



# The Mulford Gardener

Presented By The Mulford Gardens Improvement Association

M.G.I.A. Volume XXXIV No. 12, November/December 2011

NO General Meeting IN DECEMBER

M.G.I.A CLUBHOUSE 13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro, 94577 - [mgia@live.com](mailto:mgia@live.com) - [www.mulfordgardens.org](http://www.mulfordgardens.org)

## Giving Thanks.

When we were children, most of us were taught (forced) to say "Thank You" every time someone gave us something or did something for us. On occasion there were dire consequences if we refused to declare it. It was as if the most important thing was just to say the words in order to leave the impression with the good deed doer, that we were keeping with social norms (that is to mean making Mom and Dad happy). Until I said the words "Please and Thank You", I was never going to make it to 6 years old. So I learned the lesson as it was chiseled into my indelible being. It became an automatic response.

Now, how many times a day do we say the words, "Thanks" or "Thank You"? We have said it so many times over the course of our lives that it's meaning gets lost somewhere between the birth of an act of kindness and the demise of that act. **Gratitude**, defined as "the *quality or feeling* of being grateful or thankful" was the part of the childhood lesson that Mom and Dad (at least in my family) didn't teach. Teaching the *feeling of thanks*; Gratitude, is much harder to instruct than just *when to say "Thanks"*.

When this time of year comes along, like it does every year, and we "give thanks" (in front of our turkeys) for all of the people and things in our lives, we may do so because we adapted to the childhood lesson. We make sure family and friends (as many as possible) see and hear our testimony. At the same time however, some of us complain because the gravy was too salty or Aunt Trish talks too much or

Grandma made us sit at the kid's table. Some of us complain about the government, our jobs, or the way our neighbor trims their tree. Arguments arise that can lead to yelling and your turkey dinner can turn into a free for all either with fists flying or words you can't find in the dictionary getting used with no thought toward their consequences. So much for being "thankful."

Some of us though, learned what it means to be "grateful" for the things worthy of "thanks" in our lives. We understand that by of the Grace of God (what or whoever you believe that to be) the people and things that show up in our lives are felt to be special and we consider them to be an honor. We feel an indescribable sense of connection to them and that contact with them makes our lives better. This connected feeling also makes us want to share the joy that it brings to us. The important thing is that all else falls away. We set aside a day to celebrate our life.

The Thanksgiving Holiday may have come and gone, depending on when you read this, but feelings of gratitude can be felt at any moment. They don't have to disappear along with the feeling of being stuffed with turkey.

**MGIA and I are truly thankful and grateful for those who have participated with us over the past year.** We look forward to serving you more in the future. We hope to see you and yours at our upcoming events. **Thank You for being there.**

Steve Modifer, President du Jour, MGIA



“Mulford Gardens Improvement Association”

In the 1940s, the few residents living in the unincorporated area known as Mulford Gardens realized that because of substandard buildings and questionable activities the area was in danger of becoming a “shanty town.” After some months of meetings, discussions, etc., November 30, 1940, the Mulford Gardens Improvement Association was incorporated. Articles of Incorporation were written. One of the purposes stated was to “Take charge of ... and promote all matters for the general improvement of the lots known as Mulford Gardens.”

At that time, the streets were gravel or dirt; there were no sidewalks, no bus service, no school, no sewage services, no fire department, limited party-line phone service, and inadequate railroad crossings. There was open burning at the dump (now Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Park and Waste Management Transfer Station), and the odors from Hohener Meat Company and Slaughterhouse were unbearable at times. So there was much to be done and the members rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

Since 1940 MGIA has been active in many things. Often times city departments and leaders would ask for input from MGIA regarding home occupation, variances, zoning and many day-to-day problems.

The *Mulford Gardeneer* has been published monthly (with very few omissions) since 1940. It has been very labor intensive with typed stencils, hand-drawn ads and a very stubborn mimeograph. But it is hand delivered to all the homes in Mulford Gardens and other city distributions.

As we read through the *Gardeneers*, we are reminded of some of the many accomplishments. Besides those mentioned above, there was the stopping of the Southern Crossing which would

have destroyed the residential area of Mulford Gardens; the elimination of odors from the dump, the slaughterhouse, Fry Roofing, etc; the encroachment of high-density apartments in the area and on and on for the past 71 years.

There have been parties, potluck dinners and work parties. It hasn't always been easy. There was a time when there was no money to pay the property taxes. Solution: members paid \$2.00 each to have his/her name painted on the back of a chair. There may still be chairs in the storeroom with the names of J.B. Lord and Merle Etherton and others painted on them! Membership dues is a paltry \$3.00 a year to this date.

The Marina and golf course are the result of the boat owners wanting a launching ramp. With some assistance from MGIA and others, the City agreed to ask for a grant to build the ramp, which grew into the present Marina. It is now in danger of being obliterated and turned into an office complex and residential area with only a small area for kayaks or canoes.

At this time of giving thanks, I am thankful for the many dedicated and ambitious individuals in the past who have worked to maintain this area and make it a spot where we want to live and work and play. Thank you very much, MGIA.

Fondly, Audrey Albers

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In Memory of Mrs. Mary Norry

We lost another wonderful friend, neighbor and MGIA supporter in November when Mrs. Mary

Norry, wife of Larry Norry, former long term President of Mulford Gardens Improvement Association passed away. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to her children and extended family for their loss. Mary and Larry were icons here in Mulford Gardens and will be missed and remembered fondly by many, especially the MGIA members and neighbors. In time, the pain will fade and the wonderful memories of Mary will surface and help you heal.

## HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM MGIA

To all Mulfordgardenians, HO! HO! HO!

Tiz the Season you know. "For what?" you may ask? Besides the obvious fact that it is Christmas, it's also getting very cold and many people are in the worst possible condition of their lives right now. If you haven't been paying any attention to the real news (FOX news doesn't count and if you think it does, please release yourself from the apathy it instills, open your mind and continue reading.), let me suggest that there is a real problem out there.

Having a house with maybe a fireplace filled with plenty of wood, a warm and soft bed and a refrigerator packed with food are luxuries for some people. I know that I take those things for granted. I have a job. I can pay my bills. But I know there are millions of people that cannot say those things. Poverty is the worst since the Great Depression. Most of us haven't got a clue about what all of that was about but understand this; we, as a society ARE responsible for the current state of the economy as it is now.

It is a very complicated discussion around how society as a whole is responsible and I can understand that some of you are about to stop reading. Our condition didn't happen as a fluke or because a couple of banks got greedy and worked the system beyond its intended purpose. It happened because we let it happen.

When we choose a government to represent our desires, we make the decision that it will provide a social structure to our liking. When we choose that government, we should be informed about our representative's positions, affiliations, and their histories so that when they get to work we trust that it will be in our best interest. How can it possibly be that a majority of people have intentionally voted in a government that wants to do away with every social safety net that exists? Medicare-GONE. Medical-GONE. Social Security-GONE?????

People in Michigan unknowingly voted in a government that decided to indirectly take away the voting rights of 50% of all African American

citizens in Flynt, Pontiac, Benton Harbor, and soon; Detroit. Google "Michigan's Emergency Manager Law". Or watch this link: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26315908/vp/45607138#45607138>

So what's the point? Get involved or at least be informed. The people who are OCCUPYING the financial industry's strongholds, their local government's offices, and are demonstrating for equality and fairness, **are doing it for all of us** (my guess is that no one reading this makes a million dollars a year). People who have been foreclosed upon or are getting welfare or unemployment *have no other voice*, no lobbyists promoting their welfare, and are certainly wishing they had a warm house with a fireplace, a warm soft bed, and a refrigerator packed with food. Support the OCCUPY MOVEMENT in any way that you can. It really is the best chance we have as a free society to regain the middle class and allow those who aspire to be there, to get there. Know that the OCCUPY MOVEMENT is working and is not going to go away.

Be generous this holiday season. Get involved. Be informed. Donate time or money to a charity. However well off or not so well off you are, there are people out there who aren't nearly as comfortable. Don't let someone else take care of the mess. We all made it. We all can clean it up. Peace and Goodwill are real things. It's not just a saying to have on a card in the window for a month. Think about it.

Steve Modifer, MGIA President

*"Merry Christmas*  
  
*Peace, Health and*  
*Prosperity to All Our*  
*Friends and Neighbors in the*  
*New Year"*

**MGIA Board 2011-2012**

Steve Modifer	President
Earl Vasconcellos	Vice President
Rae Vasconcellos	Treasurer
Bo Johansen	Secretary
Janet Porrill	Financial Secretary
Jean Morris	Gardeneer Editor
Alison Modifer	Web Design
Audrey Albers	Board Member
Chuck Porrill	Board Member
Michelle Segelke	Board Member

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**M.G.I.A. General Meeting:** No December Meeting  
Next meeting January 31, 2012 07:30pm  
Last Tuesday of each month (except December)

**Advertising information:**

Call Janet Porrill 510-352-6258  
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**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  
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**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**San Leandro City Council:**  
1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> Mondays/each month  
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St



**Mayor - Stephen Cassidy**

Michael Gregory, Dist. 1      Ursula Reed, Dist. 2  
Diana Souza, Dist. 3      Joyce Starosciak, Dist. 4  
Pauline Russo Cutter, Dist. 5 Jim Prola, Dist. 6

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

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

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**MGIA Club House Rentals**  
**Bo Johansen 510-206-4249**



Are you looking for a quaint, clean place for your Memorial observations, Bridge/Card Club, Garden Club, Exercise, Mens/Womens group or Bunko game nights? Our Club House is available for daily/hourly rentals as well as weekend/evenings. Call Bo Johansen for information on rentals: 510-206-4249.

**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](mailto: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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Birthday Wishes to all November Birthday celebrants including  
Chuck Porrill – 75 Years Young!!

Chuck & his wife, Janet celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on Nov. 29.2011. Congratulations to the happy couple!! Chuck shared with the Board that he fell “bum over tea kettle” for Janet the first time he saw her! Enduring love at first sight!! Congratulations to the happy couple!!

**COMMUNITY NOTE**

It is important to properly dispose of expired or unused medications. Flushing drugs down the toilet or pouring them down the drain can contaminate waterways and harm aquatic life. You can do your part to keep pharmaceutical waste out of San Francisco Bay by properly disposing of them at one of the take-back locations. \*No control substances.

For packing guidelines and additional locations go to [www.recyclesanleandro.org](http://www.recyclesanleandro.org).

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS**

Davis Street Clinic 510 347 4620  
3081 Teagarden Street, San Leandro

City of San Leandro Senior Center 510 577 7990  
13909 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, San Leandro, CA

City of San Leandro Public Works 510 577 3440  
14200 Chapman Rd., San Leandro, CA

Items accepted: Prescription medications; Over the Counter Medications; Medication Ointments & Lotions; Liquid Medications in leak proof containers.