

DIGGERS DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

General Meeting:

10:30 am Program

(Unless otherwise noted)

12:00 noon Meeting

****CHANGE OF VENUE****

Jan 5 - Lisa Evan's

10:30 Natasha Hopkinson to
talk about the Chelsea
Flower Show

12:00 noon meeting and
sack lunch

**Guests Welcome - great
meeting for prospective
members!**

Look ahead...

Feb 2 - Huntington Library -
Ahmanson Classroom
New Director,
Nicole Cavender

Feb 22 - Huntington Library
Joint Meeting hosted by PGA
Edie Soloway - Nature
Photographer

Mar 2 - Old Mill Workday
Prep



From the President

Dear Diggers,

It's hard to get into the holiday spirit when the southern California weather is acting like summer! I would say water more - but with this drought I say, pray for rain!

I so enjoyed our time together arranging all our holiday baskets, lovingly adorned with festive greens, ribbons and ornaments. I know they will be greatly appreciated and bring cheer and joy to all the local organizations that will be receiving them.

Our holiday boutique was a huge success! Since it's inception, Digger's have become wise to many of the favorite items that are handmade and tend to be donated each year, so when the bell rings to begin shopping, items are swooped up in no time! A big thank you to all those who donated and the charitable contributions will go into our Ways and Means account.

As we begin to deck the halls with holiday greens, have you ever wondered why people kiss under the

Mar 2 - Old Mill Workday
 Prep for Auction
 Conservation Program -
 Susan & Sally
 April 3 - Plant drop off Old Mill
 April 4-5 - Auction Set Up
 April 6 - Plant Sale & Auction
 May 4 - Huntington Library
 Roses with Tom Carruth
 June 1 - Annual Meeting
 Judy McDonald's

Board Meetings

10:30 a.m. Monday's preceding
 the General Meetings at Lisa's
 home. Please let Lisa know if you
 would like to attend.

Old Mill Workdays

(Mondays)
 Jan 10th, 9-10:30am
 Jan 24th, 9-10:30am
 Feb 7th, 9-10:30am
 Feb 21st, 9-10:30am



mistletoe, a parasitic green plant? Well, there are many stories, one of which started in ancient Greece, during the festival of Saturnalia and later in marriage ceremonies, because of the plant's association with fertility. Lily Norton from Live Science writes, that the most popular folklore comes from a Nordic myth that mistletoe was sacred to Frigga, the goddess of love, but Loki, commonly known as the god of mischief, shot Frigga's son with an arrow carved from mistletoe. Frigga revived her son under the mistletoe tree and decreed that anyone who stands under the mistletoe tree deserves not only protection from death, but also a kiss.

Find gratitude in the holidays, count your blessings and by all means, make sure to get your fair share of kisses under the mistletoe!

Off to plant dreams and pick weeds!

Best,

Lisa

Conservation

Last week was a busy week for the GCA Conservation Committee. They had their final deep dive into the GCA Position Paper on **Waste Management** and then the Conservation Study Conference on **Saving Salmon**.

Below we have attached the link to the Waste Management video. This video is especially good. When you have the time please review and continue to educate yourself on this important topic.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming GCA Dates

www.gcamerica.org

GCA Virtual Floral Design Conference

Dec. 8, 2021

NAL Conference TBD

Washington, DC

Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2022

GCA Virtual Photography Study Conference

Mar 31, 2022

GCA 2022 Annual Meeting Hybrid

Parsippany, NJ

Apr 27 - 30, 2022



[Waste Management](#) [Learn More](#)

I hope many of you had the opportunity to watch, if not all, at least some of the segments from the Saving Salmon Conference. If you missed it, Carrie Hulburd, our Zone XII Conservation Rep and I urge you to go to the GCA website and watch some of the segments. We hope you will become inspired!

Field Trip

Our field trip to Rolling Greens was so much fun! Ruth and Megan are busy planning another get away in January or February – stay tuned!



Horticulture

Garden Design has some great tips for December in Southern California.

1. Consider buying a living Christmas tree that will live on after the holiday.
2. With the Santa Ana's upon us make sure to prune trees, especially dead or broken branches.
3. Don't feed your avocados this month as they are finished putting on new growth until early spring.
4. Transplant or move roses so they can get established but give them ample water after they are transplanted.
5. Grow bulbs indoors.
6. Avoid cutting ornamental grasses and hydrangeas until spring when you see the first sign of new growth.

Old Mill

What's new at the Old Mill?

A lot has been happening at the Old Mill! Recently, San Marino Urban Forester Sam Estrada and a representative from Mitchell Pest Control came to the Old Mill to assess the trees for pruning and pest control. No pests were found, thankfully, so we won't need any major spraying this year. Sam will put the Old Mill trees on the San Marino pruning schedule but in the mean time, he sent a crew to clean some of the under brush on the west side of the driveway that leads to the cottage. He also suggested we have our gardener trim some of the low hanging branches along the walkways and remove a dead limb from one of the sycamore. Wonderful Manuel got right on that! We will get pricing from Manuel to install drip irrigation under the pomegranates and citrus to help them get deeper watering.

Thanks to Old Mill Foundation director Kate Sinclair, the Old Mill is getting more public attention. She has scheduled FlowerTruckLA, a mobile flower market, to sell flowers at the Old Mill December 9th from 9-11am. A portion of the proceeds will go back to the Old Mill. Even more exciting news, the Director of Botanical Gardens at the Huntington, Nicole Cavender, visited the Old Mill recently with her family. She was very enthusiastic about the gardens and suggested we apply for arboretum accreditation through Arbnet.org. We will explore this more to determine if the Old Mill has the qualifications necessary for Level 1 Arboretum status. In the meantime, our goal is to identify and label all the trees and plants in the garden.

Come dig with us during one of our upcoming work days:

See you at the Old Mill!

Our Community Since 1929

Thursday, December 2, 2021 3

Flowers Pop Up at Old Mill



Photo courtesy Old Mill

FlowerTruckLA, a mobile flower market, will pop over to San Marino's Old Mill on Thursday, Dec. 9.

FlowerTruckLA, a mobile flower market, will be at San Marino's Old Mill on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

FlowerTruckLA, which sells "farm to vase" fresh-cut flowers and wreaths, was born during the pandemic. Even though many florists shut down, FlowerTruckLA drove across Los Angeles so communities could get access to fresh flowers.

The florist is an expert on the flowers his family grows. He has superb knowledge regarding the floral varieties and how to care for

them. His team arrives to each pop-up sale with a refrigerated truck filled fresh product.

FlowerTruckLA is now beginning to work with nonprofits, such as United in Harmony, which raises funds to help underserved children, and the Westside Guild of Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

The public is invited to drop in at the Old Mill at 1120 Old Mill Rd. in San Marino, on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. A cart serving coffee and bakery items will also be on site.

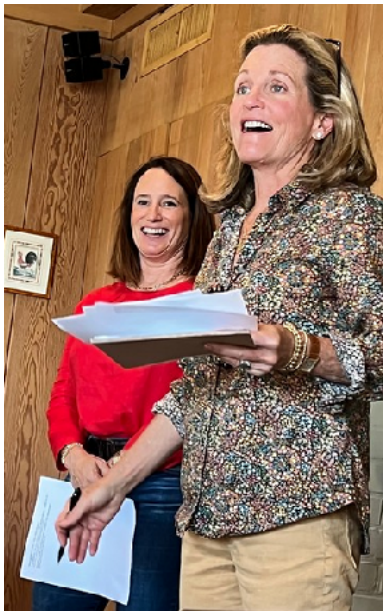
Programs

Next month - January

We will be meeting Natasha Hopkinson, our visiting speaker from Northern California. Natasha will talk to us about her experience with the Chelsea Flower Show where she was responsible for creating their promotional DVD's for many years. She is highly regarded on the GCA "Raves and Faves" website so we look forward to her talk. <https://natashahopkinson.com>

The Christmas floral arranging was a huge success! Thank you to all the Diggers who brought containers, molded chicken wire frogs, created beautiful arrangements and delivered to our grateful recipients. Despite the soaring heat, it was a lovely way to get us all in the Christmas spirit while sharing our gifts with the community.

In all we delivered 83 beautiful arrangements to The Huntington Hospital, Silverado, The Ronald McDonald House, Villa Esperanza, Pasadena Senior Center And Families Forward. Thank you to all our drivers!







Click the link below for more photos from Sally Miller of the fabulous day!

<https://diggers.smugmug.com/2021-2022/December-2021/>

GCA Programs

There are some wonderful On Demand recorded programs on the GCA Website! Here is one to check out!

Program ***Kitchen Gardens are in Demand***

Isn't it time to grow your own food?

Turn on the GCA's newest episode of the *On Demand* virtual program series, "**Planning Your Kitchen Garden For the Year**" with Nicole Burke.

It's time to get back to the basics!

GCA Photography

The Fall 2021 Zone XII Through the Lens newsletter arrived in the inboxes of GCA leadership, and Susan Uydess (ZZP) and Lisa Dell'Oso (ZZC) tell me they've heard an enthusiastic response to your wonderful photographs.

It was a joy to open the Jotform uploads and discover all the beauty and wonderful surprises! Lisa shared her vision and the inspired quotes that brought together the themes and your images. And Susan contributed her lovely photos and stellar editing skills.

The support for this project continues to grow – 180 images contributed by 73 photographers! It speaks to the level of engagement and sense of community among the committee chairs and talented photographers in our zone. Thank you to everyone who submitted photos as well as those who spread the word.

After much cross-checking of the Jotform upload forms I'm hopeful, and mostly confident, that I included at least one image from each contributor. If I inadvertently left out anyone's submission or a contributor's name, I apologize.

Thank you, ... and enjoy Fall Into the Holidays!

Jean Jarvis
Zone XII Photography Representative
The Garden Club of America
Piedmont Garden Club

<https://mailchi.mp/eb5d9a023ecf/fall-into-the-holidays-zone-xii-through-the-lens-2021>