



# MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB

## Garden Walk Issue 2009

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*President  
Meredith French*

*Throughout history, flowers and plants have had symbolic meanings attributed to them. Meredith shared this fascinating history with club members as she presented each active board member or project committee member with a plant pertinent to the individual or their respective board position.*

**Fran Takvam**—Secretary—**Coreopsis** for *always cheerful*. Fran always exhibited an attention to detail and handled corrections and suggestions with a positive spirit.

**Dick Disraeli**—Projects Chair—**Tiger Jaws** for *tenacity*. Dick skillfully led the committee to the completion of our hanging baskets project in the business district.

**Kathy Jones**—Past President, Communications Chair, Garden Walk Co-Chair—**Sage** for *wisdom*. Her no-nonsense approach got us through a lot of rough patches and quandaries.

**Suzanne Sorger**—Membership Chair—**Heliotrope** for *devotion and faithfulness*. Suzanne unstintingly gives enormous amounts of time to this important, detailed position.

**Pepper Sutton**—Hospitality Chair—**Ivy** for *dependability and fidelity*. Pepper is the moving force behind our meeting arrangements, and set-up. She does this with an incredibly positive spirit.

**Terri Skwarlo**—Programs Chair—**Campanula** for *gratitude*. Terri spent hours and hours making sure our speakers were the best and that all their accommodations were in place.

**Nancy Carter**—Historian—**Rosemary** for *remembrance*. Nancy has brought us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with her work as records keeper for a 501(c)(3) organization, always with a smile.

**Elaine Wilson**—Special Events Chair—**Parsley** for *festivity*. Elaine created some really special travel days with added surprises and treats, and more are in the works.

**Marien Kissling**—Weeding—**Coreopsis** for *always cheerful*—Marien took this NIMBY assignment and really ran with it. The courts have never looked so good. Another smile!

**Elaine Huntington**—Pet bags/Pioneer Park—**Chamomile** for *energy in adversity and strength*. Another NIMBY position. Elaine has done this for us for years with nary a complaint or reminder.

**Donna Turbyfill**—Raffle Queen—**Alyssum** for *worth that goes beyond the beauty behind it*. Her unusual finds and creation of this fun event each meeting make this a special award.

**Martha Pehl/Cheryl Gaidmore**—Children's Events, Petals for Patriots, December Nights—**Scarlet Geranium** for *kindness and comfort*. There couldn't be a more perfect flower for these two caregivers of ours.

**Debbie Quillin**—Hospitality and Crafts Events Chair—**Fuchsia** for *good taste*. Tremendously talented DQ will be elevating this new committee to a higher level.

**Beverly Fritschner**—Newsletter—**White Chrysanthemum** for *truth; cheerfulness in adversity*. Our newer newsletter is noteworthy for its increased inclusiveness and garden information.

**Joyce Disraeli**—Coffee in the Garden—**Peppermint** for *Cordiality*. Our coffees are now an established tradition due to the persistence and winning smile of Joyce; Dick helps too.

**Don Rudesill, Mary Shelley, Joann Dossett, Kay Harry**—Projects Committee work-horses—**Sunflower**—for *joy, light, and thank you*. A major backbone of the club's "get things done" mentality, all come with sunny personalities.

**Jim Bishop**—Garden Co-Chair, Treasurer—**Flipping Pancakes** for coming to our rescue and now his chance to stay home a bit and get back to his culinary artistry.

**Scott Borden**—President-Elect/Garden Walk Co-Chair—**Basil** for *Good Wishes* and **Lemon Balm** for *Sympathy*. He will need both, but we are very grateful for agreeing to step into the leadership position.

# 2009 Garden Walk



*Back to Our Roots* patrons enjoyed a picture-perfect day amongst large and small homes, many featuring the use of drought-tolerant plantings. Two new additions were added this year: food offered by *slow food* vendors and hand-crafted garden items offered by Club members at the Mission Hills Nursery.

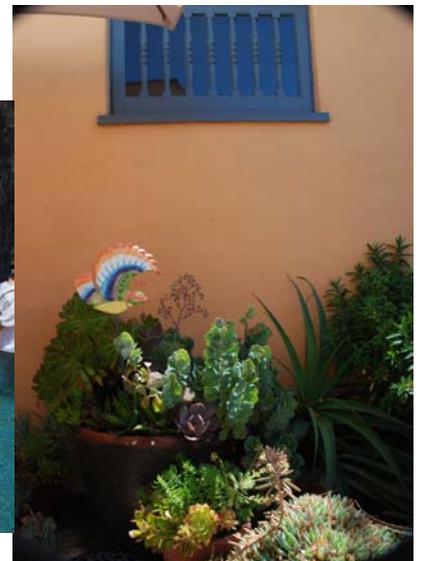
Many thanks to our chairs, who hosted the event:

**Kathy Jones; Scott Borden; Jim Bishop**  
*Committee Chairs*

**Marien Kissling; Meredith French; Dominick Fiume;**  
**Kathleen Stoughton; Wendy Nash; Greg Kelner; Terri**  
**Skwarlo; Martha Pehl;** and our 12 homeowners who worked tirelessly to spruce up their homes in anticipation of the big day.



**2010 Garden Walk Chairs**  
*Meredith French and Kathleen Stoughton*



# Happy Birthday

## JUNE

Jim Bishop  
Nancy Groves  
Stephanie Lesser  
Mary Quinn  
Pam Pogue  
Sally Tinker  
Smith  
Ken Tablang  
Angela Winslow

## JULY

Lynne Baker  
Ann Bradford  
Diane Canedo  
Celeste Dunn  
Dolores Ford  
Beverly Fritschner  
Karla Giacalone  
Teresa Merrick  
Vera Miller  
Madeleine Pavel  
Martha Tyson  
Sequoia Zook

## AUGUST

Raquel Arostegui  
Cheryl Clark  
Meredith French  
Cheryl Gaidmore  
Linda Moore  
Barbara Nolan  
Debbie Quillin  
Jeff Quinn  
Eugene Pyeatte  
Mary Shelley  
Donna Turbyfill,  
Katharine Wardle



*Jim (standing)  
Scott (kneeling)*

### Coffee in the Garden

#### *A delightful way to spend a Saturday morning*

Following an outstanding presentation on small home backyard gardening by Scott Sandel, members spent a Saturday morning enjoying Scott and Jim's beautifully designed vegetable garden. There were additional landscaping surprises tucked into their backyard, and guests were greeted with home-baked treats on one very fine spring day.

The following month members were invited to the home of Ron Tillinghast to enjoy this lovely backyard, which included a swimming pool, koi pond, meditation garden, fern garden, and many other interesting landscape elements.

## Out in the Garden

### *More About Tree Care*

- Tree roots need air.** Placing heavy objects (rocks, cars, landscaping equipment) around a tree's base compacts the soil pore space and reduces the amount of air and water available to roots.
- Use mulch wisely.** Do not cover the natural flare of the tree trunk with mulch piled high against the trunk. This will hold moisture and provide housing for boring insect pests. Instead, feather the mulch in a light layer NEAR the trunk base.
- Do not weed-whack or scrape the tree trunk with your lawn mower.** Use hand clippers. The lifeline of the tree is cut when the layer just beneath the bark is damaged.
- Don't add an excessive amount of topsoil or fill around the base of your trees.** More than 90% of the roots of trees exist in the top foot of soil. These roots need air and water to live, grow, and thrive. By adding more fill or soil, the ability of the tree to use air and water near the surface is restricted.
- For the same reasons, avoid planting grass or other plants beneath trees.**
- In general, prune late winter or mid- to late-summer.** This is not only for the health of the tree but for nesting songbirds. Diseased or dead wood should be removed when you see it. Flowering trees should not be pruned until after their bloom cycle if the bloom is on old wood. Deciduous trees should be pruned before new growth appears.
- Never top landscape trees.** The new growth will be weak, unsafe, and unsightly, and the life of the tree will be shortened. Properly thin out your trees instead. Consult an arborist if you feel unskilled in this area.

*Submitted by Meredith French*

# Welcome New Members

Aristocrat Landscape	Craig Caldwell	Chip Hemholm	Nancy Laidlow Outzs
Christine Baltuth	David Canedo	Kelly and Jamie Hopkins	Elizabeth Scalice
John Bauer	Jim Dossett	Verla Holub	Karen Sharp
John Bridges	Steve Eldon	Connie Jennings	Jeff Smith
Plowden Bridges	Linda Espino	Virginia Jordan	Nancy Tremaine
Sarah Brightwood	Ann and Mark Fehlman	David Katone	Deborah Twit-Hull
Irma Brooks	Joan Fitzgerald	Lucy Kramer	Janet Van Arsdale
Amy and Larry Brunton	Sue Foerster	Molly McConnell	Bob Vinton
Dannalee Bruhler	Andrea Greenberg	Suzanne Michel	Steven and Emily Wheless
	Howard and Julie Greenberg	James Morris	

2009—2010 Board of Directors				
<b>Meredith French</b> Past President				
<b>President</b> Scott Borden	<b>VP Membership</b> Suzanne Sorger	<b>VP Programs</b> Meredith French	<b>Secretary</b> Carla Buff	<b>Treasurer</b> Carol Moseley
Committees				
<b>Board Members at Large</b> Richard Disraeli Barbara Strona	<b>Children's Activities</b> Cheryl Gaidmore	<b>Coffee in the Garden</b> Joyce Disraeli	<b>Communications</b> Kathy Jones	<b>Community Projects</b> Barbara Kocmur
<b>Craft Events</b> Debbie Quillin	<b>Green Thumb</b> Martha Pehl Suzanne Sorger	<b>Garden Walk</b> Kathleen Stoughton Meredith French	<b>Historian</b> Nancy Carter	<b>Hospitality</b> Pepper Sutton
<b>Newsletter</b> Beverly Fritschner	<b>Sanitation Bags</b> Elaine Huntington	<b>Special Events</b> Elaine Wilson	<b>Ways and Means</b> Elaine Wilson	<b>Weeding</b> Marien Kissling
Community Support				
<b>California Garden Club Representatives</b> Scott Borden Nancy Carter			<b>Mission Hills Town Council</b> Terri Skwarlo	

Thanks to Cindy Sparks, Joann Dossett, Fran Takvam, Sherri Schottlaender, Mary Ellen Walther, Mary Shelley, Donna Turbyfill, and Maureen Flores for the tasty treats at our last three meetings.

Elaine Wilson and her committee outdid themselves in planning the great field trip to the Huntington Botanical Gardens in Pasadena. The morning started with us boarding a bus in Old Town and being served home-made goodies from Debbie Quillin and Susanne Sorger. The day was beautiful, and we each came away with inspiring ideas for our gardens. After walking about, having lunch, and shopping, we boarded the bus for the return ride home complete with a cocktail party and more home-made goodies—a great day was had by all. Thanks again, Elaine Wilson!

## Our Members' Experiences

Share your gardening stories or experiences by sending articles and photos to Beverly Fritschner at [MHGCNews@gmail.com](mailto:MHGCNews@gmail.com).

### An Oriole Tale

*Submitted by Donna Turbyfill*

About a year ago an oriole came to drink from our giant bird of paradise while we were dining on the patio. I had no idea orioles came to San Diego at all but I looked it up and apparently Bullock's orioles come up here to have babies. Three weeks ago I was at Walter Andersen Nursery and picked up an oriole feeder and hung it near the spot he visited last year. I can't swear the feeder had anything to do with this, but voila! An oriole nest on the patio. It looks like it's in a precarious spot under a banana leaf, but the oriole doesn't seem to mind. He works on the nest and does his sexy "I have a nest, girls" dance. I am loving it.



### A Mission Hills Garden Story

*Submitted by Kathy Jones*

This is a short story about life and gardening in Mission Hills.

Many of us are rethinking our yards and lawns with more drought-tolerant alternatives in mind. Last fall I took out the lawns in the front and on the side of my house and landscaped with more drought-friendly plants. A lot of my neighbors are doing the same.

My Garden Club friend Marien Kissling was over at my house for a Garden Walk meeting, and she told me that she tends the garden of an absentee neighbor. The neighbor had three mature *Euphorbia tirucalli*, (Sticks on Fire) and wanted them out of the yard because the sap can be irritating. Did I have room for them in my yard, she wanted to know.

I said I did, and she brought over 3 huge plants, each about 2 feet by 3 feet. These gorgeous yellow/red/orange plants are hard to find in nurseries and very beautiful when placed in a sunny spot, especially if they are placed next to something in a gray/green palette like that of many other succulents.

They were so pretty I didn't have the heart to keep them all to myself. I gave one to my neighbor across the street. She is the world's best neighbor and always helps us out when we are away by watching over things. She also likes arid plants. My neighbor down the street is in the process of transitioning her yard, too, so I thought I could give her the biggest one: she could divide it into several pieces and spread it around, because she has a large area to landscape. I planted the third one in my front yard.

Now every time I drive home, I see those 3 plants in my neighbors' yards and mine, and I think of my other friend and neighbor who spread all that drought tolerance and goodwill by giving them to me. It is a lasting reminder of why I like living in Mission Hills.

## Garden Club Meeting and Events

United Church of Christ ♦ 4070 Jackdaw Street  
 Fourth Wednesday of Each Month  
 Free to Garden Club members—\$10 for Guests  
 6.00 pm social—6.30 meeting

**June 14**                      **Wine in the Garden**                      **4.00—6.00 PM**  
**Sunday**                      4335 Avalon Drive

**June 17**                      **Board of Directors Meeting**                      **5.30 PM**

**June 24**                      **General Meeting**                      **6.00 PM**  
 Improving Irrigation Systems in Your Garden  
**Speaker: Tiger Palafox—Mission Hills Nursery**

**July 22**                      **General Meeting**                      **6.00 PM**  
 Heirloom Tomatoes 101  
**Speaker: Karan Cooper—The Tomato Lady**

Everything you want to know but have been afraid to ask.  
 Plants will be available for purchase.

### Palomar District of Garden Club News

MHGC belongs to a vast network of garden clubs across the USA. We are within the Palomar District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. which covers San Diego and lower Riverside County. Quarterly Monday luncheon meetings are held in each district. You are all invited to attend. There is a featured speaker as well as reports from host clubs around the district.

**June 22**                      **First Meeting for the New Year**  
 Casa del Prado in Balboa Park

**September 16**                      **District Leadership Workshop**                      **10.00 AM—4.00 PM**  
 Quail Gardens—Ecke Building

Program includes general leadership skills and meeting procedures to enhance the effectiveness of each club—please encourage new officers to attend.

### A Brief History

The symbolic meaning of certain plants and flowers dates back to biblical times and before. In more recent times, use of these meanings was adapted to a new purpose in Victorian England, where the monarchy frowned upon undue verbal expressions of passion. The development of the tussie-mussie to convey messages was adopted by the citizenry. Each flower in this miniature bouquet had a meaning. Floriography, or the study of flower meanings, was developed into a dictionary so everyone was on the same page. Even one flower could say something like this: "Bah, go away; you are disdainful" if presented as a boutonniere upside down. This certainly gives new meaning to "Say it with flowers"!

*Submitted by Meredith French*