



# The Spindrifter

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General Meeting  
**Thursday, December 17**  
Via Zoom  
Business meeting: 10:00  
Program: 10:30

## MEET OUR DECEMBER PROGRAM PRESENTERS

**Breesa Lee Everett**

**Matthew Baugh**

As 2020 comes to a close, we will be gathering to consider the beauty found in our environment. One of our speakers captures that beauty through exquisite floral design while the other preserves it through photographs. We are delighted to be welcoming both of them, albeit through the medium of Zoom.

### Breesa Lee Everett



Breesa is the owner of **Blooms**, a full and partial floral service, located in Oceanside, California, where she combines and celebrates her love of service, the creative process, and LOVE. She is known particularly for her work with weddings as she seeks to "spoil" the bridal couple by creating an environment that immerses their guests in a world that fills their senses. Her style is best described as abundant, feminine, and timeless.

Cont'd pg 3

## ~~From the Co-Presidents' Desk~~



### DECEMBER CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of you who supported Wreaths Across America this year. We exceeded our goal once again! Also, a big thank you to the Bouquet of Thanks Committee for continuing our tradition of "Decking the Halls" and rooms at the VA hospital with poinsettias and beautiful handmade cards. Our November speaker, Dutch landscape and garden designer and planting specialist, Jacqueline van der Kloet, treated us to a tour of the spectacular gardens she designed in Europe and Chicago. Even though we are unable to travel at this time, we were so fortunate to be transported by the celebration of beauty in her floral designs.

December is a month when traditions are usually front and center, and our club has several cherished traditions that normally make for much excitement and joy in the social hall. Members are heard commenting on the beautiful Christmas tree that our club decorates for Balboa Park's annual December Nights celebration; Gardener's Exchange is sharing holiday greens; Horticulture is selling beautifully crafted wreaths and swags; the Holiday Pantry elves are selling their delicious home-baked goods; and there are holiday gifts galore available from other busy committees. All this merriment is capped off with a sumptuous luncheon prepared by Chef Bernard at the Marine Room. But, alas, it is not meant to be this year.

Fast forward to our unusual December 2020 meeting and the different kind of fun we will have with floral designer Breesa, including an opportunity to win one of her beautiful holiday arrangements.

Although 2020 has been a year that has tried us, and COVID has redefined how we have gathered, we are a resilient group of garden women who have learned new skills, how to pivot, and how to use our challenges to guide us. As we learn from our experiences, our treasured VGCLJ will be better for them in 2021.

Happy Holidays to You All!

With best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,

Sue and Sue /Sue<sup>2</sup>

Speakers cont'd

Breesa came to floral design from a lifelong love of flowers and nature—with a detour through early childhood education and other academic work. She has worked coast to coast and around the world, always following her flowering dreams. She opened **Blooms** after giving birth to her first child and reports that her daughter is her inspiration for moving mindfully throughout the day and with her business. Part of her business focuses on giving back to the community, including offering job experience to foster youths through *Just in Time* and donating her services to San Diego's *Wish Upon A Wedding*.

Breesa will be demonstrating how she creates floral centerpieces, which will then be delivered to the doorstep of lucky members. You can enter the drawing by following the directions on the flyer included in this issue on page 7.

You can also visit Breesa virtually in her shop at [www.bloomsbybreesalee.com](http://www.bloomsbybreesalee.com).

## Matthew Baugh

Matthew is a photographer who specializes in nature and landscape photography with the goal of capturing the most beautiful sites that our world has to offer. Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Matthew attended college at the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned in May 2018. His first set of orders sent him to the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California, where he earned a Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering. He then reported to Pensacola, Florida, in June of 2019 to begin training as a Naval Aviator. Upon completion of primary training in June 2020, Matthew was selected into the Strike Fighter community. He is currently stationed in South Texas at Naval Air Station, Kingsville, where he is learning to fly the T-45C Goshawk.



Matthew always enjoyed the art of photography and videography and began taking photos in high school. Throughout his time at the Naval Academy, he had the chance to travel and was inspired by the different landscapes that existed in places like California and the American Southwest. He was thrilled at the opportunity to spend his first year out of college in beautiful Monterey. He spent his free time while at NPS taking road trips to capture moments on his camera to share with the rest of the world. Matthew looks forward to the opportunities that lie ahead in the Navy and beyond to continue traveling the world and

capturing photographs of the Earth's incredible treasures.

Matthew's work can be viewed on his web store at [www.matthewbaughphoto.com/store](http://www.matthewbaughphoto.com/store).



**SCHOOLYARD GARDENING GRANTS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER, 2020**

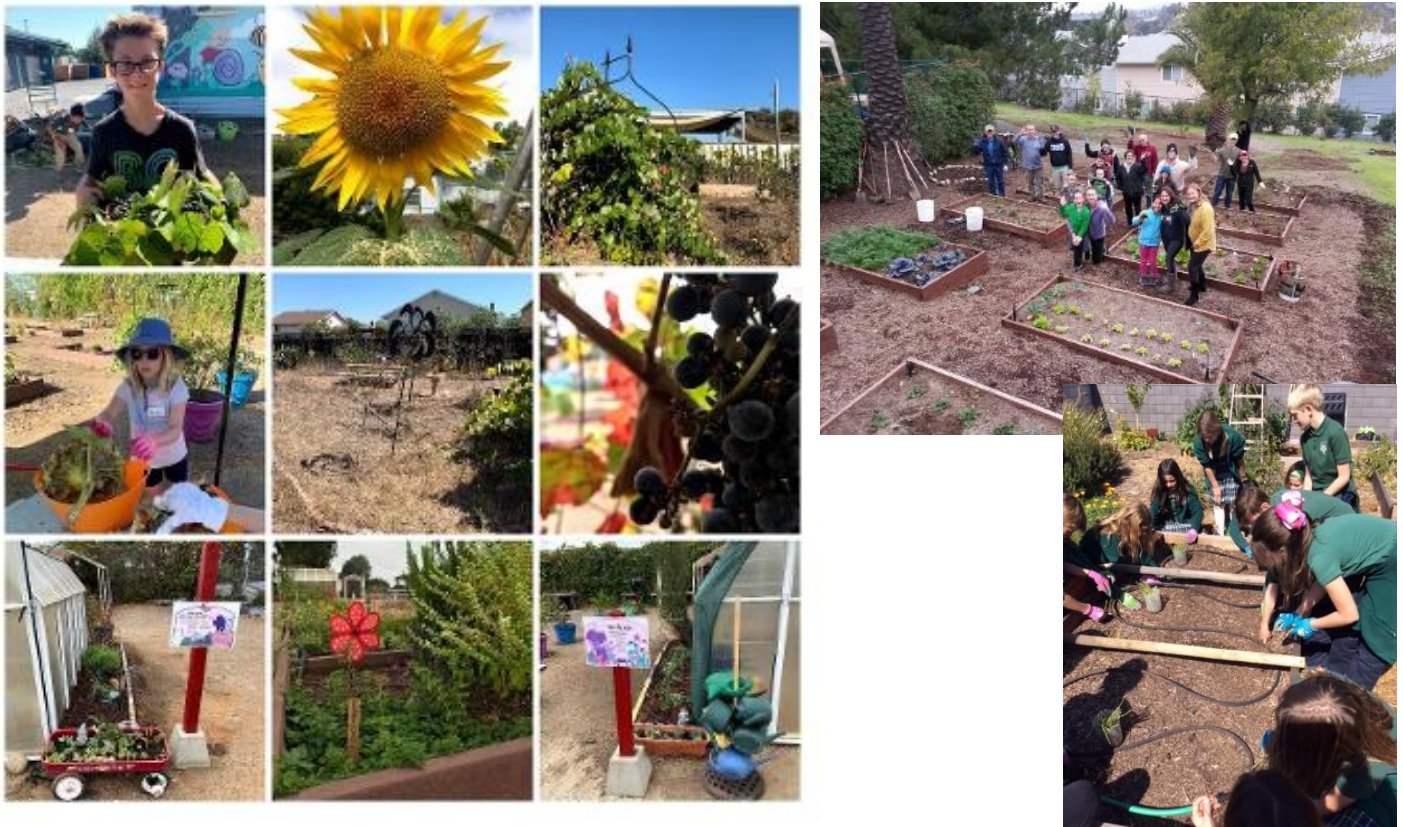
Thank you to all of you who visited us at the sidewalk sale on November 11th at Sue Kalish's home. We are thrilled to report that we added over \$600 to our Schoolyard Grants fund! We are so grateful!

The Schoolyard Garden Grants Committee is accepting applications for the 2020 grant allocations. **Please note** the deadline has been extended to **DECEMBER 15, 2020**. Our committee is dedicated to spreading the joy and wonders of a schoolyard garden program to as many schools as possible. Schoolyard Grant applications are on our VGCLJ website [www.vgclj.com](http://www.vgclj.com).

Please remember it is never too late to make direct donations to 2020 Schoolyard Garden Grants also at [www.vgclj.com](http://www.vgclj.com) if you are so inspired!

Thank you again to all who continue to support our efforts!

Mary Pringle





# Sidewalk Sale



## Bouquet of Thanks Holiday Update

The VA hospital is looking forward to our traditional December donation of colorful poinsettias paired with gorgeous handmade, personally-signed, holiday cards. Since we cannot meet at the hospital this year, we are adapting by working outside at individual homes in very small groups on December 14. We will purchase 165 four-inch poinsettias, pair them with the beautiful handmade cards generously donated by Nansea Wolff's card-making group, and deliver them immediately thereafter to the hospital entrance. The VA Voluntary Services staff will meet us to unload and distribute our donations to the patients, staff, and public areas. About 35 extra cards will be left to give to incoming patients.

Thank you to Nansea's card group for their continuing generosity and to club members who took time to add handwritten messages to the cards during the club's recent yard sale. And, thank you to Jill Holmes and Judith Johnson, who have volunteered to host the assembly volunteers. Remembering our veterans and their families and recognizing the hospital staff is even more important than usual during this challenging time when people feel so isolated and stressed.

We recently received the following heartfelt thank you note from Robert M. Smith, MD, and Director of the VA San Diego Healthcare System, for our donation of 138 succulent-topped pumpkins in October:

*"It is my pleasure to thank you for your support of the VA San Diego Healthcare System with your most generous donation of beautifully decorated pumpkins for our common areas, patients and volunteers. We appreciate your donation during these difficult times. It is donations such as yours that make the VA San Diego Healthcare System special for the men and women who need our assistance. As the Director of this large facility, I am always proud of the support we receive from those who share their time, talents and energy with our Veterans. Donations such as yours contribute greatly to the morale and comfort of our patients both here and at the Outpatient Clinics."*

Thank you for your continuing support that makes these projects possible!

Julia Sheldon, Chair





## GARDENERS' EXCHANGE TABLE

Many thanks to all of you who participated in our outdoor event in front of Sue Kalish's lovely home on Wednesday, November 11, from 10:00 to noon. It was a gorgeous day and a wonderful time to see and talk to our members and do business for our first chance in a long time. It was delightful to see those who came. Our Gardeners' Exchange table was covered with many beautiful items that drew lots of attention and activity as people found secondhand treasures and shopped al fresco at our Market Place and School Yard Garden tables. Thanks so much for bringing/contributing vases, planters, garden and home decor, as well as some cuttings, plants, and seeds. By the end of our time there, many lovely treasures found good homes--our goal!



In addition, we are still doing a **Virtual Gardeners' Exchange** on our CLOSED Facebook CHATROOM any time you want to post what you have. Please include pictures and descriptions along with your name and any details you would like to add, such as when and where the items will be available, **or** by appointment. Our members can use their 2020-2021 yearbook for information about how to post on our CLOSED Facebook page. You may advertise **ONLY** gardening items, such as cuttings, excess fruit or vegetables, plants, planters, vases, gardening tools, books, and any type of garden décor.

**Note: For those of you who do not use Facebook, you can also send the above information to [suekinlj@yahoo.com](mailto:suekinlj@yahoo.com) for inclusion in Voices from Our Village.**

Happy gardening and be well during this beautiful holiday season,  
Clara Blenis and Suzanne Thomas

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

3 Holiday Arrangements

WILL BE CREATED BY THE  
MAGNIFICENTLY TALENTED DECEMBER SPEAKER  
*Breesa*  
OF BLOOMSDESIGNHOUSE.COM

\$20 PER ENTRY  
SEND AS MANY ENTRIES AS YOU LIKE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VGCLJ AND MAIL TO:  
SHERYL LESTER 6590 AVENIDA MIROLA LA JOLLA, CA 92037  
OR VENMO SHERYL-LESTER-2

YOUR ENTRY WILL BE CONFIRMED BY SHERYL.

LUCKY WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN DECEMBER 16TH BY BREEA  
GORGEOUS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE  
DELIVERED TO YOUR FRONT DOOR

ALL PROCEEDS FROM OPPORTUNITY DRAWING GO TO VGCLJ SPEAKERS FUND

## Gardens and Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston

Including the Festival of Houses & Gardens

Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols

April 5-12, 2021



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Join the VGCLJ and friends as we discover Savannah and Charleston, two jewels of the antebellum south. From oak-shaded squares, riverfront parks and world-renowned restaurants to historic homes and gardens, we will experience the charm and hospitality of these historic cities.

For more information contact Cheryl at [sterling1@cox.net](mailto:sterling1@cox.net) or 619 299 3010x10

<https://www.sterlinggardentours.com/savannah2021>



Each month the Co-Presidents are asked to contribute to the Kudos column for Spindrifter to recognize those Garden Club members who go "above and beyond". As we close out this extraordinary year, we would like to recognize all of you who have adapted to our reimagined Garden Club. It is **YOU** who have gone above and beyond. Who would have thought in January that Zoom meetings, program links, and drive-by yearbook distribution would become our norm? Yet you have embraced these changes with good humor and flexibility. Our very successful front yard sale that raised over \$600 for Schoolyard Garden, over \$50 for Penny Pines, and provided the opportunity to sign holiday cards for the VA was a true testament to the resilience of our members. We had the chance to see each other, enjoy Gardener's Exchange and Market Place, and purchase "Our Favorite Things" cookbook. A very special *thank you* to the organizers, volunteers, shoppers, and all who participated.

Each month we are challenged to view our usual Garden Club activities through a different lens. Yet you continue to rise to the occasion. We are so very appreciative of your kindness, patience, and support during this difficult time.

*"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom".* Marcel Proust

With sincere gratitude,  
Sue and Sue /Sue 2



## The Habitat and Jacaranda Tree Planting Committee

In this season of giving, consider making a special gift of a habitat tree as a tribute to a loved one.



A habitat tree may grow into a tree-lined street like this one, creating a pedestrian-friendly environment and a sense of community pride.

A habitat tree provides many benefits to the future. Its canopy of shade will save energy, improve air quality, and restore wildlife habitat by adding to San Diego's urban forest.

If you would like to give a gift, our Donation Form is on page 35 of your yearbook, or copy and paste this link in your browser to get the form:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53346f49e4b03ead0875a8eb/t/5db8aa9ccb48db081697d79c/1572383388764/Tree+Planting+Donor+Form+2019+.pdf>

We wish you and yours the happiest of holidays!  
Co-Chairs Devonna Hall and Penelope West



### Tired of the Same Old Same Old? Get the Jump on Hostess and Holiday Gifts



**WE HAVE COOKBOOKS!**

If you're busy making your holiday gift lists, don't forget that our beautiful cookbook filled with the best recipes collected from our membership is still available. Priced at only \$15, it will provide you, your friends, and your family with new ideas for tasty dishes from appetizers to desserts as we continue to shelter in place.

Thanks for your support of our club's programs.  
Contact Robin Vandever at 858.344.9551 or [revcsv@yahoo.com](mailto:revcsv@yahoo.com)



## Anne Craig

I moved to La Jolla in January 2001 when my husband, Roger, and I inherited Roger's family home. The home, designed by Thomas Shepherd and built in 1932, is now designated as an historic place. Before we moved here from Washington, D.C., the house was chosen by the San Diego Historic Society to be a Showcase House for 2000. Once chosen as a Showcase House, designers sign up to decorate a room and landscapers plan the gardens. The House is then open for tours. Village Garden Club of La Jolla member Lacey Colmore, working for Ross Theile and Sons, designed my bedroom. Club member Connie Mullin (later Connie Branscomb) signed up to design one of the gardens--later called A Peaceful Corner. Club members Alice Brown, Connie Hucko, Peggy Magde, Grethchen McArdle, Eva Richman, Betty Vale, and Jackie Seidman all contributed to the design and planted the garden. I was so absolutely delighted and stunned that people would volunteer to make this effort that in the spring of 2001, not long after we moved into the house, I invited the group to lunch. Of course, during lunch they all suggested/insisted that I join the Club. Since I had no knowledge of plants in this area, floral design, horticulture, or gardening, I decided this was a good idea. I joined and attended my first Garden Club meeting in September 2001.

The spring after I joined, there was a small exhibit of artists and floral designs that eventually became Expressions in Arts and Flowers. I remember Adrienne Greene, Club co-founder, insisting that I must sign up to do a floral design. She would not accept my refusal even though it was based on the fact that I had never done a floral design. "You design jewelry, you can design flowers." Adrienne led a workshop in Sandy McCreight's garage, and I presented my floral interpretation at the show. I remember being deeply touched when Bonnie Sipe's mother, Club member Maisie Power, told me that my design was better than the work of art that I had interpreted!!

It was not long after that I became recording secretary for the Club, then first vice-president in charge of programs, then president. I have often related the story of telling Adrienne that I would not become president of the Club because my husband and I had a lot of travel plans and, therefore, I would not be available to do the work involved in leading this marvelous Club. Adrienne immediately invited my husband out for lunch. When he returned he said, "Now, why wouldn't you want to be president of the Village Garden Club?" I have always said that being president of this Club was the most fulfilling volunteer job I have ever done.

When my husband died in 2010, the members of this Club were so warm, caring, and supportive. I will always treasure this organization.

During the 35 years we lived in Washington, D.C., Roger and I raised two children. The last 20 years of my 30-year teaching career were spent at the Capitol Hill Day School. There, I developed the foreign language program for children 4 -14, taught French, organized an exchange program for the French students, and was the Upper School Coordinator. Since moving to La Jolla, in addition to spending many hours on gardening and floral design, I have concentrated on my hobby of collecting beads and designing jewelry. I have also served on the boards of the Athenaeum, the San Diego Camarada and the La Jolla Historical Society.



New members 2001



## GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST

### Insect Barrier Netting

In my September article I reported our success in using a product called "Agfabric insect barrier netting" to protect our vegetable beds from being attacked by rabbits, which have become serious pests in our garden for the first time. I believe this product succeeded where bird netting failed mainly because it partially hides the tasty young seedlings from the hungry cottontails. The rabbits would creep under the bird netting or would push against it so that they could trim the new growth of our beans and corn. They showed no inclination to do the same with the insect barrier.

Through the summer we have surrounded all of our new vegetable plantings with this material. We support it on 5-foot stakes, holding it in place with clothes pegs. As time goes on, we realize that it provides several benefits in addition to protecting from rabbits. The skunks no longer dig in the newly planted beds searching for grubs. The birds, mostly sparrows and goldfinches, ignore the seedlings even though they'd be perfectly capable of flying in when we don't cover a bed completely. If we need to protect from insects, we will place the insect netting or the lighter row cover over the top of the bed. However, spinosad is a better choice to keep caterpillars off of cole seedlings. The trouble with a purely physical barrier is that it may keep you from noticing caterpillar damage when it first occurs. By the time you are motivated to come to the rescue, the damage can be severe.

The material is "see-through" and our plants show no evidence of legginess even when completely covered, so they must be getting enough light. You can water through the fabric more readily than you can through row cover. With the latter, water may run off to the sides of your plants rather than dropping straight through the fabric.

An additional benefit that we didn't expect is that the barrier has somewhat of a greenhouse effect, even when we don't enclose the bed completely. Cauliflower, corn, and even potatoes have grown to sizes we haven't seen before. I suspect the benefit is more through maintaining humidity than raising temperature, but that may change as the weather gets colder. As I write at the end of November, we have bush beans flowering and setting fruit. It remains to be seen whether we'll get a useful harvest in December.

The insect barrier is quite expensive, but unlike row cover it doesn't tend to get dirty or to tear and thus can be reused. It is sturdy enough that I expect it to be good for at least a couple of years.

Arthur Dawson





## DECEMBER 2020 CALENDAR PLACES TO GO

**San Diego Botanic Garden:** Open Wednesday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
Cost: Adults \$18; Seniors \$12; Children \$10. Reservations and tickets available through their website:  
<http://www.sdbgarden.org> 230 Quail Gardens Dr. Encinitas, CA 92024.

**San Diego Zoo and Safari Park:** Animal encounters, shows, bus, and trams are not available. The attendance in the parks is reduced, and waiting people are admitted as people exit. San Diego Zoo (2920 Zoo Dr. San Diego); Safari Park 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, San Diego. For more information and to purchase tickets see <http://www.zoosandiegozoo.org>.

**Friendship Garden of San Diego:** Japanese garden with walkways, bridges, and landscapes. Buildings are closed. Garden open Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cost: Adults \$4. Seniors \$2.50. Located in Balboa Park.

### OF INTEREST

**December 2-6; 9 & 10, 12 & 13; 16-23; 26-30 (5-8:30pm) San Diego Botanic Garden Holiday Nights in the Garden 2020** - Botanic Wonderland is an outdoor holiday lighting experience where visitors can safely stroll amid festive holiday lights throughout various areas within the Garden's 57 acres. Live music is offered with musicians strolling through the garden. Hot beverages and food are available. Cost: Adult \$18, Senior/Military \$12, Child \$10. **Coupons & Guest passes will not be accepted for Botanic Wonderland.** Reservations and ticket information available at <http://sdbgarden.org>.

**December 10 San Diego Floral Association:** Free online Virtual Floral class **10:00 a.m.** For more information and registration email [infosdfloral@gmail.com](mailto:infosdfloral@gmail.com). A confirmation email with Zoom instructions will be sent upon receipt of your registration. **Must register prior to attending.** If you have questions, contact Laurie at [sdfaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sdfaoffice@gmail.com).

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

- San Diego Epiphyllum Society <https://www.sandiegoepi.org>
- San Diego Zoo <http://www.sandiegozoo.com> Check 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month for plant days.
- San Diego Botanic Garden <http://www.sdbgarden.org>
- San Diego Bonsai Club <https://www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com>
- San Diego County Orchid Society <http://sdorchids.com>
- California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter <http://cnpssd.org>
- San Diego Floral Association <http://sdfloral.org>
- Friendship Garden of San Diego <http://niwa.org>
- San Diego Rose Society <http://sdrosesociety.org>
- Ikebana International Chapter 119 of San Diego <http://ikebanasandiego.org>
- San Diego Bromeliad Society <http://sandiegobromeliadsociety.org>

Pat Parks

