



# Who's Who

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## Linnea Miller

Many of you know Linnea Miller Domz, our first State President (1963-65), who will be 102 years old this May. But you might not know all the wonderful things she has accomplished for our State, and the wonderful opportunities she has had, to serve Nevada and the National Garden Clubs.

Linnea was born in Wisconsin, worked as a nurse in California, fell in love with one of her patients and married him. She and Abe Miller moved to Las Vegas, where she had a chance to pursue her love of flowers and gardening. She entered her first flower show with some flowers from her yard in a pretty little teacup, and got an Honorable Mention. Later shows were more successful for her - she went on to win the Sweepstakes Award three times.

On a vacation in Arizona, she discovered the National Gardener magazine. Asking about it, she

realized that Nevada was missing out, so she worked to get the Nevada Garden Clubs federated. Linnea became Nevada Garden Clubs' first State President, in 1963. Another visit to Arizona led her to learn of a Study Course being held in Tucson. Linnea entered that course, and eventually became a Flower Show School instructor. She has since instructed in Japan, Guatemala, Peru and 20 States. She was an instructor for over 18 years. Linnea has been featured in the Vision of Beauty calendar, three times on the cover, and also received the Best Designer Award in 1982. She served on the National Board for 27 years, as Secretary, Vision of Beauty Chair, chair for sending packages to overseas troops, chair for

replanting trees in New Orleans after a hurricane, and doubtless other positions which have slipped her mind. She is still active in three clubs in Nevada. We are so proud to have her as one of our own.



## Vicki Yuen

Vicki was born in Akron, Ohio. She has lived in more places than some people have visited. She left Akron when she was only a few weeks old, to move to the oil fields of Texas, where her father was a geologist. The family eventually settled in Midland, Texas, where Vicki went through grade school. She was valedictorian of her high school. Vicki attended three different colleges (College of Wooster, Ohio; University of Colorado, Boulder; and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) before getting her degree in linguistics. Shortly after graduation, she flew to Germany, where she lived for

two years, working at a hotel in the Black Forest, and later at a bank in Munich, and enjoying improving her German and traveling around Europe. When it was time to return to the US, Vicki chose Los Angeles as her home. She lived in Southern California for around 20 years, went to law school at Southwestern University (in the evenings, while working full time at a consulting firm), and met her husband Darrel. In 1994, they moved to Hong Kong, where they lived for 7 years with their two grade-school children. It was here that Vicki became

interested in flower arranging, and in gardening. She joined the Hong Kong Flower Club and learned about traditional arranging as well as the modern European style of floral design. She loved visiting the compact but very full Flower Market in Hong Kong. The family moved to Las Vegas in 2001, and Vicki sought out the Flower Arrangers Guild. She has been a member of that club since then, and has also joined the Cactus Society. In addition, she became a Master Gardener in 2003 and volunteers at the Springs Pre-

serve in the Gardens there. She is also an accredited Flower Show judge.



## Marci Brown

When I called to interview Marci, she had just returned from a flower show judges' symposium in Albuquerque; but she graciously agreed to meet with me for a chat. Marci was born in a tiny town in Illinois called Hegewish. Her father worked in munitions during the war so they moved around a lot during her childhood. She says there was one year she attended five different schools. Eventually they settled near Chicago. Marci got married fairly young so she did not get to go back to school until her children were older. After they moved to Indiana, she and her best friend started a garden club together. They made flower arrangements using silk and plastic flowers. So when they had an opportunity to prepare a floral design for the County Fair using real flowers, they learned that real flowers can be much more difficult to work with! Still, they managed to get first prize at the fair. She had the bug by then so she took two Flower Show School courses in Illinois. Life changed, and Marci went back to work. She found a job in a hospital

managing and re-organizing their emergency room procedures. She had little formal training for this, but she inherited a good sense of organization from her father and was successful in streamlining the operation. Later she worked as an office manager over 35 people and prepared the employee handbooks for the group. Marci and her husband eventually retired to Las Vegas. After they bought a home in Henderson, she met Jane Matthey, who was out pruning a tree. When Marci asked Jane why she was doing that, Jane told her about the Sunset Flower Show. Marci's ears perked up immediately! Soon she was a member of Sunset Garden Club. When Bert Ziemski was elected president of that club, Marci became secretary and later followed Bert into the presidency. Bert prodded Marci to design, critiquing her flower arrangements and teaching her a great deal. Marci urged Bert to teach these design lessons more formally, and soon the Sunset Garden Club began offering these to the public. When Bert Ziemski was elected president of that club, Marci became secretary and later followed Bert into the

presidency. Bert prodded Marci to design, critiquing her flower arrangements and teaching her a great deal. Marci urged Bert to teach these design lessons more formally, and soon the Sunset Garden Club began offering these to the public. When Bert became too ill to continue teaching, Marci picked them up and taught for several more years. Marci is currently our First Vice President of the State organization in charge of planning our twice-yearly State meetings. She does a wonderful job.



## Nancy Lee Loesch

Nancy was born in Miami, Florida and grew up in Pittsburgh. Her adult life has mostly been spent in Southern California. When she came to California as a young adult, she found a job at I. Magnin in Beverly Hills. She has wonderful memories of helping the rich and famous with their shopping. She gave Lucille Ball a personal shopping tour one day. She assisted other stars including Barbara Stanwick. She also remembers John Wayne, Wayne Newton, Cher, Nancy Reagan, and many others. Later Nancy worked for commercial and residential builders, managing New Home Warranty issues, and

office tenants. Her introduction to Garden Clubs came when a friend invited her to a meeting of the Newport Hills GC. And she has been with it ever since. Nancy has had lots of experience holding Garden Club offices. Besides being President of the Newport Hills GC, and Orange County District Director, she has served as Bylaws Chair and Awards Chair for California Garden Clubs, Inc. She also served on the California Garden Clubs, Inc. Executive Committee as Editor of the Golden Gardens publication. Nancy currently is president of the Sunset Garden Club and is on our own Executive Committee as 2nd VP. Nancy is looking forward to chairing the 2016 Re-

gional Convention, which will be held in Nevada. She is happy to use her experience to help our Club and State organizations in any way she can.



## Barbara Appel

Barbara was born in Hollywood, California, and grew up in Culver City. She says she should have been a Hollywood star - MGM Studios was at one end of her street; Hal Roach Studios was at the other end; and what is now Sony Pictures was nearby. And her mother watched the filming of the burning of Atlanta (from "Gone With the Wind") at the MGM Studio back lot while she was pregnant with Barbara. But bigger things were in store for Barbara. She and her husband moved to Las Vegas in 1972, with their 4 children. She found the desert climate a challenge, after living in "The Garden of Eden" (at least horticulturally) for so long. She had several exposures to desert gardening before she actually joined a club - she met Edith Gorley at the Clark County Fair; she picked up Hobby St.

Denis's book on gardening in Las Vegas; and she took a class or two at the Garden Club building in Lorenzi Park, taught by Elsie Koerwitz. So when Barbara had only one teenager left under her roof, she decided to do something for herself, and joined the Carnation Garden Club. Within 6 months of joining, she was persuaded to be the club president. She also was involved with the Las Vegas Council of Garden Clubs, the purpose of which was to put on flower shows. She eventually became chair of that organization, too. Barbara was elected First Vice President of the Nevada Garden Clubs in 1991, her first position at the State level. She was thrown into the thick of things when the president-elect, before her term started, was unable to serve. Barbara says that it was due to Garden Club that she finally got east of the Mississippi River. She attended a National Convention in Milwaukee. On one tour, she sat next to a gentleman, who turned out to be the husband of the National President. When some of the ladies were

talking about this mountain or that mountain, and Barbara couldn't see any mountains outside the windows, the gentleman saw her puzzlement and said, "Honey, they're talking about that ridge over there." Barbara continues to be active with our Garden Club, judging and arranging and encouraging others.



## Jean Engelmann

Jean Engelmann was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and grew up on a farm having many exciting adventures. She attended the University of Minnesota, the College of Education, College of Agriculture, College of Forestry and Home Economics. She did find time to meet and marry her husband Bill while a Senior at college. Here is some gossip - she left him 2 weeks later to do student teaching in a nearby small town. She is a natural teacher. She taught at a Lab school at the university of Minnesota and a school in Waconia, Minnesota. They lived basically in the Twin Cities area while she coordinated the

life of the family which grew to 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. Bill was offered a job in Las Vegas in 1989. There never was any doubt about accepting the job. He was a natural. Her only comment about the move is "moving out of state is not for the faint of heart". How true.

In 1992, Jean became a Charter Member of Sunset Garden Club in Henderson. Shortly after she held the position of 2nd Vice President of Nevada State Garden Clubs, Inc. She offered to publish the Silver State Gardener when Hiro Ureta was ready to give it up. She was editor for 5 years and published the Nevada Garden Clubs Annual Directory in 1999. She is an amazing women

with the following to her credit: Master Gardner, Flower Show Judge, State By-Laws Chairman, State Treasurer, State Flower Show Credentials Chairman and Judges' Council. She also served as Registrar of the 2001 Pacific Region Convention held in Las Vegas. She is currently Treasurer for Sunset Garden Club. And may I say she is a friend to all she meets.



## Judy Stebbins

Our very busy Corresponding Secretary was born in Niagara Falls, New York. She grew up in Troy, NY, with six siblings. (Her youngest brother was born on Judy's 20th birthday.) After high school, Judy started at Albany State, majoring in Math and Physics. But the commute, via 3 buses, was too much. Judy found a job, which turned into a career, at NY Telephone company, where she worked for 34 years. She continued her education through company courses and Community College courses. While working there, she met Fred, who was attend-

ing RPI. They dated for a couple of years, before getting married on a Friday the 13th. (8/13/65) It hasn't been unlucky for them! After military service, Fred began working as an engineer at GE in Syracuse. He spent 19 years there, and then left to manage his investments in the stock market. When Judy retired in 1997, they decided to move to Las Vegas. They had visited on vacation for many years, and liked the climate (not to mention the lower taxes). Judy wasted no time getting involved

with social and service organizations here. She is a member of the Westside Newcomers Club, the Las Vegas Towne Club, the Mesquite Club, two Red Hat Society groups, a Canasta Group, a Bunco group, a Nickels group, the Southern Nevada Women's History Project, and of course the Flower Arrangers Guild, where she has served in every office, most more than once. She says she often becomes an officer of an

organization shortly after she joins. We are very lucky to have her as an officer in the Nevada Garden Clubs!



## Anne Oney

Anne has been our Recording Secretary for several years, and she has done a wonderful job of it. Attendees at State meetings have seen her at the head table – but do you know that she used to teach computer programming? Anne was born in Oakland, California. Her father's work with IBM took the family to a number of cities (mostly in California) – she says that by 9<sup>th</sup> grade she was on her 9<sup>th</sup> school. This taught her to be very good at making friends quickly. Anne majored in English at Cornell, intending to teach. Discovering she didn't like teaching English, she took a job at Harvard as secretary to the director of the Arnold Arboretum. One of her duties was to go out to the arboretum (in Jamaica Plains – a bit of a trek from Cambridge), to see what was in bloom.

This way she could answer questions when people called in. Of course she could have just asked the people on site what was blooming – but it was much nicer to get out of doors herself. She learned a lot of plant names in that position. A couple of years later she was hired by IBM in their San Francisco office, as a "Systems Engineer", helping business customers install their new computers. This wasn't a field she was trained in – so she learned about it during the next year. Soon, she was moved to the Education Center to teach customers about the use of their computers. She found she enjoyed teaching computers and programming, and stayed with it for 8 years. She also met her future husband, Jim, at IBM. After IBM, Anne taught computer programming at two colleges and eventually became Dean of the Business and Computers Division at one of

them. After retirement, she and Jim moved to Roseville, CA, and then to Nevada. Anne got interested in the Garden Club the same way many of us did. Their new Henderson house had very little landscaping, and she wanted to know how to grow things here. Anne found the Sunset GC, and within a couple of years, she was club president. Sounds familiar!



## Dorlene Waite

Dorlene is one of those rare creatures, a native-born Nevadan. Her parents lived in Bunkerville, but were in Las Vegas on an errand on the day her mother went into labor. So Dorlene was born at the Southern Nevada Hospital (now UMC). The eldest of 6 children, she grew up in Bunkerville and went to school in Mesquite and Bunkerville. After graduating from high school in Mesquite, Dorlene came to Las Vegas to find a job. She worked in the office of a construction firm and attended Dana McKay Business College, studying accounting and bookkeeping. She worked for a CPA for a few years, before returning to the construction business, and did bookkeeping in that industry for more than 40 years. She says that both her mother and grandmother grew irises; she can't remember when they didn't have irises growing around the house. So when Dorlene moved into the house she still lives in, in 1979, she bought some irises at the

sales that Berkley Hunt and Evelyn Condo held, and tried growing a few irises in her back yard. She tells about the Garden Walks that were held in the city in those days, where you could get a map and go around and see people's beautiful yards. Dorlene found that her irises didn't bloom. So she called up her cousin Berkley and asked for help. He usually would tell her what to do, but eventually told her she should just join the Iris Society. So Dorlene joined the Las Vegas Iris Society in 1992. The Iris Society was already a member of the Nevada Garden Clubs, although members did not do very much with the State organization. Hiro, who joined just before Dorlene, got members more interested in attending State meetings and helping with State functions. Lee Pearn, who can be very persuasive, encouraged Dorlene (with her background in accounting) to take over the State Treasurer position (to replace someone who was not able to finish her term). She served that term and another, before also serving on the Board of Trustees and as 1st Vice President. Dorlene is currently our Awards Chair and Registra-

tion and Credentials Chair. Dorlene has also been President of the Iris Society three times. In her spare time, Dorlene is also a quilter, and keeps busy with her many nieces and nephews. Some of them have even lived with her for a time, while going to UNLV or working in Las Vegas. Some of her family still lives in Bunkerville, and she travels back to Mesquite regularly to help her sister with a florist shop there. We're thankful she still has time to help our Garden Club so much!

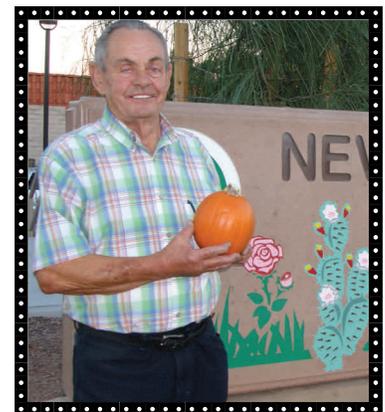


## Don Fabbi

Many of us know Don Fabbi as the person who brings in all the wonderful locally-grown vegetables to our Flower Shows. His source is the Community Gardens he manages - and he gives credit where it is due, to the Gardens and the hard workers there. A third generation Nevadan, Don graduated from Las Vegas High School and married his high school sweetheart Barbara soon after. Don started as an engineer with the power company - back when it was called "Southern Nevada Power and Telephone". He discovered that linemen made more money than engineers, so he changed to that position. He was a lineman for 10 years - but it was a rough job. During that time Don lost a finger and got some bad burns. Realizing that Don had learned from personal experience how to avoid injuries ("You know better"), the company promoted him to Safety Director. His office was right next to the President's - though he says it was only a broom closet. Always interested in

learning more, in 1977 he became a certified arborist, so he could make sure the crew pruning the trees around power lines were doing it properly. Don retired in 1994 after 40 years with the power company. He became a Master Gardener in 1997. In 2007 he earned a PhD in Urban Horticulture. Don now manages five Community Gardens, and is starting one at Derfelt Senior Center. All of them "Plant a Row for the Hungry", a program affiliated with US seed companies. His work has been recognized with an award from National Garden Clubs, as well as a letter from Michelle Obama. Nevada Garden Clubs designated him our "Member of the Year" in 2010. He spends much of his summer in Maine, visiting his sister. But he is never idle. He works there with the Penobscot Master Gardeners in their 2000 acre Demonstration Garden. He received the Golden Trowel award

from them for his work. Don has over 65 years of experience in the cultivation of flowers, trees, vegetables and most anything else you might want to grow here. So you can feel confident that an answer you get from him is tried and true.



## Who's Who

### Kristie Livreri

Kristie is a native Nevadan. She was born in Caliente, and grew up in the small town of Pioche. At Lincoln County High School she ran track, was a cheerleader, played clarinet in the band, and was in the school's marching group. She was also Homecoming Queen! She says when there are only 5 girls in your class, you pretty much got a chance to do everything. After high school, Kristie came to Las Vegas to attend Dana McKay Business College. She worked as a telephone operator during that time, back when operators were there not only to connect calls, but to answer all sorts of questions (weather, restaurant recommendations, and everything else). She found a new job

with the School District in Pioche. Although she had known her husband-to-be in high school, they had not dated. But on her return, they started going out, and soon got married. The town of Pioche practically shut down so everyone could attend the wedding.

Her mother was a charter member of the Pioche Garden Club (mentored by Linnea Domz). So when Kristie and Mike moved to Las Vegas, her mother asked Linnea to invite Kristie to join the Rose Garden Club. She has been Club President 3 times, and State President for two terms. And now she is serving as our Pacific Region Director. She also handled building rentals, when she and Mike lived

closer to Lorenzi Park. We are so pleased that she is so devoted to Garden Club!



### Muriel Scrivner

Our State Treasurer and resident Ikebana professor Muriel was born in Nebraska. When she was about nine, her father (who worked for the railroad) was transferred to Portland, Oregon, where Muriel completed high school. She joined the Air Force, and started college at night. After leaving the Air Force, she met her husband, who was a Navy man. He spent so much time at sea that he transferred to the Air Force so they could be together. Muriel's husband was transferred to Japan, which is where her true vocation started. She returned to school there (in Japanese!), and undertook a major in Ikebana. Before she completed it, though, they were transferred to the Philippines,

to a small island where they were the only "round eye" family. She started teaching Ikebana to the Filipinos, and found them very receptive. Her husband also started the Philippines' first Little League program. Both of these are still going on! They eventually requested a transfer back to Japan, so Muriel could finish school. Ikebana has 18 levels, and after 4 more years of study, she finished the Professorship (14<sup>th</sup>) level. Even after they returned to the US, Muriel went back to Japan 16 more times to complete all 18 levels. They retired in Las Vegas, where Muriel taught for a while at CCSN, and then opened her own florist/Ikebana school, with even a small Post Office under the same roof. Now she

teaches Ikebana all over the US, being one of the few high-level professors who is fluent in English.



### Alana Sullivan

You may have noticed that we have a new face on the Executive Committee. Alana Sullivan has agreed to take on the position of Recording Secretary, after our previous RS wasn't able to do the job. We are happy to have her! Alana was born in Brooklyn, and went to school at Hunter College in New York City. She met her husband at a hot dog stand at the beach, she says, when she was 15. They got married when she was 24. Alana has lived in a variety of cities, as her husband has accepted positions as a resident and later a doctor, in Baltimore, Denver, Hawaii, and Detroit, before moving to Las Vegas in 1997. On

the way, she has worked in medical research, as a used car salesperson, and in a greenhouse – and has gotten her black belt in tai kwon do! One of her proudest accomplishments was rebuilding her VW engine. After arriving in Las Vegas, Alana saw a notice about the Iris Society. When she attended one of their meetings, she learned that an assistant editor was needed for the Silver State Gardener. Always one to try something new, she worked with the then-current editor, and eventually took over the job herself. The rest is history. Alana is now club president of Growers Study Guild, Chrysanthemum Society, and has chaired two flower shows. And she continues to expand her resume

with this new position on the Executive Committee.

