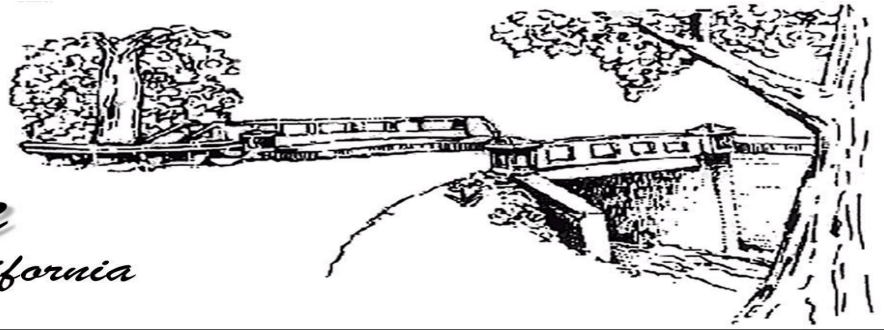


Creekside Chronicle

San Jose, California



The Creekside Cabana Club

March 2021

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR!
Sunday, March 14, 2021

Daylight savings time starts Sunday, March 14th at 2 AM.



Don't forget to **set your clocks FORWARD 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13th!**



SAN JOSE SHAMROCK RUN 5K & 10K



This race, better known as the Bay Area's St. Patrick's Day Running Party, will be taking place virtually again this year from **Friday, March 12, 2021 – Sunday, March 21, 2021**. For this run, you can choose to do it as a **5K (3.1 miles) or 10K (6.2 miles)**. This race is also one of 3 races that is part of San Jose's run local initiative which goes from January 1st to May 2nd every year. By taking part in the Shamrock Run, you are also supporting a great cause as it **benefits the San Jose-Dublin Sister City Scholarship Program (scholarships for youth)**. The San Jose – Dublin Sister City Program is a charity organization whose mission is to develop civic, cultural, economic, educational, artistic and athletic ties between San José and Dublin as well as Silicon Valley and Ireland. The San José – Dublin Sister City relationship was initiated in 1986 by then Mayor of San Jose, Tom McEnery and former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern, then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland. If interested, registration is now open for the 2021 virtual Shamrock Run as well as the 408 Mileage Challenge! For more information and to register go to <https://sanjoshamrockrun.com>. Invite a few friends and make sure not to miss out on this fun event!



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Inside This Issue:

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- Virtual Gardening Classes
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- Irish Soda Bread Recipe
- Enjoy the Spring Blooms

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www.creeksidecudas.com

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To reach the bookkeeper please contact
Condominium Financial Management by
Phone: (925) 566-6800
Fax: (925) 566-6797
Email: cfminfo@condofinancial.com
Website: <https://condofinancial.com>

Please send all mail to:
Creekside Cabana Club
c/o Condominium Financial Management, Inc.
60 Mayhew Way
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Creekside Cabana Club Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the odd months of the year in the Creekside Cabana Club clubhouse at 8:00 PM. All members are invited to come and find out what exciting things will be happening at the Cabana.

If you would like to contact the Board of Directors, please send an e-mail to:
BoardOfDirectors@creeksidecabana.org
or leave a message at (408) 270-2443.



CALLING ALL SWIMMERS AGES 5 TO 18 YEARS OLD TO BRING THE CUDA SPIRIT BACK TO THE CREEKSIDE CABANA CLUB

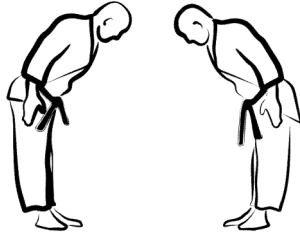


Now that competitive, outdoor swimming is allowed, the Creekside Cudas will be joining other league teams in an unofficial 2021 season! We have modified our season in such a way to keep our swimmers active and healthy but safe at the same time until things are back to normal. Here is everything you need to know to join us and dive into a safe and fun filled season with the Cudas.

- 🏊 **Registration opens Monday, March 8, 2021.** To register, go to www.creeksidecudas.com and hit 'Start Registration' on the far left of the website
- 🏊 Registration is on a first come, first serve basis
- 🏊 If you are a "new swimmer" wanting to join the team, along with registering, you will need to also send an email to our head coach, Brad Geldert, at bgeldert@gmail.com for assessment times and dates
- 🏊 The season is 16 weeks long from March 29, 2021 – July 17, 2021
- 🏊 Smaller than normal size swim team allowed for this season: capped @ 96 swimmers so don't miss out and make sure to **act quickly**
- 🏊 Smaller practice groups: no more than 12 kids in the pool at one time (2 per lane if from more than 1 household)
- 🏊 Practices will be held 3 days a week (either Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday) starting March 29, 2021 and staggered across 4 different but consistent time slots for each group
- 🏊 There will be a total of 6 virtual swim meets which includes Champs to be held on July 17, 2021 with other teams this season
- 🏊 Your swimmer gets all of this, while at the same time being able to once again be active and have the support and comradery of their fellow Cudas at a **VERY** reasonable price
 - \$285 per swimmer for families living within the HOA
 - \$335 for families living outside of the HOA boundaries (because of so many unknowns at this time still, no associate membership will be required of families living outside of the HOA boundaries who want to be on the Cudas swim team)
 - We are unable to offer any swimmer discounts for this season.

Because this is an unofficial season, no team or league records will be broken this year. Instead, our goal will be for each swimmer to try to continue to improve in a positively charged and spirited environment. The focus will be to have fun while working on bettering our technique through lots of practice and virtual swim meets so that we can come out even stronger and swinging for the fences next year as a team. Should you have any further questions regarding the Cudas swim team in general or need help getting your swimmer registered, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can send an email to our Cuda parent rep, Angela Smith, at parentreps@creeksidecudas.com or to our head coach, Brad Geldert, at bgeldert@gmail.com.

KARATE CLASSES ARE COMING BACK!



DRAGON CLOUD DOJO CREEKSIDE

Been interested in taking karate? If so, then come check out our karate classes at the Creekside Cabaña Club taught by two seasoned karate instructors, Senseis James and Deborah Garner. Dragon Cloud Dojo Creekside is excited to report that karate classes for our current students only at this time are scheduled to resume in May with county mandates such as social distancing and facemasks in place. The likelihood is that initially at least, classes will have to once again be held outside of the clubhouse at the Creekside Cabaña Club unless told otherwise. We look forward to hopefully seeing many of our familiar masked faces again this spring! Senseis James and Deborah can also be contacted for any updates. A full list of our class offerings, times and much more information about our karate program as well as Senseis James and Deborah Garner, can be found on our website at www.dragoncloudsj.com. For more information about our karate program, feel free to contact either Sensei James or Deborah Garner directly by phone at (408) 223-7233 or by email at dragonclouddeb@gmail.com. Sensei James and Deborah Garner are both 5th degree black belts as well as two time Hall of Fame award winners. Make sure not to miss out on this great opportunity to continue learning from the best as karate is a great outlet at any age and we are sure to have a class for you!

DRAGON CLOUD DOJO

School of
KARATE, KENPO & KOBU-DO



JAMES GARNER
Chief Instructor

DEBORAH GARNER
Head Instructor

Licensed (408) 223-7233 Insured
dragonclouddeb@gmail.com



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP 2021 UPDATE



For those who have had an associate membership with us, thank you for your support as a valued associate member. Due to the uncertainty of how the pandemic will impact our 2021 season, we have been unable to finalize any plans on how we will open or operate the pool and clubhouse this summer. It is for this reason that we, the board, have decided to postpone our annual invitation to renew associate memberships or recruit any new associate members. Santa Clara County and the Health Department COVID-19 guidelines determine when we will be able to resume our normal operations to invite associate members back to the Cabana Club. The guidelines also dictate how we use our pool and clubhouse, including conducting swim lessons for our members. Whether we can offer the pool for individual lap swim by appointment like we did last summer is still being discussed by the board. As more definitive information is available to us from the County, we will provide updates on pool and clubhouse use on our website at www.creeksidecabanaclub.com. Things are changing daily with the pandemic, so make sure to look periodically at our website and stay informed. You can also send an email to creeksidecabanaclub@gmail.com should you have any further questions, and we will try to provide you with answers.

Are you looking for a well-respected, fun, and educational child care that can take care of your kids safely during these uncertain times? If so, check out DUFFY'S FAMILY CHILD CARE while there are still spots AVAILABLE!



Duffy's Family Child Care:
3898 Yerba Buena Ave., San Jose, CA 95121
OPEN 7am to 6pm (License # 434401688)



We offer:

- All Day Care During School Year Including School Holidays & Breaks
- Internet Services Available For Distance Learning (Kindergarten - 8th Grade) - Need To Bring Your Own ipad Or Laptop
- Safe Transportation To And From The Cabana Club For Students In Dragon Cloud Karate Classes & On Cuda Swim Team
- Breakfast & Snacks Are Provided - Need To Bring Your Own Lunch
- Homework Assistance & Educational Computer Time Provided
- Fun Activities Including Arts & Crafts As Well As Trips To The Park To Scooter Or Skateboard During The Day
- All Necessary State & Local COVID-19 Protocols Being Followed Whenever Possible Such As Wearing Masks, Regular Hand Washing, Daily Sanitation, And Social Distancing To Ensure The Safety Of The Kids

**If interested, contact Sally Duffy @ (408) 270-0644
for further details as well as references.**



**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS & BUSINESSES
AT EVERGREEN VILLAGE SQUARE**



Come support our local farmers by joining us **from 9 am - 1 pm EVERY Wednesday AND Sunday** at the Evergreen Village Square for our open air Farmers' Market! Come enjoy being outdoors in the fresh air while taking the opportunity to pick up all the best produce of the season.



DINING: Make sure to get take-out or dine out where possible and support these local eateries:

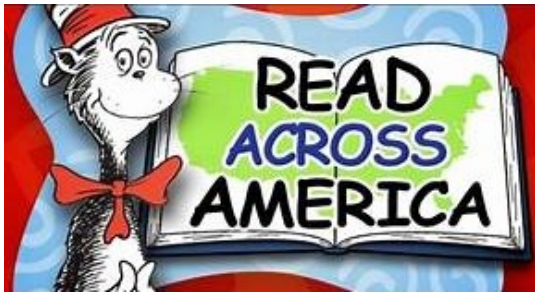
- 1) Curry Pizza House
- 2) Evergreen Coffee Co.
- 3) Ramen Osaka
- 4) Sophie's Mediterranean Grill
- 5) Subway
- 6) Village Grill
- 7) Yoogool Frozen Yogurt & Milk Tea



SERVICES: Make sure to take advantage of their services by supporting these local businesses:

- 1) Best Brains - Think Tank Learning
- 2) Cleaners 4 Less
- 3) Dance Theatre Int.
- 4) Excel Medicine
- 5) Great Clips
- 6) iCare Dental
- 7) Mathnasium
- 8) Pacific Piano School
- 9) Russian Music School
- 10) Sanjiv Gupta CPA
- 11) Success Realty
- 12) Polish Salon
- 13) VE Art Studio





MARCH IS NATIONAL READING MONTH

Did you also know that March 2nd was Read Across America Day which is a day that has been celebrated annually since 1998 because it is the same day as the beloved children's book author Dr. Seuss's birthday. Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated more than 60 children's books over his lifetime! So if you are someone, no matter what age, who likes to read or write stories, you might be interested in the following resources and events.

Thinkerbots: If you are in the 4th to 8th grade and like to read or write flash fiction, you should check out Thinkerbots. Writing a basic paper for school may not seem that hard but enhancing your writing skills can prove to be a lot more difficult. So, consider challenging yourself by submitting your best writing which can range anywhere from 2 paragraphs to 2 pages long to be part of a Flash Fiction book that gets published every September. And if you enjoy reading flash fiction and want to see what others have submitted, past Flash Fiction publications such as the one from 2020 that just got published can be found on their website. It is easy, free and a way to improve your writing from anywhere, anyplace, anytime. If you are in high school, you can also join the ThinkerBots team as a reviewer volunteer by clicking on 'Become A Volunteer' on their website. For more information about the program, how to submit your writing and volunteering, go to <https://thinkerbots.weebly.com>.

Bay Area Book Festival 2021: The 7th Annual Bay Area Book Festival will be coming to you virtually again this year. Mark your calendar for May 1, 2021 – May 9, 2021 for this popular event and starting May 1st, look for exciting virtual sessions on their website at <https://www.baybookfest.org>.

National Book Club For Kids: If you are a 4th through 6th grader, come join the first ever online National Book Club for Kids facilitated by educators from all over the United States as we can still come together around great books! We meet on Thursday afternoons on zoom to talk about a common book, meet and interact with the book's author and talk with other kids about the book. If interested, have your parents fill out a the sign up form at <https://sites.google.com/hope.edu/nationalbookclubforkids> and each week we will be sending you a new zoom registration link to join our meeting.

Virtual Book Club At Village Square Library: Join the virtual Village Square Friends Book Club suitable for adults for a fun and engaging literary discussion. This online event takes place the 1st Saturday of every month from 10:30 am to 11:30 am using zoom and is FREE. Registration is required in order to receive a Zoom link. The book for April 3rd is "The Other Einstein" by Heather Terrell and for May 1st is "The Secret Keeper" by Kate Morton. To register, go to sjpl.bibliocommons.com/events.

Virtual Evergreen Branch Book Club: If you prefer the Evergreen Branch Library, come join their book club also suitable for adults online using Zoom. This event takes place the 1st Wednesday of every month from 6 pm to 7 pm. This is a FREE online event, but registration is required in order to receive a Zoom link. The book for April 7th is "A Letter to My Daughter" by Maya Angelou. To register, go to sjpl.bibliocommons.com/events.

Virtual Evergreen Teen Book Club: If you are an avid reader between the ages of 13 and 18 that is looking to join a virtual book club, look no more. Come join the Evergreen Teen Book Club online for this book-fueled social hour geared towards teens and young adults hosted by volunteers from the Evergreen Teens Reach using Zoom. This is a FREE online event which takes place the 1st Friday of every month from 5 pm to 6 pm but registration is required in order to receive a Zoom link. The book for April 2nd is "The Weight of our Sky" by Hanna Alkaf. To register, go to sjpl.bibliocommons.com/events

SJPL Express Pickup Service: Do you enjoy reading and miss being able to go to the library to check out a few good books to read at your leisure? If so, San Jose Public Library Express Pickup offers you an easy, contactless, and convenient way to access our physical collection, while the interior of the library remains closed at this time. Express Pickup hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 1 pm to 6 pm and you can request to hold up to a maximum of 30 library items. In order to do this, just follow these 3 easy and quick steps. Step 1: Reserve or hold your items online or call a participating location. Step 2: Wait to be notified by email or phone once your items are ready for pickup. Step 3: Book an appointment to pick up your items. For more information about this valuable service including pickup locations, hours & contacts, visit the San Jose Public Library website at www.sjpl.org.



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Every year March is reserved for Women's History Month! During this month, many communities join in celebration to recognize the contributions women have made to our society. March was established as

Women's History Month when President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation marking March 2-8, 1980, as the first national Women's History Week which was later expanded into a month by congressional proclamation in 1987. We saw history in the making this year in 2021 when we elected our first ever female vice president, Kamala Harris, to office. But here are some other fun and interesting facts you may not have known about other females who have left their mark with their contributions throughout history. Did you know for example, that there was a female pharaoh? Serving as the fifth pharaoh of Ancient Egypt, Hatshepsut ruled during the 18th Dynasty. She took the throne as regent for her son, and her reign stretched over two decades. Historians believe that her rule was a favorable one, and today she is considered to have been one of the most powerful women in the ancient world. Many people probably also do not know that the top two IQ scores ever recorded via standard testing belong to women. For centuries, the prevailing thinking believed that women were inferior to men when it came to intelligence. However, the history of standardized IQ testing changed all of that, as both of the top two IQ scores ever recorded belong to women. One of those women is the renowned author and columnist, Marilyn vos Savant, who to this day still holds the Guinness World Record for "highest IQ." Then there was Marie Curie who won not one but **two** Nobel Prizes, the first for physics for spontaneous radiation and the second in chemistry, thanks to her extensive studies on radioactivity. Many people also tend to think that we owe computer technology solely to men but are sorely mistaken as women actually played a major role in areas such as the development of computer technology. In fact, many women changed technology for the better such as Susan Kare who developed much of the Apple Macintosh's interface elements. On the computer programming side of things, Admiral "Amazing Grace" Hopper, was known as a pioneering computer programmer in her day and was highly influential on the development of one of the first programming languages called COBOL. Then there was Margaret Hamilton also known as the woman behind the infamous moon landing as she is the one responsible for inventing the software that made the moon landing possible. Speaking of space, Sally Ride was the first American woman in space on June 18, 1983 when she launched aboard NASA's Space Shuttle Challenger. And in a more modern-day example, Charlie Blackwell-Thompson is NASA's current launch director and the first female to hold that position in NASA's history. She is leading the Artemis program which aims to return Americans to the moon by 2024. In a recent interview, she said that "30% of the engineers in the firing room will be women during the first Artemis moon rocket launch". Not only did Charlie make note of the increase in number of roles women will play in NASA's firing room but went one step further to say that NASA plans to land the first woman on the moon by 2024 as well with Artemis. How amazing would that be, the first female vice president and first female to step foot on the moon all within 5 years! And speaking of technology, we owe a lot of major inventions to women. Just take Mary Anderson, for instance, who in 1903 invented the windshield wipers that would become standard equipment on all cars by 1916. Other useful inventions women are credited for include Margaret Knight who invented the square-bottomed brown paper bag, Josephine Cochrane who invented the dishwasher, Stephanie Kwolek who invented kevlar, Ann Tsukamoto who invented stem cell isolation, and Nancy Johnson who invented the ice cream maker. Other inventions associated to women include disposable diapers, white-out, non-reflective glass, and modern petroleum refining methods and the list goes on and on. When it comes to the field of medicine, Fe del Mundo was the first female student at Harvard Medical School and is credited with studies that led to the invention of an improved incubator and a jaundice relieving device. Finally, there were the pretty faces that were well known in the acting world but also had other hidden talents. For example, in addition to being a successful movie actress in the 1940s, Hedy Lamarr developed a radio-controlled torpedo device. The device utilized frequency hopping as a way to prevent the jamming of torpedo signals. While her invention was not utilized during WWII, the American government used her device to help with future conflicts and efforts. Josephine Baker, a well-known singer and performer, and the first black female to star in a major motion picture, smuggled messages to French soldiers during WWII. She would carefully conceal the hidden messages in clever ways, often using invisible ink to conceal them in her sheet music or simply hiding them inside her dress.



2021 TAX HELP @ HILLVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistant) is offering **FREE** tax help to hard working individuals and families whose **income is less than \$57,000**. Electronic filing is being offered and volunteers are trained to prepare the necessary forms. If you or someone you know qualifies for this service, come to the Hillview Branch Library where this service is available through April 10, 2021 every Saturday from 2 pm to 5 pm. Assistance is available in English, Vietnamese, and Thai. For more information, to make an appointment, and find out what you need to bring with you, visit the San Jose Public Library website at www.sjpl.org. If you prefer getting your tax services online instead, Tax-Aid is also offering **FREE** virtual tax services and assistance during the 2021 tax season for those who earned less than \$57,000 a year. Their expert volunteers are ready to help with several options available. To learn more about their program and what they require, go to www.tax-aid.org.

LINKEDIN MADE EASY: FROM CONFUSING TO CONQUERED IN 60 MINUTES

Now more than ever, LinkedIn has become an essential tool for job seekers looking for work. Making a LinkedIn profile is the first step, but it will not help your job search if you do not know how to utilize your LinkedIn profile properly. And with so many people out there right now competing for jobs, how can you grab the attention of potential employers and recruiters? If you are someone who wants to find out the answers to these questions, then join San Jose Public Library for their **'LinkedIn Made Easy: From Confusing to Conquered in 60 Minutes'** virtual workshop and learn how to create a LinkedIn profile that will help you stand out. This virtual workshop takes place the 1st Tuesday of every month from March to May 2021 from 4 pm to 5 pm. This workshop is **FREE** offering an intensive yet entertaining hour of instruction that will provide important basics of a LinkedIn profile which include Cover Image/Headshots, Headlines, About section, Experience section, and Recommendations and Interests section. Participants will also learn how to create a custom profile link, best practices for connecting with others, and an innovative method for finding employment through LinkedIn. The workshop will conclude with a Q&A segment. Registration for this **FREE** virtual workshop is required. To register, go to www.sjpl.org.



BASIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP ONLINE PROGRAM

March 17, 2021 – May 12, 2021 ● 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PST



Want to be your own boss? Do you have an idea for a business that you are ready to put into action? Do you have a side hustle that you want to turn into a business? Then don't miss out on joining us for this new 9-session Online Basic Entrepreneurship Program which is co-sponsored by City of San Jose and Centro Community Partners. This online course is for entrepreneurs with a business idea or in a business start-up mode seeking to create or enhance their business planning. All you need is a smartphone or computer, the desire to learn, and dedication to making your business the best it can be! What will you gain out of this online course? A wealth of knowledge and the tools to go after and believe in your dream. By doing this program you get 27 hours of online class training on basic business competencies, two hours of one-on-one coaching with one of our experienced business trainers, guidance to support the development of your critical thinking and decision making skills and help to create and improve your business plan, all of which will be delivered using *Centro's Business Planning App*. Centro Community Partners is a local non-profit that provides a step-by-step workshop series to help new and rising entrepreneurs, especially women and underserved communities, create a business plan and prepare themselves for business ownership. Our dynamic, interactive, and fun workshops help you develop your business model and interact with other amazing entrepreneurs. You can learn more about them, by calling (510) 556-4249 or visiting Centro's or San Jose Public Library Work's websites. The dates for this program are Wednesday, March 17, 24 & 31, April 7, 14, 21 & 28, and May 5 & 12, 2021 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm each day. The best part? This online program is **FREE**. So, don't miss out and go to their link at www.eventbrite.com/e/want-to-be-your-own-boss-tickets-134035454653 to register by March 10, 2021 to save your spot!



TAKE SOME VIRTUAL GARDENING CLASSES



Every month the UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County hosts a few good **FREE** online classes. Below are the classes coming up that you may be interested in if you like gardening. To register for any of these classes, simply go to their website at mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu under the '**Events Calendar**' which can be found in the menu on the far left. Their website also contains a wealth of information for any garden lover including what you need to know to have a successful vegetable garden especially if you don't have much experience gardening. Happy Gardening!

Successful Vegetable Gardening Classes: If you live in Santa Clara County and enjoy growing your own vegetables then these gardening classes are for you! Gardening year round is easy and rewarding in the mild Mediterranean climate of Santa Clara County. Join various UC Master Gardeners to learn how to grow a successful, environmentally responsible food garden that provides delicious vegetables every month of the year. This online course which consists of a total of 8 Zoom classes takes you through the basics needed for a successful vegetable garden, from planning and soil preparation through caring for your vegetables and dealing with potential pests. Classes are held every Monday evening from 7 pm to 8:30 pm starting on February 22, 2021 through April 12, 2021. Join us for as many of the 8 classes as you can to get the most out of the course. The classes are **FREE** but you have to register.

Growing Your Own Sweet Potatoes: This class takes place on March 11, 2021 from 5 pm to 6 pm. Master Gardener Karen Schaffer will explain how to grow sweet potatoes in our climate, including how to grow your own slips, when to plant, and how to harvest. This virtual class is **FREE** but you have to register.

Become a Weed Warrior: This class takes place on March 13, 2021 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Master Gardener Pamela Trounstone will address the most common weed types and their weaknesses. She will also discuss Integrated Pest Management and the tools that give gardeners an edge when going into battle. Finally, she will help you to identify that vexatious vine in your backyard and the problem plants all around Santa Clara County. This virtual class is **FREE** but you have to register.

How to Save Money With Water Wise Gardening Techniques: This class takes place on March 16, 2021 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. The spring and summer months are upon us which means turning your sprinkler system back on and potentially an increase in your water bill. Master Gardener Anita Rosen will provide you with solid techniques to lower your water bill, cool down your yard, give plants the right amount of water without waste, and at the same time save our precious aquifers. This virtual class is **FREE** but you have to register.

Growing Tomatoes And Peppers Successfully: This class takes place on March 18, 2021 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Master Gardener Joan Cloutier will explain how you can increase your success in growing tomatoes and peppers. You will learn how correct planting methods, pest control, irrigation, soil management, and fertilizer can produce healthy and productive plants. You will also find out why selecting a good variety for your garden or container will help produce a good crop. This virtual class is **FREE** but you have to register.

Growing Warm Season Vegetables: This class takes place on March 25, 2021 from 7 pm to 8 pm. UC Master Gardener Laura Monczynski will help you to plan and plant your warm season vegetable garden. She will explain how you can plant a garden to yield fresh vegetables all summer long which include the basics of site selection, soil preparation, planting and maintaining warm season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, beans, and squash. She will also discuss growing in containers and what to do about some of the pests you may encounter here in Santa Clara County. This virtual class is **FREE** but you have to register.

Spring Succulent Workshop: This class takes place on April 10, 2021 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. UC Master Gardener Judy Hecht will take you through the steps to construct your own, one-of-a-kind decorative living sculpture, a succulent birdhouse. She will also explain how to care for a living succulent arrangement in this live hands-on virtual workshop. A kit of materials will be available for pick up from the Guadalupe River Park Conservatory Visitor Center at set times before the workshop. You can feel free to supplement with cuttings from your own succulents to personalize your arrangement and you will need to provide your own glue gun and glue. The cost for this workshop is \$25 for Guadalupe River Park Conservatory members and \$35 for non-members. There are a limited number of spots available as this workshop only allows for a maximum of 15 participants so sign up soon to secure your spot! Registration is required for this workshop and will close at 4 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021 or when spots are filled.

THE TALE OF SAINT PATRICK & THE ORIGIN OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Most people probably know that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th. But did you know that Saint Patrick wasn't actually Irish and that the way it is celebrated today is actually more a product of Irish immigrants in America? March 17 has been more of a holy day than a holiday in Ireland which the Irish have observed as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. In fact, it didn't actually become a public holiday in Ireland until 1904! On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and partake in modest feasts in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage. And who was this Saint Patrick that this day is all about you may wonder? Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle who lived during the fifth century, but who was actually born in Roman Britain, not Ireland! At age 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and brought to present-day Northern Ireland as a slave. He later managed to escape and returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. Saint Patrick was believed to have died on March 17, 461. The most well-known legend of Saint Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity using the 3 leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock. This begs the next question of whether green is associated with St. Patrick's Day or not as a reference to the color of a shamrock. It actually has nothing to do with it. Rather, green was used as the color of the flag for Ireland but not until the Great Irish Rebellion of 1641 when the Irish fought against the English. Before that, the color associated with their flag was blue! It wasn't until over the years after the rebellion that green became a national symbol of pride for Ireland. And what does the Leprechaun have to do with St. Patrick's Day you may ask? The answer is also nothing really. The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow" who were known for their trickery, which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13th, but just so happen to also be celebrated on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland. It should also be of no surprise now that the first St. Patrick's Day parade DID NOT take place in Ireland but rather in America in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. And then on March 17, 1772 homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City to honor the Irish patron saint. Today, more than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States, New York City and Boston being home to the largest celebrations. This also stands to reason then that as Irish populations grew in America during the 1800s and 1900s, so did St. Patrick's Day festivities such as wearing green clothes, drinking green beer and step dancers and marching bands parading through city streets just to name a few. This also now may explain that despite Saint Patrick being the patron saint of Ireland, how many of these St. Patrick's Day traditions were actually born in America and NOT imported from Ireland! As Irish immigrants spread out over the United States, cities began to develop their own traditions. Every year starting in 1962 for example, Chicago dyes the Chicago River green. It started when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate the holiday. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs in Ireland be closed on March 17. It wasn't until beginning in 1995, however, that the Irish government began a national campaign to use interest in St. Patrick's Day to drive tourism and showcase Ireland and Irish culture to the rest of the world. In 1996, the multi-day St. Patrick's Day Festival launched in Dublin and now attracts one million people each year. The one thing that DOES align with St. Patrick's Day and how we celebrate it, and Ireland is wearing green. This color was a symbol that Irish Americans used to honor their heritage, and which seems to have stuck all these years later. But one thing, for example, that is for sure an American innovation and the meal that became a St. Patrick's Day staple across America is eating corned beef and cabbage. Believe or not, this is NOT even a popular dish in Ireland! While ham and cabbage was eaten in Ireland, corned beef proved a cheaper substitute for impoverished immigrants. Corned beef actually became a staple of Irish Americans living in the slums of lower Manhattan, who purchased leftover provisions from ships returning from the tea trade in China. What is ironic about all of this is that the people of Ireland are now adopting St. Patrick's Day traditions from Irish America such as corned beef and cabbage. With that said, there are some American traditions, however, that might not catch on in Ireland, such as green Guinness. Saint Patrick, the patron himself, never drank green beer! **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!**



THIS MONTH.....

MAKE A TRADITIONAL IRISH DISH, IRISH SODA BREAD

As mentioned in my 'Tale Of Saint Patrick & The Origin of St. Patrick's Day', corned beef and cabbage is **NOT** actually a traditional Irish dish eaten in Ireland. Rather, Irish Soda Bread is something you would more likely see being eaten in Ireland on most days of the year including of course March 17. Here is the recipe for anyone who wants to try to make it and celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the patron of Ireland himself with a true Irish dish. ENJOY!

INGREDIENTS:

- ❖ 4 cups all-purpose flour
- ❖ 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ❖ 1 teaspoon salt
- ❖ 1 – 1 1/2 cups buttermilk



DIRECTIONS:

- Heat oven to 425°F. Brush or grease a baking sheet with melted butter or spray with a nonstick cooking spray.
- Combine dry ingredients in a deep bowl. Gradually stir in 1 cup of buttermilk, beating constantly, until dough is firm enough to be gathered into a ball. If dough crumbles, add up to 1/2 cup more buttermilk, 1 tbsp at a time, until it holds together.
- Place ball of dough on a lightly floured board, knead gently 6-8 times and shape into a round loaf.
- Place loaf on greased baking sheet and slash a 1/2-inch deep "X" into the top of the dough with a small, sharp knife. If you wish, you can also brush the top of the loaf with buttermilk before putting it in the oven to bake.
- Bake at 425°F for about 45 minutes, or until the top is golden and serve hot/warm.

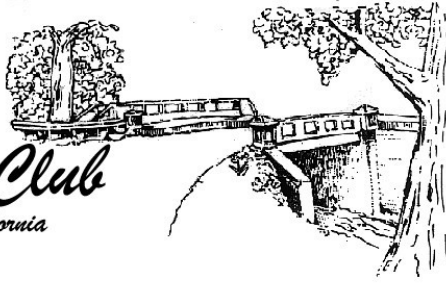
Note: This is the most traditional way of making Irish Soda Bread, with just these 4 basic ingredients, that dates back many years. However, you can add your own ingredients to give your Irish Soda Bread your own twist or desired flavor. For example, if you want to make it a bit sweeter, you can add 1 teaspoon of sugar (either regular or brown sugar works). You can also make your Irish Soda Bread with an assortment of mix-ins such as a handful of raisins, dried fruits and nuts, or caraway seeds which you would include in with the other dry ingredients in a bowl before adding the buttermilk.

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS & THE 'SPRING BLOOMS'

Spring has sprung and the wildflowers are in bloom! This also means that it is the best time of the year for hikers to get outside and view the beautiful wildflowers California has to offer. From late February to early April, you can visit your local parks to see them in full bloom! And you do not have to go far. There are 5 Santa Clara County parks where these wildflowers can be viewed. They are Almaden Quicksilver Park, Calero Park, Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch Park, Joseph D. Grant Park and Santa Teresa Park. Some of the types of wildflowers you would see on your hike on these spring trails are the California Poppy, Lupine, Blue Eyed Grass, Red Maid, Woodland Star, and the California Buttercup.



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Next newsletter deadline is March 26, 2021