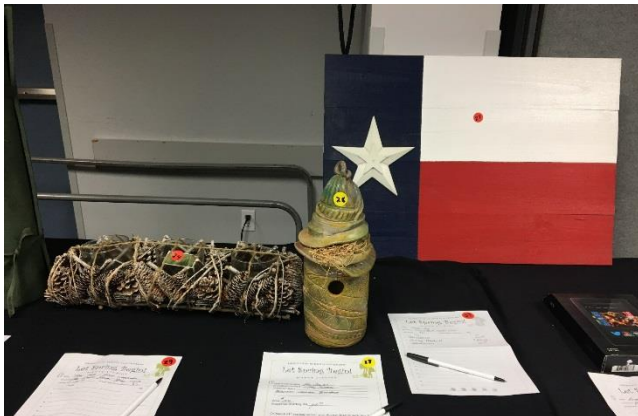


Texas Garden Club District IV Coastal Prairie Region Spring Convention – March 21, 2023



The annual District IV convention was held in Houston this year. Nine members of the Lakewood Forest garden club carpoled to the Byland Community center for the event.

A breakfast of coffee and baked goods was laid out for us and we had a chance to socialized with members of various clubs and place our bids for the 'Silent Auction' items.



After welcoming opening remarks from the District IV director Mary Vacek, a prayer and the pledge of Allegiance, Angela Roth, our first speaker was introduced.

Angela belongs to the Bouquettes Garden Club and her presentation was titled: "Gardening with Children". As a teacher at a Magnet school in Houston, Angela sparked an interest for nature, gardening and our ecosystems in her young pupils.

In a humorous way she recounted her trials and tribulation in establishing organic gardens on school grounds where the children actually worked the soil, planted flowers, herbs and vegetables and harvested the produce. She taught the children to use all senses when working in the garden: touching the texture of the soil and plants, smelling various herbs and flowers, looking for changes in color, finding and recognizing critters and finally tasting the fruits and vegetables they grew. In her experience,

children are eager to eat what they grow, even Broccoli!



During the break that followed, we were able to check out auction items of interest. Our club had donated an Easter bunny dish that generated some interest (sold for \$45.00).

The Program continued with the general business session and reports from board members and Area coordinators. Our own, Sheila Anderson reported on the activities in Area 5, of which she is the coordinator. Area 5 has six garden clubs with a total of 186 members. Noteworthy presentations offered by these clubs included beekeeping, succulent care, water gardens, native flowers, photography and many others.



First time attendees were welcomed with a rose and seasoned (age 90+) gardeners from each club were recognized. Our club members Zelma Mikolajczyk and Joyce Lester were so honored. Club members Harriett Bedenbaugh was elected Vice-Director of Budget/Finance and Pamela Randall Vice-Director of Awards.

The program continued with the presentation of awards.

Each garden club elects a Garden Angel for the year. This person will be honored at the convention. To her very surprise, Margo Probst received the Garden Angel award from our club which was presented to her by Mary Vacek.

Further awards for the club were the Honorable Mention for our Year Book and the first place for the President's Report.



The installation of officers for the garden year 2023-2024 was next. The symbol of District IV is the rose and the function of each officers was compared to specific characteristics of this flower. A solid root system, the strong stems, elegant leaves and beautiful blooms.



A truly unique experience was a Flower show presented by the District's "Virtual Designing Women". These artistic ladies re-imagine a famous painting and express the essence of the piece in a floral arrangement using all organic materials.



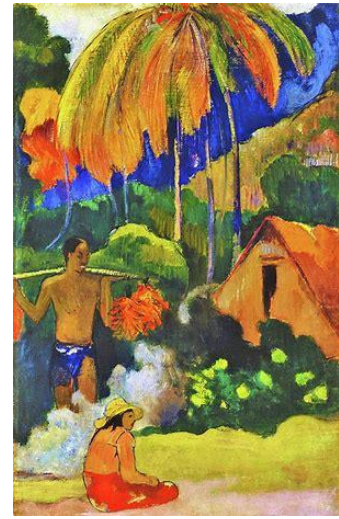
With the original artwork next to the arrangement, each artist explained her inspiration in the choice of flowers, leaves, vines, and as in this arrangement, a gourd as the center of her design.
(Paul Gauguin, "Tahitian Woman")



Reeds and grasses with a painted
leaf interpreted
Edward Alexander's "Approach
and Avoidance".



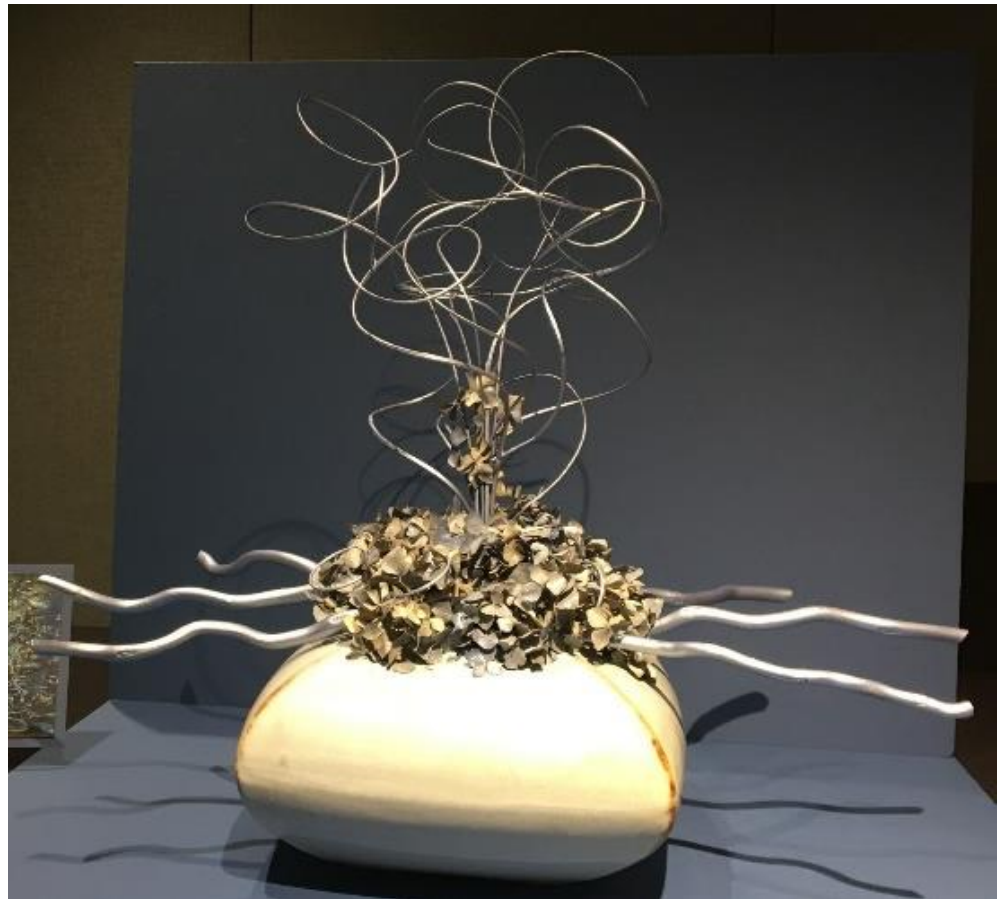
Painted and molded sago palm and
ginger leaves are the main materials
used in interpreting "Abduction" by
Paul Cézanne.



Palm leaves and colorful peppers were used to re-create "Landscape in Tahiti" by Paul Gauguin.



Curley Willow, dried Hydrangea and oakleaf were used in the floral interpretation of "Living your Life in a Fish Bowl" by Edward Alexander.





Many other presentations were admired by all.

Sixty-four gardeners attended the convention as the day came to a successful end.



A last look at the auction items before the auction closed and then the door prizes were to be won. Among many practical garden items was a gorgeous Begonia plant, the hope of many attendees. But smaller table arrangement also were appreciated by the winners.



