



The Spindrifter

December, 2019
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Thursday, December 12, 2019

Guests Welcome

Guests \$20

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

9001 TOWNE CENTRE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO

Parking garage on site; Enter from Golden Haven Drive

9 :00–10:00 a.m. Hospitality Hour

10:00-10:30 a.m. Business Meeting

10:30 –Noon Program

Tara Dillard Landscape Design



~~From the Co-Presidents' Desk~~

Most of us have holiday traditions, regardless of what holiday we celebrate. We hold on to them over the years because they add meaning to our celebrations. At our December meeting, we will celebrate our club traditions. We encourage you to arrive early to experience the festivities.

The **Holiday Pantry** has become a fabulous "Pop-Up" tradition where you will be able to purchase festively wrapped sweet and savory goodies from our members' kitchens. This is a perfect opportunity to shop for hostess gifts or to impress those unexpected visitors.

Stop by the **Horticulture** table for their annual "Swagfest" featuring holiday swags created from materials gathered from member yards and neighborhoods.



Gardeners Exchange will have holiday decorating greens and berries for you. **Schoolyard Gardens** have a few surprises up their sleeves for the children in your life, as well as a selection of garden inspired gifts.

Bouquet of Thanks will be busy pairing handmade cards with the Poinsettia plants that the committee will deliver to the VA Hospital. Once again VGCLJ will be participating in the **Festival of Trees** exhibit that is part of December Nights (Dec 6th & 7th) in Balboa Park. What a great time to visit Balboa Park to see what our elves have created with the theme Celebrating the Wonders of Nature!

Finally, following the meeting, we will cap off 2019 in the spectacular setting of the Marine Room with our festive **Holiday Luncheon**. No need to leave the meeting early as you will check in at the venue.

In this season of celebrations, we celebrate YOU, our members, for all you do to make our club so very special. We wish you each a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy 2020.

Sue and Sue

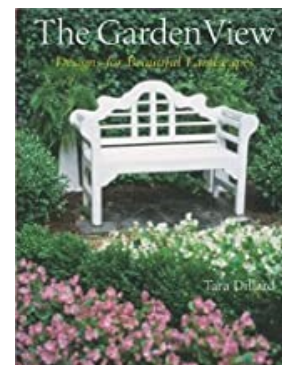
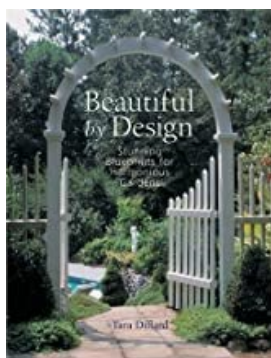
Speaker

Tara Dillard Landscape Design

Beautiful Sustainable Landscapes

Rustic. Historic. Beautiful. That's how Tara Dillard, a Georgia-based landscape designer, describes her style. Educated first as an engineer and later in horticulture, Tara began a 20-year journey exploring Europe's historic gardens. At the same time, she built a career designing prestigious gardens in and around Atlanta. Believing strongly in the rustic, natural beauty of a garden, she believes there should be no separation of horticulture and agriculture. Tara practiced sustainability

early-on. As a grower and a student of historic gardens, she knew what would be a success. Her inspiration comes from nature, historic gardens, and admired gardeners such as Christopher Lloyd, Rosemary Verey, Sir Roy Strong, Bunny Mellon, Beth Chato, Arabella Lenox-Boyd, Arne Maynard, and others. Every garden she designs begins inside a client's home. It's more than a garden for Tara. It's a template for living a beautiful life.



GARDENERS' EXCHANGE TABLE

Formerly Plant Exchange Table



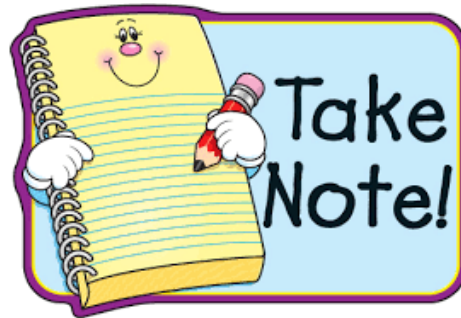
It was wonderful to see you at our October meeting. Thanks for all of the goodies that you brought to our tables. We always enjoy seeing all of you and what you have to offer. As always, please bring plants, cuttings, seeds, and seedlings (with labels), vases, planters, baskets, dishes, bowls, frames, books, gardening supplies, tools, and garden decorations. We will be seeing you in December. For our December meeting in particular, we ask that you would look through your gardens for festive, Christmas greenery and anything that will look good as we decorate for the season. Thanks again for your participation. We look forward to seeing you at our tables in December.

Happy gardening from the Gardeners' Exchange Committee
co-chairs, Clara Blenis and Suzanne Thomas

HOLIDAY PANTRY SALE

Wow, December is already here! That means get ready for the HOLIDAY PANTRY. This is a great opportunity to purchase items to be given as hostess gifts, neighbor gifts, or enjoyed by you and your family. If you haven't signed up, feel free to bring your goodies to the December meeting to be sold. Don't forget – **PACKAGING IS EVERYTHING!**

Hope to see you at the December meeting,
Leslie and Linda



Spindrifter Deadlines

December 19 for January
January 30 for February



Welcome Baby Jack!

It is with great excitement that we introduce all of you to the latest VGCLJ addition. Our Website and Technology Chair extraordinaire, Sara Carpenter, and her family recently welcomed Jack Cruz Carpenter to the world, born October 9 at 9 lbs. 2oz. and 20 inches long. Sara didn't miss a beat, this time or the last time when big sister Ellie joined our ranks! Additional congratulations to Grandma Leisa Wilson who brought Sara into this world and into our club! It takes a village.....





December Nights Balboa Park *Festival of Trees*

Please join us in Balboa Park this holiday season and see our organization's beautifully decorated tree at the San Diego Floral Association's "Festival of Trees." This year the theme is "Celebrating the Wonders of Nature." After the event, the tree will be donated to the Meals on Wheels Administrative office. The ornaments will be used as tray favors to decorate the seniors' holiday meals.

Casa Del Prado Room #101

Special Preview

Thursday, December 5

5:00 – 8:00 pm

"Festival of Trees" will open to the public on Thursday, December 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

\$5 per person entry fee at the door.

Friday, December 6

3:00 – 11:00 pm – Free

Saturday, December 7

Noon – 11:00 pm – Free

Committee: Linda Morse, Lisa Lomax, Cindy Lococo and Susie Dentt



Virginia Robinson Gardens

A historical landmark, the gardens surround the first estate built in Beverly Hills. The mansion and gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, owners of the Robinson Department Store, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 6 acre property, situated behind the Beverly Hills Hotel, will be shown to us on a docent led tour. Afterwards, we will travel along a few exquisite streets for a box lunch (included in the price) on the patio of the

Gottlieb Native Garden

Certified a Backyard Wildlife Habitat and Pollinator Habitat, this private one acre garden with over 200 native plant species will by your haven for the afternoon.

This will be an all-day adventure, from 7 am to 5 pm.

A luxury bus will have pick-ups in both La Jolla and a North Coast community.
 \$85 check payable to the Village Garden Club of La Jolla or VGCLJ required at sign up.
 Our first field trip to the Carlsbad Flower Mart sold out in minutes.
 Be ready to sign up and pay by check at our December meeting.

BJ Boland

Our Favorite Things!

This is your last chance this year to take home a fabulous holiday hostess gift, birthday gift, or Hanukah and Christmas gift! If you haven't had a chance to look at the new VGCLJ cookbook, please stop by our table in the Social Hall. All of our favorite snacks from the new member teas, refreshment tables, VGCLJ special events, and our own personal favorites are included. Prewrapped copies will be available for purchase at \$15 each! And, trust us, you'll want this collection for your very own too.



Special thanks to my wonderful committee (Kate Engler, Pam Filley, Devonna Hall, Jan Holst, Ana Lyon, Donna McClay, Karen Morse, Carol Rumsey, Brenda Schneider, Bonnie Sipe) who made all of this possible.....from collecting (and testing) the recipes from all of you, uploading them to the book's website, proofreading, and supporting me through the sales process.

Happiest of holidays to all!
 Robin Vandever, Chair



SCHOOLYARD GARDENING GRANTS COMMITTEE

We are excited to announce that our committee has been able to grant \$10,805 to local San Diego schools this year for their schoolyard garden projects thanks to membership donations and sales from our Ways & Means table!! We met in November to review the 30 applications submitted by schools, a larger than normal volume of requests, totaling \$36,613. Please help us continue to give to this very worthy endeavor by considering a direct contribution of cash or check or by shopping at our Ways & Means table at the December meeting to simplify your shopping for hostess and other gift ideas. Many of our items are already festively tied with ribbon and gift tags. Our newest item is a holiday ornament/gift tag priced at \$5 each.



SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOP THE CAMELLIA, A FORGOTTEN BEAUTY

FEATURING TOM NUCCIO OF NUCCIO'S
NURSERY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE REGULAR MEETING
LOCATION- CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL



Tom Nuccio will discuss the best varieties of camellias for our area including ones that are ideal for flower arrangements and full sun exposure. Proper planting, fertilization, and disease control will be discussed. Bring your questions. Tom is truly an expert and knows more about camellias than anyone. You won't want to miss this one!

Workshop fee- \$20 Time- 12:00 pm
Lunch-Thyme In The Ranch \$12 per person additional

Guests are welcome
Signups at workshop table at December Meeting

Maureen McMahon



EXPRESSIONS IN ART AND FLOWERS

At the December meeting there will be a table for **artists** to sign up to participate in the 18th annual Expressions in Art and Flowers. We can accommodate only 36 artists, and 16 have already signed up, so please take this opportunity to get involved and share your special talent with all our members and many friends.

We also encourage **floral designers** to sign up now and choose your favorite art work at the February meeting! It's really lots of fun to interpret a painting, or ceramic, or needlework, or photo, or possibly tatting, or sculpture. If you're new to this adventure, you'll be able to get help from a mentor or two; just let us know. Forms for both artists and floral designers are on the VGCLJ website.

The March 26th meeting will be open to guests, so please invite your family and friends. The guest fee is \$20 and can be paid in advance or at the door.

Important dates:|

January 23, 2020-Last chance for artists to sign up

February 27, 2020-Artists bring their work to the social hall so floral designers can sign up for the artwork that they wish to interpret

March 25, 2020-Artists and floral designers bring their work to be photographed

March 26, 2020-**Expressions in Art and Flowers**

Questions? Ask Janet Evans, 858-454-0070, janetlyevans@yahoo.com
or Bonnie Sipe, 858-454-9381, bsipe@san.rr.com



Horticulture

The November 'Harvest Tables' captured the richness of the season. Thanks to all for bringing foliage, cuttings, flowers, pods, and produce. Decorative displays combining member gardens bounty created stunning organic arrangements.

As we prepare for the holidays, we look to the natural world to decorate, feed, and nurture our families. Inspired by the beauty found in nature, the Horticulture Committee will be busy foraging for greens and natural organic materials for December's Special Exhibit!

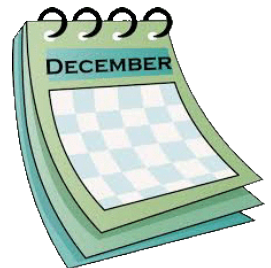
The '**Holiday Swagfest**' is a super popular special exhibit and proceeds will be donated to Schoolyard Gardening.

Co-chairs
Mary Anne & Vicki



Kudos

to Mary Lippman, who co-chairs the Schoolyard Gardens Committee with Leigh Hartman. As grants coordinator, Mary received thirty grant applications from elementary and middle schools throughout San Diego County. She distributed the applications to members of the grant committee. Mary then presided over the grants committee meeting that determined the allocation given to each school. Over \$10,000 was distributed to the various schools.



UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS

Be sure to check individual websites for details and updated information since this posting,

Dec. 2-23, 26-30 San Diego Botanic Garden

"WONDERLAND OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS. The garden is transformed into a winter wonderland with live music, food, warm beverages, and activities for children including: "Toni's Tree house" and Santa. 5-8p.m. Cost Adult \$20 -\$25, Senior - \$14-\$19, Youth \$ 12-\$17. More information: <https://www.sdbgarden.org> Select visit tab and events for specific pricing information. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA Prices change according date.

Friday Dec. 6 Saturday Dec. 7 - San Diego Floral Association

" Festival of the Trees" at Balboa Park December Nights Celebration. Display of decorated Christmas Trees. Friday 3:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Saturday noon – 11p.m. FREE – Balboa Park, San Diego, 92101. More information: <http://www.sandiego//december-nights>

Friday Dec. 7 –Water Conservation Garden

A free docent led tour through the garden. 10:00 a.m. - The Garden Plaza 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. El Cajon. Ca 92119: More information <http://www.thegarden.org>

Monday Dec. 9 - San Diego Horticultural Society Meeting

"Magical World of Seeds" Presenter Brijette Pena 6:00- 8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Israel, 9001 Town Center Drive, San Diego, 92122l. Cost free members \$15 non-members More information: <http://www.sdhort.org>

Tuesday Dec. 17- Japanese Friendship Garden

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Balboa Park. **Free admission for SD residents, active military and dependents with ID.** For more information: <http://niwa.org>

January 20 – 23 Monday thru Thursday - Chula Vista Garden Club

As always, if you have a problem connecting with the hyperlink, cut and paste the address into your browser.

Pat Parks



Peace on  Earth

GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST – 103

Strawberry guava

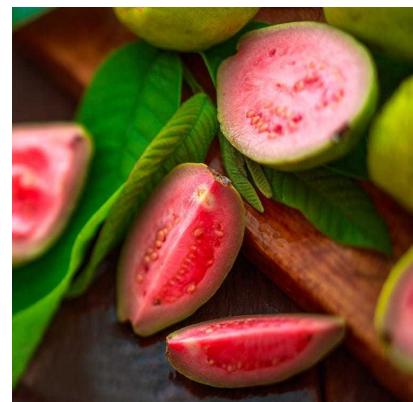
We've been 53 years in our house on the Shores and during that time the 'yard' has become a garden. Of the original plantings, only a Valencia orange, a Meyer lemon, and the guava, *Psidium cattleianum*, remain. It may be a bit of a stretch to refer to the last as edible because most of its fruit falls on the ground before its transfer to the footwear of the family and of the several professionals who help us to maintain the property. However, we do consume a bit of the fruit and enjoy its slightly resinous flavor. Our tree is the red-fruited variety. The 'yellow cherry guava', *P. cattleianum littorale*, produces a slightly larger but similar-tasting fruit. The common, or tropical, guava, *P. guajava*, can also be grown here, but it is less tolerant of cold weather, and it needs warmer conditions than we experience on the coast to produce good quality fruit

The strawberry guava is native to Brazil but has spread widely through the tropical and subtropical areas of the world, notably Hawaii, where it is one of the worst of the invasive aliens. Its propagation is facilitated by feral pigs which root in the soil, effectively ploughing and planting the seeds, and also transporting the seeds, which resist digestion, through their faeces. Dense stands of the shrubs can crowd out competing native plants, which are also inhibited by unidentified 'allelopathic' chemicals produced by the root system.

Invasiveness doesn't seem to be an issue in Southern California, at least in our garden where hundreds of fruit fall to the ground every year. That may be in part because our tree is growing in an area surrounded by hardpan. However, plenty of the seeds must find their way to the compost pile, and thence to the vegetable beds, where many unwanted seedlings emerge, both of weeds and of more desirable plants. Curiously, the birds and other wildlife ignore the fruit, perhaps because we have so many other goodies on offer, notably the fig which is close by. Their main crops appear at about the same time, but the strawberry guava produces some fruit through most of the summer and autumn.

The plant is an attractive many-trunked tree which can be kept at 10 feet high or less by pruning. The trunks have a smooth, shiny bark somewhat resembling the manzanita, and the leaves remain bright green, even under dry conditions. Though it grows quickly, it takes pruning well. It seems immune to pests and disease in our garden.

The fruit is quite pleasant, in my opinion, when eaten out of hand. The problem is that it contains half a dozen seeds about the size of peppercorns. Chewing them carries a risk of incurring expensive dental work, leaving you with the alternatives of spitting them out or swallowing them. Having been brainwashed as a child that swallowing grape seeds would give me appendicitis, I prefer the former. On the Internet you'll find recipes for jellies and jams, smoothies, drinks (some alcoholic), and cakes, all requiring that you remove the seeds.



Arthur Dawson

Happy
Holidays



The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
c/o Anita Lindberg, Mailing Committee
6483 Caminito Baltsural
La Jolla, CA 92037-5802

