

DIGGERS DIRT

The Dirt being dished this month...

General Meetings

10:30 Program
(Unless otherwise noted)
12:00 noon Meeting &
Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday, April 3rd

Diggers Auction 1011
Oak Grove Ave. San Marino



...**Look ahead...**

Wednesday, May 8th

Photography With Ann Cutting
Award-Winning
Associate Professor, ArtCenter
College of Design



Susan Kranwinkles' Home
1179 Yocum St. Pasadena



From The President

Winter showers did indeed bring abundant spring flowers this year to our mountains, deserts and gardens. Luckily, the rains (and winds!) passed us by on April 3rd and Diggers enjoyed perfect spring weather for our 2019 Annual Auction. Dynamic Co-Chairs Sally Miller and Sally Harris shepherded both club members and guests through a well-organized afternoon. Auctioneers Sally Miller, Cindy Wenzlau, Jane Herrmann and Susan Babcock kept the Live Auction in high gear - and high humor - with their slightly tall tales...Bidding was spirited.

Many thanks go to Athena Wood and her husband Phelps, who graciously welcomed us to their lovely home and garden for a festive post-auction dinner. The Moroccan-themed meal was delicious! Fine wines from Wenzlau Vineyards and home-made Baklava rounded out the evening. Diggers know how to celebrate!

While the final net income figure is yet to be finalized, it looks as though our annual Auction did even better than

Board Meetings

Monday before the
General Meeting
10:30am.

Please let Cathy know if you
would like to attend.

June 5th Annual Mtg



Clare Tayback's home
1877 McFarlane Street
San Marino

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Club Meetings

May 8 (*Second Wed.)
June 5 - Annual Mtg.

Upcoming GCA Dates

www.gcamerica.org

GCA 2019 Annual Meeting

Boston, MA
May 16, -19, 2019

Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver, CO
Sept. 10-12, 2019

last year despite some challenging winter weather as you worked on your pots. Each and every one of you cheerfully contributed time and talent, and it all came together in one glorious burst of color and companionship. Diggers - Well Done!

✿ See you in the garden ✿

Cathy

2019 Diggers Auction Set-Up Days



Plant Sales Tables



Eugenie carefully labels tags



Carlin



Kathy, Debbie, Connie & Annette



Mary's Lentil Salad with Nasturtiums (& the best pickled onions ever...)



Page conducts the **yearly** reminder on sticker placement for pot purchase!

Diggers Big Auction Day



Laura, Susan, Annie & Gwen



Auction Co-Chairs



Jane, Annette & Angela



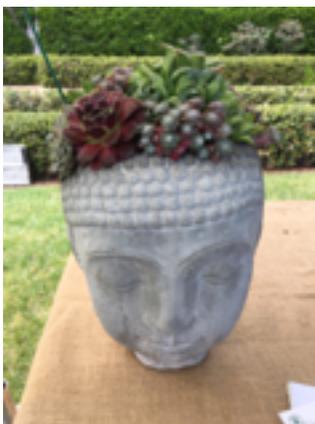
Barbara & Ruth



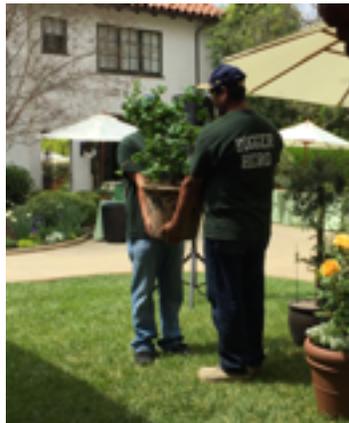
Mimi & her goddaughters



Debby & Debbie



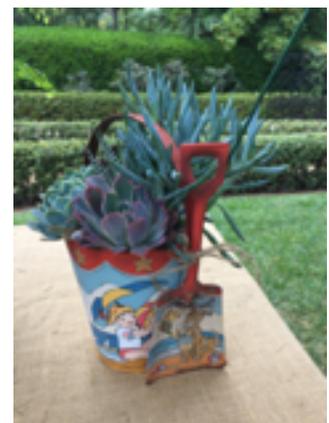
Live Auction Item



Our Diggers Heros



Live Auction Item



Live Auction Item

The Old Mill

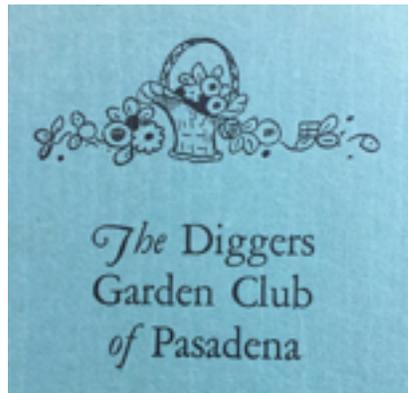


The Old Mill has a new garden! After much research and planning our Old Mill Garden Chairs Ruth and Nena have completed a beautiful renovation of the front sidewalk garden. The area was re-graded, overgrown plants were removed, soil amended and new drip irrigation lines were installed. When possible, mature garden plants were kept and relocated to better advantage. A grant from the Diggers Endowment Fund enabled the project to proceed quickly. California native fuchsia - *Epilobium* 'Everett's Choice'- has been added to provide color in the heat of summer and into fall. It is a low-growing selection with red-orange flowers that will echo the soft terra cotta colors of the Old Mill perimeter walls. Its gray-green leaves are just the shade of the *Agave attenuata*, which was kept but relocated. Drought tolerant and very popular with the hummingbirds, California fuchsia will look great growing around the rocks and among plantings of *salvia* and *rosemary*.

Because of the Auction, there are no scheduled 'Work Days' this month, but do stop by and take a look at the new "Face of the Old Mill" entrance garden. Many thanks to Ruth and Nena for the successful completion of this large project!

Diggers History Corner

("...a pleasant way to meet financial obligations...")



The year was 1938-39. Mrs. Edgar Washburn (née Belle-Marian Story) was president of the Diggers Garden Club, which she had joined in 1929.

At that time, it was a yearly custom for our club to participate in flower shows held in the community each fall and spring. Under the direction of fall flower show chairman, Mrs. George McCook, the Diggers created a Victorian Garden that "required sod, many plants, fences, an iron bench and even a full-grown tree."

The spring flower show presented a new challenge. For the first time, local participating garden clubs undertook to plant a garden outdoors on a hillside in an area allotted to each group. Diggers plans were submitted weeks in advance, drawn up by Mrs. McCook. When it was later discovered that the space had been graded in the interim and fresh green grass had grown in, the Diggers decided it would be "a shame to disturb it with violently colored plants." Under the supervision of spring flower show chairman, Mrs. Hancock Banning, Jr., the Diggers arranged a "simple hillside, planted with Azaleas, scillas, cowslips and Jersey violets." (One club member's husband, Mrs. Washburn reports, described this Diggers exhibit as "a whisper instead of a shout.")

Mrs. Banning reported that expenses for the fall show amounted to \$5.35 (equivalent to \$96 in today's money). Ever resourceful, Mrs. Banning potted up the plants used for the garden installation and sold them to club members at the April meeting. Problem solved. The minutes from this meeting simply state that all the plants were sold, but this success sparked an idea that carried on the following year at the

Diggers April meeting, and has continued on each spring ever since - the Diggers Annual Plant Auction and Sale.

On April 3rd of 1940, each member was asked to bring at least two plants for auction at the club meeting held at Mrs. Banning's home. The Diggers raised \$47.55. This money was put into the Dispensary Fund, from which the Diggers supported the gardens of the Pasadena Dispensary, their Civic Project begun in 1935.

The Plant Auction held March 12, 1941 on Mrs. Brown's veranda (due to pouring rain) raised \$58. Florence Banning (now the Diggers president) referred to the club's "annual auction" in her GCA report.

In 1942, each Diggers member brought one guest to the April 1st Plant Auction, held at Mrs. Valentine's home, which raised \$152 for the Dispensary Fund. "There was a large amount and variety of material for sale, most of which came from the Diggers' gardens." "The occasion was both amusing and profitable," wrote Mrs. Banning "but let us never become so fascinated by the profits that we forget how all important is the fun of the thing."

Our Auction has continued for 80 years with "fun" as the Diggers byword. Hats off to these wonderful women, who with creativity, style, and great enthusiasm created a beloved and enduring club institution.



Floral Design

(Tip of the month)

Do you need some S P A C E ?



When you look at this picture what do you see first? A face or a vase?

If you see a vase, then you are seeing the white areas as the positive space and the black areas as the negative space.

If you see faces, then you are seeing the black areas as the positive space, and the white area as the negative space.

In **Floral Design SPACE** is the complete three dimensional area occupied by the composition, both positive and negative. And an important element to consider when arranging.

~ And as esteemed judge and author of The Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting, Esther Veramae Hamél wrote,

“The precocious designer does not leave the distribution of space to chance, but uses it knowingly, not negatively but **positively.**” (p.411)

For more **SPACE** fun, check out the March Issue of the Floral Design Committee’s magazine, **By Design**. Available on the GCA website.

You will see **stellar** designs created for the Zone IV flower show “**It’s In The Stars**” & Makoto Azuma’s floral design which was actually launched intoYou guessed it – **SPACE !**

GCA News

On March 4, the GCA Executive Board adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan for 2019-2024. Areas of focus are Governance and Leadership, Club Services and Meetings, Financial Security, Communication and Vitality of the organization. Key to the plan is effective communication - consistent internally and externally - to inspire members and articulate the advantages of association. To this end, the Executive Board is drafting organizational messaging based upon the GCA's purpose statement. New Vision and Mission Statements and set of Core Values are in the works. The following wonderful "tagline" has been created already:



Garden. Create. Advocate. GCA.



It is important to note that no major changes will occur for at least a year while the Strategic Plan is refined and reviewed.

Some changes you will eventually see are:

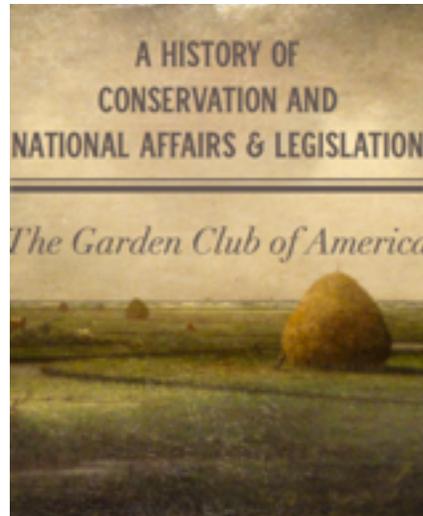
1) Elimination of zone director and zone vice chairman positions. Instead there will be a "**Zone Chairman, Club Resources**" (will interface between national committees and their zone representatives and club chairmen) and "**Zone Chairman, Club President Resources**" (will interface between the GCA and club presidents).

2) The Founders Fund Committee name will change to **Civic Improvement Committee** (to include Founders Fund, Hull award, Partners for Plants and Restoration Initiative).

3) The Conservation Study Conference will be supported as an annual event open to delegates from all member clubs, and consideration will be given to create future conference opportunities in Creative Arts and Garden History and Design.

For much more information on the Strategic Plan, please see **GCA News** under the "Read, Watch, Shop" tab at www.gcamerica.org. A Q&A document will also be posted and updated on the Executive Board landing page that includes questions and answers regarding the Strategic Plan.

Conservation



Cathy and Mary were very pleased to represent the Diggers as delegates to the NAL Conference in Washington DC this past February. Mary has written a wonderful report (sent as an attachment to the 'Dirt') highlighting many eloquent speakers and the important information conveyed. Be sure to read all about the conference on page 47 of the spring issue of [ConWatch](#). (Pictures, too!)

For more fascinating reading, download *A History of Conservation and National Affairs & Legislation* (scroll to Publications under the Read, Watch, Shop tab). Walk with the early GCA ladies as they protest billboards (ironically erected by the Society of American Florists), tackle plant quarantine issues and support the preservation of natural areas for the enjoyment of the people. The GCA's Conservation Committee has written an engaging account of the history of conservation in The Garden Club of America that you won't want to miss. The book is available only electronically. GCA club members are free to print it themselves.