



The Spindrifter

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General Meeting

APRIL 23, 2020

CANCELED

~From the Co-President's Desk~

In times of uncertainty, our gardens serve as a place of peace and solitude. As we connect with nature, time seems to slow down, and numerous studies have shown that it helps lower stress and anxiety. During this unprecedented time while we're all trying to understand this virus and its potential impacts, we encourage our members to take time to retreat to your garden and hopefully find a little peace. As a club, we are being challenged with the ever-changing COVID-19 situation in our community and around the world. We must follow the mandates that have been directed and thus not gather together until it is safe to do so. It is with sincere regret that we must cancel the April meeting.

In the past, we have used the Spindrifter and occasional EBlasts to keep the membership informed. During this time of social distancing, we feel the need for connection is more critical than ever. You will soon begin receiving "Voices from Our Village" EBlasts. These voices are **Yours**. Please send Sue Kalish suekinlj@yahoo.com pictures from your gardens, share available community resources, interesting websites and online tours, your thoughts, recipes, and anything else you would like to include. **Your voice is important!**

Early this year we found ourselves in dire need of a more professional projector to combat the sanctuary lighting and enhance the quality of our wonderful speaker presentations. Thanks to the efforts of Penelope West, our new Epson LS100 debuted at the February meeting with an enthusiastic response. What a relief that we could actually see the extraordinary photographs of Beaver Castle and the Duchess of Rutland's beautiful family! We wouldn't have wanted to miss any part of her wonderful presentation that so charmingly transported us to another world. (Cont'd on pg. 2.)



(Cont'd from pg. 2.) This large expenditure was not in our budget, but since it benefits the entire club, we decided it was a necessary purchase and are hoping that grateful members will show appreciation by sending in a tax-deductible donation to the Speakers Fund.

Please continue sending in your renewal forms found on our website. During this time our core club objectives will still hold strong and are evident in all the work that has gone into planning our spring events that have now been canceled. We are calling on the Expressions in Art and Flowers team that was ready to go in March to please just pause and present your show next year. The same goes for the large Members Garden Tour committee that had found some lovely member gardens to show off. We are also counting on you to stay together and plan for next spring or even in the fall if you choose.

As individuals we will continue to promote horticulture, civic projects, practice conservation, and to beautify our own environments even though we cannot gather together. Now is the time to connect with nature as we all look for peace and joy in the world around us. Let's fill our gardens with cheerful flower color for all to enjoy or go back to basics and plant a vegetable garden.

Thinking of you all and hoping you and your families stay safe and healthy.

Sue and Sue
Co-Presidents

Bouquet of Thanks Tillandsia Workshop



Thanks to all for supporting the Bouquet of Thanks Tillandsia Workshop hosted by Annette Ritchie-Buis on March 5th. Everyone had a great time, and we were pleased to see new faces at this workshop.

Thirteen enthusiastic volunteers made 131 Tillandsia arrangements that were absolutely stunning and fanciful, and which brightened the patient rooms and clinics at the VA Medical Center. The VA always loves our Tillandsias as they are such long-lasting, easy-care creations. From time to time, I even see ones we made several years ago in offices around the hospital.

One family took the time after losing their son to write us that the Tillandsia terrarium was their son's favorite item in his palliative care room.

We owe Annette a huge debt of gratitude for organizing the event with me and opening her lovely home and garden to work in. She kept us nourished with her outstanding chili, coffee cake, and snacks, along with Susie Johnson's wonderful cornbread. How would we have gotten through tying on all those enclosure cards without that delicious lunch?

Thanks to all who gathered and contributed extra materials. Alice Harmon and Penny Perryman's large driftwood pieces were a great inspiration. Alice also did our signature enclosure and care cards again this year. All the extra donated shells were lovely. Even though Britta Brice was unable to come, she provided a large flat of Tillandsias from her garden. Thanks to all, including my husband and our volunteers, for helping pack up and load materials and tools. We appreciated Sonia Kuster delivering all the pieces to the VA after a long day. (Cont'd on pg. 3.)

Gardeners' Exchange



We were sorry not to have our meeting in March and will likewise miss you this month. However, though this is a very different time in our lives with social distancing due to the pandemic, because of it we have had many more hours to spend in our gardens. Also, with all of the rain we have had, there is a great deal of growth of everything, including weeds, so I for one have been truly busy despite the help of my weekly gardener. I hope that all of you have enjoyed more time in your gardens. I know that I have, and I look forward to the fruit and beauty of my labor and wish you the same.

We always enjoy seeing you at our busy Gardeners' Exchange tables with lots of activity and contributions. Thanks for all that you bring to the table! In the meantime, you can start collecting contributions. Please plan to bring your items, including cuttings and plants (with labels), vases, planters, books, garden supplies, and décor early enough during our social hour for people to find them. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Our duty to Stay Home includes our gardens, thankfully. We are indeed blessed.

Happy gardening,
Clara Blenis and Suzanne Thomas, Committee Co-Chairs



(Cont'd from pg. 2.) As always, we are grateful to Jill Holmes, who took lots of pictures, which are now posted on the club's photo gallery <https://vgclj.smugmug.com> under Civic Projects/A Bouquet of Thanks/Tillandsia Terrariums 2019-2020.

We deeply appreciate those of you who support us financially, by designating a contribution to Bouquet of Thanks on your club membership renewal form or by donating throughout the year. Those funds are what allow us to buy plants and supplies

for our workshops, which we hope to resume as soon as it becomes safe to meet again. In the meantime, please stay well and enjoy your gardens.

Thanks again,
Julia Sheldon, Bouquet of Thanks Chair

Kudos

*Thank You to Expressions in Art and Flowers Chairs,
Janet Evans and Bonnie Sipe*

I felt so disappointed that the "Show" cannot go on this year--you both worked so hard and made it easy for us all to get ready--that I decided to do a little mock-up with my photo to thank you both for all you do.

Stay healthy!!

*Warmest regards,
Alida Bracker*



Please Renew Your Membership!



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE
ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE**

May 1st Deadline

NEW MEMBER Applications are also due on May 1st.

Expressions in Art and Flowers

The 2020 edition of Expressions has been postponed to March 25, 2021. We are hopeful that the wonderful artists, floral designers, and committee members who would have made it a fantastic event will be able to participate same time next year.

We would like to thank the dedicated committee members who worked so hard to organize the

event and who, after long and thoughtful discussion of the dangers of COVID19, made the decision to cancel it for this year. Our heartfelt thanks go to Ann Craig, who hosted all of the committee meetings, to event-instigator, Gaynor Pates, to Barbara Starkey, who assembled and set up about 30 easels in February, to historic-pictures chair, Margie Smith-Haas (who handled part of her contributions from her home in fire-ravaged West Australia), to Mary Williams, our "Help Girls" chair, to Suzanne Barclay and Elaine Butz, 2019 Expressions Chairs, and to Marge Palmer, who photographed the 36 pieces of art shown at the February meeting. (To view those photos, click [here](#)).



Thanks also to active committee members Lucy Borsenberger, Deborah Cleveland, Lacey Colmore, Barbara Doren, Ann Glazener, Alice Harmon, Ann Hill, Donna Jones, Margaret Ann Lozuk, Paula McColl, Dori Robbins McCue, Marilyn Olson, Kathy Peterson, Nancy Rinehart, Louarn Sorkin, Joy Spradling, Wendy Watson-Diedrick, Sharrie Woods, and Jill Young, for all their efforts. The work is done, the plans are written out, and we'll be ready to present a superb edition of Expressions in Art & Flowers next March.

Alida Bracker decided to create a floral arrangement to interpret the photograph she entered and has shared it with us. (Pictured on page 4.) We hope it brightens the spirits of everyone in this difficult time.

With our best wishes for good health and a large measure of joy,

Bonnie Sipe and Janet Evans

Expressions in Art & Flowers Co-Chairs

Nominating Committee

April is the month our Club normally elects next year's slate of officers, to be installed at the May meeting. This year will be different, for reasons we are all too familiar with.

Because our Club is an incorporated organization (important for insurance protection and our nonprofit status), we are not allowed to elect our officers by email. As it happens, the proposed slate includes only one new officer--Recording Secretary, Susan Starr, who will replace Marilyn Sorenson.

According to information just sent out by the Palomar District, clubs will be allowed to nominate, elect and install at the same time, whenever they next meet. This could be May or September, or ?

We are so grateful to our existing officers--in particular our Co-Presidents, Sue Kalish and Sue Miller, for their masterly handling of this very difficult situation.

Some of us might remember that war time song by Vera Lynn, which now comes to my mind:

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I'm sure we'll meet again
Some sunny day!*

Penelope West and Bonnie Sipe
Co-Chairs, Nominating



Nominating Committee Recommendations

The Nominating Committee Co-chairs, Bonnie Sipe and Penelope West, announce the committee's recommendations for the VGCLJ slate of officers for 2020-2021.

The Nominating Committee recommendations are:

Co-Presidents: Sue Kalish and Sue Miller

First Vice Presidents, Programs: Sheryl Lester and Susan Harris

Second Vice Presidents, Workshops: Maureen McMahon and Mary Ruyle

Recording Secretaries: Suzanne Ward and Susan Starr

Corresponding Secretary: Julie Fiss

Treasurer: Cindy Lococo

If any member would like to add further nominations for any of these positions, please contact Bonnie Sipe or Penelope West.

The date for the election of officers is TBD.



UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS

By Pat Parks

Upcoming Gardening Events Have Been Cancelled to Comply with Governor's Stay at Home Order.

Below is a list of links to websites that you can check as the virus situation changes.

California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter: <http://cnpssd.org>

Friendship Garden of San Diego: <http://niwa.org>

Ikebana International Chapter 119 of San Diego: <http://ikebanasandiego.org>

San Diego Bonsai Club: <https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com>

San Diego Botanic Garden: <http://www.sdbgarden.org>

San Diego Bromeliad Society: <http://sandiegobromeliadsociety.org>

San Diego Epiphyllum Society: <https://www.sandiegoepi.org>

San Diego Floral Association: <http://sdfloral.org>

San Diego Horticultural Society: <https://www.sdhort.org>

San Diego County Orchid Society: <http://sdorchids.com>

San Diego Rose Society: <http://sdrosesociety.org>

San Diego Zoo: <http://www.sandiegozoo.com> (Check third Friday of the month for plant days.)

Village Garden Club of La Jolla: <http://vgclj.com>

Stay safe!

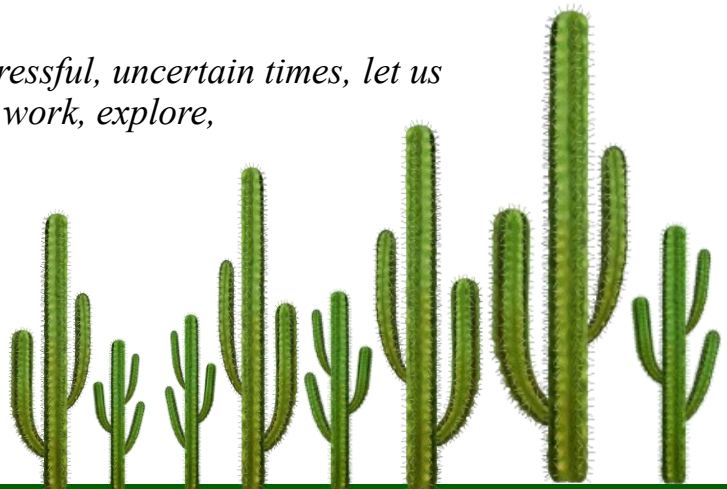
Horticulture

"Half the interest of a garden is the constant exercise of the imagination."

~Mrs. C.W. Earle

A simple reminder that during these really stressful, uncertain times, let us be grateful we have our beautiful gardens to work, explore, imagine and treasure.

~ Mary Anne Brown
Horticulture





NONA'S MAZE

Inspired by a club presentation several years ago by former member, Lenore Hughes, on the history of mazes, Diana Lombrozo set out to create a maze for her grandchildren.

“Nona’s Maze” began with a drawing by Diana and came to fruition with her choice of *Rhaphiolepis indica* “Pink Lady” and walkways covered in decomposed granite. In the center she added a bench and a structure to be covered eventually with climbing iceberg roses. Two arbors, one at the entrance and one at the exit, are also meant to be covered by climbing roses. Hidden among the plantings are five little fairies representing her grandchildren.

On April 16, 2019 Diana unveiled her maze at an afternoon reception at her home for Lenore and club members.

This is what “Nona’s Maze” looks like today. The photo was taken in March of 2020.



HEALING GARDEN INSPIRATION

Our Healing Garden Committee received a wonderful donation from one of our garden club members who has been getting chemo at Moores Cancer Center. She requested that we add more flowers to the Healing Garden, especially in front of the infusion windows.

We cancelled our April 4th Spring Work Party to protect our volunteers as soon as the “stay at home” order was issued. However, as committee chairs we were inspired to fulfill our donor's request. Using the “social distancing” rule, two of us set out to fill the Healing Garden with beautiful flowers. A woman was getting chemo for about four hours while we amended the soil and planted the flowers in front of the infusion window. When she was ready to leave, she tapped on the window, put her hand over her heart, and mouthed the words “thank you.” It was so rewarding to fulfill our garden club member's request and to know that her donation has touched the lives of other people. She helped us make the Healing Garden a sweeter place for the patients and their families, as well as for the nurses and doctors.



Thank you!

JACARANDA & MORE TREE PLANTING

Greetings from the surreal world of Sheltering in Place... While adjusting to this new reality, we've had to postpone the Tree Planting Dedication originally set for May 21. We are hopeful we'll be able to hold the Dedication in the autumn, which usually brings beautiful weather.

We know the opportunity to plant a tree in memory of a loved one is much appreciated, and we are very grateful for recent donations amounting to nearly \$3000. This included a generous donation for habitat trees in memory of Diane VandeNoord, who sadly died in February. Because it is our Club's tradition to plant a tree in memory of a member who dies, we will be planting a tree each for our recent losses of Diane VandeNoord, Missy Elliott, and Susan Dawson.

Early in March, Devonna and Penelope met with Ann Dynes of Tree San Diego Foundation, who gave us some interesting ideas of where we might plant habitat trees and ensure their proper maintenance. One idea was to plant in a park adjacent to the San Diego Center for Children where tree canopy is needed and where the children might be involved in some way. Needless to say, due to COVID-19 we can't pursue that or other ideas for locations until Shelter in Place restrictions are lifted. However, we remain enthusiastic about the new opportunities that are arising for increasing tree coverage in San Diego.

Devonna Hall and Penelope West
Co-Chairs, Jacaranda & More Tree Planting Committee



**The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
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