



The Spindrifter



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General Meeting
Thursday, January 28



Business Meeting: 10:00
Program: 10:30

Karina Waters of *Château de Gudanes*



As an accountant and a doctor, Karina and Craig Waters, had no building or renovating experience before purchasing the crumbling Château de Gudanes in 2013 after seeing just four of its incredible 94 rooms. “All the other areas were inaccessible because of water damage. All we could do was peek around the corners to see what was almost all rubble,” says Karina.

The beauty, history, and potential of restoring the 1700-era estate left the couple feeling both overwhelmed and inspired. The property search itself came about by chance when the Waters’ daughter spent a month at school in France. “Craig was tracking Jasmine’s every move on the computer, and so advertisements for French real estate began to pop up,” says Karina. “It didn’t take long before the entire family was caught up in the idea.”

Château de Gudanes is a Class One Historic Monument and restoring it is a careful project with no set finish line and no fixed end use. It was opened up for visitors during this year’s European summer and will be again next year.

(Cont. pg.3)

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

Welcome 2021!

At the beginning of a new year, we often find ourselves reflecting on how quickly the time went by and wish we could have relished each moment a bit longer. Well, for most of us that was not the case this year and we are so glad to welcome 2021! 2020 was a year that both divided us, then brought us together in new ways, but just as we know that spring will follow winter, the news tells us there are brighter days ahead.

Congratulations to Debbie Handal, Jeanne Smith and Alida Bracker, the winners of the 3 lovely floral arrangements Breesa created during our December meeting. Her demonstration reminded us how to open up rose petals because they often don't do so on their own. A very simple trick that can certainly enhance your arrangement. Thanks to all who bought chances in the Opportunity Drawing. Your generosity added over \$1000 to the Speakers Fund.

Talented photographer, Matthew Baugh, took us on his journey as he traveled throughout the United States. His extraordinary photographs inspired both awe and wonder for the beauty in our country. It was a perfect antidote to being house bound for so many months.

January can be a quiet time of planning in the garden and that is true for the Village Garden Club as well. We will soon be nominating and electing a new Executive board. Please consider a position of leadership for next year. You can only be part of the decisions if you let your voice be heard. Our members are talented, knowledgeable, generous, and fun to work with. Bonnie Sipe and Penelope West are co-chairing the Nominating Committee, which will be formally selected at our January meeting, and look forward to hearing from you. Please contact them with any questions or ideas you may have. Our club is only as strong as its leadership.

As we continue to Grow and Think Outside the Box, we know it is the combination of the love of beauty, nature and the environment, the desire to learn and be educated and our commitment to the community that makes our club so very special. This has become even more evident during this extraordinary time. Please know how very appreciative we are of each of you.

Sue and Sue /Sue²

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2021





(Cont. from pg. 1)

“Over time we’ve realized this will be an ongoing project over our entire lifetimes and probably that of our children, too,” says Karina.

The couple has made an impressive commitment to restoring the chateau in a style that’s sensitive to its past, respecting its time as a Medieval fortress in the 13th century, through to its days as a chateau in the 18th century.

They’re also dedicated to ensuring a low footprint, both during renovation and for its end use, whatever that may be. This sustainable focus involves repurposing as much as possible, including furniture, décor, and building materials. These have been salvaged from the rubble of the site, sourced from local secondhand markets, or from other local buildings.

The tiles in the vestibule were saved from the 500 tons of rubble that was removed from inside the chateau before the first phase of work began. They were painstakingly laid by Karina herself.

Chateau de Gudanes has a gorgeous coffee table book for sale at chateaugudanes.com

Kudos

We are so appreciative of Susan Starr who so graciously said “YES” to serving as both co-recording secretary and Spindrifter editor. Thank you, Susan, for your positive attitude and willingness to share your computer expertise. You really did “Step up to the plate” and we are most grateful.

Sue and Sue /Sue ²



GARDENERS' EXCHANGE TABLE

Hello, dear gardening lovers. Happy New Year!

We wish you the best for 2021, which just has to be a better year! We sure hope that with the new vaccines, we can see each other in person again sometime in the new year. As of now, we will stay online with our amazing presenters, who have been fantastic. We will not be able to get together to exchange items at our Gardeners' Exchange table until it is safe, so we appreciate all that can be done online. We will have to “see” you there.

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. You can 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 **YEARBOOKS** 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 send your posting information to suekinlj@yahoo.com for inclusion in Voices from Our Village.

Finally, happy gardening and stay well!
Clara Blenis and Suzanne Thomas



Over the Garden Gate

Dr. Cecilia Carrick



I lived in Lima, Peru, until age 13, at which time my family immigrated to the United States. I completed medical school at UCSD and trained as a pathologist. I spent my entire career at Alvarado Hospital where I became Chief of Pathology and was elected President of the California Society of Pathologists. Deciding to retire from full-time medical practice at an early age, I quickly jumped into volunteer service. In conjunction with Pathologists Overseas, I served a stint in Madagascar, providing training to Malagasy physicians who were preparing to become pathologists. A colleague and I gathered and transported some 300 pounds of donated medical equipment to Hospital Amazonico de Yarinacocha in the Peruvian Amazon, an area so impoverished that some of the locals speak languages with no written form. There we trained six young laboratory workers to screen PAP smears.

From 2011-2013 I led the Point Loma Association in its mission of improving the neighborhood. I served not only with the gavel but also as a worker in the field, eliminating graffiti, collecting debris, and tending planted areas on a weekly basis. In 2013, both the City and the County of San Diego separately declared Cecilia Carrick Days. I was chosen by the Salvation Army as a Woman of Dedication in 2014 and as a Hometown Point Loma Hero in 2015.

I am still a leader for the Point Loma Association Beautification Team and enjoy gardening with my friends, including Linda Bienhoff, who asked me to join the VGCLJ. At VGCLJ I have been helping Alida Bracker after the meetings and recently helped Alida wash and dry every tablecloth for a clean VGCLJ start in a post Covid world!



These ladies were identified last month as new 2001 club members, In fact they are the “Shade Garden” ladies who helped last month’s Garden Gate recipient Ann Craig with her garden in The Showcase House of the San Diego Historical Society tour in 2000. They are Alice Brown, Connie Hucko, Peggy Magde, Gretchen McArdle, Eva Richmann Betty Vale, Connie Mullen (Branscomb) and Jackie Seidman.

GROWING EDIBLES ON THE COAST – 108**Hand-pollinating tomatoes****By Arthur Dawson**

As I mentioned in my last article, we continue to surround most of our vegetable beds with insect barrier, mainly to protect them from rabbits, though it's also effective in deterring digging by other mammals and, we hope, may prevent gophers from setting up shop as spring approaches. One unexpected side effect was that our tomatoes were setting very little fruit.

Tomatoes are self-fertile and bisexual. The latter term means that each flower has both male and female structures. Tomatoes don't produce nectar and aren't attractive to honeybees or other insect pollinators.

Wind pollination is the means of fertilization of many cereal grains and trees. Large quantities of pollen are produced, the grains floating in the air, with only a few fortunate ones landing on the stigma of a receptive flower, while others trigger sneezes in those allergic to the pollen. In tomatoes, the pollen needs to move only the short distance between the anthers and the stigma of the same flower or a nearby flower on the same, or an adjacent, plant. The wind can assist this, by shaking the plant, or insects, especially bumblebees, perform "buzz-pollination", vibrating the flowers to dislodge the pollen from the anthers. The few fruit that set on our plants were close to the ground, presumably fertilized when the relatively heavy granules dropped from flowers higher on the plant.

The Internet provides a wealth of advice about how to hand-pollinate tomatoes. Suggestions include the use of Q-tips or a small paintbrush, or simply shaking the plants a couple of times daily. For about \$15 you can buy a battery-powered vibrator designed to pollinate tomatoes, peppers and other flowers, and at a greater cost there are similar devices for the commercial greenhouse. Many articles aimed at the home vegetable gardener recommend using an electric toothbrush.

The method I've used doesn't appear in any article I've read, but I simply rub together the noses of two flowers that are close enough to each other that I don't damage them. This seems to be very effective. I now have from 3 to as many as 7 small fruit forming at each flower cluster, where previously I would be lucky to get one.

When I wrote about winter tomatoes two years ago, I mentioned that diseases seemed less of a problem during the cold months. I planned to plant one of the heirloom varieties that we'd had to give up growing because we were unable to practice crop rotation with our frequent replantings of vegetables of the nightshade family. In fact, I started a Yellow Brandywine that grew well and began to flower in December. Over the next three months it produced many flowers but set no fruit. We presumed, probably correctly, that this variety would fail to fruit in cold weather, and we took out the plant, though it was still healthy. However, with my recent success with hand-pollinating, I plan to have another try at growing heirloom varieties in the winter.



The photo shows a hand-pollinated flower cluster that looks like it will produce seven tomatoes. Normally, we'd have been lucky to get one or two.



BOUQUET OF THANKS

Holiday Project Wrap Up. After replanning multiple times due to changing COVID19 directives, we successfully completed our Holiday Project on December 14th. Thanks to our intrepid Bouquet of Thanks Committee, we delivered 165 beautiful red poinsettias, adorned with personalized handmade cards to the VA hospital in La Jolla. All of the cards were once again donated by members of Nansea Wolff's card-making group, who met over the summer in small groups to create their wonderful cards for us. We added personal messages to each card during our club's November yard sale at Sue Kalish's.

Normally, we do our final assembly in a courtyard at the VA. However, this year, instead of meeting there as a group, we worked at individual houses to allow everyone to work safely in accordance with CDC guidance. Nansea Wolff and I met in the parking lot of Trader Joe's and divided up cartons of poinsettias, cards and materials for delivery to multiple houses. Then Nansea, Judith and Duke Johnson, Jill, Michael, and Amy Holmes, their neighbors Bob and Laurie, and new member, Annie VerSteeg, unpacked the cartons and added all the cards and stickers at their homes, then repacked and delivered them to the VA. It was heart warming to see all the people who pitched in to help.



Needless to say, the VA was delighted to receive our donations. While unloading, Jill Holmes gave a plant to a vet who had just been discharged from the hospital, who commented, "...you have no idea how much this means to me." All of us were delighted to bring a little holiday cheer into the lives of the VA patients, families and staff during such a difficult holiday season.



Tillandsia Project. Annette Ritchie-Buis will once again coordinate our late winter project, where we will create long-lasting arrangements of Tillandsias, driftwood and shells. Details of this project will be finalized based on COVID19 status. We will most likely stage the materials at Annette's to be picked up and assembled at individual houses, much like we did with the holiday project.

Thanks to everyone for their support during this challenging year. Julia Sheldon, Chair

JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

by Pat Parks

As I started to compile this calendar Governor Newsom extended the shutdown order indefinitely or for at least 4 weeks. I have found some Zoom activities that you might enjoy. The ZOO, Wild Animal Park, Japanese Garden and museums are closed

PLACES TO GO

Balboa Park is an interesting place to walk. There is plenty of parking by the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and Auto Museum. Getting outside and walking is good exercise. Though the museums are closed you can walk around the buildings and there are several trails that you can follow. Information is given about the length and difficulty level of the various trails when you select the trail you would like to follow. The free Balboa Park app. (available for iPhone and android) has maps and is a helpful tool for exploring the park. <http://www.balboaparkconservancy.org>. Select Visitors Center and scroll down to Trails.

ACTIVITIES

Jurassic Quest: Dinosaur Drive Through event --- Fun activity for grandkids **Wed – Sunday, January 6-10** Del Mar Fairgrounds. Cost \$49 per car. Tickets and more **information:**

<http://www.jurassicquest.com/events/drive-thru-san-diego-ca>

Online Virtual Floral Classes: San Diego Floral

FREE Classes but **must be preregistered** at info.sdfloreal@gmail.com classes are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. An email will be sent with Zoom info and a list of materials needed.

Tuesday, January 14, 2021 Zoom demonstration on making a Tea Cup Bird Feeder with Jackie Rikeman. More information: <http://sdfloreal.org>

Tuesday, February 11, 2021 Zoom demonstration on making a Fairy Garden with Kathy Taylor. More information: <http://sdfloreal.org>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITES TO INVESTIGATE

San Diego Epiphyllum Society <https://www.sandiegoepi.org>

San Diego Zoo <http://www.sandiegozoo.com> ck 3rd 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://cnpsd.org>

San Diego Floral Association <http://sdfloreal.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>



As co-chairs of the Nominating Committee, Bonnie and Penelope announce the following members have agreed to serve on the committee:

Ann Craig, Mary Rogondino, Suzanne Ward, Gaynor Pates, Dodie Williams.

If members have any suggestions or recommendations for officers of our Executive Committee, please contact one of us.

Penelope West, Bonnie Sipe



Tree Planting Committee



We are thrilled to report that our Club, working with *Enhance La Jolla*, has planted 21 jacaranda trees along Pearl Street in La Jolla. (See the December 31st article in the *La Jolla Light* for the full story.) *Enhance La Jolla*, which is a non-profit organization funded by property owner assessments, has committed to water and maintain the jacarandas. We cannot think of a better use of our jacaranda funds than to create a beautiful display on this avenue in La Jolla.

At the same time, we are aware of the disturbing decline in insects and the resultant negative effect on birds, bees, pollinators, and, ultimately, agriculture. Loss of habitat is a major cause of this decline, and as a garden club we can help mitigate that loss and protect critical pollinators with our tree planting program.

Although we love the exotic Brazilian jacarandas for their spectacular blooms in spring, they don't offer the same benefits to our environment that California trees do. For example, an oak tree will provide welcome shade, pull excess carbon from the atmosphere, and provide habitat and food for many birds and insects who can't exist on non-native plants. For this reason we have expanded our tree planting mission to include habitat trees, such as the Engelmann Oaks and the Western Redbuds we recently planted in the Paradise Community Park in South Bay.

It is our vision now to see city streets lined with shade trees or an Engelmann oak gracing a City park. So, when you wish to honor someone special, we hope you will consider choosing a habitat tree. Your gift will help protect insect-eating birds, bumble bees, butterflies, and other creatures important to our environment as well as beautifying city neighborhoods.

Penelope West and Devonna Hall
Co-Chairs, Tree Planting Program





(From one of your Editors, Nancy Palmtag)
My New Year's Resolution for 2021

To be grateful that 2020 is done.

To be thankful

For the many who give their all
without hesitation to answer the call.

For healthcare workers who without fail,
keep showing up; they don't bail!

For fireman and cops, grocery clerks, and restaurant personnel
all frontline workers doing their jobs so well.

For scientists who have succeeded in finding vaccines
to knock back this dreaded Covid 19.

For teachers who keep trying to do what they can
to help their students, even with an in school ban.

To be hopeful

That families who lost loved ones so dear
will be able to find some kind of peace this year.

That small business owners can open their doors
without any restrictions or tape on the floors.

That we can practice patience and kindness in a new way,
to all work together in seeing that day.

So with this year that has just begun,
Let's make it the best year 2021!

