



The Mulford Gardener

Presented By The Mulford Gardens Improvement Association

M.G.I.A. Volume XXXV No. 4 April 2012

General Meeting April 24, 2012

M.G.I.A CLUBHOUSE 13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro, 94577 - mgia@live.com - www.mulfordgardens.org

Hello fellow Gardenians! Spring just marched right on in and now there are lots of things happening at the Park.

Board member elections. There are still open positions on the Board. If you are a paid member of Mulford Gardens Improvement Association and want to have a part in helping out your community, we would love to see you on board (so to speak). We meet once a month as a governing body where we propose, consider, and execute projects and events that are of interest to people in Mulford Gardens. Since I've been on the Board we've had **Movies at Mulford**, which was a great success and will continue this summer and a **Halloween haunted house** that was even better. This Fall we hope to have a **Music and Arts Festival** that will be like a mini Cherry Festival. If you choose to put your name in the hat, you will be able to be a part of something that fulfills that civic duty volunteer compulsion you may have once in a while. Our regular elections will be (were) held on Tuesday the 24th of April in a general meeting at 7:30PM at the Mulford Gardens Clubhouse. In any case, there is at least one position open with no corresponding nomination as of the end of the March meeting. If you want to get involved and the election does not produce a new board member that night, come and see us. We are looking for some fresh faces and ideas.



Food Pantry. Mulford Gardens Improvement Association is host to the Mulford Gardens Food Pantry. **The first event will be Saturday, the 28th of April** where the first 40 families attending (while supplies last) will be provided some needed groceries. The Food Pantry is a very well organized team including Dos Pueblos Girl Scouts Association of The Girl Scouts of Northern California. They work very hard to make this happen and have been successful in previous events elsewhere. We ask only that you bring proof of Mulford Garden residency for registration and to bring your own bags for the groceries. You do not have to be a member of the MGIA (Mulford Gardens Improvement Association). This food is free of charge to families who truly need it.

Scholarships. We have decided to **extend the application period until May 1st, 2012** for high school graduates looking for scholarship opportunities to help a bit with their finances as they head off to college. We ask that the high school graduating student be a resident of Mulford Gardens and that they are attending college in the Fall of 2012. Which high school they are graduating from or which college they are planning to attend does not matter. The scholarship is named after a past president whose love of Mulford

Gardens is unsurpassed. It is the Larry Norry Scholarship. Please call Steve Modifer at 510-569-2484 or Bo Johansen at 510-206-4249.

Applications will be reviewed and interviews with the Board will be on May 28th at our General meeting, 7:30pm. An application can be found on our website:

www.mulfordgardens.org

Mulford Gardens Playground

will open during the day now that winter is gone. Bring the kids and a lunch, hang out and enjoy one of the nicest places San Leandro has to offer. Seven days a week- except for days when the park has a private rental. Speaking of which, there are plenty of days available this year for

Renting your own park and

Clubhouse(s). You can bring your own jumper houses for the kids, use the bar-b-que pit, or use the full size kitchen. There are plenty of tables and chairs and of course the boys and girls rest rooms. The facilities may be rented by the hour for meetings and memorials or for the whole day. We are just about finished renovating our Youth Center as well. It has the rustic feel of a Boy Scout Troup hang out or an Art or Exercise classroom. It may be rented as well.

Drop us a line at MGIA@live.com

Let us know if there is any particular movie you would like to see at Movies at Mulford. Let us know if you have any other ideas that you would like to see as a community event. You can also check out our website at www.mulfordgardens.org.

Mulford Gardens Improvement Association is your association. Join. Participate. Feel good about it.

Yours truly, MGIA President, Steve Modifer

To the Citizens of Mulford

Gardens: Several of the MGIA board members attended the recent City Council Meeting wherein the Shoreline Marina Project was rubberstamped by the Council members; signed; sealed and delivered to us to swallow...and pay for. The pleas for responsible development of the Marina fell on deaf ears but they are to be commended for the courage to stand up, speak out and try to fight City Hall on the Marina redevelopment. (You see, the Council has a pre-Council meeting before the public is allowed in and that appears to be where the real decisions are made.) Boat owners were there, too, making a plea to consider possible Ferry Service (What a concept – water oriented development!!) from our Marina to San Francisco and San Mateo. Alas, to no avail. So, enjoy the “Round Library” while you can as it will be one of the first to go when the Harbor Basin project moves forward. They say it will be relocated somewhere in the midst of the new project. Enjoy the 170 new housing units planned; along with a night at the new hotel and conference center and maybe relocate your business to the high rise office and parking structures where the boats are now sitting at the Marina. If you want to take a walk and enjoy the boats in the Marina harbor; do it fast! Don’t plan to sit and watch the birds, the tides or count the planes arriving at Oakland Airport, as the hotel and office managers probably won’t let you ‘loiter’ on their grounds (albeit City owned property) and there will be no parking like there is now to view from the comfort and warmth of your car. When will this happen? The developer from Southern California, Cal-Coast, has 3 years + 2 eighteen month extensions (6 years) to make this happen. Six, years, you say - that is so far away! Beware, day by day, the boats will float away and grain of sand by grain of sand the Marina will be eroded away by bulldozers and jackhammers. Pardon us for being concerned about our quality of life at the Marina. Maybe this is the new view in the name of progress all of you wanted in the first place...

Sincerely, J. Morris

The Man in the Moon Dancing with Stars

By Rae Vasconcellos



In the early 1940's, life on a farm was relatively simple by today's standards. Material goods were still needed at times, but the presence of WWII created scarcity of many basic taken-for-granted goods. People had to be creative, either for not being able to find a certain item, or frugality due to high cost of whatever goods were available.

Our family tended to be both. My parents grew many seasonal vegetables and gave great care to all the varieties of fruit trees on the property. Together, or Mother alone, would can all summer long into the fall. Tomato sauce for pastas and meat loafs; soups and a mixture of scrambled eggs, spices and sauce were some of the ways this treasure was used. Boxes of juicy deep red tomatoes would be stacked in the kitchen waiting to turn into a magic recipe. We would have canned fresh Concord grape juice, straight from the vines in the garden. We still have one of those ancient vines, and try to give it loving attention now that it is in our care. Many other fruits and vegetables were saved for winter use this way.

Going to the local fabric store, as we do now, if a piece of fabric was needed, was also a hard product to get. Mother was pretty creative and there were strong, cotton sacks that held grains or mash for the chickens and turkeys. Taken apart carefully and washed with bleach and bluing, provided material for all kinds of things. She didn't have a sewing machine in those early years, so stitching by hand was the choice of the day.

One day, she said that she needed a new table cloth for our kitchen table. She seemed to be very inspired about designing and sewing this new cloth. She rummaged around in some drawers and found pieces of fabric left from other creative ventures, and set about making paper patterns. She experimented with size and shape, moving the pieces around on what was the now bleached and sparkling cloth that would cover the table top. Her choices of colors in the scraps were a bright yellow, and a tiny flower pattern in purples, yellows and green. She very carefully pinned her paper pattern to the scrap pieces and cut, slowly, as not to waste the material.

She said, "It is a surprise, wait and see" when I looked over her shoulder to see what she was so enthused about. And it was a surprise, a big "Mr. Moon", complete with his nose and sideways smile, a quarter moon, so he was in profile. Next came two big yellow stars and three smaller in pattern. She pinned the cut-outs to the white cloth, after she had folded the edges and stitched them down in a small hemming. This took quite a while. Then she hand stitched each to its place, very carefully, making sure the stars were positioned just right around Mr. Moon. Then she took strips of the calico flower pattern and hemmed them to make an edging around the entire cloth. She smiled a big smile and put it on the table. It was beautiful! Anywhere you sat, Mr. Moon was smiling at you, and the stars were dancing around him in their cheerful colors. We loved that table cloth, and it lasted many, many years, gently fading, but still a tablecloth that brought smiles. My mother loved it and I would wonder at her enthusiasm about making it. A few months ago, we had some intermittent warm weather and crystal clear nights at the farm. I stepped out on the back porch and looked up at the sky. I looked to the left horizon, and in the sharp crisp sky I saw instantly, my mother's tablecloth hanging in the sky. There was Mr. Moon, exactly in the position he had occupied on the cloth! And two bright stars kept him company just as they did in the kitchen. And three lesser small stars were sprinkled in the sky just as they were on the cloth. This moment in the sky must have been the inspiration for Mother's enthusiasm. She had stood right where I was standing and saw the same beautiful moment in the night sky. It must have inspired her, and she wanted to bring it in to the house, so we could see that moment and feel happy when we looked at her careful, hand stitched work of art.

It was a revealing moment standing there in the sparkling night. It was as though I saw the picture just as Mother saw it, and brought a deep appreciation for things prompting my mother to create so much love and beauty in our home, never to be forgotten. I stood there for a long time.



Clip and mail in with your \$3.00 annual membership dues. (Please make check payable to M.G.I.A.)

Mail to: Mrs. Janet Porrill, Treasurer, 1966 Arctic St., San Leandro CA. 94577. (510-352-6258)

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Donations to the M.G.I.A. Scholarship Fund are also appreciated.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS



San Leandro City Council:

1ST & 3RD Mondays/each month
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St

Mayor - Stephen Cassidy

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Diana Souza, Dist. 3 Joyce Starosciak, Dist. 4
Pauline Russo Cutter, Dist. 5 Jim Prola, Dist. 6



M.G.I.A. General Meeting:

April 24, 2012 07:30pm
Last Tuesday of each month

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

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

Share your news, ideas, recipes, comments, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, parties, awards, special events and we will make every effort to 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!

San Leandro School Board:

1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

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Bo Johansen 510-206-4249

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Phone: (925) 755-8710



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Chinese Service	10:00 AM
English Service	1:30 PM
Spanish Service	5:00 PM
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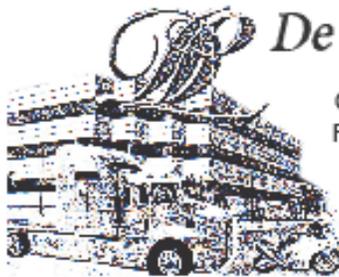
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