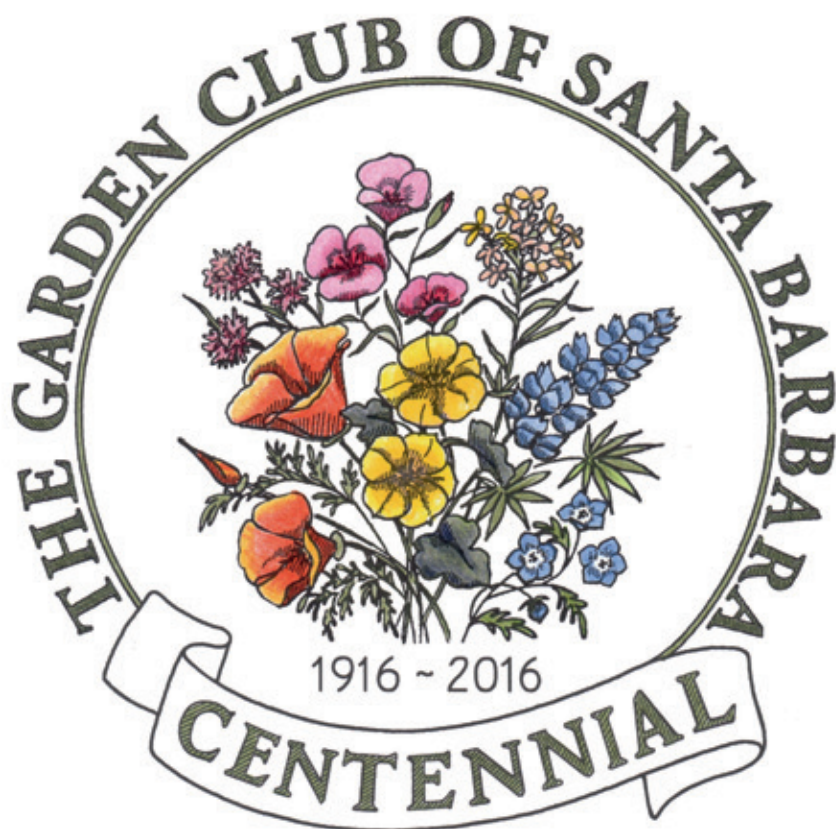

NOTICIAS

JOURNAL OF THE SANTA BARBARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Vol. LV

No. 1



THE GARDEN CLUB OF
SANTA BARBARA:

A CENTENNIAL HISTORY



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AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: My sincere thanks to those who gave their time and talents to this project beginning with Gillian Couvillion, the Club's Centennial Archivist, whose work in the Club's collections allowed me to efficiently access them for this history. Thank you to Jane Buchanan, who as a Centennial Committee co-chair provided encouragement and assistance. She, along with Lenore Hughes and Joan Jackson provided valuable editing. Teri Taylor was of great assistance in her work with photographs. I would also like to thank all the members of the Centennial Committee for their patience and encouragement with this special project. Lastly, I wish to thank my family, Anne, Brooke, Brent, Eric, and Grace, for their understanding and support these past few years.

The centennial logo of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara (GCSB) on the front cover was designed by Lou Greer Frost and Janice Blair. The floral arrangement on the back cover was in commemoration by the Garden Club of Santa Barbara of the 100th anniversary of the national Garden Club of America (GCA), 2013.

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS: NOTICIAS is a journal devoted to the study of the history of Santa Barbara County. Contributions of articles are welcome. Those authors whose articles are accepted for publication will receive ten gratis copies of the issue in which their article appears. Further copies are available to the contributor at cost. The authority in matters of style is *The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition*. The Publications Committee reserves the right to return submitted manuscripts for required changes. Statements and opinions expressed in articles are the sole responsibility of the author.

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Judy Sutcliffe, Designer

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136 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara, California, 93101
www.sbhistorical.org

Single copies \$12
ISSN 0581-5916

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara



A CENTENNIAL HISTORY

ALICE VAN DE WATER

In 2016, the 125 members of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara (GCSB) celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. The Club was organized in April 1916, three years after the founding of the Garden Club of America (GCA) in Philadelphia. The GCA is a group of two hundred clubs with approximately 18,000 members with similar mission statements and standing committees. Today, the Garden

Club of America is a leader in the fields of horticulture, conservation and civic improvement, as members devote their energies and expertise to a wide array of projects in their communities and nationally. Annual meetings bring all two hundred clubs together as do other events and travel.

Every member of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara is concurrently a member of the Garden Club of America. The GCA is divided into twelve geographic zones. Each zone has a chairman appointed by the national president for a two-year term. The chairman's responsibility is to be the contact between the member clubs in her zone and the national organization. Each zone also has representatives who are members of the GCA's national committees and who rely on the chairmen of the club committees to be the vital links in the communication chain. Each local club sends representatives to the zone and annual meetings.

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara is in Zone XII with eighteen other clubs from Colorado to Hawaii. Zone XII covers more territory than any other—over 680,000 square miles. The bylaws of the

Garden Club of Santa Barbara state that membership may be offered to any person residing in Santa Barbara County who has demonstrated a personal interest in gardening, flower arranging, horticulture, or conservation. Today the membership consists overwhelmingly of women; the last male member left in



Dr. Augustus Boyd Doremus and his wife, both members of the GCSB. As a member of the Santa Barbara Parks Commission from 1902-1920, Dr. Doremus was a leader in the beautification of the city's streets and parks. Collection Santa Barbara Historical Museum

1950. One man is currently an honorary member.

Setting the Santa Barbara Scene

Santa Barbara is known for its beautiful scenery, temperate climate and stunning location, but it was not always so. National awareness of this area only began to grow in the mid-1800s, due in no small part to Richard Henry Dana's best-selling book, *Two Years Before the Mast* (1847). He described Santa Barbara, "on its plain, with its amphitheater of high hills and distant mountains . . . its old white mission with its belfries in repose in the golden sunlight and glorious climate, sheltered by its hills . . . there roars and rumbles upon the beach the grand surf of the great Pacific."

Interest in the South Coast continued to increase during the last half of the 1800s. Transportation to the region improved and tourism became more important to the local economy. The area's mild climate and natural beauty drew those who wished to escape the harsh winters common in other areas of the country. Luxury hotels offered enhanced amenities and Montecito soon developed as an enclave of large estates. Horticulturists were among those who discovered the unique natural properties of the South Coast.

With the establishment of nurseries in the area, opportunities arose for residents to purchase rare species of plants and shrubs. Joseph Sexton's

nursery was the first in Santa Barbara and following his lead, other plantsmen began to arrive, each contributing much to the horticultural development of the community.

Ellwood Cooper arrived in Santa Barbara and introduced eucalyptus trees to this area. He planted some 50,000 trees believing they would be used as wharf pilings. Although this was unsuccessful, eucalyptus trees became a part of the local horticultural scene.

By 1910, five other plantsmen had made significant impacts on Santa Barbara and helped establish it as a horticulturalist's paradise. Dr. Augustus Doremus is known for his vision of palm-lined promenades and horticultural diversity. As president of the city's Park Board from 1902-1920, he and his colleagues created the palm-lined Cabrillo Boulevard, known today as Chase Palm Park. He planted the original queen palms on State and Santa Barbara streets, the Brazilian cedar woods along Gutierrez Street and the Mexican fan palms along East Haley. He is best known, however, for planting the stone pines that were placed along East Anapamu Street between Milpas and Olive streets in 1908.

Dr. Kinton Stevens established a nursery in 1883 at the Montecito site that was to become Madame Ganna Walska's *Lotusland*. Stevens' son, Ralph, who grew up on the grounds of *Lotusland*, carried on the family tradition in a number of capacities. He is primarily known for restoring and enhancing the

magnificence of the estate as well as landscaping the original garden at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse.

Ralph Stevens followed Doremus as Superintendent of Parks, and then as Parks Commissioner. His long-term replacement was E. O. Orpet, who held the position for ten years during the 1920s. Orpet's knowledge of plants was enormous, as was his enthusiasm for adding to Santa Barbara's horticultural flora. He had a collection of over eight hundred species of succulents, including over thirty aloes he propagated for plantings around the city. To this day, Orpet Park holds many unique species that he planted and cannot be seen in any other location in Santa Barbara. He resigned from his post in 1930 to devote himself to his nursery. He was one the most respected horticulturists in the country, and in recognition of his achievements, was awarded the *Florens de Bevoise* medal of the Garden Club of America.

Another plantsman, Francesco Franceschi, arrived in Santa Barbara and within two years wrote a small book describing six hundred species of introduced plants to the area, *Santa Barbara Exotic Flora: A Handbook of Plants from Foreign Countries Grown at Santa Barbara, CA*. He is credited for introducing over two thousand species that he propagated for sale in his nursery.

Peter Riedel arrived from the Netherlands in 1905. He became associated with the Montecito Nursery at

Schoolhouse and Hot Springs roads and helped develop many of the fine estates in Montecito. He is probably best known for educating homeowners, as he felt the beauty of a city such as Santa Barbara relied as much on individuals as improvements on streets and in parks.

Just as horticultural development in Santa Barbara has depended greatly on its citizens and the love of plants they brought with them from other regions, so too has development of the "Santa Barbara lifestyle" with newcomers arriving for the winter and deciding to make this their home. It was the beautiful setting of the land beneath the mountains, embraced by the sea and islands, along with the climate and soil conducive to growing a wide variety of plants that seduced these newcomers. It is probably not surprising that the combination of temperate climate, knowledgeable horticulturists, and new inhabitants with a love for gardening would result in the formation of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara in 1916.

Founding of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara

On April 24, 1916, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Hale, the Garden Club of Santa Barbara was organized. Mrs. J. Mauran Rhodes chaired the meeting and was elected its first president. Mrs. Hale and Dr. Doremus were elected the two vice-presidents. Among the fifty original members, seventeen



In 1916, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton B. Hale was the site of the inaugural meeting of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara. Collection Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

were men, some of whom were husbands of members. Meetings took place in members' homes, most of which were large estates. Many of the earliest members were among the "Who's Who" of Santa Barbara.

Hostesses at these meetings were expected to have their gardens in tip-top shape so members could take a stroll through them. Meeting agendas included the reading of a ten-minute paper followed by "discussion of seasonable topics." One such item was a report on "Selecting Palms in Southern California" by the first gentleman president, Dr. Doremus. Ralph Stevens' speech on improvements needed along Montecito roadways was of great interest also. Another topic was the denuding of *Ceanothus* in the

mountains above Santa Barbara for the use of making pipe bowls. The club was encouraged to write letters of protest to Washington denouncing this practice. Following the meetings, tea would be served. As recorded at one meeting's adjournment, "Tea and pleasant gossip—something that was always in season."

The Club's first annual meeting was held in April 1917 in the home of Mrs. Ella Stone. The meeting opened with a verse written by Dorothy Frances Gurney:

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in
the garden
Than anywhere else on earth.*

The war raging in Europe was not far from anyone's mind. President Rhodes read a paper, "Delve like Adam," which called for the planting of vegetable gardens in case of food shortages. After the meeting adjourned, members packed 175 "comfort bags" for Belgian soldiers.

The year proceeded with members holding flower sales on State Street on Saturday mornings with proceeds going to various charities. Although \$1,821 was raised, the membership voted to halt this practice as it was felt it was not in line with the Club's horticultural purpose. With the entry of the U.S. in World War I, there was increased emphasis on the cultivation of vegetables in "Victory Gardens."

Eastern Clubs Form the Garden Club of America

In 1913, a group of garden clubs in the eastern U.S. came together to found an umbrella organization to promote common goals and interests. The Garden Club of America was founded in Philadelphia by "gentlewomen" representing a tight little island of wealth, privilege and gracious living. They came from as far west as Chicago and Detroit, through the upper South into New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Their goal has been honored over the years and slightly broadened in the 1970s. The mission statement now reads:

To stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of education, meetings, con-

ferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

Conservation was a novel idea at the time and it is a credit to the imagination of the founding members of the GCA that preservation of the natural world should be a goal. The GCA's first step in this direction was the establishment of a Committee on Beautifying Settlements and Highways in 1918. This was significant even though, given women could not vote on the federal level until 1920, all the group could do was exert indirect influence.

The Women's Land Army of America (WLAA) was a civilian organization created during both world wars to work in agriculture and help replace the manpower lost to military service. The GCA was an active part of this war effort. As William Seale put it in his history of the GCA:

They were everywhere, these ladies of every description, they planted and hoed little strips side by side, probably with more fatigue than results, but as a whole, they did their bit. Some women drove tractors and grain combines; some canned their home-grown vegetables for their own use. They dressed in jodhpurs and puttees and a familiar loose coat of cotton or linen and a broad brimmed hat; these farmeretts introduced a new chic. The Woman's Land Army was the most nationally visible contribution of the GCA to the defense effort in World War I.

Garden Club of Santa Barbara Joins the GCA

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara was participating in the WLAA when it petitioned for membership in the GCA. Initially, this idea was not met enthusiastically by all members. Some expressed concerns that for many GCA club members, "the privileges were mainly social and their methods of garden treatment were unlike ours." It was felt that, "many clubs took the winter off, while we garden 365 days a year, ruining our cuticles doing it." With encouragement from GCA members on the east coast, primarily Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne (Helen), the Club sent a petition to join and was elected to GCA membership at a meeting of the Council of Presidents on March 15, 1918. One month later, the Club accepted the invitation to become the thirty-ninth club to join the GCA. At the same meeting the Club changed its name to the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and Montecito.

A Memorial Peace Offering

Following the end of World War I, a commemorative tablet was set among twenty-four olive trees in historic Mission Park across from the Mission. It read:

These trees were planted by the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and Montecito as a Memorial Peace offering to Victory in the World War. 1914-1918

The grove, one of the Club's first civic projects, was dedicated at a special meeting at the Mission. Completion of the project, at a cost of \$75.00, was greatly due to Augustus Doremus.

Other civic and horticulture projects were not neglected following the war. Work was completed by Garden Club members around the Mission grounds and plans were made for planting the area. Groups were formed within the Club to meet every Friday to "really DO garden work."

GCA Gets Back to Business

The History of Conservation in the Garden Club of America 1913-2013 notes that at a GCA business meeting in 1920, the following resolution was adopted:

In all of our states and counties there are many places of special beauty, and many flowers and trees of great loveliness that are in danger of being lost. Therefore, it seems that part of our obligation, as one of the specified objects of our Association, is to encourage the preservation of all woodland things, that the natural beauty spots of our country may not be destroyed.

The opportunity to turn the resolution into action came shortly afterward. Although outdoor advertising did not begin with the invention of the automobile, the introduction of the Model T in 1908 had brought the American public to the roads and presented a new advertising venue. When the Society of American Florists

erected roadside advertisement on 10' X 7' billboards with "Say it With Flowers" written on it, the GCA forwarded a Resolution of Protest to the secretary of the Society of American Florists against the signs. It appears that this protest was not representative of the entire GCA membership and therefore had little impact. Of greater impact to women in the United States, later in the year, was the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. The Garden Club of America incorporated that year, also, and the period of expansion for the GCA had begun.

By 1921, there were seventeen Garden Club of America committees including Billboards, Legislation, Special Plant Societies, and the Wild Flower Preservation Committee. The Committee for Billboard Menace had been renamed the Committee on Roadsides. Concern about the West Coast redwood forests resulted in the establishment of the Forestry Committee. Other conservation

concerns were native plants and bird protection. In 1924, the Wildflower Preservation Committee's name was changed to the Conservation Committee and the GCA was on its way toward a united effort to preserve the natural heritage of the nation. That year, the Roadside and Billboard Committees were merged "to urge restriction of all outdoor advertising to commercial districts where it will not injure scenery, civic beauty or residential values, and to educate the public so far as possible, in roadside cleanliness and beautification." The GCSB&M's committees mirrored those of GCA.

The local Club leaders worked to entice members back to meetings once the war had ended and meetings were held at some of the most beautiful estates in the country: *Arcady, Glen Oaks, Piranhurst, El Fuerides, Mira Vista* and *Las Tejas*. By the end of 1919, the membership had grown to nearly one hundred active members.



One of the Garden Club's first beautification projects was the planting of the olive grove near the Santa Barbara Mission. GCSB Archives.

In the fall, GCA announced it wished to raise annual dues from fifty cents to \$2.00 per individual member, due to the cost, it was said, of the monthly bulletin. Local Club members were outraged and threatened to vote to withdraw from the GCA. One GCSB&M member commented that "\$2.00 annual dues to the GCA was too high, and besides that, our gardening methods are so different from theirs." Some members thought it would be a disgrace to resign from the GCA, and Helen Thorne called a special meeting a few weeks later to discuss the matter. The matter was still undecided when the 1920 Club annual meeting took place. Helen Thorne urged the Club to stay in the GCA:

Through the larger organization, we reach out toward a further goal and attain a greater success than the one which is purely local and self-centered. I think that Santa Barbara has a chance and a call to fulfill what has come to no other club as yet to fulfill. Your position as gardeners is unique: your climate and your new water supply [the completion of Gibraltar Dam] places anything you wish to do within your reach, and that great traveling American public is coming more and more to your gardens for inspiration. . . . The whole gardening world of America has picked out Santa Barbara as its ideal.

The Club voted to approve the increase in GCA dues and remain in the organization.

During the early years of GCSB&M,

changes occurred in views towards gardens and gardening as noted during the annual meeting of the GCA in Santa Barbara in 1952:

Some of these were attitudes that changed the relation between garden settings and residences. With the departure of formal landscaping a utilization of mountain or ocean vistas had become the outstanding feature. This is in harmony with the distinctive type of Spanish architecture developed in Santa Barbara, whose tradition is founded upon the old historic buildings belonging to the early Spanish pioneer families, combined with their old-world culture. This fact represents a unique contribution to architectural trends and its influence had been reflected throughout the state.

Remembering Some Exceptional Club Members

Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne (Helen Stafford) was born in New Orleans in 1866. She was a member of the Millbrook Garden Club, one of the founding clubs of GCA before coming to Santa Barbara and joining the GCSB&M. She established GCA's National Visiting Gardens Committee in 1920 and became the first chairman. She published the first *List of Gardens of the Member Clubs of the GCA* in 1921, which listed gardens open to GCA members in this country and abroad, and continued as chairperson until 1938. As chairman, Mrs. Thorne reported in her Visiting Gardens Report at the GCA annual meeting in 1935:

When the idea of Garden Visits was proposed in 1920, it seemed a proposition difficult of accomplishment. Garden owners were somewhat shocked by the idea of meeting strangers on their garden paths, and were reluctant to open their garden gates. However, our retiring president, dear Mrs. Martin, set me the task of trying the experiment, and supported by her illustrious name, our Committee set to work. We conceived a book, listing the gardens by Clubs, giving names of owners, descriptions of gardens, days of visit, etc. but with all of that the first book was a slim affair - our idea did not seem popular. However, this book was very soon followed by a second one, which became surprisingly thick. Our idea had succeeded.

Mrs. Thorne's list was compiled in *Locators*, a small book that was a big hit: 450 were printed in 1925 and increased

to 5,000 in 1927. Visiting Garden Tours held regularly both at home and abroad in the 1920s and '30s suggest that not a single cancellation occurred in those years between the world wars.

In 1945, Mrs. Thorne wrote that she saw a purpose to the tours as important as any other means of horticultural education: "Faraway clubs need our help and inspiration, or they feel out of touch with the central organization." The Visiting Gardens program thus helped build a stronger GCA. *Locators* was another way for Mrs. Thorne to remind the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and Montecito that we were a member of something much larger than the local Club and that there were advantages to the relationship with the national group.

A renowned gardener in her own right, she had developed *Thorndale* in Millbrook, New York, described as unrivaled in the country. After moving to Santa Barbara, she became a member of the GCSB&M and developed the gardens of *Las Tejas* in Montecito in 1917.

The Garden Club of Millbrook commissioned the Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne Medal designed in 1954 by Maude Robinson. They presented and endowed it in honor of her important role in every major accomplishment of the GCA. She designed gardens of unique distinction and rare beauty in the civic and private sectors of the New York and California communities in which she lived. The Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne Medal is awarded to members in recognition of outstanding achievement in garden design, which may be



Helen Thorne was a key figure in both the local club and in the national Garden Club of America. Here she and her husband celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Collection Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Pearl Chase, pictured here in her garden, worked tirelessly for the beautification of Santa Barbara and initiated the Club's popular Garden Tours. Collection Santa Barbara Historical Museum.



interpreted to mean an architectural detail such as sculpture, or a complete garden, or design for a garden.

Pearl Chase

Another important member in the early years of the Garden Club here was Pearl Chase. By 1923, she was giving weekly garden tours during the fall and spring. Although she was born on the East Coast, she grew up in Santa Barbara. After graduation from Santa Barbara High School in 1904, she attended the University of California,

Berkeley and returned to Santa Barbara in 1909. Pearl Chase was mainly known for her dedication to making Santa Barbara a more beautiful place.

She was an avid conservationist, serving as the associate chairperson of the California Conservation Council and the chair of the National Conference on State Parks. Under her leadership, the State of California and the County of Santa Barbara established Conservation Week with the slogan, "Practice Conservation Every Week." She helped raise funds for the Save the Redwoods drive, which was a major project of the GCA. On the local level she was a key figure in the Club's drive to beautify Santa Barbara through tree planting on city streets.

Environmental Concerns: Oil and Water

The GCSB&M foresaw the drought problem in Santa Barbara prior to the completion of Gibraltar Dam, and realized that there would be an effect on plant material members had begun using. Therefore the GCSB&M began working with both the botanic gardens of New York and Berkeley in experimenting with plants that could be used successfully during droughts.

Years later, Mrs. Stephen Goodspeed (Grace) in *Leaves from Forty Years of Composting: Garden Club of Santa Barbara and Montecito, 1918-1958*, wrote that there are "reoccurring threats to Santa Barbara's beauty that still reappear such as the proposals to rezone to allow the

drilling for oil and the pre-Cachuma water shortages." Mrs. Goodspeed was quick to point out that "the water shortages did not diminish the active scientific spirit of the Club, however, and that members experimented with seeds and plants and reported results to the Botanical Garden of the University of California at Berkeley. Sometimes the work was so intense that one horticulture chairman commented that, "These members were not cultivating our ears and our eyes to the neglect of our backs and our knees."

Club historian Mrs. Wilton Doane (Carol) noted, "The Club took a strong public stand against extending the oil drilling zone into the city of Santa Barbara under the leadership of the Club's sixth president, Mrs. Robert Easton (1928-1931). When drilling began in the Channel, Mrs. Easton was active in putting restrictions on drilling. The Club petitioned the City Council, put articles in the newspaper and won its case."

The Club also made an effort to interest students in conservation and the environment as early as the 1920s. An essay contest was promoted each year in local schools including the State College. The subject, "Out-of-Doors Code" became part of the school curriculum. Each winning essay was read by the writer, after which a medal was presented by a member of the GCSB&M. A total of sixty-one medals (Bronze for Elementary and Junior High and Silver for High School and the State College) were pre-

sented to the eight thousand students involved in the contests. The program continued for several years and was well-received in the community.

13th Annual GCA Meeting in Santa Barbara: 1926

Mrs. Ralph Isham was president of the GCSB&M when the earthquake struck Santa Barbara in June 1925. She had extended an invitation to the GCA to hold the annual meeting in Santa Barbara a few months earlier. It would be the first pilgrimage to the Far West for the GCA and to be hosted by the first club established west of the Mississippi.

Carol Doane wrote that many members in the GCSB&M felt that the club should postpone the meeting until more restoration work had been completed in Santa Barbara, but Mrs. Isham insisted that everything go on as planned. "The ladies are coming to see gardens, not for social functions." She asked all members for their "earnest cooperation."

By 1926, the GCA had grown from thirteen clubs in 1913 to seventy-four clubs and over one hundred delegates registered for the trip to the annual meeting. Delegates rendezvoused by train in Pasadena before heading north and arriving in Santa Barbara on April 12.

Numerous special events were planned during the four days of the meeting including visits to a number of private gardens. Mrs. Walter Clem (Prudy), a delegate from Rye, New York, later the nineteenth president of the



Garden Club of America delegates arrive in Pasadena before moving on to Santa Barbara and the opening of their Annual Meeting, 1926. GCSB Archives.

GCSB (1953-55) shared her impressions, "Four lovely days in Santa Barbara, with brief stops in Pasadena, Monterey and San Francisco, opened our eyes to the lushness of California gardens." One delegate remembered, "Californians can grow just about anything. Many of their lovely homes are so placed that they add to their attractions by wonderful views of sea and mountains."

At registration, among the items given the delegates was a bound volume by Mrs. Elmer Bissell (Ervanna Bowen) with photographs of twenty of the gardens delegates planned to visit accompanied by lyrical text for each garden.

On the first morning delegates visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eaton's *Riso Rivo*, which terraced down the rocky slopes of Cold Springs Canyon and then the Bothin estate, *Piranhurst*, with its theatre of Monterey cypress.

For lunch, delegates were treated to a Mexican barbecue hosted by Mr. and Mrs. John Mitchell (Lolita Armour) at *El Mirador*, complete with costumes, music and dancing. Guests walked to the lower part of the property for the barbecue where the Mitchells, according to delegate Edith Riker, "had stone fire pits over which to cook, great ovens for baking and a most picturesque crew presided over by a genius in a large hat with a row of yellow balls all around the edge, a great deal of scarlet about his clothes, and a ferocious moustache."

In the afternoon, they headed to the estate of Charles Ludington at *Dias Felices* followed by a visit to *El Fureidis*, Mr. J. Waldron Gillespie's estate. Also of great interest was the new home of Mr. and Mrs. George Steedman's (Carrie), *Casa del Herrero*, designed by George Washington Smith.



The first four presidents of the Garden Club of America pose at Arcady, the Montecito estate of George Owen Knapp. Left to right: Mrs. J. Willis Martin, Mrs. John A. Stewart, Mrs. Samuel Sloan, and Mrs. S. V. R. Crosby. GCA Archives.

Tea began at 5:00 p.m. with invitations to two estates, one at Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Isham's *Pompeian Court*, where delegates admired a hundred varieties of roses. The terrace had a wonderful view of the mountains, and the house was complete in the Spanish manner. The other tea was served at *Il Deodore*, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Knight Elston.

That night the annual dinner was held at the Montecito Country Club, where refectory tables, covered with deep green organdy table cloths, were arranged in rows to seat over four hundred guests. Each table was set with two tall golden candelabras and three large golden vases with arrangements of over one thousand white calla lilies softly glowing in the indescribable light of pale green candles—an exotic display.

The second day, Wednesday, April 14, began with a business meeting at the

Montecito Country Club followed by a tour at the Chatfield-Taylor estate, *Far A Field*. Then lunch was served on the lawn at *Las Tejas*, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne. That afternoon delegates visited as many as ten gardens in Santa Barbara including that of Dr. and Mrs. Elmer Bissell in Mission Canyon, *Stone Acres*. Delegates

were invited to two in-town locations for tea at 5:00 p.m. Of great interest was *Casa Santa Cruz*, Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Hoffmann's charming home. Other delegates were taken on a tour of the Old Mission which was badly damaged in the earthquake. Afterward, delegates walked over to the Mission Olive Grove.

On April 13, 1926, an article in the *Santa Barbara Morning Press* read:

***Garden Club Visitors to See Here the
Pioneer Gardens of the West***

The arrival of the Garden Clubs today in Santa Barbara, just as the Old Mission Restoration committee is getting under way for its drive next week, is significant. For the first Garden Clubs of record in America were the Old Missions of California, of which the orchards and vineyards and gardens of Santa Barbara were a

link in the fragrant chain. And at the end of the eighteenth century, the chain stretched from Mission San Diego to San Francisco, spots of refreshments and beauty, a day's travel apart, bearing the blooming in the wilderness—cradles of western civilization. And the Garden Club of Santa Barbara, hostess to the clubs of America, has carried on the tradition of the padres by intensifying the beauty of the Land of Enchantment twixt mountain and sea, with tree and blossom.

And during the week, one of the achievements of the local Club that will be brought to the attention of the visitors is the grove of olive trees—children of the old olive trees brought by Fray Serra to California in 1769—planted by the Club on the slope above the Mission near the ruins of the aqueduct to commemorate the restoration of the world's peace. A little bronze tablet on a field stone tells its story. And the Garden Club, after having dispatched its duties as hostesses to the lovers of gardens from afar, will be invited to join forces with the Restoration Committee on Saturday afternoon along with organizations that concern themselves with historic landmarks and history at the assembly to be held in the historic patio of Casa de la Guerra.

In the afternoon, a tea was held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History so delegates could enjoy the lovely museum built in the Spanish Revival-style and could enjoy the wild-flower exhibit there.

On the third day, the 15th, delegates were asked to meet at Mr. and Mrs. John Percival Jefferson's estate, *Mira Flores*,



Delegates visiting Arcady each received a commemorative booklet about the estate inscribed with their name. Shown here is the Green Garden.

Edith Riker stated that "Mac Monnies 'Bacchante' danced unabashed in the courtyard pool, and no one thought her anything but lovely." Other gardens visited prior to lunch were Mrs. and Mrs. George Washington Smith's, *El Hogar*; the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Heberton; *El Cielito*, the home of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Parshall; and *Eucalyptus Hill* owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cowles.

Although there were many memorable events planned, a gracious luncheon on the third day at *Arcady*, as guests of George Owen Knapp, stands out. In one enclosed garden, he greeted and presented each delegate with a souvenir

seventy-page book, personalized with the delegate's name on the cover, containing many fine photographs of the estate. Scottish bagpipers marched on the lawn in full costume, calling them to luncheon in the Hall of Mirrors, where hundreds of guests sat down at long tables to feast.

Following lunch, Mrs. Gwethalyn Jones invited delegates to visit her nearby home and garden, *Pepper Hill*. Other gardens visited later in the afternoon were, *Graham* owned by Mr. and Mrs. David Gray; *El Cerrito* on Hot Springs Road, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Ryerson; and lastly, Mr. and Mrs. E. Palmer Gavit invited the ladies to tea at their home and garden, *Cuesta Linda*, later Madame Ganna Walska's *Lotusland*.

A special Fiesta was held at El Paseo Restaurant that evening, preceded by a tour of Casa de la Guerra where descendants of José de la Guerra, *El Gran Capitan*, were still living. It was the heart of Santa Barbara during the Spanish and Mexican periods.

Friday, April 16, the last day of the annual meeting, delegates gathered for luncheon at *El Eliseo*, the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lowe. They visited five more gardens in the afternoon, including *Solana*, the beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick F. Peabody. The delegates thought the estate was well named, as *Solana* means a sunny spot. Another highlight was *Il Brolino* was the home and garden of Mrs. Mary Stewart, where delegates enjoyed the wildflower garden and an orange grove heavy with

the fragrance of blossoms. Lastly, the ideal location for the final event, tea was served at *Serrania*, the beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Knight.

Following tea on their last afternoon, delegates were driven back to their hotel along Sheffield Drive and onward through Mrs. Gardiner Green's property, *Bonnymede*. Edith Riker overheard several delegates discussing, "The exquisite furniture and decorations in these houses; generally in the Spanish style, which fits so perfectly into their surroundings with the furniture being in character." She walked into the hotel with the president of the GCA, Mrs. John A. Stewart (Anne) and told her she simply couldn't remember all the marvelous detail she had seen. Mrs. Stewart agreed, "No, no one could; I should say we all have floral indigestion."

In her history of the GCA, Ernestine Abercrombie Goodman wrote that the 1926 annual meeting, "Shines like a star in Garden Club history. The Golden West has its own meaning now to the Garden Club of America. How can we ever thank Mrs. Thorne for California?"

Founding of the Blaksley Botanic Garden

Members of the Garden Club had long been interested in the founding of a botanic garden in Mission Canyon. Several members had been included in an organizational meeting arranged by Bernhard Hoffmann with Dr. Frederic Clements to discuss the future of the garden, which was to be part of the

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Anna Dorinda Blaksley Bliss, a member of the GCSB&M, donated the funds to purchase land to develop the garden. The Blaksley Botanic Garden would be devoted to native plants with special emphasis on research of indigenous *Ceanothus* of California. Since the late 1800s, this popular California genus has been coveted for its abundant and glorious display of fragrant blue flowers. This highly variable group of wood plants answers to many names - blue blossom, California lilac or wild lilac. *Ceanothus* means thorny plant in Greek.

After Maunsell Van Rensselaer was appointed Assistant Director of the Blaksley Botanic Garden in 1934, under his direction and that of Howard E. McMinn, professor of Botany at Mills College, Club members helped cultivate fifty species of *Ceanothus*. The information provided by the work on their specimens enabled Van Rensselaer to write, "Preliminary Notes on the *Ceanothus* for California Gardeners," in 1939. The Garden Club then helped distribute the pamphlets. Helen Thorne chaired the committee to raise funds for the propagation and development of the *Ceanothus* Project and established the Helen Stafford Thorne *Ceanothus* Fund to publish the book, *Ceanothus*, written by Van Rensselaer and McMinn and published in 1942 by the Botanic Garden. Van Rensselaer was awarded the Gold Medal of the Garden Club of America for his work on the book in 1943.

As the decade came to a close, in

1928 the Santa Barbara Mission sold a alfalfa field across from it to the City of Santa Barbara. Members of the Garden Club helped to defeat a plan to add tennis courts to that area. Several years later, when the city wished to establish a rose garden there, the Club opposed that idea, also. They asked the City to "retain the alfalfa field in its present attractive condition as an open meadow, instead of changing it to a rose garden which would be dormant several months of the year and require too much water." The Club eventually lost the battle, but this reflects the Club's early concerns with water conservation and beautification.

The 1930s

By 1930, the GCSB&M's directory listed ninety members and twenty-five associate members. The 1930 bylaws stated that the Club should be composed of not more than 125 members.

Thomas B. Johnson, who later became Santa Barbara Parks Commissioner, was president of the Club from 1934-1936. He is credited with saving the historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree at Montecito and Chapala streets when some roots were cut off so a sidewalk could be laid. The Club's interest in horticulture and landscape design was stimulated by such distinguished male members as Johnson, along with Ralph Stevens, Lockwood de Forest, Jr., Wendell Gilbert, and Maunsell Van Rensselaer.

The policy of not allowing the

membership to be larger than one hundred members was reinstated in 1933. The size of the Club at 125 members made it difficult to hold meetings and lunches in members' homes, although some meetings continued to be held at *Arcady, Il Brolino, Cuesta Linda, Pepper Hill, Mira Flores* and *Las Tejas*, where only tea was served. Luncheon meetings were usually held at the Valley Club and Montecito Country Club. The tradition of having a speaker on a horticultural topic continued.

Under the leadership of Fred Kellam, the Horticulture Committee tested new seeds, brought flower displays to meetings and issued bulletins on gardening. The Club participated in two flowers shows every year—a Rose Show in May sponsored by the Rose Society and the annual Horticultural Society Flower Show during the holiday season.

The GCA Redwood Grove in California

Nationwide the most visible early achievement of the Garden Club of America was the effort to raise awareness for the need to preserve the giant redwoods of California. Concessions and signs were appearing on the roadways in the groves which angered many conservationists. During Dr. Doremus' tenure as president, the Club, along with other GCA clubs, launched a project spearheaded by Helen Thorne. When she became interested in the Save the Redwoods League, this project received the benefit of her leadership and finan-

cial ability to help the League convince the California legislature to match any donated private funds towards the purchase of redwood forests.

Along with other GCA members, Thorne formed a Redwood Committee which launched the first formal fund-raising campaign for these trees. By the winter of 1930, nearly \$92,000 from committee members had been raised. The GCSB&M contributed \$1,240 toward the eventual total of \$150,000 which was given to the State of California Parks Fund. The state matched that figure to assist in purchasing the 2,567-acre Canoe Creek Grove on the south fork of the Eel River in Humboldt County in northern California. This grove, now known as the Garden Club of America Grove, contains some of the finest specimens of redwood forest.

Helen Thorne became the grove's prime benefactor, continuing to encourage the GCA to secure more groves. She was so determined to make sure that the GCA's forest was protected, in 1933 she hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to make recommendations for the future. The GCA is credited with the preservation of the largest tracts of redwood forests in California. Ultimately, seventeen groves and over five thousand acres were preserved by the efforts of the Garden Club of America. This effort to preserve the redwoods helped expand the influence of the GCA to the West Coast.

To honor her efforts in the preservation of the redwoods, Helen Thorne was awarded the Garden Club of America Frances K. Hutchinson Medal in 1940.



In May 1934 the Garden Club of America dedicated its 2500-acre Redwood Grove in northern California. GCA Archives.

In 1945, she helped start the GCA National Tribute Grove, another redwood grove in Humboldt County, to honor those men and women who had served during the Second World War.

Manning Park

The preservation of open space on the local level was moved a step forward in 1935 when GCSB&M members, Mr. and Mrs. John Manning, gave the community just under twelve acres, which was to become Manning Park. The couple also helped establish the conservation essay contests in local schools and later, a Nature Study Camp in Manning Park. The park, in the heart of Montecito, is enjoyed today by thousands of visitors each year.

A Visit by the GCA

Delegates from the Garden Club of America visited Santa Barbara on May 2-3, 1935, on their way home from the annual meeting in San Francisco. Local headquarters was at the Biltmore Hotel. Visits included the Montecito gardens of Mrs. Alfred E. Dieterich, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Meeker, Mr. and Mrs. George Steedman, and George F. Knapp. Dinner that evening for guests and members was at the El Paseo Restaurant. All members of the GCSB&M were encouraged to attend the El Paseo dinner at a cost of two dollars per person.

The following morning, further visits included the gardens of Mrs. F. H. Osgood, Mrs. Craig Herberton, J. Waldron Gillespie's *El Fuerides*, Wright



A long-time project of the both the GCA and the Garden Club of Santa Barbara was the fight against the proliferation of billboards along roadways. GCA Archives.

S. Ludington, E. Palmer Gavit (now *Lotusland*), followed by visiting the Garden Club of Santa Barbara Rose Show, the Museum of Natural History and the Old Mission. At the end of day, guests and Club members were invited to tea at Mr. and Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne's *Las Tejas*.

The GCA Founders Fund Takes Shape

The Founders Fund was created in 1935 to honor its founding member, Mrs. J. Willis Martin (Elizabeth). The fund would be awarded annually to a club for an exceptional community project. Fund-raising began with a target of \$50,000. When it became apparent there was going to be a shortfall, member clubs, including the GCSB&M, responded holding plant sales, luncheons, flower shows, teas, lectures, and garden tours. By 1938, the fund had surpassed its original goal

by \$20,000. The Blaksley Botanic Garden was in the first group to be awarded with a \$1000 grant to research the genus *Acanthus*. Ninety applications were received the following year and a renewal for the Botanic Garden, which had sparked quite a bit of interest in the GCA, was one of six grants awarded.

GCA Conservation and Horticulture Committees

In February 1939, the GCA Conservation and Roadside Committee officially became known as the Conservation Committee. With the establishment of the GCA Horticulture Committee in 1933, these two important committees continued to serve as a backbone of the organization. GCA clubs remained steadfastly involved in state and regional planning including planting along streets and protection of the landscape from intrusion of billboards.

The Approach of War

Meeting attendance began to fall off during Mrs. Sellar Bullard's presidency from 1938-1940 as thoughts turned increasingly to the threat of war and there was also concern over support of the two annual flower shows in which the Club participated. Club members had already begun war work by the end of the 1930s by establishing Defense Gardens, sharing among themselves equipment and seeds. The Club donated funds raised by holding a House and Garden Pilgrimage to secure plant material for area hospitals, camps and Red Cross recreation houses.

Reflecting the increased concern over the international situation, a new committee was created, Flower and Foreign Relations. Members attended demonstrations in home dehydration of fruits and vegetables. Still, the Club did not neglect other activities; donations continued to come in for the Botanic Garden's Ceanothus Fund, Christmas baskets were sent to the Visiting Nurse Association and contributions continued coming in for the Save the Redwoods League. In 1940, members of the Club began participating in three flower shows: the spring show at the Recreation Center, the Victory Garden Show and Sale and its own Rose Show.

Securing hostesses for meetings in private homes was becoming more difficult, as so many members were involved in war work. More meetings were therefore held at the Bo-

tanic Garden and the Museum of Natural History. Although resignations continued during the war years, the Club carried on with projects and donations for projects continued as in previous years.

GCA member clubs had the freedom to vary their local activities. Most of the GCSB&M's projects during the early 1940s related to the war, particularly landscaping around area hospitals and camps, such as the amphitheater at Camp San Luis Obispo, the hospital entrance of Camp Cooke, and the women's barracks at the Marine base in Goleta. The Club continued to provide weekly flower arrangements for the Red Cross headquarters and hospitals in Santa Barbara. Fund raisers were held with proceeds to help support the Welcome House and snack bar run by the American Women's Voluntary Service. Two summer farmers markets were held during the war years. Members were asked for donations of money and plants to make these projects possible. Members continued planting and promoting home gardens, known as Victory Gardens. Nationally, approximately 500,000 Victory Gardens were planted during World War II.

Postwar Club Activities

The era of building new private gardens on a grand scale largely ended with World War II. Locally, only a few members of the GCSB&M had large gardens in the first place. Some members did have homes on an acre or more,



The Garden Club of Santa Barbara was an active participant in the development of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden virtually from day one. Here officers of the two organizations gather for a picnic at the Botanic Garden in 1942. Santa Barbara News-Press.

but most members had smaller yards and gardens. After the war, garden designs reflected this. One of the qualifications for club membership in the GCA was that a club's members have "gardens of distinction," which was never meant to imply magnificence but rather a sincere interest in growing things. The primary focus of the founders had been horticulture.

Following the end of the war, the fight began again about the blight caused by roadside billboards. The GCA alerted clubs to the fact that with the expansion of road building nationwide, the increase of outdoor advertising and with powerful groups organizing to oppose "scenic highways," every club should be writing government representatives to advocate for safe and beautiful highways. The GCSB&M had been involved with this issue for some time.

Club meetings were once again held in private homes when possible, membership increased and members were energized by interesting programs, with topics such as "The Drought and our Water Problems" and "Natural Resources—Can We Protect Them?" There were several "how to" programs dealing with vegetable and flower gardens and dehydration and home canning. The Club began printing a monthly calendar with articles on gardening tips and Club activities.

One of the Club members wrote a poem to correspond with a wildflower display at the Public Library on bird sanctuaries in private gardens during California Conservation Week:

*Every garden large or small
Can surely spare a corner
In which to give a little space
To our Flora and our Fauna*

*And, being acc-li-mated
(like native son or daughter)
They'll thrive without a lot of care
And need but little water.*

*Should you care to grow these trees
and shrubs
And Ceanothus Blue
Our Botanic Garden is the place
Where you'll learn just what to do.*

*The Garden Club of Santa Barbara
And Montecito, too
Had the Conservation Group design
These corners just for you.*

A calendar article also cautioned members, again, that:

WATER is and will continue to be the problem of major concern of Southern California with its rapidly growing population. Santa Barbara County must secure and store within its borders all water needed for homes, gardens, agriculture and industry.

Members of the Club were also asked to use natives and drought resistant plants. During a 1945 meeting, it was emphasized: *Don't start new plantings requiring extensive watering until we have had some good winter rains.*

Members were asked to help with the Club's Roadside Control Campaign during the summer of 1947. This entailed reporting to the committee the location of billboards and the name of the advertiser. They were then asked to write to the advertiser to alert them how they felt about the billboard. Following that, they were

asked to write to their Congressman to tell them about the safety hazard such billboards cause drivers who take time to look at them. The campaign was deemed successful as many advertisers stopped using billboards.

Members were privileged to hear Edward O. Orpet lecture on "Succulents as We Face an Arid Cycle" at the June 1945 meeting. From that meeting, to quote Mrs. Orpet, "It seems impossible that anyone of us henceforth could think of succulents as rough unfriendly plants native only to desert countries and unfit for the beautification of our gardens. They give us an opportunity to add to the art of landscaping by our own experimentation, either with forms of great size, such as aloes, agaves and yuccas for parks and estates, or with smaller forms suitable for the majority of gardens."

As one of the worst droughts in Santa Barbara history continued, Gordon Baker Lloyd gave an exceedingly helpful talk on the care of gardens during the water shortage. It was a rather timely program as the January 1948 GCSB&M calendar had called attention to restrictions of the Water Emergency Committee passed unanimously by the City Council that month.

Conservation continued to be a prominent topic in the minutes. At the general meeting in March 1948, Mrs. Lockwood de Forest (Elizabeth) gave a lecture on "The Drought and Our Garden Problems," highlighting plants that could withstand lack of water. Also of interest was Mrs. Sellar Bullard's (Bessie) report on the GCA Visiting Gardens

trip she and her husband had taken to Mexico and of the gardens in dry conditions they visited.

Pearl Chase Receives the Frances K. Hutchinson Medal

Pearl Chase received many honors. She was named an honorary California State Park ranger and recognized for her conservation work by the National Audubon Society. In 1949, she was awarded the prestigious Frances K. Hutchinson Medal by the Garden Club of America, "for service in conservation by far-reaching and inspirational leadership." Santa Barbara Mayor, John T. Rickard, called her, "The champion of conservation, good planning, architectural unity and historic preservation." She was known to lecture those she came in contact with on the importance of good behavior when outdoors and to preserve and protect California's abundant natural resources.

At the February meeting in 1949, the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and Montecito went on record as sponsoring a State Senate bill (S.B.510) which prohibited billboards within five hundred feet of any landscaped freeway or one which was to be landscaped. The Club secretary was authorized to write Santa Barbara's representative in the state legislature.

The 1950s

Since its inception thirty-five years earlier, the Garden Club of Santa Barbara

and Montecito had continued to be a vital community force as local focus had shifted somewhat from emphasis on home gardening to that of city planting and beautification, conservation projects, recreational parks, and historic sites.

By 1950, the Club's membership was steady at about one hundred and meetings were still primarily held in members' homes and gardens and there was some competition among members as to who could be the best host. Lovely teas followed some of the meetings. Early in the decade the effort to beautify Highway 101 was abandoned due to red tape and other complications with the state. Club efforts turned to landscaping the grounds at the Community Chest at the corner of De la Guerra and Santa Barbara streets. Members continued to raise funds for Save the Redwoods and making Christmas baskets for the Visiting Nurse Association. The Club began holding some meetings at the Music Academy of the West as early as 1952.

GCA Annual Meeting: 1952

Under the leadership of GCSB&M President Mrs. Francis Lloyd, preparations began for the GCA Annual Meeting to be held in Santa Barbara April 1-3, 1952. The delegates were met in Santa Barbara on the evening of March 31 and escorted to the Biltmore, the Mar Monte and the Miramar hotels. Meetings were held in the Loggia Room at the Biltmore. A temporary office with a secretary was located nearby at the Music Academy of the West.

On April 1, there were private

luncheons and afternoon visits to gardens in Montecito. That night, cocktails and dinner were enjoyed at the Coral Casino. A National Parks meeting was held following dinner.

Conservation and Horticulture Committee meetings were held the following morning. The delegates then boarded a bus for a trip to see El Presidio and the shops at El Paseo. A special Spanish luncheon was served in the historic El Paseo Restaurant. Afterward, visits to *Las Encinas*, the small home and garden of Mrs. Bernhard Hoffmann at 139 Las Encinas Road, the Mission and a horticultural exhibit at the Museum of Natural History occupied much of the afternoon. At the end of the afternoon delegates attended an informal reception at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

That evening, the Annual Dinner was held in the Loggia Room followed by the awarding of Garden Club of America medals. The evening ended with an illustrated presentation from GCSB&M member and Director of the Botanic Garden, Dr. Katherine Muller, on California wildflowers.

Following the annual meeting on April 3, delegates were treated to luncheon at the Coral Casino. Afterwards, they visited gardens in Hope Ranch and then inspected a lemon packing plant in Goleta affiliated with the California Growers Exchange. Delegates learned that commercial lemon production in the Americas is limited almost exclusively to the coastal area of Southern California. Climatic conditions required

for lemons of high quality are created by proximity to the sea. Here the lemons may be picked year-round.

The delegates also learned that population growth was putting a serious strain on water resources and that it was essential that Santa Barbara County develop additional water supplies. They were told that a program directed to this end, the Cachuma Project, was now underway.

As a final stop, informal cocktails were served at *Far Horizons*, Mr. and Mrs. Sellar Bullard's home on a working ranch in Goleta. Delegates viewed many varieties of avocados, native and exotic fruits, and a wide variety of nut trees. They learned how organic fertilizer was used to grow vegetables on the ranch, much before its use became popular.

Other events in the 1950s

The Club's efforts to continue planting on State Street seem to have been abandoned in 1952 due to the "remarkable resistance from proprietors of businesses." There was an ongoing problem with maintenance of the trees and their roots continued to raise the sidewalks. Planting efforts then went towards Cottage Hospital and the Community Chest.

In November 1952, members were saddened by the passing of Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne at the age of eighty-six. She had been a dynamic force in the formation of the GCSB and was active in many areas, both in the GCSB and GCA. Helen Thorne did as much as any

member to spread the opportunities of membership throughout the United States, as William Seale pointed out in his GCA history:

When discussions began in 1928 about building a strong "national policy" on conservation, several areas in the country were discussed. Although this appeared to be a movement that all in the GCA approved, there was an element that did not. Helen Thorne, in the East, opposed too strong a GCA national identification with conservation activism: "Our province is a very simple one. Our clubs should have Conservation Committees and do the work locally." Clubs could best carry the campaigns to the local papers and decide what to support. They could, of course, submit their projects to the national committee for consideration, like every other club committee. She recognized that the difference between conservation and the other efforts of the GCA was conservation's need for haste, instant reaction, to save this or that. Some of the most important work was thus in public opposition. Did the GCA want to be a protest group or remain an organization dedicated to horticultural study and education? Mrs. Thorne continued, "The time has come when our clubs should decide what they wish to do."

The debate continued but boiled down to whether the GCA should take a leading part nationally in the American conservation movement or scatter the effort to those member clubs that were located close to where issues arose. Many members in Zone XII where Helen Thorne was a member felt that

clubs could have it both ways and that we should be mindful of the organization's national prestige. A member from the Washington Garden Club stated that, "We established our conservation work on the Pacific Coast, California, Oregon and Washington on a large scale stating that we take our case of everything that is beautiful in the name of the Garden Club of America. If you take that honor away, we would feel it was a great sacrifice."

In 1953, dues rose from ten to thirteen dollars per year. Some members were concerned that the Club would not be able to honor its commitment to the La Vista Club for the Blind to construct a scent garden for their members. When the La Vista Club asked the Garden Club to shift its plans so they could help enclose a private area for all of their residents to use, the latter accommodated the request. Along with the rest of Santa Barbara, members celebrated the completion of Bradbury Dam, ensuring a long-term water supply for the South Coast from Lake Cachuma.

The Club began delivering flowers to the Santa Barbara Public Library every week and donated more plants to the Community Chest headquarters at the corner of East De la Guerra and Santa Barbara streets. Members planted a tree and placed a plaque set in stone there. In 1956, Edward Orpet, husband of Club member, Mildred Orpet, was awarded the GCA *Florens de Bevoise* medal for his work in hybridization. The Club was successful in getting the name

of Hillside Park changed to Orpet Park in his honor in 1963.

Flower Arranging

Proper scale and ration concepts in arranging flowers arrived by the mid-1950s. Some members were interested in Asian flower arranging where there were strict rules, but the majority of the members preferred arrangements devoid of rules. The strongest influence on American flower arrangers came from Britain. Concern over the quality of the judging of GCA member clubs surfaced in 1953 when the GCA Flower Show Committee began receiving numerous complaints from clubs over lax rules and the lack of rules. It was determined that there was a need for a "recognized judge list" which called for specific qualifications, but the GCA Flower Show Committee remained silent on the subject. Complaints continued and some clubs even withdrew from the GCA.

Shortly thereafter, a subcommittee was established, the Flower Show Judging Committee, and it set out to establish rules to govern horticulture, conservation and flower arranging at flower shows. There was not much work that needed to be accomplished with horticulture and conservation, but flower arranging was problematic. Under renewed leadership the judging program for flower arranging was improved through a vast reorganization.

These careful steps that were taken in the mid-1950s established the pattern still followed today in the training of

GCA flower show judges. The format the Flower Show Judging Committee had worked out for teaching judging through participation, rather than just lectures and demonstrations, endures. With this new set of guidelines, flower arranging became more popular and less controversial. In 1961, the GCA published its first Flower Show and Judging Guide, which later became an insert in the *Yellow Book*, which contains the rules for GCA flower shows.

40th Anniversary

In 1956 the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and Montecito celebrated its 40th anniversary with a wonderful luncheon at the Valley Club of Montecito with eighty-one members in attendance. Tribute was paid to Pearl Chase for her many years of work in conservation. By now, she had received several honorary Doctorates, one from the University of California at Santa Barbara. She also continued working on the Save the Redwoods project and was elected to the Council of Save the Redwoods League. She encouraged every member of the Club to be involved in the water conservation efforts in the city. Every year, with her assistance, the Club held conservation workshops and awarded scholarships so students could study conservation.

In 1957, the Chairman of the GCA Conservation Committee testified at a Senate hearing in support of a bill favoring federal legislation to prohibit billboards on new federal highways. GCA

Members of the Garden Club enjoy a tour of the Santa Barbara Harbor, 1956. Among those enjoying the outing are Mrs. Peter Cooper Bryce, far left; Mrs. Sellar Bullard, third from left; and Mrs. William Lassiter, second from right. GCSB Archives.



member clubs seconded her position with letters, which might have been one of the first GCA letter writing campaigns, something with which the GCSB&M was already familiar on the local level. Thousands of leaflets were distributed around the country in support of the bill. At the GCSB&M level, under the diligent leadership of Mrs. Lockwood de Forest (Elizabeth) and Pearl Chase, letters and wires were sent to California Senator Thomas H. Kuchel in Washington, D.C. expressing the Club's concern over this blight. When one media outlet announced passage of the bill, it opened its report with, "*Garden Club Gals Out-lobby the Billboard Lobby.*"

In January 1958, the Club voted in favor of Pearl Chase's motion, "That every member donate \$7.50 on March 2

to purchase a redwood tree for Manning Park for an event to be attended by Presidents of all GCA Clubs in California in Santa Barbara on May 1." Redwood trees were often purchased to celebrate an occasion or to memorialize a member.

Later in 1958, the Club participated by making flower arrangements for the "Fruits and Flowers in Paintings from 1450-1950" exhibit at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Six entries from the Club were approved for inclusion in the show.

Local Club member Prudy Clem became a GCA Flower Arranging Judge, the first from Southern California, and was asked to judge at the International Flower Show in New York City in 1958. The interest in participating in flower shows was gaining more interest in the Club as the program grew in the GCA.

Garden Club of Santa Barbara & Montecito Celebrates 40th year in GCA

The Club celebrated its 40th year as a member of the GCA by holding the Pacific Zone meeting in Santa Barbara. From April 29 to May 1, 1958, the meeting was held for ten clubs and sixty delegates under the leadership of Zone meeting committee chair, Mrs. Francis V. Lloyd, immediate past president of the GCSB&M. Mrs. Jerome K. Doolan (Elvira), was the Pacific Zone Committee Chairman. The local Club sent seven delegates to the meeting.

The first day, April 29, flower arrangements by member clubs were judged by GCA judges. Cars driven by local Club members then picked delegates up for the drive to Mrs. Peter Cooper Bryce's home in Hope Ranch for lunch. A highlight of the meeting was a visit to Mrs. Dickinson's garden, followed by the visit to Dos Pueblos Ranch to see the cymbidiums and carnations. This nursery was among the first to take an interest in raising cymbidiums in Santa Barbara. Mrs. Sellar Bullard, now a vice-president of the GCA, entertained the delegates for tea at her home on her ranch in Goleta. A dinner where guests were asked to wear "dinner attire" was hosted by several members at the home of Mrs. Albert B. Ruddock.

The next morning, delegates visited the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, a long-time project of the Garden Club. Mrs. Harmon Bell, National Chairman of the Redwood Groves Committee spoke to the group in the Redwood

Grove there. A picnic lunch followed. Delegates then visited members' gardens in Montecito. Delegates enjoyed dinner that evening in the Loggia Room at the Biltmore Hotel. The next day, following business meetings, delegates enjoyed a number of other local gardens including those of *Casa del Herrero* in Montecito. The successful conclave concluded with a dinner at the Valley Club in Montecito.

The Decade Comes to a Close

During 1959, the Horticulture Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Bryce, had been tending to small *Ficus nitida* trees that were purchased in five-gallon cans instead of larger trees because they had become so scarce and expensive. Thirty-six trees were purchased and given to the city's Parks Department for planting.

The Club voted to adopt a large project at the Child's Estate (the Santa Barbara Zoo): landscaping over four acres on the ocean side. It took several months of planning as several other organizations were involved. The Club planned to use \$1,200 on the project. The Club also continued the planting of *Ficus retusas* on Carrillo Street.

At the Club's annual meeting, in June, past president of the GCSB&M, Mrs. Sellar Bullard (Bessie) was awarded the Garden Club of America Club award, the Medal of Merit, for her outstanding work at both the local and national level.

At the October 5, 1959 meeting, under the leadership of Mrs. Harold

Sheets, it was noted "that this club no longer has members exclusively from Santa Barbara and Montecito, but members that live in Goleta, Hope Ranch, Carpinteria and Ojai as well." It was therefore moved and seconded that the "and Montecito" be dropped from the name of the Club. After the issue was voted on and passed, from that time hence forward, the name of the club has been the Garden Club of Santa Barbara.

Business at the November 1959 meeting included an announcement that Mrs. Charles A. Storke had been elected as chairman of the Founders Fund Committee of the Garden Club of America. Dues were raised to \$20 for members, \$25 for sustainers and \$10 for associates. The membership stood at eighty-five active members, thirteen sustaining members and eight honorary members as the decade ended.

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara in the 1960s

At the annual meeting on June 6, 1960, Mrs. Peter Cooper Bryce (Angelica) was presented the Garden Club of America Club Medal of Merit for her outstanding contributions in the field of horticulture. She was known for hybridizing watsonias and growing beautiful roses. "Girlie," as she was known, was also awarded the medal for her interest and dedication in the tree planting project in Santa Barbara. She chaired the committee in 1960-62 for planting trees on Carrillo Street from Anacapa Street to Santa Barbara Street with the species *Fi-*

cus retusa. The list grew to include other streets in the city as time went on. Mrs. Bryce was famous for wearing a big hat, pearls and pink dresses. It was said that she painted all of her gardening tools pink so that her gardeners would not mistake them for theirs. She loved to entertain and had large parties at her estate, *Florestal*, in Hope Ranch.

The GCSB's interest in planting and landscaping of several community buildings continued, including the purchase of plants to landscape the new Channel Islands YMCA in Santa Barbara. The project that generated the most enthusiasm was the proposal made by Arthur Henzell, husband of member Barbara Henzell, and Art Locker from the Junior Chamber of Commerce who were spearheading the Child's Estate Project. Although the Club had already committed to landscaping four acres on the ocean side of the estate, the membership voted in favor of donating \$3,000 to build a pergola. Club member Mrs. John F. Merritt (Barbara) had worked to found the Child's Estate and served as board president.

The Child's Estate opened its doors to the public in 1963, and the Garden Club has continued its involvement there over the years, including weekly work days on Mondays until 1980. In 1993, members landscaped the entrance complex. The Gorilla Habitat plantings was a popular project from 1994-96. More recently, the club has participated in a three-year project in support of the exhibit, "The California Orchid Dis-

play.” The refurbishment of the planting at the Education Lawn Fountain was completed in 2009. The club’s last project at the Zoo was to provide plants for the aviary three years ago.

Later in 1961, the GCA Conservation Committee requested that all clubs support a resolution in California to endorse a proposal for establishing standards for preservation and development of beauty in roadsides and landscape. This concept was an idea that the GCSB had been working on for years along with other California clubs. The Conservation Committee also discussed another issue the GCSB was interested in, the Wilderness Bill, which would call for Congress to establish adjacent areas to national parks for accommodations - thereby doing away with hot dog stands and hotels within the parks, for instance. These efforts were rewarded with the passage of the Wilderness Bill in 1964.

To further members’ awareness, the first meeting of the GCSB in 1962 began with a serious discussion on environmental and conservation issues and what further role the Club could take. Several meetings featured speakers on subjects like conservation of water, preservation of land and oil drilling in the Channel.

Tree planting continued to be a major Club interest. Although the Club was saddened to learn that our *Podocarpus* trees along Canon Perdido Street had died due to lack of water several years before, the Club replaced them with *Ficus* trees, which use less water thus ful-

filling another of the Club’s aims—water conservation. Throughout Santa Barbara, memorial trees were planted to honor deceased members from 1962-1984.

In 1963, the annual meeting celebrating GCA’s 50th anniversary, was held in Philadelphia with Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall as the keynote speaker. His speech gave credit to the Garden Clubs of America for making the face of America more attractive. He also spoke on the need for continued emphasis on preservation of open space for all, which in essence would result in the protection of wildlife by using conservation easements. Toward the end of 1963, the membership of the GCSB voted to incorporate in an effort to protect the membership from personal liability and for tax purposes, a process that was completed in December.

The Club’s interest in planting trees continued with a planting ceremony held at Santa Barbara Junior High School on March 16, 1966. Pearl Chase was one of the speakers and Mrs. Charles Ott, president of the GCSB from 1964-66, was also present. Trees were also planted on Figueroa Street. Members learned, however, that Santa Barbara Beautiful would be taking over the tree planting projects along city streets.

Raising money in the latter half of the 1960s to fund projects created opportunities for members to work on House and Garden Tours, an Easter Parade Fashion Show at Birnam Wood sponsored by Robinson’s Department Store and an event sponsored by the GCSB—a travelogue at the Lobero Theatre enti-

tled, "Glorious Greece." These projects raised a total of about \$5,000.

Flower Arranging Grows in Popularity

With the success of the flower show at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art in 1963, the Club held a show in April 1964 at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. The interest in flower arranging within the Club paralleled the interest within the GCA. It was growing quickly but it was still informal and there were no GCA Judges yet. Members voted to hold a Flower Show at the Santa Barbara Historical Society on April 20 and 21, 1968.

By 1967, the GCA directors were surprised to learn that flower arranging had surpassed horticulture in both the participants' and the public's admiration. Flower arranging classes were the first to fill at the International Flower Show and several different kinds of shows were now being held at the local level. As defined in the 1960 edition of *The Yellow Book*, a major flower show was a show sponsored by a club or a "nationally recognized horticultural organization." It was an event that was regularly scheduled for at least every third year, preferably in the same place and open to the public for at least two days, offering at least one hundred entries in six competitive classes, sixty of which had to be in horticulture. It always had to include an educational element to be judged by GCA judges.

Small flower shows on the other hand were sponsored by an individual

club or zone, and were still open to the public. They provided for a minimum of three competitive classes and fifty entries in horticulture. Fifty-one percent of the entries had to be from members of the GCA and the shows had to have GCA judges. Medals, certificates and other awards could be given. By 1968, it appeared that the rules had been generally accepted and the shows were being well executed with good participation and attendance. Also in 1968, the GCA decided that instead of participating in the large international shows that they wished to emphasize its own shows. By establishing the use of entry cards, designed so others could see the judges' comments and a list of plant materials used in the arrangement, the public would be educated.

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara: Celebrating Fifty Years

On April 9, 1968, under the leadership of Mrs. Corcoran Bigelow (Natalie), president, the GCSB celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a well-attended luncheon at Birnam Wood Golf Club. Several officers from the GCA were welcomed as well as members of other clubs who made the journey north from Pasadena following the 56th Annual Meeting. All were house guests of GCSB members and tours of gardens were given. It was announced, with great excitement, that Mrs. Jerome Doolan, both a member of the GCSB and Pasadena club, would be the next president of the GCA.



The gardens of Las Tejas, the Montecito estate of Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne, were the scene of many a Garden Club gathering.
Collection Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

Mrs. Herbert W. Warden, Jr. served as chairman of the birthday luncheon committee. A reception atmosphere greeted members at the Birnam Wood clubhouse as they were drawn into a boutique where Monica Tucker sold various brightly colored items made by Club members. The beautiful dining room, which used to be a lemon packing plant, was transformed into a large formal room with enormous chandeliers and lovely art prints. The floral centerpieces on the tables were crafted by Club members under the direction of Anne Jones.

Natalie Bigelow served as Mistress of Ceremonies. She also narrated a series of skits, "In the Good Old Garden Club Days," tracing the history of the club back to 1916. The skits, written by Mrs. Stephen Goodspeed (Grace), brought back many

memories and gave members a good time with much laughter.

Oil Spill

On January 28, 1969, an oil drilling platform in the Santa Barbara Channel suffered a catastrophic failure and ultimately some three million gallons of oil were released. Activists throughout the city worked tirelessly to clean up the mess and tried to save animals and birds from dying. It took about forty-five days for the initial cleanup. Get Oil Out (GOO) was established and the following year, Santa Barbara held its first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. "Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in coast-to-coast rallies. Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, who enlisted

Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Congressman from California to serve as the co-chair, had the idea to commemorate the first anniversary of the Santa Barbara oil spill by honoring the earth by protest against the deterioration of the environment."

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

The GCSB celebrated this special commemorative day along with the rest of the community, and donated twelve *Cedrela fissilis* trees (Brazilian cedars) to the city of Santa Barbara. These Brazilian natives were no longer available through commercial nurseries. They were grown from seeds by Mrs. Robert Burrows (Nan). Club members collected seeds from those trees for a number of years so that they would always be available.

Revisiting the Victory Trees Project

In the fall of 1970, the Club voted to make the Santa Barbara's Mission Historical Park a project. The twenty-four olive trees planted by the Garden Club in 1919 to commemorate the end of World War I had become known as Victory Trees, and were in need of pruning. Under the leadership of Mrs. Stuart Taylor, project chair, the Mission

olive trees were pruned at the Club's expense by Armstrong-Robinson, a local tree company. The Garden Club collaborated with an already organized Mission Memorial Fund Committee, under the leadership of Pearl Chase. Mrs. Lockwood de Forest was an advisor on the project.

The 1970s

Meetings continued to be held at members' homes in the morning, sometimes with luncheon to follow. Beverly Jackson featured the Garden Club of Santa Barbara regularly in her weekly column in the *Santa Barbara News-Press* and one week she wrote on a comment attributed to Mrs. Lockwood de Forest, "I'd like to see members roll up their sleeves and get busy gardening. Everyone in this room should know how to grow plants from seeds and cuttings." It was a reminder that even with all the various projects in which the Club was involved, gardening was still at the core of the organization.

After the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) became a law in 1970, the Club's projects and programs became more involved in aspects of environmental awareness, preservation, recycling and restoration that seemed to be unfolding across the United States, but particularly in Santa Barbara County following the oil spill and the founding of the Community Environmental Council in 1972. On the national level one indication of the importance conservation continued to play for the

GCA occurred in 1972 when all 178 GCA clubs supported the GCA Redwood Grove through the Save the Redwoods League to purchase the last four hundred acres to complete the grove.

Mrs. Robert Jones (Anne), a member of the GCSB, was GCA Flower Show Committee Chairman in 1972 and urged the GCA to sponsor more flower shows, "Everyone loves flower shows." She called for more workshops, classes and staging. She felt that the GCA was falling short because so many new non-GCA garden clubs were appearing and holding shows. Anne said it is show activities and events that bring people together and that these had to be increased.

Elvira Doolan

Mrs. Jerome K. Doolan (Elvira Broome), who was the first GCA president from the West Coast, a member of the Pasadena Garden Club and later a resident and member of the GCSB, advocated for conservation issues and was a trustee of Keep Amer-

ica Beautiful. During her presidency, 1968–71, a GCA conservation education packet for fifth and sixth graders, "The World Around Us," was published and distributed nationally. In June 1993, a second redwood grove, adjacent to the first, was purchased and named the Elvira Doolan Redwood Grove.

In 1972, she was awarded the GCA's Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne Medal for outstanding achievement in garden design and for the creative ability and originality she displayed in her garden here in Santa Barbara. She also donated funds to the Alice Keck Park Foundation to build a sensory garden for the blind at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden.

Memorial Trees

As the GCSB had already been planting memorial trees for many years, a board action on November 1, 1972, under the leadership of President Mrs. Francis Price (Squeeze) was approved to set aside \$25 per year to purchase a plant to be given to a community group in memory of deceased members of the Club during the year. Funds were allowed to accumulate in a community savings account if not used annually. In May 1973, the annual amount set aside was raised to \$60.

Restoration work on the Mission olive grove (Victory Trees) continued in 1972. Funds received from the Mission Memorial Fund were used to improve the Mission gardens and walkways.



Elvira Doolan was the first GCA president that hailed from the West Coast. She made conservation a central concern of her administration. In 1993, the Elvira Doolan Redwood Grove was dedicated in her honor. GCA Archives.

Working in collaboration with the Mission Historical Park with a gift of \$1,900, \$250 of those funds went to silicone the ruins of the water works buildings on the site and \$1,500 was spent on decomposed granite and on Parks Department labor to grade and cover the paths.

The Little Garden at El Cuartel

Santa Barbara's oldest building is El Cuartel, the Guard House of the Santa Barbara Presidio, located at 122 East Canon Perdido Street. In 1963 the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation acquired it. In 1974, the GCSB voted to restore the little garden there. At its February 25th meeting in 1974, the Board of Trustees of the Trust for Historic Preservation approved this plan

After the completion of the preliminary work by the Trust, the Garden Club started with the removal of all the old plant material followed by landscaping with characteristic plantings of Spanish Colonial times. After considerable research, the following were used: two navel orange trees, a Mission fig, two Castilian roses, several Pomegranate "Nana" trees, and several agaves *attenuata* and rosemary *prostrat* and *af-ficinalis*. Various herbs and succulents were also planted. This work totaled \$1,304. The Garden Club of Santa Barbara funded \$804 and the Santa Barbara Foundation, \$500.

When the Garden Club of Santa Barbara was presented the Santa Barbara Beautiful Bicentennial Award in

April 1976 for the El Cuartel garden, Mrs. Rosamond Colome, Santa Barbara Beautiful Monthly Awards Chairman, stated, "The Garden Club has created a charming small garden which seems to belong to the old Adobe and gives a feeling for its historical and romantic past." The award was presented to President Mrs. Stephen Goodspeed (Grace) and Mrs. Milton Geyman (Betsy), Horticulture Chairman and Chairman of the Garden Project. Mrs. Geyman was awarded the GCA Club Medal of Merit in 1973 for her work on this garden.

Fund Raising

In 1976-78, when Mrs. Forrest Tucker (Monica) was president, funds were raised for projects in the community by members opening their gardens to the public for a fee. Members also joined together to hold teas where visitors could view their gardens. To raise additional funds, members exchanged and sold plants at meetings. The Club regularly held horticulture classes, including identification of street trees, for which a small fee was charged.

GCSB Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

The Club wished to celebrate its sixtieth Anniversary in 1976 by hosting the Zone XII meeting in Santa Barbara. In order to raise money for that meeting, tickets were sold to the first Flower Show Cocktail Party. The event was

held at the home of Mrs. Charles Rheinstrom, originally *Arcady*, the estate of George Owen Knapp. Mrs. Palmer Jackson (Joan) chaired, and the well-attended event raised the needed funds. Mrs. Jackson recalls that two judges, both from Pasadena, attended to help judge the show. "Judging was casual and subjective and therefore a modest beginning to more illustrious shows to follow."

Until the judging program became more formal and with strict rules, Monica Tucker recalled that "the same ladies always won. There was little room for a person new at flower arranging to win a ribbon." Gradually this changed as more members became interested in and skilled at flower arranging. GCA judges encouraged and assisted in flower arranging classes for members. Both Monica Tucker and Joan Jackson went on to win "Best in Show" ribbons in later flower shows. Our flower shows now are mostly GCA Flower Shows. Occasionally the Club will hold a small flower show, but GCA rules are followed.

GCA and GCSB Celebrates the Nation's Bicentennial

As the nation celebrated its Bicentennial in 1976, the GCA Conservation Chairman, Mrs. Clifford C. Fifield (Julia), gave a presentation at the GCA annual meeting. Her words included the following:

Since the founding of the GCA in 1913, we have been pioneers in restoration and

preservation. We have aided in the restoration of buildings of local and national historic interest. We have restored and replanted gardens in many areas, researching and recreating the original plans. With equal importance we have replanted much of the original type plant material. This year, has found our clubs continuing that work, aiding local, state, and national agencies in their collective endeavors to celebrate the Bicentennial in a fitting manner.

The GCSB felt that since its Bicentennial project was restoring gardens in the historic Presidio area of Santa Barbara, the theme of the upcoming zone meeting should support that. The Zone XII meeting was held at the Biltmore with eighty-three delegates in attendance. The Club celebrated Santa Barbara's Spanish heritage by giving tote bags to delegates decorated in needle point, made by members, with the crest of Castile and Leon, the ensign of early Spanish settlers in California. Special activities included a tour of the city's historic core, El Pueblo Viejo, and a visit to the gardens and archives of the Old Mission. To further celebrate, after all delegates had left town, the gardens of the Pico Adobe at 920 Anacapa Street and the Covarrubias Adobe at 715 Santa Barbara Street were planted with specimens of the Spanish period.

Another highlight of that year was Mrs. Henri Dorra's (Mary) presentation on French gardens. In the late 1990s, she would go on to publish two books, *Beau-*

tiful American Vegetable Gardens and Beautiful American Rose Gardens.

The annual meeting of the Garden Club of America during the Bicentennial year was held in Minneapolis. Twenty-four clubs, including the GCSB, entered a scale model Bicentennial competition. The entry of the GCSB was a California Spanish kitchen of the 1830s, historically accurate to the tiniest detail. It did not win a ribbon, but the model was later put on display at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

The GCSB Creates Its Own Flower Shows

The GCSB had begun to participate in local flower shows many years ago. Up until the mid-1970s, these flower shows were not their own. They were held by the Santa Barbara Horse and Flower Show, the Santa Barbara Horticultural Society, the Santa Barbara Orchid Society, or sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. These were not judged shows. Members entered the shows at their pleasure. That changed in 1977, when a flower show was first sponsored by the GCSB. A well-attended party was held the night before at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and was open to the public. It included a conservation exhibit as well as a needlepoint exhibition. Two new Club awards were established: the Clem Award for best flower arrangement and the Bryce Award for the best exhibit in horticulture.

*Mrs. Palmer Jackson's
(Joan) Presidency*

Mrs. Palmer Jackson's (Joan) presidency (1978-80) added a new dimension to the Club's history because of the family's stewardship of the land as early land grant owners in the Santa Ynez Valley and longtime ownership of *Cuesta Linda* (later *Lotusland*). This home and the gardens had been one of the highlights of the 1926 GCA tour.

Club members periodically went on bus tours to sites in other communities like Rogers Nursery in Newport Beach and the Sherman Foundation Garden in Corona Del Mar. Additionally, as Joan Jackson remembers, "Members boarded buses to go visit the Club's many past projects." This



A flower show award winner many times over, Joan Jackson has held a number of positions in the Garden Club of Santa Barbara over the years. Here she works on some needlepoint designs for the spring flower show, 1977.

Ray Borges photograph. Santa Barbara News-Press.

caused some discouragement as “the Club learned that some of the projects were not being maintained well.” This led to weekly work days on Fridays and to the Club’s more careful selection of projects.

Joan Jackson has participated in numerous flower shows and chaired one. Besides winning many ribbons, she was awarded a Club Flower Show Arrangement Achievement Commendation in 2007. Joan has also held many positions in the GCSB and presently is a member of the Centennial Committee. Joan served as Zone XII Program Chair from 1980-81 and then went on to become a Zone XII Director in 1981 for two years. Following that she served on the GCA Nominating Committee from 1983-85. She was awarded the Zone XII Creative Leadership Award in 1992. Along with four other members, in 2008, Joan was awarded a Zone XII Garden History and Design Award for her work at *Casa del Herrero* where she served as Board President twice.

Wrapping Up the 1970s

Pico Adobe

The 1978 Historic Preservation Project of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara was the restoration of the garden at the Pico Adobe at 920 Anacapa Street. The Pico Adobe is somewhat hidden behind other buildings, and was left largely in its original form. In 1976, to celebrate the nation’s bicentennial, Quentin L. Richard and his son, Jim, donated this historic

adobe to the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

In the spring of 1978, Mrs. Grace Lloyd, a member of the GCSB and also a trustee of the Trust, made a generous gift of funds to construct a beautiful wall of handmade adobe blocks around the building. Two old wooden gates from the former studio of the famous Santa Barbara artist, Edward Borein, were placed in the wall. The house itself was repaired and renovated, and the Garden Club of Santa Barbara landscaped the garden, using plants appropriate to the period of the adobe. The garden walkway is covered with decomposed granite. The garden renovation project, under the direction of Mrs. Milton Geyman (Betsy), was completed in October of 1978. The approximate cost was around \$1,000.

Covarrubias Adobe

Following a flower show in the spring of 1979 at the Covarrubias Adobe, at 715 Santa Barbara Street, the Garden Club of Santa Barbara voted to refurbish the gardens surrounding the adobe. The Club used a list of flowering plants of California gardens common during the period 1769-1835. Ivy was removed and replaced with decomposed granite. Boulders were brought in and placed at the base of the adobe. A large *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia) was trimmed back substantially to improve light and sight lines. The landscaping since then has been considerably altered.

Heading into the 1980s

A decision to open club meetings for non-members to hear an outstanding speaker or lecture was met with enthusiasm by the membership. It was felt that this would be a move towards educating guests as well as members.

In 1981 the Club sponsored a public lecture series on "How to Water," "Getting Ready for Spring" and "Bare Root Planting." Also in 1981, "Look and Learn" or "Share and Stare" were popular horticulture meetings to which members brought plant material from their own gardens.

The Club continued to be actively involved in conservation and issues surrounding it. "Off-shore drilling, pollution and preservation of water, national forests, wildflowers, and energy were some of the main conservation interests of the Club," according to one member. Another aspect of conservation was recycling of paper, cans, and glass. The Club has been actively recycling since the 1980s.

Of the Club members' own gardens, Marylee Morf wrote, "They are greatly diversified, with some located in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains or even on mountain tops. Some are in the valleys or at the seashore. Many have magnificent views. Due to our climate, we can grow cymbidiums under our live oak trees, bulbs in our meadows and cactus and roses all year." The members "have been architects, authors, landscape designers, botanists, horticulturists, hybridizers and conservationists —many of

whom have been recognized by the GCA or otherwise honored nationally."

During Mrs. Stuart Taylor's (Mary) presidency in 1980, the Club's many projects created a lot of activity for members other than the yearly fairs and flower shows. With the encouragement of Mrs. Sheldon Riley (Dorothy), the Club contributed funds to landscape the Montecito Hall and Library garden, which included a new sprinkler system. Many members participated in planting this small garden. As a way of staying in touch between meetings concerning the Club's many projects and upcoming events, members began receiving a newsletter sent three times per year.

By 1980, many GCA clubs were obtaining federal tax exempt status because of the philanthropic contributions deduction. GCSB President Mary Taylor, 1980-82, was successful in obtaining tax exempt status for the GCSB.

Garden Club of Santa Barbara Logo

At the April 1982 meeting, members selected Lou Greer's (Mrs. Laurence Frost) design for its logo, which is used today. The design was recently embellished by local artist, Janice Blair, in designing the centennial logo which appears on the cover.

Lou is one of the club's more creative members and is credited for designing many of our Club's invitations. She was awarded a Zone Award for Flower Arrangement in 2010. She received a Club Appreciation Commendation in 2005 and the Mrs. O. Dudley



Anne Jones, at left, was well-known as a mentor in Garden Club circles. Here she works on flower arrangements with Cathy Butts and Mary Blythe Howland, 1981. Ray Borges photograph. Santa Barbara News-Press.

Knight Award for extraordinary contribution to the Garden Club of Santa Barbara in the year, 1998. She also won the Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award, a Garden Club of America award for Flower Arranging in both 1998 and 2000. In 2014, Lou won the Bryce Award for Best in Show in Horticulture. She won the Clem Award for Best in Show for Flower Arranging in 1987, 1989 and 1998. Besides being a Garden Club of America Judge for Flower Arranging, Lou was Club president from 1992–1994.

As Chairman of the 1982 Garden Fair, Mrs. Forrest Tucker (Monica) announced that Prudence Clem was designing a needlepoint rendition of the Garden Club logo. The framed needlepoint version would be awarded as a prize to the member who brought in the most money to the Garden Fair fundraising event that year. Mrs. John Hamlin won the framed prize on June 7,

1982, at the Club's annual meeting. At the time Prudy Clem executed the beautiful needlepoint on very fine canvas, eighteen stitches to the inch, she was ninety-one. Mrs. Clem had been a member of the Garden Club of America for sixty-seven years. Prudy became a member of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara in 1947 after she moved here from Rye, New York, in 1945. She served as president of both clubs, known as the "baby president" due to her young age when she was the president of the Rye Garden Club.

In 1983, the Club celebrated its 65th anniversary under the leadership of President Mrs. Robert M. Jones (Anne) (1982-84). Anne joined the club in 1953 and had therefore been a member for sixty-three years when she passed away in 2016. She chaired many flower shows while encouraging new members to enter and mentoring many others. Anne had a well-known garden,

which was always available for members to view.

In 1994, Anne received special recognition as a Local Hero in the weekly newspaper, the *Santa Barbara Independent*. She was “widely known for devoting her life to the world of natural beauty nurturing a special kinship with plants, both wild and cultivated, and influencing every path she has taken in life—to insure that future generations would be able to have the opportunity to experience natural beauty.” Anne enthusiastically provided leadership to many organizations in our community, including serving as president of the Botanic Garden Board of Trustees and member of the Lotusland Foundation Board. She helped in obtaining scenic highways status for San Marcos Pass. Anne served as a Zone XII Director of Flower Show Workshops and was a GCA Judge Emeritus Flower Arranging. The GCSB awarded Anne with the Mrs. O. Dudley Knight Award in 1994 for her extraordinary contributions to the club that year.

The Club lost one of its greatest treasures when long-time member Elizabeth de Forest passed away. Mrs. Ned B. Tilt wrote a memorial in the March 1984 newsletter, condensed below:

The Club lost a long-time and distinguished member, Mrs. Lockwood de Forest (Elizabeth). She was a member for 59 years, having been elected to membership in the GCSB in 1926, soon after she and her husband, Lockwood de Forest, Jr., moved to Santa Barbara. She was a much respected

horticulturist, always ready to share her knowledge with earnest young gardeners. Elizabeth was a community and national activist. She served for 28 years as California



Regent for the Ladies Association of Mount Vernon, and in 1982 published the authoritative guide, “The Gardens and Grounds of Mount Vernon.” In her 34 years on the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Board, she helped shape the layout of the grounds and the planting. One of the conditions of the gift of the Alice Keck Park Gardens to the City of Santa Barbara was that Elizabeth be a consultant to the landscape architect, approve the design and oversee its completion.

The Mid-1980s

Members were required to write a description of their garden to include in the Club’s locator book. These gardens were some of the ones included in the Club’s Garden Walks. Guests were charged a small fee when there was an organized walk for non-members. The funds raised were used on the Club’s many projects.

Among the Club projects in the mid-1980s were staging a flower show, again at the Covarrubias Adobe, contributing funds to the Music Academy of the West for plants to be placed at

LEFT: Landscape designer Elizabeth Kellam de Forest was a Garden Club member for almost sixty years. She played a key role in the design of the Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden and served on the board of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden for over thirty years. Maria Ealand photograph. Courtesy Kellam de Forest.

the two entrances and the creation of an outstanding drought tolerant demonstration garden at the Montecito Water District with the help of Mrs. Laurence Valentine (Carol), who purchased the plants.

The Garden Club was enjoying its work days at the Music Academy of the West and in 1984, pruned trees, shrubs and plants. They also installed a sprinkler system there. On the Presidio grounds, members of the Club pruned trees, removed the ones that were no longer viable and replanted where necessary.

By the mid 1980's, the judging program in the GCA was more formalized, with judges coming from all over Zone XII to judge the GCSB's flower shows. GCA member clubs preferred having judges from their own zones who understood the plant materials better. In 1986, sixty-four years after the GCA Art Committee was established, the word, "Art" was retired in favor of Flower Arranging. The flower shows in 1985 and 1989, both at the Music Academy of the West were well-attended. Flower shows were continuing to increase in popularity and more members were participating and enjoying the experience.

At the December meeting in 1985, under the direction of Program Chair, Mrs. Robert Burrows (Nancy or Nan), members decorated fifty miniature Christmas trees to be distributed by the Visiting Nurse Association. Nan was a knowledgeable gardener who hybridized irises.

The Club's entry in the 1986 Horse and Flower Show won the Metta and Ernest Thomson Judges' Trophy for Special Recognition in addition to a red ribbon (second place) in its class (a 400-square-foot Garden Display) which carried a cash prize of \$420. The theme of the Flower Show was *Santa Barbara—Star of the West*, which inspired the ad-hoc exhibition committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Henri Dorra (Mary) to make a horticultural map of Santa Barbara. The exhibit, entitled, "A City Garden," included a large key identifying the city's major points of interest. The exhibit included various projects in which the Garden Club had taken part in over the years including the Presidio, Zoo, Music Academy of the West, and the Botanic Garden.

The Club's project schedule continued to be a full one as the 1980s began to wind down. With the completion of the Girls Incorporated's new gymnasium in 1987, garden club members helped landscape the area. A year later they brought in shade trees and planted those. Meanwhile, at the Music Academy of the West, members pruned trees and landscaped the area around the Treasure House. The Club

funded the renovation of the reflecting pools and two decomposed granite areas. The Club contributed funds to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's bird garden drip system for plantings.

At the 1988 fair, co-chaired by Dotsy Adams and Martha Murfrey, a needle-point Christmas tree skirt designed by Lou Greer was selected as the project for the raffle. It was stitched by Monica Forrest, Lou Greer, Betty Howard, Joan Jackson, Deanne Violich and Marian Reddan.

Mrs. Robert Green (Mary Ann)

In 1987, the Garden Clubs of Santa Barbara and Piedmont, nominated a long-time member of both clubs, Mrs. Robert Green (Mary Ann) for a Zone XII Horticulture Achievement Commendation. Mary Ann joined the Piedmont Garden Club as a non-resident active in 1959. In 1969 she was awarded the Jane Righter Rose Medal. She also was awarded the Ann Lyon Crammond Flower Show Award in 1998 for education. Mary Ann had a beautiful home and garden in Montecito on East Valley Road where she enjoyed holding Garden Club meetings. Mary Ann presented talks about the "History of the Rose" followed by a tour of her lovely rose garden. Mary Ann was a much-loved member of the GCSB and the Club benefited by her vast horticultural knowledge.

Simply Wonderful Peg

The Club's education in anything horticultural was enhanced by Peggy Thompson. During the 1980s and 1990s, she seemed to be on the cutting edge of what was going on with GCA in Conservation and Horticulture. She left her mark on the Club with her "Proper Botanical Nomenclature." She held many horticultural workshops for provisional members beginning in 1982, and continued until 2008, even after she moved to a ranch up north in 1992 and joined the Woodside/Atherton Garden Club. For her continued work on behalf of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara, Peg Thompson was given a Mrs. O. Dudley Knight Award in 1990 and a Club Horticulture Achievement Commendation in 1995.

Rounding Out the 1980s

Between 1988 and 1990, under the leadership of President Mrs. Robert Mairs (Adele), the GCSB made many landscape improvements for the Family Service Agency building at 123 West Gutierrez Street. The Club also purchased shade trees for Girls Inc. Pruning continued at the Music Academy of the West during these years and the Club also landscaped the Treasure House. The Club funded projects at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and began its long association with the Rose Garden at Stanton Ranch, Santa Cruz Island.

In 1989, the Garden Club of Santa

Barbara was invited by the Nature Conservancy to oversee the restoration and conservation of the late Dr. Carey Stanton's garden at his ranch on Santa Cruz Island, twenty some miles offshore in the Santa Barbara Channel. The ranch, which covers 62,000 acres was turned over to the Nature Conservancy. Twice a year, small groups of Club members, usually members on the Horticulture or Conservation committees, were transported to the island to work in the gardens. Members spent at least one night there, taking enough food and beverages to last them for their stay. They slept in one of the little cabins and prepared all their own meals in the staff kitchen. Members pruned the rose garden which had been planted over seventy-five years before. Some of the first members to go over to Santa Cruz Island from February 17–19, 1989, were Dana Kent, Deanne Violich, Monica Tucker, Ricky Allen, Lou Greer, Bobbie Kinnear, Gay Bryant and Peg Thompson. In 1996, the Club, in keeping with

its concern over water conservation, funded a drip system for the rose garden there.

The Final Decade of the Century

Over half of the Club's active membership at the end of the 1990s was accepted in that decade, with forty-two joining. During the 1990s, the Club continued to be active in the community, held even more impressive flower shows, chose to participate in even more projects and continued conservation efforts.

An unsourced document from the Club archives laid out the aims for members in the decade:

The 1990's member will know a great deal about Conservation, and even more, she will be all too aware of the environmental threats to her children, and she will demand that the Garden Club take strong, even militant action to protect them. . . . She will insist upon efficiency and direction as a condition for her membership. She will be impatient with a purposeless organization



LEFT: In 1989, the Garden Club began working on Santa Cruz Island. Here, left to right, Peg Thompson, Gay Bryant and Ricky Allen arrive by boat in the early 1990s. GCSB Archives.

and with the "Let's watch pretty pictures and drink tea" members of the past. . . . Our leadership will initiate and accomplish legislation rather than simply support it. . . . We will not only take a positive stand on the national issues, but within our own community the Garden Club will assume a more public role. Until now, this has not been our policy. Because of increased tightening of public funds, the Garden Club will be called on to increase our community projects. This will require a more skillful and creative approach to raising sufficient funds.

During Mrs. David Kent's (Dana) presidency from 1990-92, the club continued to participate actively in community projects with many members helping to restore the wedding gardens at the Music Academy of the West. Funds raised by several events paid to have the alee restored at the Academy, as well. The Club was now holding at least one fund raiser a year; a garden fair, a tea or a luncheon with a well-regarded speaker. The Club also provided the funds to landscape the Collection and Research Center at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. An exchange between the horticulturists from the GCSB and Portland Garden Club was held in the spring, 1991.

The same year, GCA's Conservation Committee adopted the theme, "Protecting Biological Diversity: Our Greatest Chance." When speaking of the issue, Mrs. Frank Magid, (Marilyn), Chairman of the GCA Conservation Committee and a member of the Cedar Rapids GC and

later GCSB said, "The creation of diversity has been a long, slow process over billions of years. Over this time, the evolution of species, each adapted to the specific needs of its niche in the habitat, has produced a diversity of life far greater than it was, say, 500 million years ago. This is the result even though 99% of all species that ever lived are now extinct."

She continued, "We as gardeners, must be informed; we must care. If we allow diverse life forms to be lost, potential new sources of scientific information will be lost. We must not overlook the fact that ecosystems enrich the soil, the air that we breathe, and purify the water that we drink. We must remember that human beings co-evolved with the rest of life on this planet. Humanity itself will be threatened by diminishing biological diversity."

In April 1992, the Club hosted 102 delegates from sixteen clubs at the Zone XII meeting with the theme, "Conserving Our Garden Heritage." Frank H. Cabot, founder of the Garden Conservancy, was the conservation speaker. Dr. James Yoch, University of Oklahoma professor, was the horticulture speaker. Some delegates boarded a bus to go to the historic Santa Ynez Valley to visit the nationally known D. Wayne Lukas Training Stables with its gardens and greenhouses and lunch at the Happy Canyon home of a Club member.

During Mrs. Laurence Frost's (Lou Greer) presidency (1992-94), the Club contributed funds to purchase a lath house for Girls, Inc. Members of the

Club also helped renovate the Montecito Library landscaping, which was badly needed. The Club contributed funds to the landscaping efforts of the Corner Green in Montecito. Members also provided landscape materials for Transition House and to the patio at the Music Academy of the West.

Preparations for a major flower show called Flowers in Rhyme & Reason were underway in the spring of 1993 for the following winter at the Nordstrom Department Store under the leadership of President Dana Kent. Everyone in the Club was encouraged to enter. It was a huge undertaking to move into Nordstrom on a Friday and have to be out before Monday morning when the store opened. GCA judges came in from other clubs to help judge the show.

The annual meeting, June 1993, was held on the terrace in front of Mrs. John Bacon's (Eloise) home with the view of Montecito Peak as a backdrop. Eloise Bacon, a long-time member was ninety-five years old at the time. As a thank-you, the Club presented her with a deodar tree to add to the other beautiful ones on her property. Following her death five years later, this beautiful forty-two-acre estate eventually became the West Coast home of Oprah Winfrey.

SBGC Scholarships

Following Prudence Clem's passing in 1993, the Club voted to establish a \$20,000 legacy to endow a college stu-

dent in the field of botany, landscape design, gardening, or horticulture. A few years later, the Club decided that the Prudence Clem Fund should be moved to the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara to ensure that it could endow a perpetual scholarship for a horticulture student who meets Garden Club standards.

As in the past, the Club contributed to the National GCA Scholarship Fund. Also, the Club sponsored two annual scholarships for teachers to the University of California, Santa Barbara Nature Institutes each summer for many years.

GCSB Club Activities

In 1994 the Club sponsored a one-year internship in the Horticulture Department of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Between 1994-96, during Deanne Violich's presidency, the Club planted oak trees along the path of the Santa Barbara County Veterans Memorial at Elings Park in memory of those residents who died in the Vietnam War. The Club provided outer wall landscaping for *Lotusland* and hedges for the Music Academy parking lot. Lastly, the Club contributed funds for plantings in the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens Gorilla Habitat. In 1995, although the Club was no longer planting memorial trees in the community on a regular basis, it donated a *Libocedrus decurrens* (incense cedar) to the Music Academy, in memory of long-time Club member, Dr. Katherine Muller.

In 1996, at the GCA annual meeting, Dr. William Niering challenged the club to change the way Americans view and maintain their yards, the most significant part of which is normally the monoculture that is the lawn. The Conservation Committee's response was the brochure, *The New American Lawn*, a guide on "how to have a healthy lawn friendly to people and the environment."

In 1997, during Mrs. William Myers' (Nancy) presidency, from 1996-98, the Club held its first Harvest Brunch fundraiser. Restoration of the green houses at *Casa del Herrero* was taken up as a project. The estate was now an historic house museum and open to the public. Another enjoyable project for members was landscaping for The Rack, a used men's and women's clothing outlet at the Music Academy of the West. Other gardens that received the Club's attention in 1997 were those of the Community Environmental Council, the Youth Garden Coalition and Villa Esperanza Garden, Monte Vista School Ethno-Botanic Trail, the Phoenix House landscape project, and Family Service Agency landscape improvement. Nancy Myers treated members to a wonderful outing to visit her ranch in Ojai and to enjoy lunch after visiting her wildflower garden.

Between 1998-2000, under the leadership of Mrs. A. Stevens Halsted (Carole), the Club continued its volunteer work, primarily landscaping at the Music Academy parking lot and Claeysens Hall along with sodding, irrigation system and plantings. Additionally,



other projects included the Coggeshall Bowl at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Alpha Resource Center's garden pathway and irrigation system. The Club also provided supplies for environmental horticulture classes at Santa Barbara City College.

Flower Arranging in GCA Clubs Flourishes

The flower arranging program had grown and improved through the years with GCA judges coming in from other clubs to help judge the show. Flower arranging competitions and exhibitions were held at the GCA annual meeting

LEFT: Tours, trips, lectures, teas, luncheons, shows—Garden Club members have participated in a host of activities through the years. Pictured is the program cover for the spring 1998 flower show. GCSB Archives.

for the first time in 1998. Photography was added to the shows. A Flower Arranging Study Group, which began back in the 1950's as the right hand to the Flower Show Judging Committee, had helped give the American art of flower arranging a basis in order and form.

GCA National Affairs and Legislation (NAL)

In 1968, the GCA had established a new committee called the National Affairs and Legislation Committee (NAL). NAL would be responsible for keeping the GCA Conservation Committee informed on national and state legislation. Their goal was to educate member clubs on legislative issues, to have a presence in Washington and to have the ability to testify before Congress. As William Seale noted, a member of the GCSB played a major role a few years later:

In 1999, Mrs. Frank Magid, now the National Affairs and Legislation chair, convened the yearly Washington meeting in Washington, D. C. One hundred thirty clubs sent representative to the two-day legislative conference. Congressmen, senators and members from the GCSB attended. All who were invited attended, and many who could not attend sent specialist staff mem-

bers to take notes. Nearly all the relevant federal agencies were represented by their top officials. The group sessions that followed were full-house. Marilyn Magid reflected on the meeting with satisfaction tempered by a savvy bit of hesitation: "Respect for the Garden Club of America and our considerable influence was evident at the small meetings. Amid the excitement, however, there remained an air of caution. . . . Our job of informing legislators was very urgent, for extreme property right protections threatened all that had been accomplished thus far."

Each of the three hundred attendees received a copy of *The Conservation Committee History 1924-1999* marking the committee's 75th anniversary. Members remarked that it "was exhilarating to read the stories of the early pioneers who led the conservation effort for the Garden Club of America and to see how much the topics of concern had changed and how very much they had stayed the same."

A New Century

As one century ended and another began, the GCSB was kept on track by President Ladeen Miller (2000-2002) who had just completed her vice-presidency of the GCA NAL Committee (1998-2000). Ladeen was a natural leader with a strong GCA background having also served as the Zone XII Conservation Representative from 1996-98. Following her presidency, she

served as a Conservation Consultant in GCA for six months prior to serving as vice-president of GCA Conservation Education from 2003–05. Under Ladeen's leadership, the GCSB participated in numerous activities and projects. The Club donated plants and equipment to the Montecito Union School Children's Garden, planter boxes and a large tree to the Animal Shelter in memory of long-time GCSB member, Martha Murfey, and at *Casa del Herrero*, rose plants for the cutting garden, and funds to repair one of the fountains. Native plants that are self-sustaining and attract bird life were purchased for the Santa Barbara High School Horticultural Facility and planted at the Goleta Slough. The Club refurbished the *Mira Flores* patio and built steps and enlarged the picnic area near the main driveway at the Music Academy of the West. The Club funded a teaching program for propagation of native plants at Santa Barbara High School for high school and college students and lastly, the Club contributed toward the *Dinosaurs: The Next Generation* exhibit at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Native plants were planted around the Japanese Tea House in memory of Heartie Anne Look at the Botanic Garden. Mrs. Richard Look (Heartie Ann) had spent many years in Japan and while there studied the flower arranging art of *Ikebana*. When she returned to Santa Barbara, she was generous with her time and expertise by holding nu-

merous workshops for members to study this art of Japanese flower arranging. She was awarded the Club Flower Arrangement Achievement Commendation in 2000.

With funds contributed by the Club, for several years, 14,000 students were able to take advantage of the Youth Garden Education Programs at the Community Environmental Council. These programs included teacher workshops, consultation services and classroom presentations.

During 2002–04, the Club contributed funds to develop a Discovery Garden for students K-5th grade at the Santa Barbara Charter School. Low maintenance landscaping was contributed to Laguna Cottages for Seniors, for eleven new studio apartments. The Club also funded the first year of a three-year project to design and renovate the Botanic Garden entrance areas, incorporating native plants.

The Club slid into the digital age during Mrs. Jerome Kay's (Gail) tenure as President (2004-06), when it began sending the board minutes to members of the board via email. With the success of this endeavor, the following year the board decided to initiate a digital newsletter, *Budding News*. Now the Club finally had an efficient and inexpensive way of communicating with members. Shortly thereafter, the board began to send general meeting minutes to the entire club by email.

In 2006, a flower show was held at *Casa del Herrero* for the first time in many

years. This was the third flower show of the decade.

Mrs. William McKinley's (Sue) chairmanship of the Horticulture Committee ushered in a very active time for the Garden Club. She engaged members of her committee and then the entire board in the study of citrus plants which culminated with the production of a citrus cookbook consisting entirely of recipes and tips from members. Luncheons and dinners for the GCSB have been planned around menus in this book. Continuing with this theme, the Club was invited by Mrs. Thomas Munzig (Judy), Sue McKinley's sister, to her citrus ranch in Ojai for a tour. Members grafted a citrus plant to take home. Judy became a member of the GCSB within a few years.

Sue McKinley organized the horti-

culture committee to prune all of the roses at *Casa del Herrero*, a long tradition of the Garden Club. The committee also began the multi-year project of propagating the old boxwood hedge at *Casa del Herrero*, which turned out successfully. At the GCSB annual meeting in 2006, Sue McKinley was awarded the Mrs. O. Dudley Knight Award with the Club's gratitude for her extraordinary contributions to the GCSB during 2004–2006.

Also in 2006, Mrs. Robert Green (Mary Ann) was presented a GCA Club Appreciation Commendation, and Mrs. Wiley Blair III (Susie) was presented a GCA Club Horticulture Achievement Commendation. Both were beloved members of the GCSB and had participated often and with great enthusiasm. Mrs. Blair's shade garden was one of the highlights of a garden tour of members' gardens.

From 2006–08, Mrs. Bruce McFadden, (Natalie) served as president. Her passion for flowers and horticulture led to recognition with many awards and medals including a GCSB Flower Arrangement Achievement Commendation in 2005. Natalie became a GCA Flower Arranging Judge. She was well-known in Zone XII, serving as Flower Arranging Representative from 2012–2014.

Anna Marie Halling and Dorothy Riley proudly pose behind a floral arrangement during a luncheon at Mira Flores in the 1990s. GCSB Archives.



During her presidency, the Club funded a schools program, Healthy Schools Garden Education. The Club provided native plants for the Phoenix House and for the nature center at Lake Cachuma. The Club once again provided plants for and helped to plant natives to enhance the Butterfly Exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. It provided funds for the landscaping of the front entrance area of the new Goleta Girls Inc. Center. Lastly, the Club provided new plant material and soil to restore the Rhododendron Garden at *Lotusland*.

Mrs. Arthur Shafer (Lynn) and Mrs. W. Pendleton Tudor (Mary Alice) were awarded the Mrs. O. Dudley Knight Award in 2008 for their extraordinary efforts in chairing the Programs Committee for two years during Natalie's presidency.

Through the long-range Partners for Plants program with the GCA, during Mrs. John Kinnear's (Bobbie) presidency from 2008–10, the Club fulfilled its first Partners for Plants conservation project. Members nurtured native seeds, culled weeds and planted young natives in an area that had once

been covered with invasive plants at Gaviota State Park.

The Club held a flower show at the Museum of Natural History under the leadership of Mrs. Martin Riessen (April) and Ladeen Miller. They asked Mrs. Gethin Hughes (Lenore) to create a unique show schedule and title, "What If Beastly Bears Carried Bouquets Of Flowers?" using the large, mounted bear at the Museum as a model. Lenore and her daughter, Mrs. Eric Prothero (Margaret), created a PowerPoint presentation to motivate members' participation in the show. They also took photographs of all the entries and winners and created a digital slide show which was shown during the show and during dinner.



Lenore Hughes put together this fanciful topiary luncheon, held at Mira Flores in February 2013. GCSB Archives.

A traumatic event for the Garden Club membership was the loss of President Kinnear's home during the Tea Fire that ravaged the community and burned 210 houses to the ground in November, 2008. The loss of her home included many historical documents belonging to the Club. The Club donated funding to and planted natives in Parma Park, damaged in the fire.

As the decade came to a close, Club members hosted a successful GCA Flower Show in 2010 at the El Presidio de Santa Bárbara. Local gardens also continued to enjoy support from the Garden Club. The Club contributed to the Botanic Garden in support of the exhibit, *The California Orchid Display*. The Club also donated plants and materials for the *Casa del Herrero* gardens and continued to propagate the boxwood hedge. The Lotusland Foundation received funds to help renovate the Australian Garden. The group, Art From Scrap, in support of their Green Schools Program, also received funds.

For their work in helping the club further its ability to go "digital," Mrs. James Arnesen (Debbie) and Mrs. James M. Taylor (Teri) were awarded the Mrs. O. Dudley Knight Award in 2010. Mrs. David Dvorak (Melissa) and Dr. Roberta Wingfield (Cricket) were also awarded the Mrs. O. Dudley Knight Award in 2010 for their Conservation Report. Dana Kent was given a Club Appreciation Commendation in 2010. Mrs. A. Stevens Halsted (Carole) was given a Club Horticulture

Achievement Commendation and Mrs. Gethin B. Hughes (Lenore) was given a Club Flower Arrangement Achievement Commendation.

2010 Onward

As the Club entered the second decade of the 2000s, it continued to thrive with enduring qualities that inspire its actively engaged membership. *Budding News* had become a popular and essential way to communicate between meetings. A Friendship/Tribute Fund enables the Club to honor those living or deceased. An updated notebook documents our members' gardens.

By the time Mrs. Willard "Bill" McEwen (Susanne) became President (2010–2012) she had already held many positions in the Club, in addition to having been awarded the Clem Award for Best in Show for Flower Arranging in 2000. She won a Special Club Award for the Flower Show in 2010, and as her tireless commitment to Club activities continued beyond her presidency, she was awarded the Club Appreciation Commendation in 2014.

During her tenure as President, funds were provided for Art from Scrap in support of the Green Schools Program, the Zoo for refurbishment of the Education Lawn Fountain, and to Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara for their vegetable garden. Funds were also provided to the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network for its vegetable garden, to the gardens of *Casa del Herrero*, *Lotusland*,

and the Museum of Natural History.

Susanne encouraged Club members to contribute time and funds to the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara by providing weekly flower arrangements created by members for display in the Center's front lobby and this tradition continues. Along with Natalie McFadden, Suzanne began a tradition of holding flower arranging workshops for patients currently undergoing chemotherapy. This creative and therapeutic two-hour workshop, given to appreciative patients by Susanne and now other members, continues to be held quarterly.

In 2011, the membership elected not to hold a judged flower show and instead held its own in-house Horticulture Show which featured plants from the one hundred best California All-Star list, as identified by the horticultural staff at UC Davis Arboretum. Many of these are California native plants and support native birds and insects.

The following year, Club members created twenty-two floral exhibits for *Art of the Arrangement*, a public event sponsored in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Ongoing are the Lady Buds, a small and enthusiastic group of volunteers organized by member Mrs. Nancy Read, who gather monthly to make flower arrangements for the homeless center, Casa Esperanza.

2012–2014 continued to be a very active period in the Club under the capable leadership of President Jane Buchanan. Two fundraisers, both sold-out events, featured prominent floral

designers and member-created boutique items. From the proceeds of these events, Project Chair Debbie Arnesen and her committee coordinated visits to several community sites. These included: Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden, the Green Schools Program, La Casa de Maria, *Lotusland*, *Casa del Herrero*, the Museum of Natural History, Elings Park, Habitat for Humanity, and the Santa Barbara Zoo.

Members staged another popular “Art of the Arrangement” Flower Show with stunning floral designs inspired by selected paintings at the Museum of Art in 2013.

A much needed redesign of the club website was accomplished by Teri Taylor, which garnered her the first Club Communications Commendation.

A highlight of summer travel for many GCSB members was a trip to Chicago planned by Visiting Gardens Chair, Mrs. Kenneth Coates (Betsy) and assisted by Mrs. John Robert Gardner (Dorothy). With visits to roof-top prairie gardens, museums, and private GCA member gardens, the trip was considered one of the best the Club has taken.

Celebrating the GCA's 100th Birthday

During the local Club's annual meeting in June 2013, members celebrated the 100th birthday of the GCA by dressing in various fashions dating back to 1913. Further Club recognition of the occasion included the planting of one

hundred sycamore trees from seeds taken from the 250-year-old Portola Sycamore in Carpinteria. The project had begun in 2008 under the guidance of Bobbie Kinnear. Horticulture committee members planted the trees in several restoration projects along creeks, the Carpinteria Bluffs and at El Capitan State Park.

As Jane Buchanan's presidency continued in 2014, program co-chairs, Mrs. William Hahn (Dani) and Mrs. Gary Tobey (Susanne), planned another outstanding year of program speakers. Club members were educated on the plight of the bees, herb gardening, sustainable landscape, and the urban forest. They received special Zone recognition for excellence in programming.

A beautiful and successful music-themed Flower Show, *Fascinating Rhythms*, was held in May at the Music Academy. One of the Club's talented artists, Kee Flynn, designed the program cover. At the Club's June annual meeting, the Mrs. O. Dudley Knight awards for exceptional contributions to the Club were given to Ways and Means chairs, Sue McKinley and Mary Alice Tudor, and Flower Show chairs, Bobbie Kinnear and Laura Kuhn.

Remembering Natalie McFadden

When Natalie McFadden passed away suddenly on December 13, 2013, the entire Club felt as if they had lost a dear friend. In her memory, President Jane Buchanan helped the Club organ-



Natalie McFadden, Mary Alice Tudor and Susan McKinley working on floral wreaths at the Harvest Brunch, 2013. Jane Buchanan photograph. GCSB Archives.



Garden Club members planting the Children's Centennial Maze at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. GCSB Archives.

ize a tribute to her which is now digitally stored in the Club archives. A beautiful flower arrangement created by members in her memory was placed on a table at the entrance of her memorial service.

In February 2014, Club member Mrs. William Hahn (Dani) was recognized as one of the Great Rosarians of the World. She and her husband founded Rose Story Farms on fifteen acres in the Carpinteria Valley in 1998. Today the farm cultivates 120 different rose varieties with some 25,000 bushes.

History of Projects in the GCSB

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara has been active in the community since its founding in 1916, supporting over 150 organizations, from planting victory gardens during World War I to awarding scholarships for botanical research, to providing resources for gardens at Girls Inc., the Zoo, the Botanic Garden, Music Academy of the West, *Casa del Herrero*, and *Lotusland* amongst numerous others. The Club provides support to nonprofit organizations in Santa Bar-

bara County in two ways: financially (approximately \$18,000 - \$25,000 per year) and through hands-on work. The Garden Club has a Projects Committee that accepts applications from Santa Barbara County organizations for projects that restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through programs and action in the fields of conservation, civic improvement and education. The Projects Committee reviews the applications, conducts site visits and then recommends projects to the Board of Directors and the general membership. Funds raised from Club events (speaker luncheons, holiday boutiques, home tours, etc.) as well as outright donations and memorials, go into the treasury to be used for various projects. Members also provide hands-on work for various endeavors suggested by the Horticulture, Flower Arranging, Conservation or Projects committees or by individual members.

“Digging in the dirt” work varies from year to year. The Club has pruned and fertilized the roses and laid irrigation systems on Santa Cruz Island, replanted a small garden at the Cancer Center, helped plant a Children’s Garden at the Zoo, landscaped the front gardens at Montecito Hall where visitors to the library or community meetings can enjoy them. The Horticulture Committee has propagated and planted boxwood hedges at *Casa del Herrero* to replace the ancient ones around the rose garden that the Club prunes each year. The Committee grew one hundred Por-

tola sycamore trees from seed which were planted at state and city parks and along creek beds throughout southern Santa Barbara County.

Mira Flores:

The Music Academy of the West

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara has had a long association with *Mira Flores*. When the Garden Club of America held its annual meeting in Santa Barbara in 1926, the delegates were entertained by the estate owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Percival Jefferson. The eighteen-acre site of *Mira Flores* was originally the Santa Barbara Country Club, forerunner of the Montecito Country Club. The clubhouse, designed by Francis Wilson and built in 1909, was partially destroyed by fire in 1912 and rebuilt in 1913. Four years later it was purchased by the Jeffersons who called upon Reginald D. Johnson, architect of the Santa Barbara Biltmore and the Post Office, to convert the large clubhouse into a Spanish Renaissance residence, subsequently christened *Mira Flores*, meaning “look at the flowers.”

In 1950, following the death of Mrs. Jefferson, the estate was left to her niece, who then sold it to Mrs. Jefferson’s long-time secretary. The following year, she gave *Mira Flores* in memory of the Jeffersons to the Music Academy of the West, which had been founded in 1949. The Music Academy did not have the funds to maintain the large property, so it deteriorated. Finances made it necessary to

sell eight acres on its western perimeter. By 1980 when the Garden Club was first showing an interest in the estate, the property had fallen further into disrepair.

In 1982, following severe winter storms that toppled many specimen trees and one huge eucalyptus, along with destroying the plantings around the building and patio, Adele Mairs made several proposals for projects at the Music Academy to the membership. The true turning point came in 1983, when three delegates from the GCSB attended the annual meeting of the Garden Club of America held in Houston. Upon learning what the clubs in Houston and elsewhere in the nation were doing in the field of historic restoration (out of 185 member clubs of the GCA, 135 had on-going projects of various kinds) an idea occurred; why not do something similar at the Music Academy of the West?

As mentioned earlier, finding members' houses to hold meetings was becoming more difficult. Members realized that, once restored, the Music Academy would have several rooms that would be suitable for meetings, fairs and luncheons.

Therefore, the Garden Club Board approached the Music Academy and proposed an exchange: restoration of the gardens in exchange for meeting space. The latter accepted and a loose arrangement was made. The idea was taken to the Club membership for a vote in 1984, and after much discussion the motion passed.

Numerous individuals, including many Garden Club members, have

made generous gifts which have benefited the Academy and its projects. With help from the Garden Club, the Music Academy's Garden Committee and its Women's Auxiliary have improved and preserved the gardens.

Projects which have been completed include new landscaping along the entrance and in front of the main building, the pool area, the patio, and the garden beside Lehmann Hall, as well as extensive tree and shrub pruning. When restoration was completed, there were few areas that had not been touched, and many were the result of contributions made by the Garden Club: the former Rose Garden has been transformed with grass and garden furniture as had the Don Quixote Garden and Secret Garden. Garden Club members also made donations to renovate a small garden with a Japanese stone lantern and many benches and ornamental planters.

Over time the gardens and grounds came to resemble the estate in its prime. As of 2016 it is a showcase. The Music Academy is an important part of the cultural life of Santa Barbara. Although the Garden Club of Santa Barbara has touched the community of Montecito in several ways, one of the most notable is the renovation of *Mira Flores*.

Casa del Herrero Foundation

Casa del Herrero is one of Montecito's most treasured historic estates which has remained virtually unchanged since its completion the night before the Santa Barbara earthquake on June 29th, 1925. It was built by Mr. and Mrs. George Fox



Steedman. (Carrie) The Steedmans moved to Santa Barbara permanently in 1930. The estate is a splendid example of a Spanish Colonial Revival residence surrounded by carefully planned grounds.

There is a series of small Moorish gardens designed as outdoor rooms, each one enclosed by hedges, trees, walls, and unusual plantings. The Herb Garden is one of those lovely surprises around the corner delighting those visitors who wander in. *Casa del Herrero* is a living museum, a treasured community resource, now run by a foundation. The Garden Club and its members have been involved with it from its inception as both Carrie Steedman and her daughter, Medora Bass, who later owned the property, were members of the GCSB.

In 1993, after much work was accomplished in the gardens, especially by a Club committee headed by Mrs. Palmer Jackson (Joan), who was often seen working there with her gardeners, the property was opened to the public. The committee received the Garden History & Design Zone Award in 2008 for its work in those early years at the *Casa*.

In keeping with part of the Club's mission, "to encourage historic preservation

The completed maze. It was designed by Garden Club member Lenore Hughes.

Reed Wright photograph. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

and to support civic beautification and planting," the Projects Committee and the Horticulture Committee completed the Herb Garden Project at the *Casa* - the first of many projects, beginning in 1995. The area was choked with weeds, miscellaneous shrubs and heavily rooted *Clivia*. Because there were no historical documents to show the original plans, two GCSB members, Mrs. Chapin Nolen (Cynthia) and Mrs. Stevens Halsted (Carole) volunteered to design the garden. The concept was to combine the ideas of the formal Moorish-style spaces with the re-creation of a kitchen herb garden that had been used by the Steedman family. Restoration of the lovely old pergola was part of this project along with a vegetable garden opposite the herb garden.

Cynthia Nolen and her husband, Chapin, have both been stalwarts of the *Casa* and the Santa Barbara community since they moved here in 1998. Cynthia served on the Garden Committee at the *Casa* for many years, and with the help of the gardeners there, she has maintained the Herb Garden since it was originally planted. A landscape designer, and originally a member of the Belford Garden Club in New York, she has served since her arrival in Santa Barbara on the Programs Committee of the GCSB. Many of the Club's most interesting speakers have been ones that she recommended and secured.

In 2009, *Casa del Herrero* gained National Historic Landmark designation. During all of these years, the Garden Club has had a huge part to play in its conservation and restoration while providing strong leadership. Board members, committee members and volunteer gardeners have helped maintain the property or raised funds to continue to conserve and improve it. Joan Jackson, Gail Kay and Susan Jackson have served as presidents of the Foundation board.

2016 Club Centennial Planning

Planning for the GCSB's 100th anniversary in 2016 began under Jane Buchanan's presidency with the establishment of three new ad-hoc committees: Long Range Planning, Archives, and Centennial-2016. Past presidents and current board members met to discuss the club's financial goals, while Archivist Gillian Couvillion accepted the task of collecting and researching materials



The Garden Club grew one hundred sycamore trees from seed for use in Santa Barbara County area parks. Here members prepare to plant a few at Gaviota State Park, March 2012. Cheryl Miller photograph. GCSB Archives.

from the archives along with Alice Van de Water who agreed to continue as Club Historian with the daunting goal of writing the club's one hundred-year history. Past President Monica Tucker and long-time active member Shirley Ann Hurley accepted the job of Centennial-2016 Co-Chairs. Following her presidency, Jane Buchanan joined them as a co-chair on this committee.

At the March 2014 general meeting, the Club voted to allocate substantial funding to three worthy projects as "gifts to the Santa Barbara community in honor of our Centennial." Two of the projects were at the Botanic Garden, where the Club had shared ninety years of history. The Centennial Children's Maze, designed by Lenore Hughes in the shape of a cloverleaf, uses *Baccharis pilularis*, (coyote bush) hedging and is the first of its kind in Santa Barbara. It will be the Botanic Garden's gateway component to an expanded family garden. The historic Wooded Dell garden, adjacent to the Lockwood de Forest/Campbell Bench and Trail, is planted with a diversity of native species. Subtle design elements in keeping with historic intent are meant to invite the visitor to pause and reflect on nature's horticultural richness. Both gardens were designed and implemented in collaboration with Botanic Garden Director, Dr. Steve Windhager; Horticulture Director, Betsy Collins; and Arborist, Bruce Reed, along with participatory GCSB Centennial committee members including Sharon Bradford, whose family foundation contributed to the planting costs. A large number of Club members joined

in the planting of the Children's Centennial Maze in December 2014.

The third project is the publication of the Club's one hundred-year history in the Santa Barbara Historical Museum's journal, *Noticias*. Historian Alice Van de Water had researched and written Club history for twelve years. To assist in the collection of living memories, the Centennial Committee hosted a luncheon for senior Club members to share favorite stories. Archivist Gillian Couvillion was a great support to Alice. Jane Buchanan helped them collect and choose photographs for the issue.

The presidency passed to Mrs. Stanley Shaw (Norma Jean) in June 2014. Interesting new programs were planned, including a wreath-making workshop, garden design with succulents, and a history of the architectural design of Grand Park in Los Angeles. A

favorite with members was "Tomatomania," a lecture and luncheon on the many ways to grow and enjoy tomatoes given by Scott Diagre. Another successful event provided funding for the Green Schools Program, re-named Explore Ecology, as well as projects at *Lotusland*, and the Santa Ynez Botanic Garden.

The Club received the Hope Award from the Santa Barbara Education Foundation for its continued support of the school gardens program. There were Conservation and Horticulture workshops and field trips, and a World Wildlife speaker on the preservation of our prairies. Joan Lentz talked to the Club about attracting birds to gardens. The "Texas Rose Rustler," Mike Shoup, taught Club members how to grow antique roses.

Following the 2015 annual meeting,

Past presidents of the GCSB gather at the annual meeting, 2015. Left to right: Ladeen Miller, Joan Jackson, Monica Tucker, Susanne McEwen, Bobbie Kinnear, Carole Halsted, Jane Buchanan, Dana Kent, Lou Greer Frost, Gail Kay, Norma Jean Shaw. Cheryl Miller photograph. GCSB Archives.





The Centennial Committee of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara. Back Row, left to right: Monica Tucker, Gillian Couvillion, Debbie Geremia; Second Row: Jocelyne Meeker, Norma Jean Shaw, Jane Buchanan; Third Row: Alice Van de Water, Shirley Ann Hurley, Carol Doane; Front Row: Lenore Hughes, Joan Jackson, Helen Haskell. Not pictured: Sharon Bradford, Carol Erickson, Susan Jackson, Diane Scalapino, Teri Taylor, Patty Weber. Margaret Prothero photograph. GCSB Archives.

members enjoyed a trip to Seattle with visits to GCA members' gardens. As 2015 came to a close, the Club hosted yet another successful speaker/luncheon fundraiser, "Home for the Holidays," in December. Deborah Lee Baldwin, who has written books on succulents, was the speaker. Co-Chairs Carol Newman and Susanne McEwen coordinated floral design workshops to engage members' creativity and teamwork. Talented artist Judeenne Warren designed the succulent-themed invitation.

In May 2016, members enjoyed a trip planned by Mrs. Charles Fairbanks (Sally) to the Hudson River Valley. The group stayed in Rhinebeck, New York,

where they visited several well-known estates and GCA members' gardens. A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Millbrook home and garden developed by Helen Thorne. That same month, Club members participated in "Art of the Arrangement" in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

Additional Planning for the Centennial

Three major Centennial events were planned for 2016, beginning with the January 4 general meeting at the Covarrubias Adobe at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. The Centen-

nial Committee hosted the program, "Stories From Our Past." A beautiful tea was held following adjournment. On April 4th, 2016, the general meeting was held at the Botanic Garden, where Club members celebrated the birthday with tours of the two Centennial garden projects and the Botanic Garden's newly constructed Conservation Center. Dr. Steve Windhager spoke about the joint histories of the two organizations and the importance of native plantings. Following the meeting, the Centennial Committee helped Lenore Hughes provide a beautiful luncheon for the membership. At the 100th annual meeting in June, Mrs. Gary Tobey (Susanne) became the 51st president of the GCSB and during that month the Club's centennial history in *Noticias* was distributed to members. The Club's Gala Centennial dinner will be held in the Loggia at the Biltmore Hotel on October 28, 2016 with members and invited guests. Dr. Eric Haskell, a favorite of the Club and nephew of member Helen Haskell, will speak on the "Future of Gardens."

In marking its centennial year, the Garden Club of Santa Barbara celebrates a history of fulfillment of its purpose, a "dedication to encouraging the knowledge and enjoyment of gardening, the art of flower design, the protection of our environment and native plants, the preservation of the historic and horticultural richness of our community, and the active support of our civic projects."

This heartfelt mission, as clear today as it was one hundred years ago, is bound in community friendships and partner-

ships. In so many ways, Club members have contributed to the health of the Club itself and the greater Santa Barbara community.

With sustaining principles of purpose, vibrancy of spirit, and commitment to community, the Garden Club of Santa Barbara looks forward to the next one hundred years and a promising future.

Appendix: Presidents of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara

- Mrs. James Mauran Rhodes 1916-1919
- Mrs. Edwin H. Sawyer 1919-1921
- Dr. A. Boyd Doremus 1921-1923
- Mrs. Ralph Isham 1923-1927
- Mrs. Lockwood de Forest, Jr. 1927-1928
- Mrs. Robert E. Easton 1928-1931
- Mrs. George L. Hamilton 1931-1932
- Mrs. George F. Steedman 1932-1934
- Mr. Thomas B. Johnson 1934-1936
- Mrs. Francis F. Lloyd 1936-1938
- Mrs. Sellar Bullard 1938-1940
- Mrs. David Turnure 1940-1942
- Mrs. Augustus B. Higginson 1942-1943
- Mrs. Peter Cooper Bryce 1943-1945
- Mrs. Augustus B. Higginson 1945-1947
- Mrs. Sellar Bullard 1947-1949
- Mrs. Edwin C. Welch 1949-1951
- Mrs. Francis V. Lloyd 1951-1953
- Mrs. Walter Clem 1953-1955
- Mrs. Logan T. McMenemy 1955-1957
- Mrs. Herbert W. Warden, Jr. 1957-1959
- Mrs. Harold F. Sheets 1959-1960

Mrs. Milton J. Geyman 1960-1962
 Mrs. Francis V. Lloyd 1962-1964
 Mrs. Charles A. Ott, Jr. 1964-1966
 Mrs. Natalie C. Bigelow 1966-1968
 Mrs. Horace Gray, Jr. 1968-1970
 Mrs. James A. Forsyth 1970-1972
 Mrs. Francis Price 1972-1974
 Mrs. Stephen Goodspeed 1974-1976
 Mrs. Forrest Tucker 1976-1978
 Mrs. Palmer Jackson 1978-1980
 Mrs. Stuart Taylor 1980-1981
 Mrs. Robert M. Jones 1982-1984
 Mrs. John H. Adams, Jr. 1984-1986
 Mrs. John D. Kronen 1986-1988
 Mrs. Robert W. Mairs 1988-1990
 Mrs. David Kent 1990-1992
 Mrs. Laurence Frost 1992-1994
 Mrs. Thomas J. Violich 1994-1996
 Mrs. William G. Myers 1996-1998
 Mrs. A Stevens Halsted 1998-2000
 Mrs. Stephen Miller 2000-2002
 Mrs. Eugene Glover 2002-2004
 Mrs. Jerome Kay 2004-2006
 Mrs. R. Bruce McFadden 2006-2008
 Mrs. John C. Kinnear, III 2008-2010
 Mrs. Willard McEwen, Jr. 2010-2012
 Mrs. David L. Buchanan 2012-2014
 Mrs. Stanley Shaw 2014-2016
 Mrs. Gary Tobey 2016-

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The archives of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara included minutes of meetings, correspondence, pamphlets, programs, and a number of Club histories written through the decades by the following: Judy Bartholmew, Jane Buchanan, Gillian Couvillion, Carol Doane, Mary Tonetti Dorra, Nancyann Failing, Gloria Forsyth, Grace Goodspeed, Mary Lee Morf, Dorothy Riley, Pat Shields, Judy Thielsher, Alice Van de Water, and Deanne Violich.

Interviews were conducted with Patricia Broom, Mary Tonetti Dorra, Helen Haskell, Joan Jackson, Marilyn Magid, and Monica Tucker.

The Santa Barbara Historical Museum

wishes to acknowledge the
generous financial support of

The **G**arden **Club**
of **S**anta **B**arbara

towards the publication of this issue of

Noticias



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Pgs: 1-64

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara:
A Centennial History