

MULFORD GARDENEER

Presented by the Mulford Gardens Improvement Association (M.G.I.A.)

VOLUME XXXXIII No. 9 September 2010

M.G.I.A. GENERAL MEETING

Last Tuesday of Each Month – September 28, 2010 @ 7:30PM

M.G.I.A. CLUBHOUSE

13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro CA.

mgia@live.com

Message from the MGIA Board:

Greetings Fellow Mulford Gardeners,

Thank you everyone who attended our August General MGIA meeting! Your attendance and support is terrific. Dave MacDonald, from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office, gave a comprehensive presentation and explanation of the 'ranked choice' method of voting that will apply to the November elections. Mayoral candidate, Steven Cassidy, addressed the multitudes and fielded many questions from the audience regarding his vision for the City as well as the much contested Marina Development proposals. A lively discussion ensued when Mayor Tony Santos, who was sitting in the back of the room, was questioned about the increase in traffic in Mulford Gardens, high crime rates and the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee in regard to the Marina development plans. Mr. Santos had said to one of our members in a phone conversation that the committee was 'advisory only' and the ultimate decision on the Marina development was up to the Mayor and the City Council! Does this mean the opinions of citizens of San Leandro are superfluous? Also in attendance was our District 6 representative, Jim Prola, and mayoral candidate, Sara Mestas, who has asked to address our upcoming meeting on September 28. **As an organization, MGIA, does not support, nor endorse any political candidates.** However, we are happy to offer a comfortable forum for them to respond to the MGIA residents and members on their vision for our fair city. Corina Lopez, District 5 Council seat candidate will be attending September 28 along with Jeff Huston of the Sierra Club and a CAC appointed member, who may also address the attendees.

We hope you can come to the September 28 meeting to hear our guest speakers, get an update on the Friends of the San Leandro Marina grassroots campaign, (www.savethemarina.com) and meet the MGIA board and your neighbors. We have great desserts – and a door prize drawing!



Plan to attend the next **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**, being held on **Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **San Leandro Marina Inn** and hear the information first-hand, from Ed Miller, President of Cal-Coast (the developer) and our friends at City Hall. The time to let your voices be heard is NOW, before it's too late!! ... Audrey Albers, MGIA Board



The **MGIA clubhouse make-over** – a fresh coat of paint, followed by a new floor is almost complete. Come check it out and reserve the clubhouse for your next family gathering, christening, graduation, birthday, bridge game and holiday party or neighborhood get-together! Contact Bo Johansen @ 510-206-4249 for details.

Sincerely,

Your MGIA Board



Mulford Memories – A Look Back in Time – by Rae Vasconcellos, MGIA Board Member

Mulford Gardens in the late 1930's and early '40's was a lush, fruitful fringe located on the edge of the inner Bay. Before the advent of World War II, the land was farmed by local families and stretched for acres north and south, areas that are now developed into housing, light industry and business of all types. The fields rolled out in long rows of tomato, cabbage, cauliflower and kale, very similar to what the early Half Moon Bay fields have produced over the years. The cool air flowing from the Bay provided an environment beneficial to these crops and in the mornings, ground fog might rise from the ground particularly if a light rain had fallen. Seagulls flocked thick in the sky, and the end of the land was a vista of grasses, sand, rocks and driftwood mingled with the salty water of the bay. If the gulls flocked to the East, a storm was coming. No one needed a weather forecast. A place to search for treasure the waves may have carried. It was a place of quiet, with sounds of birds and tides.

The few roads that made up the network of homes in these early years were gravel. In winter, if it was a heavy storm year, the gravel roads would be filled with water, and sometimes difficult to travel. If the winds were high, the power would fail, and folks would get out the candles and kerosene. Many of the homes had supplemental wood-burning and gas fired stoves in their kitchens, and fireplaces and gas heaters would provide for the rest of the house. Wood end-cuttings from a local lumber yard located off Orchard Avenue was a source of heat for the fireplace, arriving in burlap sacks to be stored. Coal was also a staple in cold winters, coming from Hanson's Fuel and Feed located on what is now a complex of homes with retail frontage on Macarthur Blvd., near Galvan's and Sabino's Coffee in upper San Leandro. Families would prune their trees and store the wood to dry early in the year.

Homes were few before the War. First Avenue, now Marina Blvd. had many open lots all the way to the Bay. Just a few homes dotted the landscape on West 133rd, 134th and 135th, separated by waving fields of grasses, perfect for playing cowboys and Indians in the summer months. Some lots had Sycamores lining the avenues, harboring flocks of blackbirds in the Fall, filling the air with musical chatter; a sure sign that the big yellow school bus was just around the corner. Families would burn raked leaves piled in the front of the houses and the sweet scent brought a close to the hot summer days.

It was a self-sustaining community of people devoted to the land, growing food for their own tables as well as crops to be sold to the multiple canneries in the neighboring cities. Sprinkled around the small area of homes were a goat-milk dairy, a hog farm, small

glassed-in nurseries, chicken and egg farms and a dairy milk farm with one or two cows. Later during the War years, a turkey farm was added. Horses were a common sight, and if someone let you have a ride, it made your day! The hum of a tractor plowing on a warm afternoon meant all was well and the world was calm.

It was against this background that people gathered together to form a community group called the Mulford Gardens Improvement Association (MGIA) now located on Aurora Drive across from Garfield School. The families came together to help each other out and keep communication alive to think about the issues of the day as they effected the community. It was a central meeting place for organizing local efforts by the citizens when World War II began. The site served as a Sunday school for young people, and all kinds of meetings and gatherings for social events and clubs. It continues to serve as the meeting place for the MGIA Board of Directors involved in the interests of the local community and issues that are pertinent to today's world. The site is a gift from Captain Mulford, who built a home there and was involved in shipping and business in the very early years of growth. It's presence in the Mulford Gardens area stands as a tribute to the sustainable way of life that its early farming members worked hard to maintain and their dedication to working together.

All of the farms are gone, there is no local dairy family that will sell you bottles or cans of milk or sell you a dozen eggs. Horses are a rarity as the tractor humming in the afternoon heat. But this is still a community of people who have multiple interests, talents and wishes for a peaceful quality of life. It is the people who make the community work well and solve issues together, that matters. MGIA is still part of the fabric of Mulford Gardens and still here to help address the issues of the day. This is your community, and open to the collective vision of its members to keep as much of the sustainable elements of life and the environment as possible. Your participation is very important, and we hope you can give us your thoughts and priorities either by attending a meeting, sending an email or letter or call - just as the originators back in the early years did! (No email then).

Dear Friends of the Marina,
We went to the "Meet the Candidates" at the Marina Community Center on Sept. 8, 2010. The Marina's fate was brought up several times which created a buzz in the room, where even a month ago I don't think the subject would have even been brought up. Each candidate had an opportunity to weigh in on this important subject. We should all feel good that we have been able to bring this to the forefront at this important time. We must keep the momentum going. What we did not hear in simple terms at Wednesday's event was how Saving

the Marina can be the solution to the city's problems. We feel that through the positive restoration of the Marina with revenue from new restaurants, boating businesses, retail enterprises and service organizations catering to recreational uses, the dredging problem will be solved and the Marina will thrive!

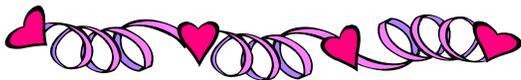
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! We need people to stand with us with signs; along with passing out flyers to the neighborhoods. So if you are able and willing look at your calendars and see if you can carve out a couple hours in the next 8 weeks, e-mail me at friendsofthemarina@savethemarina.com As you can see here, there are not many more weekends left to rally public opinion.

Steve & Allison Modifer
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Engaging News!!

Jean & Gary Morris, of West Avenue 136th, proudly announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Dawn-Marie Chantel Morris to Stefan Daniel Miesner, both of San Leandro. A September 2011 wedding is planned. Kacia and Brian Sato, Stefan's sister and brother-in-law, hosted an engagement party for Dawn and Stefan at their home in the Oakland hills. Congratulations to the happy couple!



MGIA Board

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M.G.I.A. General Meeting September 28, @ 07:30pm
Last Tuesday of each Month **Door Prize Drawing!**

MGIA Club House Rentals
Bo Johansen 510-206-4249



Advertising information: Call Janet Porrill 510-352-6258

LOCAL CHURCHES IN SAN LEANDRO
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

2500 Bermuda Ave., 510-483-731

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
13901 Bancroft Ave., 510-357-9192

Life Change Baptist Church
13067 Aurora Drive., 925-755-8710

Faith United Methodist Church
788 Lewelling Blvd., 510-357-5484

PUBLIC MEETINGS



San Leandro City Council:
1ST & 3RD Mondays/each month
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St.
Mayor Tony Santos
Michael Gregory, Dist. 1 Ursula Reed, Dist. 2
Diana Souza, Dist. 3 Joyce Starosciak, Dist. 4
Bill Stephens, Dist. 5 Jim Prola, Dist. 6

Board of Zoning (BZA) 1st & 3rd Thursdays / each month City Council Chambers, City Hall

San Leandro School Board: 1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
* * *

Share with us your news, ideas, recipes, comments, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, parties, awards, special events and we will print it. Email to: mgia@live.com or mail to MGIA, P O. Box 4235, San Leandro CA 94579 or call Jean Morris (510-495-4480) with your news!

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Elections in November offer each of us the power to effect change Nationwide, Statewide, Citywide and on local Boards all of which impact our individual lives and our Quality Of Life in San Leandro.

VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE!