



The Spindrifter

May 2020
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General Meeting

May 29, 2020

Canceled due to . . .



~~From the Co-President's Desk~~

As we reflect back and celebrate our abbreviated club year, we are most grateful to all members who have generously donated both their time and talents to their committees, some of which are more visible than others. From our workshops, to our events and activities, to our civic projects, we all make up our Village and are equally important to its mission. Also key to our mission are our communication committees who provide the monthly Spindrifter newsletters, the Yearbook and timely Eblasts.

In August, we welcomed our 22 talented new members. Our meetings began in September where once again the social hall was a buzz of committee activity. Moving the business meeting into the sanctuary allowed more room for mingling among the committee table displays as well as the enjoyment of the sweet and savory refreshments. Each month, the various displays in the social hall delighted our senses, educated us and provided us with unique shopping opportunities. Our speakers came from various parts of the country *and* England, covering a wide range of topics. Who could ever forget the grand (Con't. pg. 2)

(Cont'd. from pg. 1) entrance of the Duchess in February? Our workshops were equally varied and interesting, as were our field trips. There was so much enthusiasm each month as we came together to enjoy the many wonders of our gardening community and garden club friends.

There were many planned events that unfortunately had to be canceled – Expressions in Art and Flowers, the field trip to Los Angeles, the Members Garden Tour, the Cooking with Herbs at Cypress Hill Farm, our April and May speakers, and our May luncheon.

The beautiful May luncheon invitation, in a nod to our May speaker from Apricot Farms, invited us to “A Friendship Luncheon – Scarborough Farms – Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme”. It is this message of friendship, along with all of our extraordinary programming, events, civic and educational activities that makes our Village so very special. It is also this message of friendship that will sustain our Village as we look forward to our next year. We wish our presidents’ handbook included a crystal ball to predict what our year will look like. Sadly, that is not the case. Our plan is to move forward with the two speakers who were canceled, as well as the other wonderful activities we missed. We do encourage you to renew your membership and invite new members to join us. Our membership and new member applications have a new **deadline of May 31**. You can also access the applications online at www.vgclj.com.

In looking to the future, what we do know is that we have a strong forty-six year history of friendship, sharing our love of gardening and making a difference in our community. It is our sincere hope that you will join us next year when we can once again gather together safely to reconnect, renew, and continue this legacy.

With best wishes for your continued good health and safety. Following guidelines from the California Department of Public Health, *we look forward to seeing you in September!*
Sue and Sue



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE
ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE
May 31 Deadline

NEW MEMBER Applications are also due on **May 31**

Over the Garden Gate

By Burry Vincent



Born in Joliet, Illinois, I was the oldest of four. Every year, my siblings and I spent our summers at the family cottage on Stony Lake, Michigan. We still gather there with children, grandchildren, cousins, and old lake friends each summer.

In 1967, I graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Education, and it was there that I met my husband, Stephen. My first job as a teacher brought me to San Diego. After that year, we were married and spent our honeymoon year in Phoenix while Stephen completed his graduate degree in International Management. Good fortune led us back to San Diego with jobs, and we never left. Eight years later we started our family, and I retired as a teacher to become a mom.

Our second daughter, Caroline, was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and became a pioneer for full inclusion, attending our neighborhood school, Bird Rock Elementary. Years later she graduated from La Jolla High and went on to a special program at National Louis University in Evanston, Illinois. Caroline now lives independently in a triplex in Solana Beach that we purchased together with three families with special needs children. She has been working at Marshall's for 13 years.

After our two girls finished their schooling at La Jolla High, I went back to college, while working, to get a Master's Degree and a Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential. San Diego Unified then asked me to continue on with my studies to become a Reading Recovery Specialist.

Then, when I went back to teaching, my friends Susan Oliver, Valmere Knapp (deceased), Lynne Newman, and Lynn Sauer got me excited about this club. I have co-chaired four of the fall and spring Members' Garden Tours with Patsy Creighton and Bonnie Sipe. The great experience organizing and meeting the creative members who opened their gardens and homes led me to love our club. Geneva Belice was a master, helping me locate the members and gardens.

I cherish our garden club. The interesting workshops, the field trips, meeting new members, and the exchange table have special merit to me. Selling the speakers' books, being a greeter, and passing out agendas gave me opportunities to meet new friends. Jane Haskel and I now help with the ticket system, making sure non-members pay to hear the presentations.

Loma Larcs, Junior League, National Charity League, and Social Service League of La Jolla are other clubs I have enjoyed. My husband and I are quite active in our church, La Jolla Presbyterian. We have hosted and facilitated a growth group in our home for thirteen years, supporting each other as well as a few church missions. Caroline and I greet for the 10 AM contemporary service; I am on the prayer team; my husband has served as an elder; and I am a deacon.

Eleven years ago, Erica, our first daughter, her husband, and our two grandkids moved to Costa Rica. This started our bucket list check off to explore new spots throughout Central and South America. We have traveled extensively as a family of seven through Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Belize, Honduras, Peru, Brazil, Columbia, and Ecuador, including the Galapagos Islands. Our family in Costa Rica visits us during the summers in La Jolla, and we all go to Stony Lake to the family cottage to catch up with family.

My favorite activities include time with family and friends, gardening, walking, my Egoscue class, and time in the gym.

GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST – 105

Artichokes

By Arthur Dawson

March and April are the months of the main artichoke harvest in La Jolla. That's a period when the winter vegetables are slowing down, or they're being cleared out to make room for the space-hungry summer vegetables. It's true that artichokes also take a lot of space, but they flourish on poor soil that may not be suitable for other edibles. Artichokes can be harvested year-round in Monterey County, where most of the US crop is grown but are a spring crop here. Commercial crops are also grown in the Imperial and Central valleys, but there they plant annual varieties like 'Imperial Star'. Here we can grow perennials like 'Green Globe', as well as annuals, but will still get only a spring crop. The plants can be persuaded to flower at other times of the year if they are cut back at the appropriate time and allowed to regrow, which is how the growers on the Central Coast maintain a fairly steady harvest.

California produces almost the entire US harvest, but the Italian crop is some nine times that of the United States. Scores of artichoke varieties have been developed, mostly in Italy and France, but seeds for only a few are available here. Even 'Seeds from Italy', our go-to source for interesting varieties, lists only three including the ubiquitous 'Green Globe'. We've probably had three or four unusual varieties that we bought unidentified as 6-packs or were given by friends, and some of them are different enough to be worth growing. We haven't grown them from seeds but it seems to be easy enough if they are planted in the late autumn. There is at least one formidably spiny variety, perhaps the "Sardinian prickly artichoke", that can't be harvested or prepared without considerable bloodshed. We usually destroy these plants as soon as they declare their nasty disposition, though they have a good flavour. I understand that true artichoke aficionados prefer to eat the prickly ones raw, something we haven't yet tried.

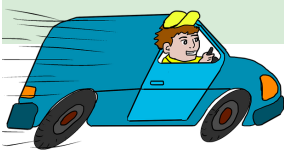
We especially like a purple variety, 'Violetta', that forms a rather loose head with more tender petals, requiring less surgery during their preparation. Its fault is that earwigs can readily crawl between the petals, leaving their faeces behind, even after the perpetrators are shaken or driven out.

Invasion of the heads by "creeping things", as the KJV describes them, is not a big problem for most of us but became a major issue for Orthodox Jews when, two years ago, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel declared one of the signature dishes of the Roman ghetto, *carciofi alla giudia* (artichokes Jewish style), to be nonkosher. "The heart of the artichoke is full of worms, there's no way you can clean it." The Jewish restaurants of Milan meekly submitted and removed *carciofi* from their menus. The Jews of the ancient Roman ghetto resisted, pointing out that the artichokes used in their dishes were more compact than those grown in Israel, preventing insects from infesting them.

**WE NEED A SPINDRIFTER EDITOR!**

The Spin editors will sorely miss Catherine Fraser and her contributions to our editing team. We are looking for another member who would enjoy putting together the Spin for the membership of VGCLJ. Because there are three of us, your responsibility is only for 3 issues a year. We use Microsoft Publisher as our editing program, a program anyone who has Microsoft Office on their PC will have easy access to. There is much room for your own creativity, but we will be happy to guide you through the process. Please let us know so that we can begin this summer to familiarize you with the process.

Lynn Jewell jewellbox@cox.netNancy Palmtag npalmtag@msn.com**ANNOUNCEMENT** 



OUR FAVORITE THINGS

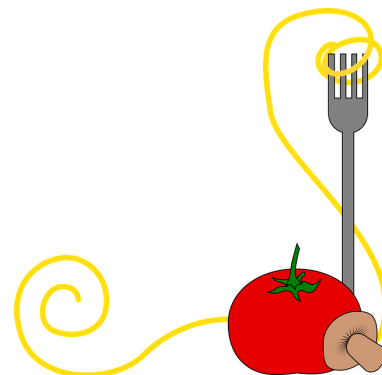
Remember when you said you don't cook anymore? Well, it's not too late to purchase a copy of *Our Favorite Things*, the newest Village Garden Club cookbook! The cookbook is chock full of wonderful recipes that we guarantee you'll enjoy and will help you pass the time as we all anxiously await our return to VGCLJ in the fall.

We will be happy to deliver a copy to you...just have your check or cash ready (\$15) when we drop it off.

Proceeds help support all of the Club's civic projects. But, most of all, it will keep you occupied until we are all together again. Stay safe and healthy!

Thanks,

Robin, Kate, Pam, Devonna, Jan, Ana, Donna, Karen, and Carol.



Jacaranda and Native Tree Planting Program

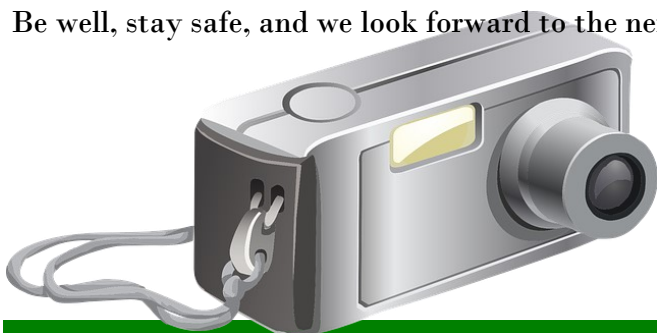
As we write from our continued Sheltering in Place/Safe at Home, we can't wait to see the beautiful Jacaranda trees that have been planted by our club come into bloom. Every year we look forward to seeing those beautiful purple blooms. We encourage members who see the glorious trees in bloom to please take photographs, and send them to devonnarh@gmail.com and penelopewest1@gmail.com. Just let us know where you took photo and the date. We'd love to have a collection of these photos, and we promise to credit the photographer.



Once we are able to gather together again, we have some very exciting opportunities for native tree planting that we look forward to sharing with you.

We miss seeing our wonderful members and want to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported the program this year. The program wouldn't work without you.

Be well, stay safe, and we look forward to the next time we can be together.



Devonna Hall and Penelope West, Co-chairs

Kudos

Kudos to both Debi Nichols and Karen Morse, who don their masks and gloves to work in separate areas of the Moores Cancer Center Healing Garden most weekends. Debi explained that the recent rains have caused the landscaping to “explode” and there is lots to do. “It has given Karen and me something to look forward to. It also keeps the garden a place of beauty and order during this crazy time in the world for those who are already going through the stress of being in the infusion center.”

We are inspired and most grateful to Debi and Karen for taking time away from their gardens to make sure our healing garden landscape remains beautiful during this time of uncertainty.



Gardener's Exchange Table



Now, more than ever, we have time to work in and enjoy our gardens, and what a blessing it has been! Not only did the rains bring beautiful flowers, but the fragrance of gorgeous roses, other flowers, and citrus trees is wonderful, a true celebration of the senses. Today, I was amazed by the scent of our huge pink wandering rose vine, and when I shook it, it rained fragrant rose petals all over where my 3½-year-old granddaughter happily stood! Our gardens are definitely our sanctuaries in many ways, especially as we need to live socially distant from one another.

We were so sorry not to have our meeting in April and will likewise miss you in May. We look forward to seeing you when we meet again. It's amazing just how much this garden club means to us, especially when we cannot get together. Thanks to those who posted pictures of your lovely gardens. Wow!

In the meantime, enjoy your gardens and we invite you to collect as many gardening items as you wish for the next time we see each other. Please plan to bring your items: cuttings, plants with labels, vases, planters, books, garden supplies and décor early enough during our social hour for people to find them. Best wishes to you as you live in a very different world. Be well and stay healthy.

We really look forward to seeing you again in the fall if not sooner!

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

No doubt many of you have noted the aptness of our theme this year that “it takes a village.” The work of the program committee for our club has been undone—but only temporarily—by our civic responsibility to the greater community during these uncertain times. As we observe the quarantine to protect our families, we are sending our thoughts and best wishes to all of you that you are staying safe and healthy.

Our last two speakers of the year—Dr. J.J Purcell from Cypress Hill Farm and Joy Joyce from Apricot Lane Farm—have graciously and enthusiastically agreed to speak to us next year when the club can safely meet and they can safely travel. We can all look forward to welcoming them to our club and hearing their inspirational presentations.

Sheryl Lester
Susan Harris



Sheltering in Place

“Just stay home” Governor Newsome has told us. And so we have. For weeks now. I recently came across this quote from the TV series “The Midwife” I had saved, and remembered how true it seemed in 2013. Today the words have even more meaning, along with added gratitude.

*Home is not simply a mark upon a map
Anymore than a river is just water.*

*It is a place in the center of the compass from which every arrow radiates
And where the heart is fixed.*

*It is a force that forever draws us back or spurs us on.
For where the home is there lies hope and the future waits.
And everything is possible.*

Nancy Palmtag

'Til We Meet Again



Happy Mother's Day!

**The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
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