



MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Spring Issue 2009

Board of Directors

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Meredith French

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Kathy Jones

Vice President Membership

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Newsletter

Beverly Fritschner

Coffee in the Garden

Joyce Disraeli

Community Projects

Richard Disraeli

Garden Walk

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Kathy Jones

Historian

Nancy Carter

Hospitality

Pepper Sutton ♦ Donna Turbyfill

Debbie Quillin

Special Events

Elaine Wilson

Dog Litter Bags

Elaine Huntington

Weeding

Marien Kissling

Children's Garden

Marien Kissling

Children's Events

Martha Pehl

Green Thumb Award

Martha Pehl

Board Member at Large

Sabine Starr

Representative - CA Garden Club

Nancy Carter

Representative

MH Town Council

Terry Skwarlo



President

Meredith French

Comments

Spring Greetings;

I promised myself that I would not make this a column about saying good bye. I may be leaving the presidency but you are not going to get rid of me that easily. I've grown rather fond of you all and am beginning to think of you as some sort of extended family. My two years in this position has been one big learning curve with many, many more positives than negatives. I have enjoyed just about every minute of it.

I came in with a loosely constructed set of ideas and goals that I hoped might fly, and thanks to an extraordinary board who bore with me and helped me "tighten the rigging", we have achieved a lot of them. None of the following would have been possible without their support.

We now have a directory, which any self respecting club of 220 members should have. Our membership has increased dramatically, which, of course, means better attendance at meetings and a new pool of volunteers to help keep us active and visible in the community. Our very thorough **Suzanne Sorger** will remain to keep up the good work. We have gained the recognition and kudos at the Palomar district level that we deserve. You will be hearing more about that soon.

Money is now being spent on larger projects in the community thanks to our very capable and talented Projects Committee. Some of its members have been profiled in our newly designed bi-monthly newsletter. A big hip-hip hoorah to **Beverly Fritschner**, editor. A retreat in Septem-

ber of '08 helped us realign our goals, in part, to that of an important local educational resource for the community to tap into with regard to the impending water shortages. We have had a number of programs on various aspects of drought tolerant gardening and more are planned for the coming year. More applause – this time for **Terri Skwarlo**, our program chair for the past year.

Craft events have been moved to Saturdays so that more members can participate and for a longer time. The very talented **Deborah Quillin** will be the new chair. Publicity and Communications have been relumped together as one committee, as defined in the original by-laws. Under the stewardship of **Kathy Jones** it is running like a finely tuned engine. She will remain as its chair. Field trips and special events and coffees in the garden have never been better thanks to **Elaine Wilson** and **Joyce Disraeli**. Thankfully both of them plan to continue at their posts. Events for the spring and fall are already in the works.

Unfortunately there is not enough room here to single out every volunteer but I must say that all this spending and recognition in the community would never happen if we didn't have the Garden Walk each year. Not enough can be said about the tireless efforts of all those involved with its success each year. In particular, **Kathy Jones, Martha Pehl, Marien Kissling, Jim Bishop** and **Scott Borden** cannot be thanked enough for all their efforts over the last two years. I bow down at your feet.

I am feeling very good about the future and MHGC. We have a tremendous pool of talent and energy and we are on a real roll. Leaving? I wouldn't dream of it. I am having way too much fun!

Meredith



ANNUAL GARDEN WALK NEEDS YOUR HELP

This annual event is what provides the club with the majority of the funding to support the scholarships at Cuyamaca College, as well as the many beautification projects throughout our neighborhood. We need your help to make this event both a success for our visitors and our club. Three ways for you to help are:

SELL TICKETS

We still need people to sell tickets before the walk—please contact Greg Kelner at gregkelner@hotmail.com to help.

CRAFTS BOOTH AT NURSERY

We also need people to help at the Crafts Booth on the day of the garden walk. Please contact Meredith French at frenchfoto@cox.net. These are two hour shifts so there is plenty of time to help out and enjoy the walk.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

Invite your friends and family to enjoy this special day strolling through our neighborhood.

GARDEN CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

April 29

Weeding around the Tennis Courts

8.00—9.00 a.m.

May 6

We want our guests at the Garden Walk to also enjoy the gardens around the tennis courts—we only need about one hour of your time—lots of fun and friendship. Please bring your own gloves and tools.

Projects Committee

This great committee, chaired by Dick Disraeli, meets the second Thursday of the month at 10.30 am to generate new project ideas for the club. Please contact Dick Disraeli at rdisraeli@gmail.com or 619.295.2553

Garden Club Board of Directors

A great way to be involved with the club is by serving on the Board of Directors as a Committee Chairperson or officer—please contact Meredith French at frenchfoto@cox.net if you are interested

Ways and Means Committee

We are currently looking for volunteers for the newly formed Ways and Means Committee. Contact Meredith French at frenchfoto@cox.net

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



*Dick and Joyce
Disraeli*

Many thanks to **Joyce** and **Dick Disraeli** for hosting the last Coffee in the Garden. Their home is a wonderful example of the beauty of succulents. Do read more about Dick on Page 4 of this issue.

Don't miss our next Coffee in the Garden at the home of **Scott Sandel** to learn about an overlooked opportunity to grow your own food. With a greater interest in home gardening, this social event has the added bonus of educating each of us on how we too can create a wonderful garden in our own backyard and share our bounty with our neighbors.

CLUB FIELDTRIP

A hearty band of clubbers set forth on Friday the 13th to see the wonders of spring renewal in Julian and Anza-Borrego. Daffodils were not in profusion but all was forgiven as the group proceeded on to Anza



Left to right: Linda Lawley, Elaine Wilson, Patti Mahoney, Kathy Jones, Virginia Jordon. Photograph by Meredith French

Borrego. Not only were they delighted by the mother lode before them with species too numerous to mention (watch where you step!), but fantastical, colorful caterpillars approaching cigarette size greeted them in the open fields as they happily munched their way to San Diego and a garden near yours.

Springtime in the Desert



Opuntia



Ocotillo



Brittle Bush

GREEN THUMB AWARDS

Congratulations to the following homes for being selected as Green Thumb Awards. Nominations are sent in from our members when they spot a front garden or curb area that has been redone. Special credit is given for a change out to drought tolerant. Four gardens are awarded quarterly with a gift membership and balloons. To nominate a garden, please contact Martha Pehl at martha.pehl@sharp.com



4252 Arista

Please walk/drive by the following homes and enjoy the beauty of their new gardens.

3819 Pringle
2352 Presidio
4252 Arista
1835 Sunset



3819 Pringle

Meet Our Members Dr. Richard Disraeli



Simply take a look around the lush succulents at various establishments and you will see the efforts and commitment that Dick Disraeli gives to our garden club. A native of Los Angeles, Dick graduated from USC Dental School in 1952 and soon relocated to San Diego where he had a successful dental practice for over 47 years. When asked how he happened to move to San Diego—after a chuckle—he suggested I probably knew the answer. Dick and Joyce, his wife of 60 years, met at a sorority party at USC. She, being from San Diego, suggested that San Diego might be a nice place to live and raise a family. Lucky for us they did!

Dick got involved with the Club through his daughter, Janet. They were on one of the garden walks and Dick decided he, too, wanted to be part of this group—and the rest is history. He gained his love of gardening from his mother and has continued to learn about and change his garden over time. His home is a wonderful example of a sustainable garden as well as energy efficient with the solar system they installed several years ago. He converted his garden to succulents after his gardener at his dental office brought him several bags of succulents and told him that this was his new garden. Once in the club, he saw the need to help the board complete the many projects that were in the planning stages. Soon he established an ad hoc Projects Committee, now a permanent committee, that generates the many ideas for projects throughout our community.

Dick is also active in the yachting community, through the Southwest Yacht Club, having served as President of the yacht club and the International Order of the Blue Gavel, the worldwide organization of past Yacht Club Commodores. He is also active in the USC Alumni Association and the AL Bahr Shrine. Do find time to meet Dick at the next meeting or Garden Club event.

Members are going to create door wreaths for sale at the Garden Walk. Please donate any silk flowers, dried plant material, pink pepper berries, succulents or cones. They would be greatly appreciated. Contact Cheryl Gaidmore at cherylgaidmore@aol.com or Kay Harry at shipdragon@earthlink.net

Out in the Garden

Slow Food Coastal Gardening

Submitted by Meredith French

With all the buzz about growing our own food to reduce carbon emissions from trucking and eating healthier, what works locally? We are now entering our warm season period and it is now safe to put in beans, cucumbers, summer squash and tomatoes. In another month (April) you can add lima beans, cantaloupe, corn, eggplant, casaba, okra, peppers, winter squash, sweet potatoes and water-melons.

Ways to cut down on pests are to plant in raised beds or pots, cover with mulch and plant natives in and around the produce to attract natural insect predators. Start with an organic fertilizer balanced for vegetables and then reapply after the first month. Soil should remain slightly damp.

website of month: www.laspilitas.com. The **go to** source in Escondido for California natives and drought tolerant plantings. Spring offerings are in stock.



San Diego Horticultural Society Events

www.sdhortsoc.org

Del Mar Fairgrounds ♦ Surfside Race Place
Jimmy Durante Boulevard ▪ Del Mar

6.00 pm ▪ Free Parking ▪ Admission is free to members and \$5.00 for guests

April 13

Monday

Connecting Nature to Your Backyard

Mike Evans ♦ Owner—Tree of Life

Engagement: How to be Part of Your Native Plant Garden

May 11

Monday

From Garden to Table: Delicious Tips from the Experts

Panel Discussion

June 8

Special Event: The Garden as Companion

George Little and David Lewis

This special evening requires a ticket, \$15 members and \$20 non-members, available at the door or online

Pt Loma Garden Club Events

www.plgc.org

April 25

Annual Plant Sale

1007 Cordova Street ♦ Ocean Beach

10.00—4.00

May 13

General Meeting

Photo Tour Extravaganza of Member Gardens

Portuguese Hall ♦ 2818 Avenida De Portugal, 92106

10.00

San Diego Floral Association

www.sdfloal.org

April 21

Floral Design Trends

Elizabeth Sejj

Prado Building ♦ Balboa Park ♦ Room 101

2.00

June 6

Historic Garden Tour Point Loma and Bankers Hill

Tickets \$15. Day of tour \$20.00 are available at Mission Hills Nursery after April 15th.

10.00—4.00

**Happy
Birthday**

MARCH

Merrilee Antrim-Sinkin
Carla Buff
Joann Dossett
Patricia Mahoney
Lisa Maywood
Wendy McNamara
Frank Pavel
Sherri Schottlaender
Fran Takvam

APRIL

Chris Chase
Jane Depka
Nancy Dimsdale
Dominick Fiume
Marien Kissling
Donna McLoughlin
Marilyn Miles
Martha Pehl
Sandra Scherf

MARCH GREETERS

Thank you for making everyone feel welcome

Patti Lobner ♦ Catherine Lopez
Betty Morris ♦ Cindy Sparks

THANKS FOR THE MEETING TREATS

February
March
April

Debbie Quillin
Cindy Sparks
Madeleine Pavel

Carla Buff
Joann Dossett
Sherri Schottlaender

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

March 28	Coffee in the Garden Home of Scott Sandel 2260 Fort Stockton Drive	10.00—12.00
April 18	Huntington Gardens Bus Field Trip	8.30 am — 8.30 pm
	Meet at Old Town Trolley parking lot at 8 a.m. Reservations with Elaine Wilson at 295-7944. \$50 members, \$60 guests. Your check is your reservation	
April 21	Monthly Board Meeting Home of Debbie Quillin	5:30 pm
April 22	Monthly Meeting Feng Shui in the Garden Charlene McCandless	6.00 pm
April 25	Coffee in the Garden Home of Ron Tillinghast 3702 Clark Street	10.00—12.00
April 27	Palomar Quarterly Meeting Escondido Country Club History of Water and Its Problems in San Diego	11.00 am
	Come see if one of our own became Man or Woman of the Year. Contact Meredith French at frenchfoto@cox.net	
May 9	Mission Hills Garden Walk Back to Our Roots	10.00—4.00
	Annual Garden Walk with food and garden craft vendors. Tickets before \$20; Day of \$25. Pick up maps at MH Nursery	
May 19	Monthly Board Meeting Home of Meredith French	5:30 pm
May 26	Monthly Meeting Bird Man of Carlsbad Installation of Officers	6.00 pm

Come learn about how to attract birds (insect eaters) to your garden.
 Bird feeders and nesting boxes will be offered for sale