



*to educate, to engage,  
to beautify,  
and  
to give back*

December 2009

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Scott Borden  
Comments**

I'm writing this from the balcony of my oceanfront room at the Kona by the Sea resort on the west coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Jim and I have been here for several days scouting gardens to include in a November 2010 trip we hope to organize for club members as well the San Diego Horticulture Society (Jim recently joined their board of directors). We were joined by Cheryl Hedgpeth of Sterling Tours—she is a longtime friend of mine and her firm organized our trip to San Miguel de Allende a few years ago.

We covered a lot of ground in a few days, met some fascinating people, and visited an amazing variety of gardens, both public and private. We began at a private garden on the south Kona coast overlooking Kealahou Bay (remember the old song, "I'm going back to my little grass shack in Kealahou Hawaii. . ."). No? Maybe I'll sing it for you at our next meeting). With a spectacular view of the bay where Captain Cook met his end, this couple's dream home is encircled by a lovely garden of ornamentals and fruit trees. They even grow their own coffee, producing more than 60 pounds per year from their 6 trees. It was a delight to stroll through their orchard and taste tropical fruit right off the tree. We tried mango papaya, star fruit, giant avocados as big as your head, and then were treated to freshly squeezed passion fruit nectar while we cracked open macadamia nuts.

We next headed down the hill to tour the City of Refuge, aka Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historic Park. Not much of a garden, but a fascinating glimpse into Hawaiian history and a great place to watch sea turtles basking on the beach. From there we headed back up the hill to tour the Paleaku Peace Garden just as they were closing and then paid a brief visit to the famous Painted Church before heading back to Kona for one of its world-famous sunsets.

We began Day 2 of our scouting trip with a visit to the 5-star Fairmont Orchid hotel, where we given a tour of the grounds, including their newly installed herb garden. From sea level, in Kohala, we headed back to Kona and then up the side of Hualalai volcano to tour a 25-acre garden in the cloud forest. The owner is a devout horticulturist and has traveled the world collecting specimens for his garden. His extended family lives in an eclectic village of homes scattered among the towering trees.

Down the hill from the cloud forest preserve we toured a home and garden sure to delight any visitor. The owner, a Leucadia transplant has an outstanding collection of palms and anthuriums is outstanding. We ended the day by driving to the end of the road--- at 5000 feet elevation we were above the clouds and were treated to another fabulous sunset.

On Day 3 we visited several Kona coffee plantations and had quite a caffeine buzz going when we arrived at the private residence of a world-renowned landscape designer. His collection is

*continued page 7*

## Mission Hills Garden Club 2009 Adventures

*Elaine Wilson  
Special Events Chair*

When 2009 was still young, we headed for the Barrels and Branches Nursery in Encinitas. You may have seen the lovely cover story in *Sunset* magazine on the talented young owners or heard them at one of our meetings last year. After shopping their container sale and then some, we continued up I-5 to Anderson's La Costa Nursery where we—what else—shopped some more. Both these nurseries deserve a repeat trip.

In March, we carpoled to Julian for their annual Daffodil Festival. The flowers were barely open, so after fortifying ourselves with coffee and fresh bakery goodies, we rolled down Banner Grade onto the Borrego desert floor and caught the annual wildflower show. Here is a kindly word of advice: if you have the good fortune to carpool there, put all the photographers in one car.



*Pat Harrison and Bruce Mutz*

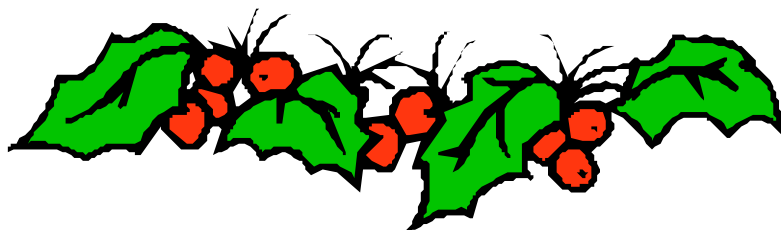
For months, we anticipated our chartered bus trip to The Huntington in San Marino. April 18 dawned bright and clear. It is impossible to see all this century-old place has to offer—70 acres of gardens, museums, a library, and a gift shop—but we gave it all our feet would allow. As luck would

have it, their annual spring plant sale happening that day. . . so this was a wonderful day from beginning to end, and I hope we can do it again in a different season. So much to see, so little time.



*Jim Bishop, Elaine Wilson, Scott Borden*

Our closing adventure for the year was another November trip up to the Borden Family Ranch in Pauma Valley, where we not only picked bags of Fuyu persimmons, (you eat them like an apple), but also fat red pomegranates. Many of us stayed for a brownbag picnic and handfuls of homemade cookies. We thank all our talented bakers for schlepping and sharing. I look forward to hearing from you with your adventure suggestions. Let's trip around again in 2010!



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### Wine/Coffee in the Garden

*Joyce Disraeli*

#### Welcome New Members

Paul Farris	Dehlia Gaynor
Susan Graves	Nancy Groves
Pat Harrison	Bruce Mutz
Dianne O'Connor	Anne and Bob Rast
Louise Smith	Kris White



While many of us take walks around the neighborhood enjoying the beautiful landscapes, it is always a surprise to find such wonderful gardens hidden behind the homes at our Coffee/Wine in the Garden.

Thank you all for hosting and making visitors welcome with your camaraderie and friendship. As we begin planning our Coffee/Wine in the Garden for 2010, we invite you to host an event in your yard. It is easy, fun, and a great way to get to know club members better.

Please contact me at 619.295.2553 if you would like to host an event next year.

#### December

Gina Barnes  
Jane Haro  
Kay Harry  
Mary Lou Hunter  
Catherine Lopez  
Sandy Raddatz

#### January

Naomi Howell  
Donna Knierim  
Judith Krumholz  
Jere McInerney  
Judie McDonald  
Barbara Mondt  
Scott Sandel  
Janet Van Arsdale

#### February

Karlene Bergold  
Pat Bowler  
Richard Disraeli  
Charles Kempf  
Carol Mayfield  
Carol Moseley  
Wendy Nash  
Kathleen Stoughton  
Maureen Summers  
Anthony Swanson  
Kathy Walsh

# Happy Birthday

## Fund Raising

Help the club and the environment by carrying our great canvas totes and shopping bags featuring our two-color logo.



These bags are perfect for hauling your next picnic, groceries, or holiday packages. One bag is \$12.00 or you can buy 3 for \$30. 00.

Please contact Elaine Wilson at [Eirwilson@cox.net](mailto:Eirwilson@cox.net) or send your check for \$25.00 to her at 1501 Vine Street. SD 92103. Please make check payable to MHGC.

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### Wine in the Garden



*Toni, Fausto, Tiger Palafox*

Our last *Wine in the Garden* of the season was shared by members at the textured and layered gardens of new member

Roberta Correia, which featured a variety of succulents mixed with taller foliage of various colors, and at a special tasting event of pomegranate wine at Mission Hills Nursery as the sun set. Cool weather welcomed in our fall season, and both events were quite delightful.



*Thor, Roberta, Bruno Correia*

### Coffee in the Garden

Our first Coffee in the Garden since last spring was hosted by Gayle and Hugh Boyle. We were entertained in a lovely patio setting off a kitchen with a Calder scheme down to the tile work. Focal points of interesting art, as well as eye-catching homes and feeding arrangements for local bird life, arrested the eye throughout the yard. It was truly a wonderful morning of socializing and gathering gardening ideas.



*Hugh and Gayle Boyle*

### Member Holiday Party

Our November 18<sup>th</sup> party was a huge success, with wonderful food catered by Maggie Pinon and music by the San Diego Youth Music Academy. This group of talented young singers sang to us as we entered from the patio and later started the evening off. Raffle items were donated by featured club artisans as well as local merchants. It was a great evening to get to know our fellow members on a more informal basis, and no one went away disappointed. Party favors in the form of miniature gardening tools rounded out the evening.

### MHGC Receives Statewide Award

Robin Pokorski, immediate Past President of California Garden Clubs, Inc., and George Speer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, visited us in September to present our award for highest percentage increase of new members for large clubs for 2008–2009. We celebrated with champagne and cakes baked by Robin in honor of our achievement. George worked his magic with two different floral arrangements that were raffled off at the end of the evening.



*Meredith French  
Robin Pokorski*

### Balboa Park December Nights

MHGC participated for the 10th year in decorating a tree for the December Nights event in Balboa Park. The theme this year was “Celebrating the 50 United States”. Our state was New Mexico. We hope that all members were able to come see the lovely display in the Prado Building on December 4 and 5. More than 15,000 people view this particular exhibit, with more than 100,000 San Diegans attending the event.



*Cheryl Gaidmore*

### A Day at the Zoo

Twenty-six very enthusiastic tour participants joined Mike Letzring, San Diego Zoo plant manager, to get up close and personal with the plant collections procured from all over the globe. The tour was well worth the price of admission (senior for some of us) and the \$15 tour fee. There was much to learn and see including a spectacular multiple macaw release.



close and personal with the plant collections procured from all over the globe. The tour was well worth the price

### Children's Activities

Our annual pumpkin day at Mission Hills Nursery drew neighborhood children eager to get their hands dirty before diving into the cookies and juice. The weather was perfect—it was a splendid fall day for all to enjoy with a variety of pumpkin designs to show for it.



Angela Stahl



Avery Wheless

### Neighborhood Beautification

October 25 was one busy day for the club in the `hood. After a morning of supervising children as they decorated pumpkins, some of our hearty souls, led by Barbara Kocmur, Projects Chairperson, went on to dig out and replant the curb area on the corner of Goldfinch and Fort Stockton. We would like to thank Jim Bishop for the wonderful landscape design. Drive by and take a look at the good work of this committee!



Oliver Wheless



### Supporting Our Veterans

*Cheryl Gaidmore*

The MHGC donated 30 cobalt blue pots planted with succulents to the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) located in Old Town. VVSD, a residential treatment center for more than 150 men and women from every branch of the armed services, is used as a model facility for similar projects across the country.

The plant materials were all donated from gardens in Mission Hills. The pots were placed on the dining room tables, outdoor tables, in the administration building, as well as in the outpatient clinic. VVSD has extensive gardens in the courtyard and around the living quarters which are maintained by resident veterans. As the plant material outgrows the blue pots, it can be transplanted into this garden area. The project committee looks forward to finding another gardening project that will be useful to our new neighbors in the Veterans Village.



*Cheryl Gaidmore, Jim Hickman, Facilities Director, Sandy Raddatz, Marilyn Cornell, VVSD Clinical Director, Jim and Joann Dossett.*

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*Cheryl Gaidmore and her committee continue to create flower arrangements for the Veterans Village of San Diego—appreciation for their efforts is beautifully expressed in the letter below. To help in this effort, please contact Cheryl at cherylgaidmore@aol.com*



Veterans Village of San Diego

November 11, 2009

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Mission Hills Garden Club,

I've been asked by the president of the Veteran's Village resident's peer council to write you a letter of thanks for your thoughtful and munificent present. I'm glad this is my commission, because I was given the gift of a love of growing plants -- vegetables, flowers, and fruits -- by my grandmother in the 1950's which remains with me today; all fauna always has my attention!

Your colonies of beauty and peace now grace all the tables in our cafeteria and patio, and I will make sure they get the care they deserve: sunlight and not too much water. Here are some other expressions of gratitude I gathered from my fellow veterans.

- "Really appreciate all the time and effort you put into this; wonderful giving and caring people."
- "Thank you for the love with care and understanding for all that we have been thorough over the years...."
- "Adds a tranquil ambience to our chow hall. I love it! We needed something like this."
- "Nice succulents...low maintenance...spices the place up a bit, and they should be with us for a while."
- "Graces our tables with beauty; a very thoughtful gesture, and we veterans at VVSD thank you."
- "The arrangements must have taken a lot of time. They will probably live longer than most of us... We salute you!"
- "Your act is the personification of kindness and selflessness. Thank you."
- "Thank you for taking the time to make our lives brighter, and for showing you care."

Please feel free to visit us to see how beautifully your gifts complement our environment!

On behalf of all the residents and staff, thank you.

*Chuck Johnson*  
Chuck Johnson

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*We wish to extend our sincerest condolences to club member Dolores Ford, whose husband John passed this November. A lovely service and reception was held at St Vincent's Church.*

*continued from page 1*

### **President Scott Comments**

nothing short of spectacular and he was very generous with cuttings.

Our final garden stop of the day was the Kona Outdoor Circle, where we toured the gardens and watched a local hula group rehearse. Jim wanted to put on a grass skirt and join them, but we had to leave for our sunset swim at Magic Sands Beach. Back at Kona by the Sea we grilled fish and had dinner under the stars and swaying palms while recapping our garden scouting.

Jim and Cheryl headed off to the Hilo side of the island to scout more gardens, and I'm headed back to SD for work. It's 80 with scattered showers as I leave Kona; forecast for SD is showers and 53—better throw on a long-sleeved aloha shirt!

### **Drought-Tolerant Garden Inspirations**

Are you looking for ideas to transform your water-thirsty landscape into an attractive and low-maintenance showpiece? The Neighborhood Drought-Tolerant Garden brochure is now available at the Mission Hills Nursery and offers landscape inspirations to help you convert your own front yard to drought tolerant.

Sue Foerster and members of the Projects Committee, Kathy Jones, and Meredith French researched and planned the brochure, which includes addresses and several photographs of 18 local front yards

that can be viewed from the sidewalk. Look for more photos and descriptions on the Mission Hills Garden Club website at [www.missionhillsgardenclub.com](http://www.missionhillsgardenclub.com).



***Check out the annual Poinsettia display in the Botanical Building in Balboa Park from December 3 through January 6.***

### **Out in the Garden**

*Meredith French*

#### **Poinsettias Can Be Permanent Residents**

Do you hate to throw out those beautiful blooms after the holidays? Follow these guidelines and they will last many years.

- Poinsettias in pots like to be *kept moist*. Not too wet, not too dry. Remove the foil wrap. Yellow leaves mean poor upkeep.
- Keep them away from heater vents, etc.
- On St. Patrick's Day cut off the blooms leaving 4 to 6 leaf nodes on the stem. When the soil heats up, plant it in a halfday sunny spot outdoors but away from house lights at night.
- Water and fertilize regularly with any well-balanced fertilizer. There should be new growth by May.
- Pinch back the plant on July 4<sup>th</sup> and again on Labor Day if needed to keep it bushy.
- Poinsettias need 12 to 14 hours of complete darkness to bloom for the holidays. Our 12-hour days begin on September 21.
- Remember: do not plant near lighted windows or outdoor lighting.
- Want the blooms earlier? Cover at night with a big box or black plastic.



## MHGC Garden Club Meetings

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

December NO MEETING

January 27 You, Too, Can Have a Zen Garden  
Phil Tackill  
*The whys, hows, history and philosophy of Zen gardening*

February 24 Succulent Design in the Garden  
Jeff Moore  
Solana Succulents

*Award-winning Jeff Moore will present succulent designs for the garden and will bring unusual varieties for sale.*

March 24 Floral Arranging for Home and Competition  
Carvill Veech  
Master Gardener and Floral Judge

*Inexpensive materials and the ideas are presented for creating wonderful designs*

## San Diego Horticultural Society

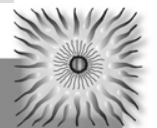
Surfside Race Place  
Del Mar Fairgrounds  
[www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org)

January 11 Amy Stewart  
Wicked Plants: The Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom

February 8 John Greenlee  
Author  
Meadows by Design: A Revolution in Sustainable Landscapes

March 8 Pat Welsh  
San Diego Author  
Growing Summer Vegetables the Organic Way: How to Plant, Feed, Water, Harvest, and Control Pests and Diseases without Synthetic Fertilizers or Poisonous Sprays

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SAN DIEGO  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



**Palomar District Winter Meeting**  
**including**  
**The State Conference of California Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**will be held at**  
**The Dana on Mission Bay**  
**January 9-10**

**Theme**  
**“The Excitement Is Growing”**  
**Speakers, Lunch, Merchandise**

**More information to follow**  
**Help will be needed from local clubs to host lunch tables,**  
**create raffle gift baskets (1 per club), staff sales tables**  
**of club merchandise, etc.**

**A Joyous**  
**Holiday To All**