



The
Village
Garden
Club
of
La Jolla
California

The Spindrifter

Volume 41, Issue 5—January 2016

General Meeting—Guests \$15 fee
Thursday, January 28

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

**9001 TOWNE CENTRE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO
(PARKING GARAGE ON SITE; TICKET
VALIDATION AT MEETING)**

9:00-10:00 a.m. Hospitality Hour
10:00-10:30 a.m. Business Meeting
10:30-11:45 a.m. Program

Speaker: Bruce Rogers

*“Growing and Decorating With Orchids
(including Sobralias) Inside and Out”*

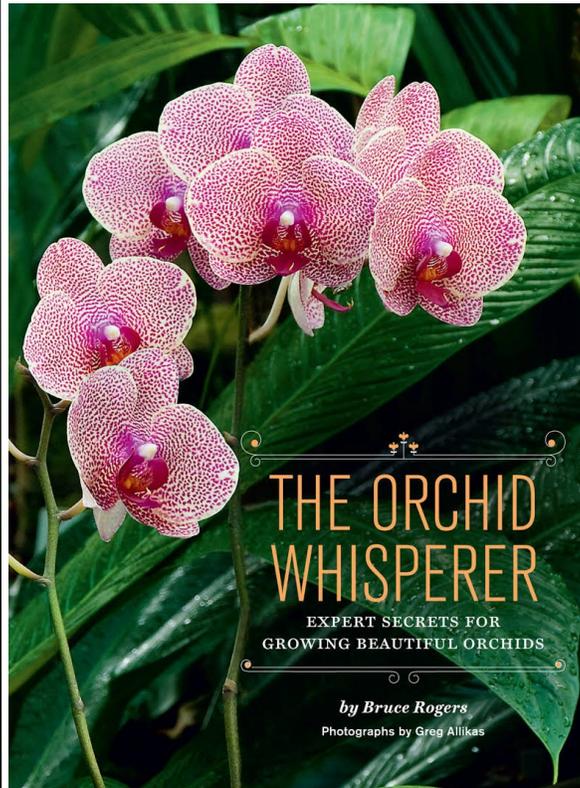
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Bruce is a leading force in the orchid world. His journey began with the orchid resurgence in the eighties when his orchid decorating work was featured commercially in the expansion of the Nordstrom chain across America and with clients including Saks Fifth Ave, Ralph Lauren, Hermes, Gumps, Singapore Flower Association, leading hotels, and international decorators. He continues to work with private clients building and maintaining orchid collections, creating outdoor gardens, and putting together orchid displays for parties and events.

(con't page 3)

~From the President's Desk~

This year the Christmas holiday came too quickly for me, and I truly didn't get into the Christmas spirit until the December 10th meeting. What a magnificent way to end the year - the Social Hall was electric! I stood back and enjoyed seeing our wonderful members and the fabulous energy and beauty they create each month. We enjoyed an interesting and informative program, and finished with the traditional luncheon at The Marine Room. I am grateful to our members who worked so diligently and creatively to make it a perfect day! Lois Stanton continued her magic at the Holiday Pantry Sale and the wreaths and swags at the Horticulture Table were the best yet! Expressions had such an original idea of using the ornaments to reward their sponsors. Susie Dentt brought copies of Carolyne Roehm's new book, At Home in the Garden, and the vendors at Ways and Means and School Garden Grants gave us plenty of opportunity to do our Christmas shopping. The refreshments were delicious and beautifully presented and anchored with the wonderful floral arrangement from Nancy Tagwerker. Priscilla Moxley and committee arranged a wonderful day for our luncheon where the floral designs were in high demand. Thanks to all for creating a memorable December meeting and for making the year end so fabulously.

I have an exciting announcement: Member Bonnie Manion was invited to ride Miracle-Gro's float this year, representing a California gardener. Plant material from Bonnie's garden will be used on the float with a "California Grown" theme. Another Miracle-Groer who will be riding on the Rose Parade float is Mel Resendiz from Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers. Mel was a popular speaker at VGCLJ. What fun to bring in the New Year by watching the Rose Parade, and be sure to find the Miracle-Gro float to see Bonnie and Mel with Ty Pennington! We are so proud of you, Bonnie!

As we move into the new year of 2016, I savor the feeling of having a clean slate and of setting goals for the upcoming year. For garden club, one of my goals for 2016 is to be sure to meet a new person at each meeting. As I move through the Social Hall, I seem to be rushed, and not able to chat with members enough. This was always true for me, but this feeling has been amplified since serving as president. My hope is that I can take time to appreciate the contribution of each member in making our garden club strong and vital. Another goal is to be sure each member is involved in the way they have chosen.

My involvement with VGCLJ for the past ten years truly nourishes my soul. I hope it also nourishes each of your souls. In reflecting about this club, what inspires me is our dedication to learning, to enjoying beauty and creativity, and to the friendship and support we share. We each have a different approach - some enjoy floral design, and some get more from the landscape design programs, while some appreciate conservation or other programs. What is amazing to me is that at each meeting I learn. Sometimes I learn from other members and sometimes from guests or from the speaker, but I can say that I learn something new each month. Since this year is dedicated to one of our founders, Adrienne Green, I want to remind members that she believed the success of this club depended on our dedication to learning. What a gift and legacy she left!

Wishing you a Joyful and Healthy New Year of learning!

Devonna

*Happy
New Year*

Workshop
following meeting January 28th
Improving Your Relationship
with Your Orchid

Bringing an orchid plant into its new home can be traumatic for both the plant and you! But orchids *can* bloom year after year. Following January's program, Bruce Rogers, the Orchid Whisperer, will conduct a hands-on workshop sharing his recommendations for how to care for the orchids in your home. Learn professional secrets and new tricks not found anywhere else for blooming, repotting, spotting hazards and pests, grooming, and much more. Bring your struggling Phalaenopsis and we will furnish the pot and materials to provide your plant with a new start in the environment it needs to be healthy and flower again and again! (If you don't have an orchid to bring, we will find one for you to adopt!) Enjoy an enchanted drink and a tropical dessert as you learn just the right words to whisper to your new plant! Gourmet lunch from Sorella's is optional. Workshop fee is \$20.00 and lunch is \$15.00. Please email to sign up Vicki Lugo vickilugol@gmail.com or Linda Morse capt.mom@cox.net

(Speaker con't from page 1)

Bruce has appeared on numerous television, cable, and radio shows and has been featured in many publications. Owner of Bruce Rogers Orchids, he is also the co-owner of an internationally prominent wholesale Sobralia nursery, OzGardens. Sobralia rogersiana has been named in his honor.

As the author of The Orchid Whisperer, Bruce Rogers shares very practical advice on buying and caring for the most popular orchids as well as unique ideas for displaying them. He will be sharing all his expertise with us this January.



MARKETPLACE

The January Marketplace will complement the program, "Growing and Decorating with Orchids Inside and Out." We will have a new vendor, Andy's Orchids, from Encinitas. Andy's specializes in species orchids. Their web site (www.andysorchids.com) shows examples of the orchids they stock. An interesting sidebar is Adelaide, of Adelaide's in La Jolla, was Andy's grandmother. Please come meet Andy and take home some of his beautiful orchids. Green Gardens will return in January. They will support the orchid theme by selling orchid pots, growing mix, and fertilizer in addition to the other wonderful items Patsy finds to adorn our homes and gardens.

Shopping on Amazon via VGCLJ: The Orchid Whisperer inspires these choices:

Vanilla Beans -- yep, these come from Madagascan orchids and their use in recipes produces a great flavor.
Orchids pots -- Orchids need the right type of pot in which to thrive. These pots, especially the pierced ones, are as pretty as they are useful to enhancing the life of your orchids.

Bunches of fresh orchid branches in full bloom -- heavenly, beautiful, and delivered fresh to your home by shopping Amazon.

We hope you have a joyous holiday season and we'll look forward to seeing you at the Marketplace booths in January.

Phyllis Flood and Fran Gillis, Co-Chairs

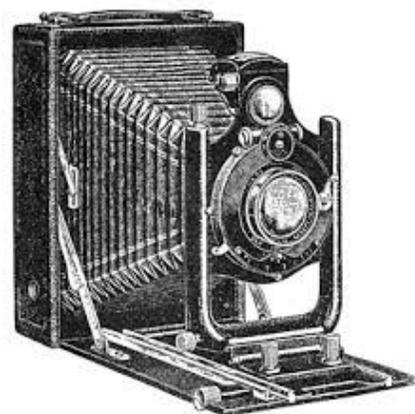
Photography Committee

The following 2015 albums are now on our website:

- 10/28 Temecula in San Diego Wine Country
- 12/5 Our December Nights Tree
- 12/10 General Meeting
- 12/10 Holiday Luncheon
- 12/11 Bouquet of Thanks

You may download an entire album or any individual photo you choose.

~ Mary Anne Curray



PLANT EXCHANGE

Thank you everyone for all the wonderful Christmas greens, décor, and plants. We are all about sharing and we saw that at the December meeting. Have a wonderful holiday and a fantastic New Year. We hope to see you fully recharged and ready to share again soon.

Mimi Ewens, Susan Pransky, and Lynn Jahn—Co-Chairs



Members' Birthdays

December

29 Mary Ellen Bockius
 29 Katy Dessent
 29 Irene Wetsman
 31 Carol Dickinson
 31 Jennifer Oliver

January

1 Joyce Fox
 2 Jamison 'Jamie' Ginsberg
 2 LeAnne Ritchie
 2 Mary Ellen Jordan
 4 Carol Vadnais
 5 Ann Zahner
 6 Helen Fox-Mahoney
 7 Flora Kennedy
 10 Dorothy Elwell
 10 Joanne Hughson
 11 Judy Denison
 11 Linda Karpowich
 13 Donna Applestein
 15 Molly Hannon
 15 Carolynn La Pierre
 17 Anne Holst
 17 Myra Nazzaro
 18 Judy Chance
 19 Sook Hansen
 19 Katharine Ingledew
 20 Angelina 'Angel' Kleinbub
 20 Joan Wilson
 21 Marie Huff
 21 Maurice Kawashima
 24 Michele Romano
 24 Joan Sundstrom
 24 Melesse Traylor
 25 Sue Kalish
 25 Yolanda Walther-Meade
 26 Gail Adams



JANUARY REFRESHMENTS

Festive eating does not have to stop with the end of holiday celebrations. Now that the cinnamon and ginger have been placed back into the pantry, what will we have a taste for in the New Year? Our refreshment table is always so beautiful with the myriad of tasty goodies created by our membership. The committee greatly appreciates the wide selection made by our talented volunteers this month.

Betsy Blakely	Joanne Bright	Mary Lee Coleman
Janet Wingfield	Diana Farr	Kathleen Fisher
Phyllis Flood	Deborah Frank	Patricia Glynn
Merrily Goff	Kathy Gold	Jeanette Greenway
Sara Hoffelt	Dina Johns	Patsy Kraus
Elizabeth Li	Nan Lutes	Lynne Newman
Debi Nichols	Charlene Price	Marcy Robinson
Karen Tartre	Linda Wittmer	Nancy Sillman
Ann Webster	Lucy Woodbury	Melody Peterson

Kudos to our members. There has been a tremendous positive response to the restriction of no pork and no shellfish ingredients in our refreshments. Thank you from chairs:

Brenda Schneider

Barbara Ruane

Mary Rogondino



EDITOR'S NOTES

Spindrifter deadline for February: February 4th. Earlier is better! Regular submitters: please, if you are not going to submit an article, let us know so we don't wait for your article before finalizing the newsletter.

Yearbook Correction

Page 161 TAGWERKER, Nancy lasthouse50@gmail.com

Horticulture Report and Special Exhibit

Fueled by popular demand, Leisa Hoffelt has been dedicated to her special exhibit, *Decorate with Holiday Greens*, for three years running. This year Leisa graciously declared that December's designs were the "best ever!"



Creating holiday swags requires the collection of diverse greens, plant cuttings, and natural curiosities. Members of the Horticulture Committee found their foraging muse in unusual places way beyond their own gardens: roadside spaces, bike paths, and parking lots - we even stalked local tree trimmers who happily shared cuttings with us.

Foraging for greens is always an adventure but the swag making process itself is a creative tour de force. We learned by doing and encouraged one another to experiment with unusual plant combinations to see what worked and what did not. There were no rules and it was amazing how the right combination of interesting plant material, one rubber band, and a pretty bow became a unique botanical design. Beyond the traditional holiday greens, we used palm tree seeds and fruit, poppy pods, dried protea, magnolia greens with seedpods, and tillandsia.

December's special exhibit spirited in the season with style thanks to the creative efforts of Leisa and her daughter Sara (our web mistress), Joyce Fox, Devon Hedding, Louise Buckley, and Mary Anne Brown.

Only in San Diego could December's Show & Share tables be so abundant, colorful, and diverse. Eva Richman shared a bouquet of flaming red *Crepe myrtle 'Natchez'* and a seasonal edible basket of berries, herbs, and flowers. The basket displayed purple '*Opal*' basil, (edible!), the yellow berries of *Duranta repens*, pink berries of *Arbutus 'marina'* and '*unedo*', red berries of *Pyracantha* and white '*Iceberg*' roses.

Joyce Fox's colorful bouquet of uber fragrant roses included; '*Full Sail*,' '*Double Delight*,' '*Cecile Brunner*,' '*Promise*,' and '*Memorial Day*.'

Helen Dawson's dramatic "bucket of roses" juxtaposed an abundance of pristine roses in a shiny galvanized bucket! Also stunning was her bouquet of re-blooming iris – both collections reminded us of how colorful, fresh flowers bring a special cheeriness to the winter season. Lani Freymiller's traditional greens and white '*Silver Wave*' camellias (aka "*the roses of winter*") were displayed in a tall rustic wicker vessel and evoked a heartwarming sense of purity and elegance.

Thank-you to all who share the abundance of your gardens and for your continuing efforts to educate and inspire! See you next month!

~ Mary Anne Brown



Meet the Masters

Guest Speaker: Style Icon, Lifestyle Maven, and Garden Designer,
Carolyn Roehm

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 11:30am luncheon, valet parking included.

The Prado in Balboa Park

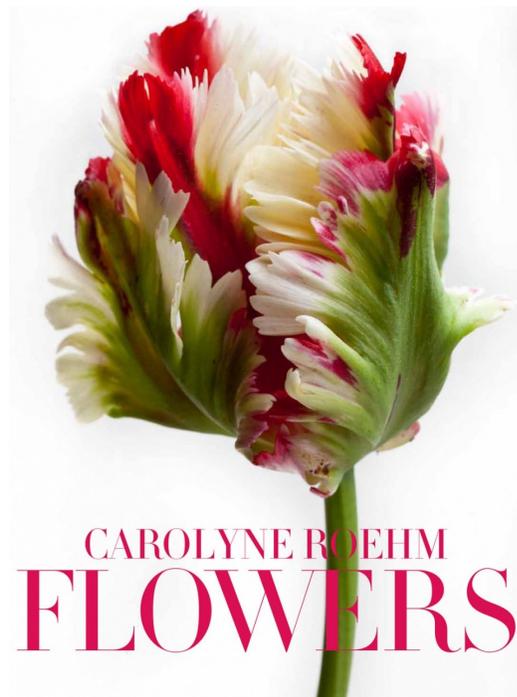
Members, \$10000; Guests \$12500

Limited sponsorships still available at \$30000 and \$50000.

If you are planning on attending, and we really do hope you are (not to mention bringing a guest), mail your check soon to Bonnie Manion, 1279 Santa Fe Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024. Please include the names of friends you would like to sit with. For this to be a successful event, we need the support of our membership.

Carolyn Roehm's new book *At Home in the Garden* will be available for sale at both the January meeting and the event for \$55.00. Caroline will be available for signing books at the Meet the Masters luncheon.

We are looking forward to this fabulous event! If you have any questions please call Susie Dentt, (h) 619-4472101, (c) 619-402-6991, or write susied41@cox.net.



CAROLYNE ROEHM
FLOWERS

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

- Resist the urge to clean up cold-damaged plants. They may look sad, but those damaged leaves and stems help protect the rest of the plant from future freezes between now and Feb. 1 (along the coast), March 1 (coastal valleys and the desert), April 1 (inland) or May 1 (in the mountains).
- Renew mulch throughout the garden. The goal is a 2- to 3-inch-thick layer over all bare soil and around the base of all plants.
- Prune deciduous trees now, before they begin to leaf out. Remove dead, crossed or diseased branches. Shorten branches if fruits develop out of reach overhead. Be careful not to cut off too much fruiting wood.
- Continue to plant natives and other low-water, Mediterranean climate plants. Water deeply at planting, then water again often enough to keep soil around the roots damp, but not wet. By this time next year, they can probably survive with little if any irrigation.

HOLIDAY PANTRY AND BAKE SALE

Wow! Once again many of you contributed generously for this December fundraiser to support our club. Both your culinary talents and your purchasing powers are impressive. The December sale brought in \$1527.00.

I personally thank each of you who helped make this a success. And very special thanks to Gaynor Pates, Cathy Saris, and Susie Johnson who so happily helped with the sale.

Lois Stanton, Special Events Chair



NOTICE OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Governing Board meeting will be held
in the Activity Room at
Congregation Beth Israel
10:00 A.M.
Thursday, January 21, 2016

RSVP Regrets only to:
Devonnarh@gmail.com or 858-909-9030
Lois Stanton will provide refreshments!



HORTICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Jan Nelte

January 11; Monday – San Diego Horticultural Society

At 6 p.m. Michael Buckner will speak on “Contemporary, Expressive, and Sustainable Southwestern Gardens – Desert and Coastal – The Buckner Way”. His ideas are described as “bold, racy and raw”. Sounds like something we shouldn’t miss. www.sdhort.org

February 1; Palomar District Floral Design Forum

This event features Pauline Sechi, Creative Designer NGC Flower Show Judge and CGCI Floral Design Education Chair presenting some of her creative ideas. Check the district’s website later for details.

californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict

February 8; Monday – San Diego Horticultural Society

Speaking on “Perfect Pairings – Tips for Layered Landscapes”, local garden designer Dave Ericson will share some of the lovely gardens he has created. Check the website later for details. www.sdhort.org

Details for all these events are also on our
VGCLJ website: www.vgclj.com.

THE PHYSICIAN IN THE GARDEN : WIDOW SPIDERS

We had never recognized a western black widow spider (*Latrodectus hesperus*) in our garden until about 10 years ago but now they have become quite common. This is somewhat surprising because its near relative, the brown widow (*L. geometricus*), has appeared in California in the last 15 years and is now well established in San Diego County, taking over from the native black widow. Only the adult female black widow has the characteristic red hourglass on her belly and so I am confident that we are correctly identifying the spiders in our garden.



These spiders hide in cracks and crannies in the garden, preferring not to invade your home where their insect prey are scarce. To reduce your likelihood of an encounter you are advised to remove "clutter" around your home but some of their favourite retreats are in patio furniture. They also like the handles of our trash barrels. The spiders are less easily seen than the egg sacs and we have learned to check likely hiding places before using furniture and barrels that have sat undisturbed for a while. Insecticides, apart from being bad for the planet, are pretty useless against spiders, and a powerful vacuum cleaner is the best way to reduce their numbers.

Like most spiders, black widows produce venom. The most potent component, called alpha-latrotoxin, paralyzes the insects that make up their diet and it might seem strange that it would deliver enough of a dose to be a danger to humans but the venom is 15 times as toxic as the rattlesnake's. Immediately after a bite there is minimal pain and little redness at the site. Severe reactions can include swelling, numbness, agitation, and severe pain that develop within an hour after the bite. The toxin can stimulate a sudden release of transmitters from nerve endings, which can produce varying effects from intense pain to muscle spasms or paralysis.

An effective antivenin is available but it is rarely used in this country. The risk of serious reactions to the antivenin, prepared from horse serum, is usually greater than that of waiting for the symptoms to clear spontaneously.

Though black widows are very common in Southern California, and their bite is potentially serious, Dr. Richard Vetter at UC Riverside has stated that in 30 years of working professionally with spiders he has known of only five "credible bites" in his region, none resulting in death.

There are 33 species of *Latrodectus*, three native to North America, with a worldwide distribution. *L. geometricus* probably originated in southern Africa but it has spread widely throughout Asia, South and Central America, and the West Indies, and has become the dominant species in Southern California over the last decade. While we might deplore the displacement of our local widow spider by this invasive newcomer, the good news is that its bite is much less serious than that of *L. hesperus*. There is no difference in the toxicity of their venoms but the quantity delivered per bite is significantly less.



The painful muscle spasms rarely associated with severe envenomation, and the associated agitation, may have explained the condition known as tarantism in southern Italy. A frenzied dance, the tarantella, was supposed to prevent death of the victim. The "poisonous tarantula" was thought to be a wolf spider, *Lycosa tarantula*, but a more likely perpetrator is *Latrodectus tridecimguttatus*, the Mediterranean black widow.

~Arthur Dawson

Brown Widow Spider—San Diego

Bouquet of Thanks

When walking into the Social Hall at the Temple, we could easily locate the two Bouquet of Thanks donation tables. The tables were totally covered with bright red poinsettias along with a Christmas cactus and two rosemary trees with nicely arranged ribbons and tiny ornaments. Added to the eye-pleasing array was a beautiful floral arrangement that was donated by the refreshment committee. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and kindness of our members who took the time to purchase and bring their plants for the benefit and enjoyment of our veterans, family members and staff at the VA Medical Center. The plants and arrangements were distributed throughout the Hospital with a number of them decorating the Chapel. Our VA contact, Nonnie, guided us through the various floors, nursing stations and lobbies after distribution. It was heart-warming to see.



On February 1st, there will be a “committee only” workshop that will create some 36 Tillandsia air plant terrariums. These are small enough to be taken directly to the bedside; veterans enjoy having a living plant which one can nurture. Laura Starr has agreed to instruct and guide the participants as she has done before with great success. The workshop will be held offsite in a private home in La Jolla and a light lunch will be served to all Bouquet of Thanks participants. Consider signing up – please email Jill Holmes at jdholmes@san.rr.com.

We wish you all a most Happy and Healthy New Year ~ Jill and Julia

Photo l to r: Kathy Peterson, Marilyn Sorenson, Jill Holmes, Anne Bolton, Ursula Darby. Our A Team!



Expressions in Art & Flowers

April 20 & 21, 2016

Artist Entry Form Information – Don't miss the opportunity to participate!



Entry acceptance begins 9:00 am at the January 28 Meeting (No earlier)*

Over the past couple of months, our enthusiastic, creative members have been indicating their interest in participating in the Expressions in Art & Flowers Shows by signing up at our meetings. These sign up sheets were just an indication of your interest, not a formal entry or guarantee of participation. It is necessary to enter your completed official Artist Entry Form to the committee to participate.

Many of you picked up the forms at our December meeting, forms are also available on the Village Garden Club of La Jolla website, www.vgclj.org. If you are not sure that you have indicated your interest in participating, if you do not have an Artist Entry Form, or do not have access to the internet, please contact us and we will make sure you receive the necessary information.

The first 40 completed entry forms will be accepted. The committee reserves the right to make sure there are not too many of the same medium entered to fill and balance the 40 entrant field. This has not been a problem in the past.

Based on the current response and the success of last year's "Preview Party", we are expecting that the event will be oversubscribed. We highly encourage you to watch for emails and other announcements regarding submission of your completed entry form on January 28. Deadline for entries is February 8.

*Hand delivered entries will be accepted first, followed by email and USPS mail entries. If you are unable to attend the January 28 meeting, you can arrange for someone to deliver your entry for you.

For further information please contact:

Terry Cooper, Chair schifo@aol.com 619-203-8890 9am – 5pm please
 Margie Smith-Haas pmhaas19@aol.com 858-755-8439 home, between 9:00 am—9:00 pm

858-344-7627 cell

BREAKING NEWS! JACARANDA TREES ARE BEING PLANTED!

The Village Garden Club of La Jolla Jacaranda Tree Project has donated 40 Jacaranda trees to the La Jolla YMCA on Cliffridge. The trees will be placed around the perimeter of the property for maximum impact. The YMCA is adjacent to the Torrey Pines Elementary School, so the schoolchildren and their parents, as well as the YMCA members will enjoy the trees. The YMCA will place a plaque on the property acknowledging the donation of the trees. The landscape architect, Jim Neri, wrote that the first 12 trees are being planted as soon as delivery can be arranged. Kudos to the Jacaranda Committee!



**The Village Garden Club of La Jolla
c/o Kate Engler, Mailing Committee
4039 Caminito Suero
San Diego, CA 92122**

