

## Meet a Fellow RPGC Member

George Garbero, a relatively new member of RPGC, does everything except make the paint for his paintings. He started painting about 35 years ago after his first heart attack and really got into it, he said. He even made frames for many of them.

“I was always artistic and I really liked painting, so started taking classes and attending workshops. I even painted motorcycles. I stopped painting for a while, as I recovered,” he explained. After a recent health setback, he’s back painting again. Among his recent paintings, is “Honey Run Bridge” (right) a covered bridge over Butte Creek in Chico that was destroyed during the 2018 Camp Fire.

“A friend sent me an old photograph of the bridge and I painted it in 2020. It is acrylic on canvas,” Garbero said.

In between, his painterly life, he was a goldsmith.

He opened a small shop in Old Sacramento called G.S. Garbero, Goldsmith in 1973.

“That was when there were only three buildings up and running. There were still hobos sleeping on the streets down there,” he said. “I still have a bench (jeweler’s) set up and I like casting gold, but at \$1,700 an ounce now, you don’t want to play around too much!”

Principally, however, he is a “rocksmith” of the non-musical variety. For many years, he did rockwork for local pool companies such as Geremia and Aquarius. He incorporated his special koi ponds in many landscapes, including his own. Built entirely of concrete (though it looks so much like stone, you wouldn’t believe it), his koi pond and water features grace his and wife Denise’s beautifully landscaped River Park garden.

A locally well-known Japanese garden in Loomis, owned by an avid gardener, also contains many real rock creations that Garbero created.

“She hired a sensei who came from Japan to place the major rocks in this garden. When he left, it was up to me to build the rest of the garden around those rocks, all the streams, beds and a koi pond,” he said. “My name is even on a plaque out there. I think it is called ‘The Garden of Peace and Harmony’.”





# River Park Garden Club's History

During your garden club's 70th anniversary year (2021), we will explore its interesting history and show its significant contributions. For example, the Yermol Memorial Fountain at the entrance to River Park.

A joint gift of the RPGC, the River Park Mother's Club, the River Park Neighborhood Association, and the City of Sacramento, the fountain was dedicated in November 1998 to honor Roy and Fran

Yermol, whose tireless labor added so much color and garden interest to the entrance.

So often you could wave to Fran as she toiled in the dirt on the traffic islands and the area near the firehouse, leaving us a legacy of beauty.



---

## Spring Beauty Around River Park



Photos by Leilani Yang