



## *Learn about La Colonia de Eden Gardens with Latino Historian Maria E. Garcia*

*Register using the blue link below to join a virtual presentation of  
some of the stories Maria gathered for “We Made San Diego” at  
Noon, Thursday, February 18*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtf-qtrTsoHN1LIqa\\_4bom3MAkHhZvT2hd](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtf-qtrTsoHN1LIqa_4bom3MAkHhZvT2hd)

### President's Message

*Dear friends and fellow members,*

*Happy Valentine Month. Let's make it one of  
love and kindness.*

*The past year has taken a toll — but it has also  
been a huge lesson in the importance of civic  
responsibility:*

*Wearing masks and social distancing to keep  
one another safe from Covid; supporting local  
businesses as best we could during lockdowns;  
turning out to vote; turning up for our  
community with food drives and donations. We  
couldn't hold meetings, but we kept the  
newsletter coming to members, staged a  
successful Holiday Boutique, brought art back  
to El Viento park and built a new seat, next to a  
new tree, under an old tree, at the Post Office.*

*Here's to the hope of better times when we can  
meet together without fear. In the words of  
youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman in “The  
Hill We Climb”:*

*So let us leave behind a country  
better than the one we were left with  
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
and every known nook of our nation and  
every corner called our country,  
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,  
battered and beautiful  
When day comes we step out of the shade,  
aflame and unafraid  
The new dawn blooms as we free it  
For there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it  
If only we're brave enough to be it*

*Michele Stribling*

*Watch Ms. Gorman's inaugural reading [here](#)*



Author Maria E. Garcia

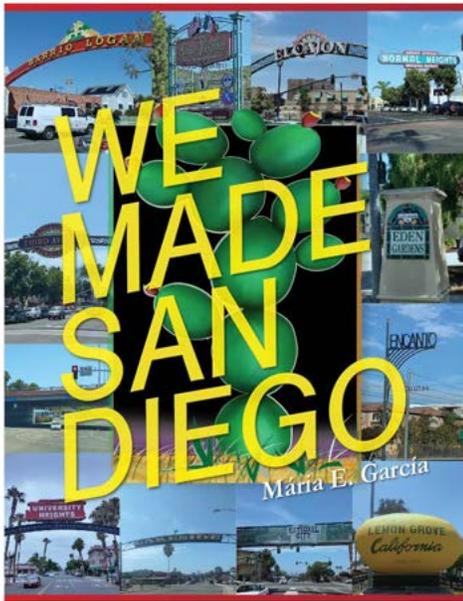
Maria Garcia is a retired school principal and has been an activist in the Chicano movement since 1968. She is the recipient of the 2015 SOHO Cultural Heritage Award for her “Neighborhood House” series about life in Logan Heights. She was inducted in the San Diego County Women’s Hall of Fame in 2016 and has been honored by the San Diego Union-Tribune as a Latino Champion.

Maria’s current book tells various stories about Latinos who contributed to the history of San Diego, including community activists who have worked to affect social issues. It also chronicles the experiences of several Latino veterans of the war in Vietnam.

The book took five years to write, after compiling dozens of oral histories. “We Made San Diego” also includes a contribution by Society Historian and Heritage Museum Curator Lisa Montes.

Maria said her interest in La Colonia, Solana Beach’s original neighborhood, started with the street names. “So many were in Spanish,” she noted. Local resident Gina Gonzales set up a meeting where she and eight other women shared stories about growing up in La Colonia. Maria also met with Ray and Theresa Rincon of Tony’s Jacal restaurant and its long presence, as well as Simona Gonzales, who started the first Girl Scout troop in Eden Garden and who, with her husband Frank, coached a 1959 Little League World Series playoff team.

*Continued on following page*



## *Maria Garcia: Educator, activist, author . . .*

“The men and women in this community worked as house keepers, gardeners and raised their children. They united to save a church. They sent their sons to fight in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and every war since then. In the 1980s, when the whole country faces a drug problem, La Colonia faced the same problem. The [San Diego County] Fair and the race track contributed to the financial growth of business in La Colonia. People such as Lucy and Desi Arnaz, J. Edgar Hoover and sports figures and jockeys were all part of the community,” she notes.

Maria was born in Yuma, Arizona and moved to San Diego at age 3, growing up in Encanto. Following are insights to her background and activism excerpted from a 2017 interview with the San Diego Union- Tribune:

*“My biggest challenges have been the racism I faced as a young child. It affects the way you see yourself for years. . . My first year of school I learned that eating tortillas was wrong since my poor mother received a call asking that she not pack tortillas in my lunch so that the other students would not make fun of me.”*

*“That negative self-image I experienced as a child stayed with me for the next 12 years of my life. I guess that’s why I experienced such interest in the Chicano movement. It gave me a place to belong. The Chicano movement gave me pride in who I am.”*

After attending San Diego State University and joining the Chicano Movement, *“I believed that we would change the world. I honestly thought by being educated and teaching future generations not to be racist, we would have a different world by the year 2000. I was so naïve. I thought by fighting for equality and teaching the history of our accomplishments in this country we would be respected. The movement taught me so much about working together. I loved the unity experienced in a picket line. I loved learning about people and historical events which came via the Chicano Studies classes I took at SDSU.”*

While going to college as a business major, Maria worked as a teacher’s aide, which convinced her to change her major and become an educator — based in Southeast San Diego, rising through the ranks to become a vice principal and principal. After retiring, she worked as a teacher at the Ronald McDonald House. *“I worked with the children whose siblings were at Children’s Hospital. My goal was to give these kids attention and some form of ‘fun.’ In some cases, they were watching their sibling dying and needed that special attention.”*

*“Lately my motivations have been to make sure that others know about our contributions to this country and especially to San Diego . . . I think we have so much untapped power in our community we just have to move it forward to gain the respect and recognition we deserve.”*

**“We Made San Diego” will be available for purchase through Amazon books starting in late February.**

# Solana Beach Trash is Going Greener

Starting in March, you can add food scraps to your EDCO-provided green yard-waste cart.

EDCO is jump-starting its “Organics Recycling” in Solana Beach to get ahead of mandatory, statewide organic recycling requirements designed both to reduce food waste and the related methane gas it releases when buried in a landfill. The company is constructing an advanced technology Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility in San Diego County to produce natural gas for the region. You should have received EDCO’s “coming soon” newsletter about organics recycling in your mail recently. This illustration was included.

## Overcoming “ick” issues . . .

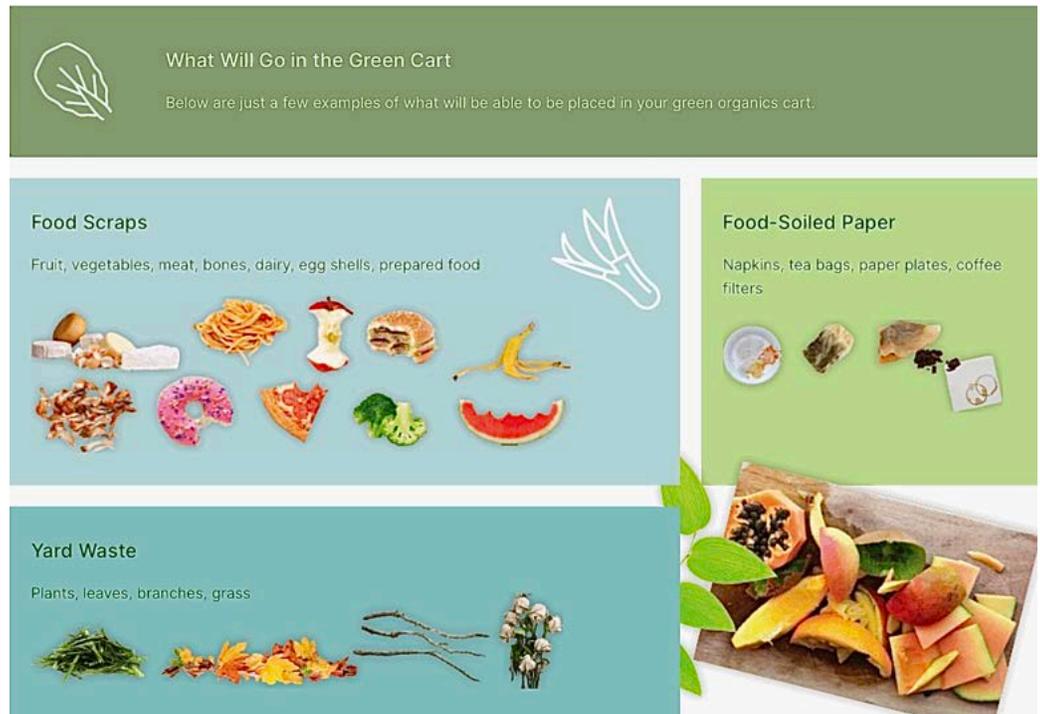
EDCO also offers tips and tools to help us overcome the “ick”

reaction to the idea of keeping kitchen scraps around until trash day. View a helpful [educational video available here](#). Among the suggestions:

- Gather and wrap scraps in any non-waxed paper (such as newspaper, paper towel or a paper bag) before adding them to an indoor container or directly to your green waste bin.
- Store scraps in a container in your freezer.
- Or order a free, 1.5 gallon “kitchen caddie” with a self-sealing, locking lid from EDCO by clicking the “Request Kitchen Caddie” button at the bottom of the Organics Recycling page at [edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com).
- **DO NOT store scraps in plastic bags even if they are labeled as “compostable.”**
- If you need more curbside green waste bins for recycling organics, order additional cans from EDCO free of charge.

Developing the habit of organics recycling is old hat for many of our gardeners who regularly compost yard and kitchen waste. One of our wise SeaWeeders made it easy by creating about a four-inch diameter hole in her kitchen counter, near the sink. Vegetable peelings and other scraps are simply wiped into the open space where they fall to a bucket waiting beneath.

For our March or April program, the Society plans a virtual meeting where our members can learn from one another — and an EDCO representative — about creating an organics recycling routine. Details to follow by email and in your next newsletter.





Work on a new seat for Post Office patrons was completed January 28 with the addition of an inscription in late Society president Gloria Jones' honor. Here are Jimmy Joe Gooding (L) and artist Brett Reisdorf (R) installing the new bench in December. The project was jointly funded by the Jones family and the Society. Jimmy Joe now will tackle a much-needed project to refurbish the nearby "Topiary" sculpture by Christie Beniston. Christie okayed Jimmy Joe's proposal to complete work on-site, dramatically reducing repainting and sealing costs, which will be shared by the Society and the SeaWeeders Garden Club. SeaWeeders continue upkeep of the garden and plan a "mulch party" on Saturday, February 13, 9 to 11 a.m., to help control weeds. Want to help? Email [SBS seaweeders@gmail.com](mailto:SBS seaweeders@gmail.com).

**Welcome 2020-21\* Society Members!**  
**Thank you for your support . . . \*\***

Lisa and Bruce Applegate, Kristi Becker, Lori Borowski, Asli Carom, Cindi and Dave Clemons, Pat and Gary Coad, Lenore Dale, Pam and Mike Dalton, *Katie Dixon*, Bob and Karen Dorney, Kathleen and Jim Drummond, Jewel and Jim Edson, Karin Esser, Maureen Finkelstein, Virginia and Bob Garland, Tom and Donna Golich, Irina and Erik Gronborg, *Karen Grossman*, Kelly Harless and Robert Glatts, Lesa Heebner and Donald Davis, Judy Hegenauer, Cynthia Hill, Michael Hogan, Laurie and Philip Klein, Sharon Klein, Tedi Kostka, Lillian Leslie, Kevin Lustig and Monica Fernandez, Lois Martin, Amy McClenahan. Marilee McLean and Bob Hubbard, Sandy Mills, Rena C. Monge, Jane Morton, Jackie Nagy and family, Katie and Steve Pelisek, Betsy and Terry Penberth, *Mike and Nancy Pfeiffer*, John Randall, Nancy Rech, Tracy and Debby Richmond, *Steven and Sharon Clay Rose*, John and Linda Scales, Judy Schramm, Holly Smith-Jones, Nancy Sommerville, Michele and Frank Stribling, Trudy Synodis, Cathy Tyre, Betsy Walcott and Stephan Miller, Norman and Patricia Walker, Barry and Mary Walker, Chris and Sunday Wakeham, Helen Westcott, Jan Wier, Jane Wilkens

**Lifetime Members**

Anne Ames, Rose Andrews, *Jennifer Ball*, Jackie Barrett, Jolene Dodson Bogard, Marge Burton, Carol Childs and Peter House, Chuck Cuccaro, Marion Dodson, EDCO Waste & Recycling Services, Ruby Edman, Robert and Nancy Gottfredson, Ana Maria Grace, *Holly Smith Jones*, Jim and Janie King, Eric and Suellen Lodge, Gilbert and Effie Lopez, Richard and Frances Moore, Kathalijn Nelson, Wally Oliver and Dave Roberts, Teresa and Raymond Rincon, Phyllis Schwartzlose

\*Dues collected starting each Spring for July-September fiscal year  
 \*\* November-January joiners in italics

**Solana Beach Library Nears  
 20th Anniversary**

Our branch opened in June, 2001 after a years-long fundraising effort to complete the \$3.4 million project. Were you at the grand opening? [Email](#) your memories and photos so we can share them in a commemorative newsletter and through our Society website.

**Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society is a non-profit charitable corporation 501 (c)(3)**  
[solanabeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:solanabeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

**2020-21 Executive Board**

President.....Michele Stribling  
 Vice President.....Sandy Mills  
 Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones  
 Recording Secretary..... Kathleen Drummond  
 Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

**Committee Chairs**

Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons  
 Communication.....Pat Coad  
 Crafts Group.....Phyllis Schwartzlose, Pam Dalton  
 Education.....Pat Coad  
 Emeritus President.....Virginia Garland  
 Hospitality.....Cindy Pomeroy  
 Membership.....Betsy Walcott  
 Historian, Museum Curator.....Lisa Montes  
 Newsletter.....Kathleen Drummond  
 Nominations.....JoJo Dodson Bogard  
 Parliamentarian.....Carol Childs  
 Programs.....Carol Childs  
 Scrapbooks .....Nancy Gottfredson  
 SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond  
 Website.....Lenore Dale, Kathleen Drummond