian Weiland at lilmacwhy@gmail.com to let her know, and perhaps volunteer for next year's proofreading committee. :)

Handbooks will be distributed at the September and October General Luncheon Meetings. After the October meeting, handbooks will no longer be available for pickup at Club meetings. If you still need to pick up your handbook, please contact Karen Tozlian or Sharon Garabedian directly to make arrangements. Thank you, Karen and Sharon, for handling the remaining handbooks.

We did not print any extra handbooks, so hold on tight to yours. Printing an individual replacement handbook costs approximately \$200.

Finally, we sold plenty of advertisements to help pay for the handbook. Please take a moment to look through them and, when you visit one of our advertisers, let them know you saw their ad in the FGWC Handbook. Their support helped make this year's handbook possible.

National Day of Service

Libby Borchardt, Community Impact Committee Chair

On September 26, our club is participating in the National Day of Service which highlights domestic violence on women, by purchasing new items for the Marjorie Mason Center.

The Community Impact Committee will be accepting the volunteer donations at the September the General Meeting on September 9th.

Another way of giving, is to go on the Marjorie Mason website and click on the three lines on the right side of the page, click on **Partner With Us**. Then scroll down to In-Kind Giving and click on visit our Amazon Wish List now. There you can buy the items directly and they will be sent to the Center. You can also click on Wish List, items you can personally buy. Please note they will only accept these items on the Wish List and they must be NEW, no used items.

In addition, our club has the opportunity to tour the Marjorie Mason facility on Monday, October 5th, at 4 p.m. There is only room for 15 and there are 10 spots left. If you are interested, please let me know at the September 10th meeting. Also, if they can find another volunteer to lead a group, there may be room for another 15 members. I will let you know when I get more information.



Our Club Website at Your Fingertips

Linda Gandolfo, Website and Social Media Chair

The most up-to-date FGWC Handbook and Events Calendar are always available on our website in the “Member Resources” Section. **Both are updated as changes occur.** The section contains our handbook, new members, the Fig Leaf, and our current calendar.

To access the *Handbook* log on to our website at: figgardenwomansclub.org

Then select: Member Resources

Then select: Handbook



To access the *Events Calendar* log on to our website at: figgardenwomansclub.org

Then select: Member Resources

Then select: Events Calendar



To access to the *Member Resources* section, you must be registered on the website.

To register, log on to our website: figgardenwomansclub.org then select: Register (in the upper righthand corner).

After you have completed the form, you will receive an email stating that you now have access to the *Member Resources* section. For security purposes, only FGWC members are given access to this information.



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Our Club Website at Your Fingertips, continued



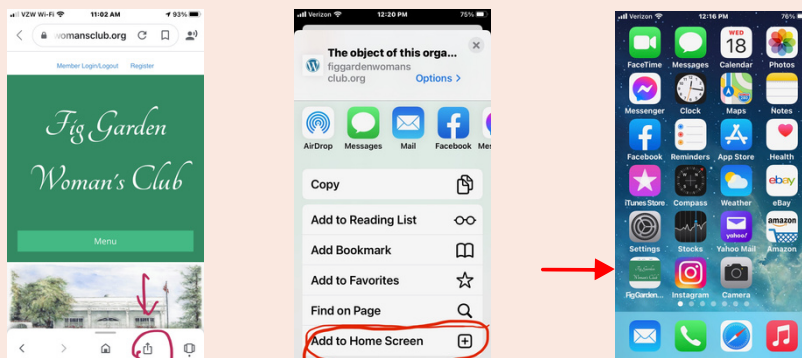
PHONE OR TABLET ACCESS

For new members who would like to add the FGWC icon on your phone or tablet for easy access, below are step-by-step instructions on how to do so.

For those of you with Apple IOS devices:

1. Bring up the FGWC website on your phone's or iPad's internet browser.
2. At the bottom of the page you see a square with arrow pointing up. Click on it.
3. Click on "Add to Home Screen".

That's it! You're done. Just click on the icon whenever you want to check the webpage.



For those of you with Android devices:

1. Bring up the FGWC website on your phone's internet browser.
2. Touch the apps icon to display the apps drawer.
3. Long press the app icon you want to add to your home screen
4. Drag the app to the home screen page, lifting your finger to place the app

Please contact Linda Gandolfo if you have any questions or need help (559) 269-5888.

INTERESTED IN AMERICAN MAH JONGG?

Lori Hamada

We're considering starting a new American Mah Jongg section that would meet monthly at the Club!

Whether you're an experienced player or simply interested in joining the fun, we'd love to hear your thoughts.

If you're interested, please stay for a brief get-together following our September 9 General Meeting to learn more and help us get this new group started.

Come play, connect and have some fun!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to our members born in
September!

1 Lisa Slater
2 Roberta "Bobbi" Herrinton
4 Carol Kempen
4 Lorene Vaillancour Sorensen
6 Carol Kloninger-Piper
7 Karla Nichols
8 Gerry Wirant
10 Phyllis Graves
12 Monica Diaz
16 Linda Watkins
17 Marjorie Harp

18 Sandra Knudson
19 Hope Rosky
21 Marie Durney
21 McKenna Gould Wigert
22 Lucina Myers
23 Tracy Jensen
26 Sue Castro
26 Daisy Siemens
28 Patricia White
29 Joyce Gaskins
30 Kathleen Dennen

