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Our Volunteer of the Month is Marion Winandy. Born in Baltimore, then growing up in Ohio, Marion took a few detours but eventually ended up settling in Poway in 1997 with her husband, Joe, and their three daughters. Her daughters are now grown and flourishing in Poway, Colorado and Alaska along with her two grandchildren, also in Alaska. Marion has always been a lover of gardens and gardening but worked as a clinical laboratory scientist far from fresh air and sunshine. Wanting to give back to the community, while she was still working, she started volunteering with Feeding San Diego. "We are so lucky that we have food every day when so many people are hungry." Marion said.

After retiring in 2016 she looked for other volunteer opportunities (and excuses to be in the sunshine) and jumped in with both feet. She saw a link to Senior Gleaners on the Feeding San Diego's website. How fortunate we were that she clicked on that link! Her work with Senior Gleaners has been invaluable, always willing to haul, deliver, participate in gleans all over the county and brainstorm ideas when concerns arise. She has even taken on the role of co-leader for the North County crew. And it can't go without mentioning that she has a vast knowledge of good breakfast spots for us to frequent after our picks!

Marion puts her love of gardening to use not only in her beautiful prolific personal garden and Senior Gleaners, but she spends Monday mornings working with Backyard Produce Community Garden growing vegetables that are delivered to local centers. For both her work with Senior Gleaners and Backyard Produce she says that "you come for the good work, stay for the friendships".

When not digging in the soil or plucking fruit from trees, Marion is devoted to her dog, Miley, with multiple daily walks and helping her get out of the mischief in which she often finds herself. She enjoys playing pickleball on local courts a couple of times per week and also enjoys settling down with a good book

When asked about how she felt about Senior Gleaners, Marion said, "I do truly appreciate our fellow gleaners and, particularly, our Gleaner leaders. We have a wonderful group of people who are kind, caring and thoughtful."

Kind, caring and thoughtful. Those are perfect words to describe Marion, a treasured member of Senior Gleaners. Congratulations, Marion, on a much-deserved award!

*Interview by Gleaner Debbie Wismar*

## The U.S. wastes 40,000,000 tons of food every year



The United States wastes more food than any other country. An estimated [40 million tons](#) of food, which is 30-40% of the country's entire food supply, is thrown away every year. That food goes on to make up 22% of the total garbage in landfills.

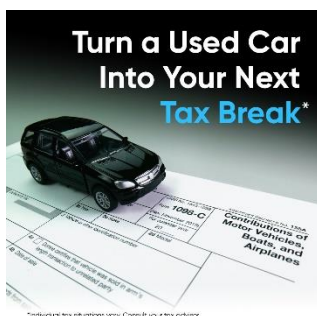
Grocery stores accounted for [around five million tons](#) of that food waste in 2021, throwing away perfectly good produce and other edible goods every day, with 1.55 million tons ending up in landfills.

And once the food gets to the landfills, the damage isn't finished yet. There, it releases planet-warming gases like methane and carbon dioxide as it breaks down, [contributing significantly](#) to the overheating of our planet.

In addition to all that, [34 million people](#) — including nine million children — in the U.S. are currently food insecure.

Senior Gleaners are helping to lower these numbers in our communities. Know that we make a difference in some people's lives in our work of picking fruit and picking up donated groceries. Thanks for making a difference.

This article written and first published by Jeremiah Budin



A huge thank you to **Jerry and Sharon (a former gleaner) Talbott** for donating a second vehicle.

It's so easy. Just sign on to Careasy.org. CARS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that helps thousands of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and Canada increase their fundraising and acquire new contributors through turn-key vehicle

## RSVP picnic

A small group of Senior Gleaners attended the RSVP picnic in May. This was a fun time with lunch provided and certificates given for being a part of RSVP. All Gleaners are invited to this yearly event. Be sure to watch for the invitation in the RSVP newsletter. If by chance you do not get this newsletter, please let Trixxie know at 619-633-9180. You signed up with RSVP when you first became a Gleaner. They are the organization that covers our insurance needs, among other things.



# Apparel Shop



Hat \$10

T-shirt \$15

Polo shirt \$20

Hoodie \$35

A few women's poly \$15

Add your name for \$5

To order Call Daryush at 619-997-8177

## Picked fruit and groceries 2023 to September

District	Pounds	Gleans	Hours
South	2,684	13	321
East	41,929	107	850
Clairemont	6,491	41	943
North	34,769	52	1321
Far North	20,769	16	In north count
Groceries	16,981	28	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123,623</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>3,606</b>

Previous years totals	Pounds gleaned
2019	159,744
2020	141,270
2021	186,717
2022	185,647
2023	

230 volunteers – 117 distinct individuals attending gleans

The volume is down significantly from last year. We can only speculate why that is. It is also down for the other gleaning organizations.

### Follow Us on LinkedIn-----Follow us on Facebook

Senior Gleaners has published its LinkedIn profile. Follow us and share our news with your friends and family.

Visit: [www.linkedin.com/company/seniorgleanerssd/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/seniorgleanerssd/)

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=senior%20gleaners%20san%20diego%20county>

. "The day that hunger is eradicated from the earth there will be the greatest spiritual explosion the world has ever known. Humanity cannot imagine the joy that will burst into the world." – Federico Garcia Lorca, Spanish poet

## Outreach and Marketing

### Girl Scouts

Cheri Gabler had a phone interview with a group of Girl Scouts from troop 305 in Escondido. They are working on a project learning how to reduce food waste and what is being done in the community. They were very interested in our work and what we do. Cheri directed them to check out our new website. She invited them to join us on a pick as guest pickers several months ago .... it just never worked out for them.

### Chelsea Investments

The community of Clairemont in San Diego was abuzz with excitement at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mt. Etna affordable housing project. Among the attendees were Sate Treasure Fiona Ma, County Chairwoman Nora Vargas, Mayor Todd Gloria, and Councilmember Jennifer Campbell for groundbreaking of three new affordable housing communities. As the ceremony unfolded, representatives from the Chelsea Investment Corporation stepped forward to address the crowd. They commended the Senior Gleaners for their remarkable contributions and unwavering dedication to making San Diego County a better place. In recognition of our efforts, the corporation presented the Senior Gleaners with a check for \$1,500.00. The Senior Gleaners were filled with gratitude and joy upon receiving the unexpected gift. The generous donation would provide a significant boost to our mission of feeding the hungry in the community. It was a heartwarming moment, as the Senior Gleaners realized that our hard work and commitment had not gone unnoticed by the Chelsea Investment Corporation.

### Kitchenistas

**Carlos Cortez** gave a presentation about Senior Gleaners to the Kitchenistas which is a group of graduates from Olivewood Gardens. They learn ways to serve better, nutritious food to their families using fresh produce and low-calorie alternatives. They are considering starting a gleaning program in cooperations with Senior Gleaners.



To the tune of Free Fallin'  
by Tom Petty



Margaret Burton,  
worked in quality assurance

Loves her family,  
and picking fruit

She's the President  
of Senior Gleaners

Picks up groceries,  
for non-profits too

And she looks for,  
absurdly big orchards

To go pick and,  
send her seniors to

Stop the fruit, fruit falling  
No more fruit, fruit falling

Daryush,  
loves his wife Rita

Grew up farming

And picking fruit too

Now he works to

Help reduce food waste

Drive seniors

And his grandkids too

Stop the fruit

Fruit falling

No more fruit

Fruit falling

*Written by Vocational Service  
Director James Wright.*

## More Outreach and Marketing

### Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center

Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center's historic 7.85-acre property in National City, California serves as an interactive, indoor-outdoor classroom for children and adults from around San Diego County. Their purpose is to build healthy families and a healthy environment. With a focus on Education, Access & Advocacy, they provide science-based environmental education and nutrition lessons, hands-on gardening and cooking classes, and job skills and leadership development programs for youth, adults, and families.

Board members Monte Turner and Carlos Cortez met with their director to form a working relationship with Senior Gleaners. Olivewood will be posting our brochures and we hope to get some business from them.

### Play Day with Olivewood Gardens

Margaret Burton and Daryush Bastani hosted an information table at a play day at Olivewood Gardens. Besides passing out gleaner brochures, we also had a corn hole bean bag toss game set up where anyone winning got an orange. Anyone who played got an orange too for participating!



### Escondido Rotary Club

This was an amazing event! Daryush and Margaret went to Escondido to talk about Senior Gleaners to the Rotary Club. They had a special parking place for the speakers and there were about 100 people in attendance. There was a catered lunch. They made up a song for us! To the tune of "Free Fallin'" by Tom Petty.



