

MGIA Board 2012-2013

STEVE MODIFER
PRESIDENT

EARL VASCONCELLOS
VICE PRESIDENT

RAE VASCONCELLOS
TREASURER

BO JOHANSEN
SECRETARY

JANET PORRILL
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AUDREY ALBERS
BOARD MEMBER

JEAN MORRIS
GARDENER EDITOR

BOARD MEMBER

BOARD MEMBER

BOARD MEMBER

CHUCK PORRILL
MGIA GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

ADVERTISING INFORMATION: JANET PORRILL
510-352-6258

FOOD PANTRY FOR THE MULFORD GARDENS
COMMUNITY ON 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

PUBLIC MEETINGS
SAN LEANDRO CITY COUNCIL MEETS ON THE FIRST
AND THIRD MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH

DISTRICT 1
MICHAEL GREGORY

DISTRICT 2
URSULA REEP

DISTRICT 3
DIANA SOUZA

DISTRICT 4
PAULINE RUSSO CUTTER

DISTRICT 5
JIM PROLA

DISTRICT 6
BOARD OF ZONING (BZA) MEETS THE 1ST AND
3RD THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH

SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL BOARD MEETS THE 1ST
AND 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

ALL IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL AT
SEVEN PM.

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

MARINA FAIRE CENTER
FOR LEASING INFO.
CALL:
415-956-7700

DE LU INSURANCE AGENCY
EVERYTHING IN INSURANCE
510-614-0288
510-895-8937 FAX

MARGARET L. YAP D.D.S.
GENERAL AND COSMETIC
DENTISTRY
510-352-3918

VERA GUZMAN
MARY KAY COSMETICS
BEAUTY CONSULTANT
510-357-3583

LIFE CHANGE BAPTIST
CHURCH
925-755-8710
REV. JOHANNES SUDARMA

PORKY'S PIZZA
FAST DELIVERY
510-357-4323

A.C. GOLDT REALTY &
PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT
510-357-5714 (EXT.201)
510-459-3438 CELL
510-357-6449 FAX

ALOHA PET
SERVICES
WWW.ALOHAPETSERVICES.COM
510-632-2600
510-909-2163 CELL

VAN GARDENING
FREE ESTIMATES
510-895-1340

MAX MORRIS
ADAMS, ADAMS, & MORRIS
INC.
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
510-537-4314

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS

 **The Mulford Gardener**

MULFORD GARDENS IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 4235, SAN LEANDRO, CA



*Happy
Holidays*

DECEMBER
2012
ISSUE

STAMP
HERE



The Mulford Gardener

December 2012

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
HAPPY HANUKAA
HAPPY KWANZAA**

Did I leave anybody out? Probably. There are many many cultures that celebrate life and express gratitude in one way or another at this time of year. Let me ask you a more important question. As this year ends and the next begins, for all of us who are able to read this note; do you understand that we are either blessed or lucky (depending on your spiritual belief) to have what we have in our lives? There are people out there, in Mulford Gardens even, that don't have a home. Some people live in their cars or some may be lucky enough get to stay in their friends garage for a couple of days. And then some might have to sleep under a bridge to stay out of the rain some nights. Why? It matters not. That is their reality; by choice or fate. What is important is:

They need the rest of us to care a little more.

All of us need to know that because we are more fortunate than many other people, and that any gift, however small, of service, clothing, spare change and/or food lifts them up and gives them a better chance to have an end of year holiday that is "Merry" and Happy". **By giving to the less fortunate, both the giver and the receiver benefit.** It is scientifically proven that when you give and donate that your body generates endorphins that make you feel good. Even the *act* of observing someone else giving and receiving goodwill generates endorphins (although much less than your own act of giving).

Because this time of year means so many things to so many people, **much of what is important to some, conflicts with what is important to others.** I would like to suggest that you put on your open mind and be aware of that point as well. Most of us are recuperating from a year that seemed particularly contentious with the presidential and other elections, all of which seemed to be driven by differences and conflicts. We are all different in many aspects but at the cores of our being, we are the same. **It is from that "sameness" that we can come together** to live in peace and allow others be different without judgement.

This time of year essentially is a time of connection. Connection to Spirit or Community, whether your beliefs are in **Jesus, Moses, Alla, Buddha, Nguzo Saba, or in a Power greater than any of us individually**, remember that we are all made of flesh and blood. We all laugh and cry. We all bleed and heal.

All of us deserve to give and receive any and all love that comes to and from us. Those people who believe

theirs is the one and only "true" belief and that all others are doomed, is probably why there isn't a real Peace on Earth. That mind set is as ludicrous as thinking that the color of your skin or the money in your pocket makes you better than those who are different. **Connecting to the community at this time of year, however you do it, demonstrates your humanity and willingness to accept each others differences.**

The MGIA and the Food Pantry expect a larger than usual turnout on December 22nd this year. If you or a family you know are having a tough time with getting enough food on the table to feed the family come to the monthly Food Pantry at the Mulford Gardens park on Aurora across from Garfield Elementary School. It most often is on the fourth Saturday of each month between 10am and noon. The Youth / Learning center at the back of the park is where Sue Fourby and her volunteers distribute the food. Bring some ID that shows who you are and where you live (to register) if it's your first time. Parking is plentiful and there are bus stops right in front of the park. You should also bring your own bags to transport the food back home.

On December 3rd, 2012, our **Mayor Stephen Cassidy honored Mulford Gardens Improvement Association** for our **Art and Music Festival** and gave us a **commendation** stating, "WHEREAS, special events are economic engines that improve the quality of life and make communities livable and desirable for businesses and homeowners" Thank you Mr. Mayor for the recognition of our efforts we put out to make something fun happen.

The board of MGIA sends it's condolences to **Helen Veronda** on West Avenue 130th and to her family for **the passing of her son Ray Veronda**. Ray passed away unexpectedly in late November. We are truly sorry for Helen, her family, and friends loss. **This time of year is especially sad for them.**

We also want to offer our sympathies to the families and friends of the victims at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. **Tragedy at it's worst.**

And finally, thank you Mulford Gardens members for supporting us this last year. We had some huge successes; **Movies at Mulford, pot luck, Haunted Woods at Mulford, the Food Pantry, and the Art and Music Festival and the Larry Norry Scholarship for graduating high school seniors.** We hope that we can keep the "Gardens" a beautiful place to come together in the future. And of course any tax deductible donations you make to our non profit will serve the community and keep us strong throughout the coming year.

- Steve Modifer, MGIA President