



MULFORD GARDENEER

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

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NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER

M.G.I.A. CLUBHOUSE

13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro CA.

mgia@live.com

Message from MGIA Board:

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Chuck Porrill, MGIA President

MGIA Board of Directors



There will be NO General Meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your friends and families.

On November 30, 2010, The Deep Dig Farms & Produce representatives from the Deputy Sheriff's Athletic League attended our General Membership meeting to talk about their gardening program and how they might work with MGIA and the local community. Dig Deep Farms is a program of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL) that has been funded by Kaiser Permanente and the San Francisco Foundation's Koshland Fellows. This program has multiple purposes:

1. Employ local people to work on the Urban Farming Team
2. Turn unused and blighted properties into beautiful farms and higher valued space
3. Sell locally-grown produce back to the community at an affordable price to encourage health, nutrition and the overall support of community-based food production
4. Use all revenue to continue paying people to work and hopefully employ more people over time in this green movement
5. Engage the community in the process of beautifying, caring for and eating from their very own local land

For more information on purchasing fresh items and having them delivered to your home, please check out their website: <http://digdeepfarms.weebly.com/> . (510) 689-7832



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!

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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)
Name _____ Phone _____ email: _____

Address _____ Homeowner _____ Renter _____

Your membership dues are tax deductible. Donations to the M.G.I.A. Scholarship Fund are also appreciated.



Winter in the Gardens

Because Mulford Gardens was situated among flat, rolling fields of produce and close to the natural shores of the bay, there were few impediments to the whims of nature when Winter acted up. In the early '40's, winter was really winter. The winds would howl from the northwest and trees bent under the sharp fingers of cold air. Leaves scattered wildly, pushing up against buildings fences and anything that stood in the way. The rain pelted and drummed, seeking every crevice and crack. Animals were not to be seen, or for that matter, heard. They were all in their barns, sties and pens, buttoned up against the forces of the storms. Sounds of summer vanished, while the earth slept, resting and restoring itself. Bare lots between houses wore blankets of brown and yellow grasses lying over the rich dark soil hiding tiny seeds ready to spring up when the sun returned. The Sycamores lining the streets were laid bare and clouds of rain framed a picture of tinsel glittering in the shifting, moving light. Birds headed south for sure.

Because the streets of Mulford were graveled in those years, heavy storms often caused flooding and perilous travel for cars. Being stuck in the mud was a common event when a prolonged storm drenched the gravel bed and tires lost a grip. A better alternative appeared to be stay home if at all possible and ride out the weather if you could, but this was not always an option. So folks tried to prepare for the prospects, bringing along boards and ropes or chains, in case you needed a pull or tow out of the clutches of the mud. There was no triple A's in those times, so people had to figure out how to solve for themselves or be of help to their neighbors.

The streets had a few telephone poles and lines for electricity, simple in structure. When the wind and rain lashed out across the fields, loss of electricity was also a fact of life. Most folks prepared for this potential. Candles and lamps filled with kerosene were at the ready, and there was a black metal lamp holding a big, fat candle placed in a glass cylinder that reflected red or green. It was meant for a signal system in case of emergency. To a young person, wandering the house in the dark with candle or kerosene light and the wind banging limbs against the roof seemed to be a tremendous adventure. With a gas-fired stove, dinner was not in jeopardy, perhaps a simple one, but it was always there on time, full of warm, tasty aromas, and as an added benefit, eaten in front of the fireplace. What more could you ask- although I'm not sure, looking back, that others were as entranced as I was.

The fireplace was a comfort during the roar of storms. Wood piled by the kitchen door fed the dancing glow spilling into the dark, particularly if the power was out. The family spent many hours there and sometimes pushed big, fat brown russet potatoes into the red-hot embers for a late-night treat. The potatoes had come from the garden and were carefully stored in a kitchen cooler cabinet for just such winter needs. If the power was down, there would be no radio to listen to, and there was lots of talk, or building villages out of mill-ends by the light of the fireplace and candles. When it was time to go to sleep, the bedrooms would be chilly since heat was conserved for the living area. But the beds had flannel sheets and warm wool blankets that invited curling up in a ball, then snuggling in and listening to the down spout staccato outside on the wall next to the bed. My beloved pussy willow tree outside the window would lean and tap to let you know it was there and pretty soon you would drift away, looking forward to what the next day might bring as a new adventure.

Memories from Rae Vasconcellos, MGIA Board

MGIA Board

Chuck Porrill	President
Earl Vasconcellos	Vice President
Rae Vasconcellos	Treasurer
Michelle Segelke	Secretary
Janet Porrill	Financial Secretary
Jean Morris	Gardeneer Editor
Ira Renner	Audrey Albers
Bo Johansen	Joyce Johansen
Steve Modifer	Alison Modifer

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M.G.I.A. General Meeting: None in December
Last Tuesday of each Month **Door Prize Drawing!**

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

MGIA Club House Rentals



Bo Johansen 510-206-4249

Are you looking for a quaint, clean, spot for your Bridge/Card Club, Garden Club, or Bunko Group Meetings? Our Club House is available for daily rentals as well as weekend/evenings. Do you need a place for family celebrations during the upcoming holidays; perhaps a birthday, anniversary or family reunion? We have the perfect park setting complete with a playground in the midst of towering pine trees – a quiet oasis in the middle of the Gardens. Our Clubhouse has recently received a facelift, with new floors and paint, courtesy of MGIA board volunteers. Come check it out. We have tables, chairs and a fully equipped kitchen for cooking up your holiday fare. Call Bo Johansen for information on rentals: 510-206-4249.