

Adrienne Green

Recipient of the 2006 CGCI Lifetime Achievement Award

Adrienne Green, our most illustrious member, is a nationally acclaimed flower arranger, lecturer and writer, born in Abbeville, Louisiana, in 1919. She and her husband moved to Newtown, Connecticut, in the early 1950's. She joined the Danbury Garden Club in 1953. In 1955, Adrienne helped found the Garden Club of Newtown. Concurrently, Adrienne's passionate interest in, and talent for, flower arranging led her to become a flower show judge. Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut selected her to undertake the training to become an instructor for prospective flower show judges. After completing the five-course regimen, Adrienne became the first in Connecticut to qualify to instruct judges on flower show procedure and principles of floral design. Adrienne taught at the Symposium level for Flower Show Schools and addressed Judges Councils in Connecticut, New York, Texas, California and other states. She was accredited as a Master Judge of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

A lifelong student of art, architecture and all things beautiful, Adrienne drew on her accrued experience to relate flower arranging to other art forms. *Family Circle* magazine published a long running series about designing with flowers that Adrienne wrote and illustrated with photos of her elegant, innovative and timeless creations. *The New York Times* also published articles by Adrienne. National Garden Clubs, Inc. selected her designs to appear in multiple editions of its *Vision of Beauty* calendar.

To balance her knowledge of Western flower arranging, Adrienne studied the Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu Schools of flower arranging in New York City and Connecticut. She is a charter member of Ikebana International. Adrienne audited a number of courses on Japanese Garden Design and made several trips to Japan to visit its renowned gardens. She is an active member of the Asian Arts Council of the San Diego Museum of Art.

In the fall of 1959, Adrienne and her husband moved from Connecticut to Pacific Beach in San Diego, California. She began to create a stunning and distinctive garden on their property in Pacific Beach, a garden that continues to absorb and delight her, thirty-five years later. She joined the La Jolla Garden Club. Adrienne continued judging flower shows, teaching, writing and lecturing throughout the western states and in Connecticut and New York. In 1974, Adrienne and three others founded the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. Subsequently, she helped found Coronado's Crown Garden Club, its Bridge and Bay Garden Club and the Del Mar Garden Club. She was an advisor to the Mission Hills Garden Club. Adrienne has always encouraged our Club and others to affiliate with National Garden Clubs, Inc. and California Garden Clubs, Inc. and to support Palomar District's activities.

In January 1973, Adrienne gave freely of her time and exceptional talent to ensure the success of Palomar District's first Flower Show Workshop. Her lecture/demonstration was a key attraction/ Later, Adrienne chaired Palomar District's first Flower Show, "The Palomar Connection/" In addition, she presented floral design programs to individual garden clubs in Palomar District/ Adrienne became Chair of NGC's Southwestern Council of Judges. She was also a host, offering housing to Palomar District speakers and Flower Show instructors. At the CGCI Convention in 1984, Adrienne was charge of Special Arrangements. In 1986, Palomar District honored her as Woman of the Year.

In May 1983, the San Diego Museum of Art launched its signature community event, *Art Alive*, and enlisted Adrienne to present a program on the art of floral design. Her talk was the first in what has developed into a notable lecture series by acclaimed floral designers. During *Art Alive*, professional and accomplished amateur designers use flowers to interpret the Museum's artworks. Since *Art Alive's* inaugural year, Adrienne has been a key member of its planning committee. This year, in preparation for celebrating the 25th anniversary of *Art Alive* in April, the Museum named Adrienne its "Special *Art Alive* Honoree."

Shortly after moving to San Diego, Adrienne joined the San Diego Floral Association. Soon she was teaching SDFFA classes and demonstrating flower arranging. In January 1987, SDFFA celebrated its eightieth year with a lecture/demonstration by Adrienne that drew a "Standing room only" audience. Through the years, Adrienne has identified and been a mentor to talented floral designers, including Rene Van Rems, Velma West, David Root, Alice Harmon, Carvill Veech and numerous others. California Garden, SDFFA's esteemed magazine, has published several articles by Adrienne.

In September 2004, Quail Botanical Gardens honored Adrienne for her contributions for San Diegans to experience to beauty of plant material, by naming her the recipient of its Paul Ecke, Jr. Award of Excellence. In 2004, only four others had received this prestigious award: Chuck Ades, Paul Ecke Jr., Pat Welsh and Loren Nancarrow, all celebrities in horticultural circles.

At this stage in her life, Adrienne is a National Garden Clubs Master and International Flower Show Judge Emerita, National Garden Clubs Instructor Emerita of Flower Show Schools and Symposia for Design and Flower Show Procedure. She is a Life Member of both National Garden Clubs, Inc. and California Garden Clubs, Inc. Adrienne is cherished as a founder and charter member of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla and Coronado's Bridge and Bay Garden Club. In addition, she is an honorary member of both the Danbury Garden Club and the Garden Club of Newtown.

For many years, Adrienne has been one of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla's Palomar District Delegates, regularly attending District meetings and Palomar Floral Design Forums. She shares her expertise and dependably pitches in whenever asked. For the past three years, Adrienne has co-chaired the Horticulture Committee for our Club, planning and coordinating themed displays of unusual plants, all labeled for the instruction of our members. She serves on the Nominating and Program Committees and is Advisor to the Executive Committee. At Adrienne's suggestion four years ago, we initiated one of our most popular annual events: *Expressions in Art and Flowers*, an exhibit of artworks created by our members and shown alongside other members' flor interpretations of the art. To encourage novices, each year Adrienne offers a "Hands-on" workshop to impart design principles and confidence to participants. She has inspired many floral designers, horticulturalists and *Art Alive* volunteers to join our club.

Adrienne is loyal, tactful and wise and brings out the best in people. She has many devoted friends of all ages. She is a widow with a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. William and Connie Green of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and three adult grandchildren whom she adores and who adore her in return.

Her life's work has been so closely aligned with CGCI's mission and objectives; it is most fitting that Adrienne Green be given this year's CGCI's Lifetime Achievement Award.

By Ann Zahner