



The Spindrifter

November 2019
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General Meeting
Thursday, November 21, 2019
(Open to Guests)

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
9001 TOWNE CENTRE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO

Parking garage on site; Enter from Golden Haven Drive

9 –10 a.m. Hospitality hour
10-10:30 a.m. Business meeting
10:30-11:45 a.m. Program

“Natural Holiday Decor”
Speaker: Annette Gomez

Annette Gomez is a floral designer, collector, gardener, mom, wife, and friend, and the flower industry has been a part of her life for more than 30 years. In the early days, her frequent trips to a favorite local grower led to a happy marriage, three beautiful children, a menagerie of four-legged creatures, and a business that she loves. They have grown their business in a slow organic fashion and continue to challenge themselves with each event to go above and beyond. She credits much of her success to understanding the business from the grower's side as well as the florist's. She says, “The ability to find the freshest product really shows in our work.”

She loves dirt! With Mother Earth as her inspiration, she loves to feel the dirt under her feet and in her hands, and most of her spare time is spent in the garden tending to a collection of treasures--many of which are used to bring a personal touch to the events they create. She loves helping clients discover their own "floral personality" and translating it into a special event that will be treasured forever.



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



We usually associate the month of November with Thanksgiving and the fall harvest, but did you know that National Gratitude Month is an annual designation also observed this month? Showing appreciation only takes a few seconds but can last much longer than that. We are grateful this month and every month for all our garden club has to offer, the wonderful energy of its members who help us achieve our club objectives, and those who lend support, creativity, and friendship.

Little did we know how appropriate our theme of “it takes a village” would be this year. One month following our installation, Sue M. was sidelined with a cancer diagnosis requiring months of treatment. That left Sue K. to shoulder most of the responsibilities of the presidency. In addition to encouragement and well wishes, our “village” has stepped up with support and assistance, and for this we are most grateful. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to each of you.

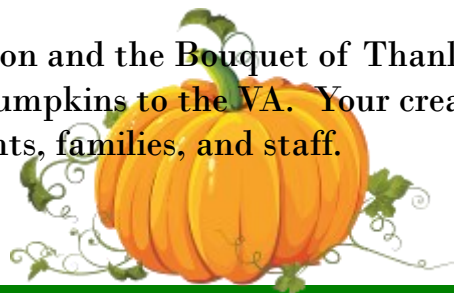
Our October meeting was a real “treat”. From the moment one spotted the festive Halloween themed refreshment table with the beautiful center piece by Cheryl Burns, to the clever and creative goodies spearheaded by our refreshment chairs Margaret Anne Lozuk and Kathy Peterson, one couldn’t help but smile. Sales were brisk at the Market Place featuring member Lynn Sauer’s unique finds. Thanks to all of our creative and energetic chairs, there was a lot to see as we caught up with our friends before moving into the Sanctuary to hear florist-farmer, Julio Freitas, speak about overcoming the challenges of growing flowers in Montana. Not only were we inspired, but I think we were ready to brave the snow and head to Bozeman.

In this season of gratitude, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Please know how very grateful we are to each of you for all your contributions to our “village.”

Sue²

Kudos

A big thank you to Julia Sheldon and the Bouquet of Thanks Committee for decorating and delivering 153 succulent pumpkins to the VA. Your creativity and generosity has an enormous impact on the patients, families, and staff.



SCHOOLYARD GARDENING GRANTS COMMITTEE



These photos show our efforts in action at St. Patrick's School in San Diego!! Many thanks to all of you members who have been so generous in supporting our efforts with donations and by purchasing items at our Ways and Means table!

Please also stop by our Ways and Means Table at the general meeting to see photos of the smiling faces of the enthusiastic children at work in some of the other schoolyard gardens. We will have many new items in the next couple of months--many packaged perfectly to use for hostess and holiday gifts! The money from your purchases support Ways and Means for all our club's overall operating expenses. You may also consider direct donations to support the Schoolyard Gardening Grant project!

Leigh Hartman and Mary Lippman



EXPRESSIONS IN ART AND FLOWERS

Calling all our talented artists and floral designers! Display your creativity at the 18th annual **Expressions in Art and Flowers** on March 26, 2020!

Thirty-six pieces of art will be displayed at the February meeting for floral designers to select the one they want to interpret for this exciting, non-judged event on March 26.

Paintings, drawings, needlework, ceramics, jewelry, photographs and more have intrigued and delighted members and guests alike over the past 17 years. New and returning members are encouraged to enter their original art by signing up online (www.vgclj.com) or at the November, December, or January meeting.

Mentors will be available to provide suggestions and support as needed. Questions? Contact one of the co-chairs:

Bonnie Sipe, 858-454-9381

bsipe@san.rr.com

Janet Evans, 858-454-0070

janetlyevans@yahoo.com



Garden Club Gallery Presents:



Leah Higgins and Shannon
Turner will be sharing original
art and beautiful,

Holiday Pantry Sale

One of the liveliest fundraising events of the year is quickly approaching, and we hope you are planning to bring your delicious homemade goodies to be sold at our annual Pantry Sale on December 12th. Besides your yummy baked goods, please consider other homemade goodies such as: pickles and relishes, dried fruits and/or nuts, jars of prepared soup mixes, rubs, jams, and vinegars. Whatever you bring, we look forward to seeing your festively-wrapped goodies on our Holiday Pantry Table at the December meeting.

Linda Bienhoff and Leslie Dupree



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Sheryl Lester



I've been married to my husband for 21 years. We have three children: our daughter, Claire, who is 19 and studying at Purdue University; our son, Charles, who is 17 and a senior at St. Augustine High School; and our daughter, Charlotte, who is 13 and an eighth grader at The Bishop's School.

When we moved to La Jolla eight years ago, we rebuilt our home. It was then that I really got involved in my garden. I planted an assortment of English and antique roses, camellias that I purchase from a man in Louisiana, and scented pelargonium that I grew from cuttings. Once that area was thriving I began the next. My husband and son terraced a portion of our hillside, added irrigation and built up the soil bed so I could plant an orchard. I have two avocados, lime, persimmon, pear, orange, Satsuma, Eureka lemon, Black Mission fig, apricot, pomegranate, and plum trees.

My poor husband thought we were finished, but the tremendous orchard led me to taking out the back lawn! We brought in fresh compost and topsoil to create a kitchen garden, and I challenged myself to grow as much as possible from seed. What a humbling yet deeply satisfying exercise! I grow loads of herbs that include, basil, French lavender, bergamot, lemon verbena, dill, chervil, thyme, chamomile, fennel, and rosemary. I also had a marvelous crop of artichokes this past summer. Currently, I'm growing edible flowers such as calendula and nasturtium as well as kale, Swiss chard, onions, red cabbage, radish, carrots, spinach, asparagus, and okra. The kitchen garden is flanked by two Golden Dorset apple trees, creating my favorite space in my home. To sit and watch the pollinators is the best part of my day.

Somewhere in the middle of all that I was invited to join the Village Garden Club of La Jolla by my friend Gaynor Pates. It was a tremendous gift because I have met some of my favorite friends through the VGCLJ. I've served on the Horticulture Committee, chaired Meet the Masters, co-chaired Refreshments, and am currently co-chair of Programs. I feel privileged to work on behalf of our club and look forward to this next exciting year.



The Jacaranda Committee - Tree Planting

Inquiring Minds want to Know

What is a Habitat Tree?

Habitat is defined as the natural environment of an organism, the type of place in which it is natural for it to live and grow. These trees will provide habitat for our native birds, bees, and other pollinators, providing them with food and shelter.

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone, here is a link to the donation form:

<https://bit.ly/36cF3cm>

(Please copy and paste into your browser if necessary.)



Horticulture

The October Tables

We hope you all got to view the wonderful table displays of fall plants from our gardens. Rich colors of yellow, gold, purple, red, gray, green, and bronze, all giving a strong indication that fall is on its way in Southern California.

Charming arrangements of many fall favorites included pomegranates, kaffir limes, cassia, Chinese Flame Tree, acalypha, pineapple guava, tagetes, coprosma, tamarillo, feverfew, and many, many more specimens from our amazing committee of gardeners. Please stop by our tables with something from your garden, too.

In November we will go further into the heart of the Harvest Season with more cuttings, leaves, pods and flowers that reflect the harvest home and table.

Happy Gardening from the Horticultural Committee.

MaryAnn Brown and Vicki Lugo



UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS

By Pat Parks

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

Saturday Nov. 8 – Nov. 9 California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter

Oaks of So. California - 2-day workshop - Saturday in classroom 9:00 a.m., Sunday 5:00 p.m., will be conducted outside through a tour of various oak species populations throughout San Diego. Instructor Fred Roberts, author of Illustrated Guide to Oaks of California Floristic Province. Cost \$139.54 for members, and \$155.07 non- members: Buena Vista Audubon Center, 202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA 92054. More info and tickets: <http://www.cnpsd.org>

Wednesday, Nov.15 – San Diego Floral Association

Floral Design Class -- Make and take a beautiful fresh flower cornucopia and door wreath. Bring scissors or clippers, materials will be provided. Instructor Kathy Taylor de Murillo. Cost \$ 25 members, \$30 non-members. Rm 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego 92101. More Information: <http://www.sdfloral.org>

Saturday, Nov.16.-Botany for Kids

10:00 a.m. in front of the Lily Pond, Balboa Park, San Diego 92101. More Information: <http://www.coastalsage.mysite.com>

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 Info <http://www.sandiego//december-nights>

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, 92122. Cost Members free; \$15 non-members. More information: <http://www.sdhort.org>





Reservations Now Open to Members and Guests
for

The VGCLJ Holiday Luncheon

December 12, 2019

Noon Until 3PM



The Marine Room

\$59 Per Person

Reservation Form (with mailing instructions) and Menu
are on the Club website.

Reservations will also be taken at the November Meeting
(bring check or cash.)

Questions?

Contact:

Roz Bradley (858) 245-2113 or rdietrich@ucsd.edu

or

Carolynn La Pierre (858) 456-8145 or calapier1@san.tt.com

Reminder of Spindrift Deadlines

November 21st for December

December 19th for January

January 30th for February

February 5th for March

March 2nd for April

April 30th for May

Please note all articles are due at 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date.

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 November Meeting



Our Favorite Things!

If you haven't had a chance to look at the new VGCLJ cookbook, please stop by our table in the Social Hall where prewrapped copies will be available for purchase at \$15 each! What a lovely Thanksgiving/Holiday hostess gift, fall birthday gift, Hanukkah, or Christmas gift! And, trust us, you'll want this collection for your very own, too.

Robin Vandever, Chair



BOUQUET OF THANKS

Pumpkins for Patriots Workshop. October 29th was a kaleidoscope of color and energy at St. James by the Sea Episcopal Church where 35 creative volunteers gathered to decorate 153 pumpkins with succulents and other embellishments for the VA Hospital. The efforts of many made an event of this magnitude possible, and the results were stunning. Co-Chair Sandy Small scoured the local markets for unblemished, small pumpkins, while my husband and I searched fields and stores countywide for attractive, undamaged large pumpkins. Sandy hosted Marilyn Sorenson, Kathleen McNeil, and Linda Wittmer at her home to pre-moss the pumpkins, which is crucial to keeping the workshop on schedule. She also did a demo on the process for us at St. James.



Thanks to the many who brought extra succulents, embellishments, and/or yummy snacks to keep us going. Once again, we are indebted to Penelope West for opening her wonderful garden for cuttings of gorgeous aloes and aeoniums, plus jade, juniper, and melaleuca. We are so grateful to St. James for hosting our group for the 7th consecutive year and, especially, to Walter DuMelle for setting up the room and providing hot beverages. Our photographer, Jill Holmes, was there from start to finish, capturing all the action and beautiful pumpkins. She will post photos on SmugMug shortly (under Civic Projects). Thanks to everyone who helped pack and ferry pumpkins out to waiting cars. And, finally, thanks to our delivery drivers: Debi Nichols for helping me transfer big pumpkins to Sandy's house, and to Gail Dill, Kathleen McNeil, MaryAnn Driscoll, Alida Bracker, and Barbara Doren, who loaded up pumpkins and delivered to the VA.



Upcoming Holiday Project. For the third year, Nansea Wolff has organized holiday card donations from the group of ~40 women she works with at the Clairemont Recreation Center. During the social hour before the November VGCLJ meeting, we will spread the cards out to admire and invite all members to write holiday messages for our vets. On December 18th, Bouquet of Thanks volunteers will meet at the VA to add the cards to pots of 4-inch poinsettias and deliver them to the patients and public areas of the VA.

Julia Sheldon, Bouquet of Thanks Chair

GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST – 102**Mind the Gap****By Arthur Dawson**

In my article two months ago I recommended making an early start by planting the autumn-winter garden in August. Even so, it will be late October or early November before you begin harvesting those cabbages, broccoli, and cauliflower. Unless you can keep the summer vegetables producing through the early autumn, you will be faced with the alternatives of starving for a couple of months or, even worse, buying all your produce from the supermarket.

I've already written about that favorite of summer, the tomato. With proper starting of new seedlings we can keep harvesting them most of the year, even in our overplanted and pathogen-ridden beds. We haven't had similar success with other nightshade vegetables, probably in part because the hybridizers haven't come up with varieties with the same degree of resistance, but mostly because they don't tolerate night temperatures in the 40s and, occasionally, in the 30s. The chilis brought from Mexico by Juan, the gardener, are perennial and produce fruit much too hot for our northern palates in all but the coldest months. However, the milder chilis, such as Jalapeño, don't tolerate cold weather much better than the sweet pepper hybrids. I haven't tried later plantings, and perhaps that would extend the season, but I have not found it to be a successful strategy with eggplants.

The only variety of cucumber we grow successfully is the very disease-resistant Sweet Success. I make an early planting the first week of March, for an early May harvest, and continue with just three seeds at a time every few weeks until the last week of July. This keeps us in fresh fruit until mid-October. Next year I'll try an August planting to see if I can extend the harvest further.

I haven't succeeded in keeping pole green beans going after mid-October. However, this year I was careful to remove all the overmature pods from the plants and was surprised to see new flowers and fruit appearing. As I write in the last week of October, it looks as though I may be able to harvest for another two or three weeks. Lima beans are still healthy and producing copiously, all we can use from only three plants. As I wrote last year, they are perennial in mild winter areas. I look forward to harvesting them for a few more weeks, at least, and perhaps into the cold months.

Our biggest surprise in the last few years has been how long we can extend the harvest of corn. A planting in mid-August will be slow to mature but can yield excellent quality corn in mid-November. Next year I'll try planting in the last week of August.

I suppose I should have more to say about summer squash, but we aren't sufficiently fond of them to want to





The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
c/o Annette Ritchie-Buis, Mailing Chair
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