



The Spindrifter



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General Meeting (via Zoom)

Thursday, May 20

Business meeting: 10:00

Program: 10:30

Toni Gattone

You Can Garden for Life!

&

Claire Worth Parkinson and

Tanner Van Vorst

A Designworthy Patio



See page 3 for more information

MAY CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



As this unprecedented garden club year comes to an end, we reflect on our goal of maintaining the connections, education, experiences, and friendships that make our Village so special. We started our journey this year 334 members strong. This included ten new members, whom we welcomed with a virtual New Member Reception via Zoom on September 10th.

Our theme, “Think and Grow Outside the Box,” motivated us to reframe what *was* into what *could be* and gave rise to new ways to communicate and engage while following CDC and community pandemic measures. We learned how to Zoom; stayed informed through Eblasts and our wonderful Spindrifter newsletter; connected with one another in the closed Facebook Page set up by Elizabeth

Hansen; and shared pictures of our beautiful gardens through Voices from our Village.

In September, our masked Drive-By Yearbook Pick Up and Penny Pines Donation in the CBI parking lot allowed for a brief greeting. What fun it was to try and guess who was behind each mask! Then, in November we were able to visit briefly in Sue Kalish’s front yard at our Schoolyard Gardens Sale/Gardeners Exchange. It also offered an opportunity to personalize holiday cards to go with the Bouquet of Thanks Poinsettia Project. In the spring, small groups of vaccinated club members were able to enjoy three mini tours of the San Diego Botanic Garden generously led by docent, Susan Starr.

Our committees used COVID-conscious measures to meet their objectives. We had an amazing lineup of speakers, both national and international, secured by our enterprising and energetic program co-chairs, Sheryl Lester and Susan Harris. Topics were as varied as an Insect Hotel in Sweden, a Cotswold Safari, Monarch butterflies, and using nature to inspire jewelry, to name just a few.

Bouquet of Thanks was able to reimagine all four projects so as not to disappoint the VA patients and staff. The Schoolyard Garden Committee adjusted their grant process to accommodate the changes our schools faced. Wreaths Across America exceeded its goal of placing wreaths on the graves of veterans. Our Moores Healing Garden team found a way to socially distance and maintain the beautiful garden enjoyed and appreciated by so many patients and staff. The Jacaranda and Habitat Tree Planting Program continued planting throughout the county, adding Engelmann Oaks to the Paradise Valley Community Park and Jacarandas in La Jolla, thus improving the environment as well as beautifying neighborhoods.

In April, Expressions in Art and Flowers reimaged their event virtually and continued their 18-year tradition of inspirational ideas for the interpretation of art and flowers. If you haven’t had the opportunity to view the video, we encourage you to give a gift to yourself and watch this extraordinary presentation. As we end the year, the Nominating Committee presented us with a strong slate of officers who will lead us into next year full of possibilities.

As this is our last Co-Presidents' Message, we want to express our gratitude for your support

during the past two years. We are honored that you trusted us to serve you and are so appreciative of your willingness to journey with us through the pandemic and its attendant challenges.

Wishing you sunny days ahead filled with good health and much happiness.

Sue and Sue / Sue²

MEET OUR MAY MEETING PRESENTERS:

TONI GATTONE



Toni Gattone is a Master Gardener, entrepreneur, and a speaker with a passion to help gardeners garden for life. Toni knows from experience that physical limitations are the reason we need to re-evaluate how and when we garden, and how we can re-work our gardens for greater comfort and safety. With grace and humor, Toni speaks to audiences at garden clubs, national flower and garden shows, Master Gardener symposiums, as well as women's and senior groups. Her audience agrees: Toni's enthusiasm and deep love of gardening is contagious.

Toni is the author of the book, *The Lifelong Gardener: Garden with Ease and Joy at Any Age*. It was published in August 2019 and has been resonating with many gardeners since then. An autographed copy of this informative book is available from her website <https://tonigattone.com/the-lifelong-gardener-book/> or you can find the book on Amazon.

CLAIRE WORTH PARKINSON AND TANNER VAN VORST

Claire Worth Parkinson is the owner and principal designer at Designworthy, an interior design firm dedicated to creating spaces that inspire joy. Equipped with a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in Interior Architecture and Design, Claire has honed this early love for design and crafted it into a full-time obsession. Claire believes a well-designed, balanced interior space has the power to positively influence the mindset, productivity, and general well-being of her clients. Joining her at Designworthy is Tanner Van Vorst, who has a

degree in Environmental Studies and a passion for Landscape Design. Working together, they provide a strong team approach to indoor and outdoor projects. Some of their work is showcased on their website: www.designworthyinteriors.com **Susan Harris**



Claire Worth Parkinson



Tanner Van Horst

MAY KUDOS

Congratulations and Kudos to the new Executive Board for saying YES when asked to serve. Your dedication to the Village Garden Club is an inspiration to all of us. We look forward to supporting you as you lead us into 2022: Co-Presidents, Susan Harris, Roz Bradley; 1st Co-Vice President, Jean Collins, Kim Devoe; 2nd Co-Vice President, Elaine Butz, Jeanne Smith; Recording Secretaries, Susan Starr, Jean Thomas; Corresponding Secretary, Leslie Dupree; Treasurer, Cindy Lococo.

Sue and Sue /Sue 2

LA JOLLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2021 VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR



We have all been looking forward to once again peeking behind the garden gates of the lovely gardens of La Jolla. This year enjoy a Virtual Garden Tour from the comfort of your home Saturday May 22 at 7:00 pm. The program will include four custom tours of some of the most beautiful and popular gardens from previous La Jolla Secret Garden Tours.. And you will not want to miss a sneak peek of one of the gardens scheduled for the 2022 Secret Garden Tour! Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for

non-members. Register today at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-garden-tour-2021-tickets-143799186237>

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Deanna Weeks



I am almost a native San Diegan. My parents met and married here, but it was war time, and my Mom had followed my Dad to Colorado where he was stationed with the Army Air Corps when I made my appearance. We moved back here when I was a few months old.

I grew up in La Mesa and then went to Cal where I graduated with a degree in English. I married my high school sweetheart, John, who is Professor Emeritus of Geography at SDSU and Director of the International Population Center. We will celebrate our 56th anniversary this month! We have three children and seven grandchildren, and though we are all spread out geographically now, everyone comes home for a month every summer. It is the highlight of our year!

While my husband finished graduate school and then while we were raising our family, I worked as a freelance textbook editor and did volunteer work, including raising scholarship funds for re-entry women who were facing obstacles to higher education. When the kids went off to college I took a job with a newly created public-private partnership created to support job creation and training. I became the CEO of the East County Economic Development Council where I worked for 25 years. During that time, I was also elected to the Board of Trustees of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. Education has always been a very high priority.

Lani Freymiller, my lifelong friend (our parents became best friends when we were babies) often invited me as a guest to VGCLJ events, and when I retired she sponsored me for membership. It seemed the best contribution I could make to the club would be to work on the Spindrifter. What a team! I love working with the talented women who race to meet the deadline every month to keep members informed and enlightened.

I am also a member of the San Diego County Garden Guild and a weekly knitting workshop. My own garden is a certified habitat--a rustic couple of acres whose bounty we share with birds, butterflies and bunnies.



LAST CHANCE!!!



Please send your photographs of your garden ❀, what you see on your walks ❀, and what makes you smile 😊 to Sue Kalish, suekinlj@yahoo.com, for inclusion in the May Power Point during our general meeting. Our members love seeing the world through your eyes. 🕶️



WRAPPING UP



EXPRESSIONS IN ART AND FLOWERS 2021

We hope you enjoyed our tutorial on the interpretation of art through flowers. There are many whom we wish to thank:

- René van Rems, AIFD
- Dennis Ferrara, Videographer
- Amy Evans, Music
- Paige Perkins, Artist
- Wendy Watson Diedrich, Artist
- Elaine Butz, Artist
- Our Wonderful Committee. - *We thank you for your input on selecting our three art pieces for the show and we look forward to working together again in person with you this next year.*

René clearly gave us a plan for approaching an interpretation of an art piece. What is wonderful is that we will be able to review this plan again next year using this video. May it serve to inspire you, our garden club members, to create your own Expressions next year.

Janet Evans and Bonnie Sipe



Wendy Watson Diedrich
Yellow Bird



Paige Perkins/Summertime



Elaine Butz/Gears



GARDENERS' EXCHANGE TABLE



Hello, dear gardening lovers. Happy Spring! We hope you are enjoying all the beautiful flowers and gorgeous weather we have had! Though we have enjoyed our amazingly wonderful presenters and meetings on Zoom, we cannot wait to be with each other in person. Best wishes as you enjoy gardening and viewing amazing gardens around town. We look forward to the day when we can get together to exchange items at our Gardener's Exchange table, so keep collecting gardening items, tools, and décor for our future meetings. Please save your extra giveaways until we meet again, or you may go online, as well.

In the meantime, we are still doing a **Virtual Gardeners' Exchange** that can be done on our CLOSED Facebook CHATROOM any time you want to post what you have. Please feel free to 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. See your 2020-2021 YEARBOOK for information about how to post gardening items such as cuttings, excess fruit or vegetables, plants, planters, vases, gardening tools, books, and any type of garden décor on our CLOSED Facebook page.

Those of you who do not use Facebook can send your posting information to suekinlj@yahoo.com for inclusion in Voices from Our Village.

Finally, happy gardening, and best wishes as we enjoy beautiful gardens replete with lovely flowers and trees. It has been so nice to move about more normally, so enjoy!

Clara Blenis and Suzanne Thomas



TREE PLANTING PROGRAM



It hasn't been easy this year for committee members to explore locations for tree planting due to the pandemic, however we are pleased to report this progress of our project at Bird Rock Elementary School. As we reported before, a prominent Ficus tree on the joint-use community park was split by strong winds and had to be removed by the City.



Since the tradition for the graduating class at Bird Rock Elementary is to leave a gift to their school, Laura Thompson, mother of a graduating student and daughter of our former long-time member Connie Mullin Branscombe, spearheaded the idea of donating replacement trees through our Club's Tree Planting Program. We have accordingly been working with the Bird Rock Elementary parents, as well as the La Jolla Parks and Recreation, the City of San Diego and the La

Jolla Parks & Beaches. The City has given approval for two trees, and the plan is to plant Flowering Red Gum trees (*Corymbia ficifolia*).

Parents' donations and our program will be enough to cover the cost of two trees. There will be a plaque giving credit to the Garden Club and the graduating class at Bird Rock Elementary. A draft of the plaque wording is:

Planting the seed of Knowledge

The BRE 5th grade class of 2021
In partnership with the Village Garden Club of La Jolla
Dedicates these trees to the Bird Rock community
To enjoy for years to come.

The Tree Planting Program has received quite a bit of notice because of this, and several Bird Rock parents said they were so happy to know about our program. We are excited to plant these trees because they provide essential services, including but not limited to access to nature, supporting wildlife habitat, cooling neighborhoods and buildings, cleaning the air, reducing stormwater runoff, inviting active living, and reflecting the historic and unique characteristics of neighborhoods.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been created and we are waiting on signatures, but we hope to plant these two habitat trees the third week of May. We'd love to have VGCLJ members attend the planting. We also plan to invite The La Jolla Light and several newspapers.

Devonna Hall and Penelope West



BOUQUET OF THANKS



Kalanchoe Workshop. Bouquet of Thanks will conduct its final workshop of this club year on Wednesday, May 26. Karen Taylor has graciously agreed to host the workshop and lunch in her beautiful covered patio and garden in the Muirlands. Volunteers will be assembling about 160 baskets with blooming Kalanchoes, floral mesh, and patriotic pinwheels, flags, etc., for delivery to the VA Hospital in La Jolla. These colorful, long-lasting baskets are really appreciated by the patients and staff.



Thank You. As this most unusual club year draws to a close, I would like to thank the many people who pitched in with donations of funds, their time, handmade cards, and materials to enable us to continue our signature projects. We completed 138 succulent-topped pumpkins, handmade holiday cards paired with 165 poinsettias, 118 Tillandsia creations, and 160 Kalanchoe baskets this year without missing a beat or reducing our donations. This year, our work was appreciated even more than ever with the severe restrictions on visitors and apprehension about the pandemic. In addition to the donation acknowledgements, we received a personal letter from the Director of the VA commending us for continuing with our mission despite the COVID challenges.

Thank you to the co-chairs and hostesses who found ways for people to work safely in their homes, and to all the volunteers (even including some family members and neighbors) who bravely masked up and showed up to help, determined to put smiles on the faces of our

deserving veterans and the VA Hospital staff. It has been my privilege to work with all of you over the years, but most especially this year.

Thank you.

Julia Sheldon, Chair, Bouquet of Thanks



GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST

MORO BLOOD ORANGE



We've grown a Moro blood orange for 38 years, but the tree has always struggled. That area of the garden is infiltrated with roots from across the fence, and it has been attacked several times by gophers. The fruit was small, tart, and inconsistently colored. In recent years the fruiting has alternated strongly, with almost no crop in the even years and sometimes threatening to break the branches in the odd years. We keep growing it because late in the season, March and April, a couple of the oranges can add interesting colour and flavor to juice squeezed from the more reliable Lane Late navel.

This has been an amazingly good spring for citrus, not just for us. All of our friends report abundant crops and copious bloom, despite an unusually dry winter. My theory is that the heavy rains of last year replenished the water table, allowing the deepest roots to function during the summer more effectively than they have for years. While the Lane Late navel and the Valencia oranges are doing very well, the effect on the blood orange has been spectacular. The fruit is much larger than usual, and it was sweet enough to use for juice by early February, a month earlier than usual. The flavor is rich and berry-like. The crop is almost finished now, and we are finding juice from Lane Late a bit insipid, though we have always had a good opinion of it in the past. We begin to see why the Italians esteem blood oranges so highly. We're pleased to see a profusion of blossoms on the tree and hope that by coddling it though the summer we will enjoy another good crop next year.

Blood oranges owe their color to the production of anthocyanins, pigments that also give the purple or blue coloration to grapes, blueberries, red cabbage, and many other plants. Anthocyanin production in oranges depends on a gene called *Ruby*, which is only expressed in the presence of a 'transposon' or 'jumping gene,' a DNA sequence that can insert itself next to another gene and modify its behavior. The transposon requires the stress of cold temperatures to exert its action on *Ruby*. If blood oranges are grown in most of the citrus growing regions of the world, like Florida and Brazil, they will lack the cold stimulus and will have the same appearance as 'blond' oranges. The special conditions for good pigment are found on the slopes of Mount Etna and also, it seems, in our garden, where night temperatures can drop 5 or even 10° below those reported for the area. Blood oranges are also found in western China, and it was thought that the fruit was brought to Italy in the 16th century. However, genetic analysis has shown that the Chinese and Italian varieties arose from separate mutations.

In 2012 a team at the John Innes Centre in Norwich reported that they had produced a modified gene that could be inserted in 'blond' orange plants, allowing them to produce anthocyanins under warmer conditions. A group in Florida similarly used 'genetic engineering' to make 'purple' Mexican lime plants. Both groups predicted that we would see new blood orange varieties from the major citrus growing areas of the world within a few years.

Prior to planting the Moro, we had a Tarocco blood orange. It languished for a few years, growing very slowly, producing little fruit, and inflicting serious injury with its sparse but formidable thorns. We finally replaced it with Moro. In Italy Tarocco is considered superior to Moro because of its sweetness and, allegedly, its better flavor, though it is acknowledged to be less productive and less colorful.

Arthur Dawson

MAY 2021 CALENDAR

San Diego is currently in the ORANGE zone with zoos, parks, most museums, outdoor and some indoor dining open at 50 percent following COVID-19 directions. The decreased infection rate with many people completing the various vaccines for immunity has opened up safe gatherings with families and friends. The websites that I checked on are still meeting remotely. **Famous San Diego Tourist attractions are open, but MOST REQUIRE RESERVATIONS. Please keep that in mind and check with the venues.**

PLACES TO GO

Sea World: For reservations, tickets, and more information <http://www.Seaworld.com>

San Diego Botanic Garden: Open Wed – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For reservations, tickets, and more information <http://www.sdbgarden.org>

San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden: Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 Seniors (65+) and military with I.D. Please review reopening policies regarding COVID-19 Including some restrictions at <http://www.niwa.org>

ACTIVITIES

Every Saturday - Balboa Park Docent Tours - Join volunteer guides on free history-orientated walk through Balboa Park. Meet at Balboa Park Visitor Center at 11:00 a.m. More information: <https://www.balboapark.org/>

May 13, Thursday – San Diego Floral Association - Après Cinco de Mayo Salsa Making Class (ZOOM) 10 a.m. Instructor Kathy Taylor de Murillo will demonstrate how to make three different salsas. Classes are free. To register: Send class name/date and your contact information to: infosdfloral@gmail.com and you will be sent the Zoom link and can see the list of ingredients.

June 5, Saturday - Water Conservation Garden Tour - Docent led tour. Tour begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. in the plaza. Tours are for limited capacity with safe, social-distancing

measures. No reservations are required for same household groups. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West. More information and directions: <http://www.thegarden.org>

June 26, Saturday – San Diego Floral Association - “Vistas and Verandas, The Gardens of Ocean Beach Tour” 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Site had not updated more information about tour. Please go online for updates at <http://sdfloral.org>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITES TO INVESTIGATE

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>

San Diego Master Gardener Association <http://mastergardenersd.org>

Patricia Parks

