

**The Garden Club of Santa Barbara
Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Rosewood Miramar Hotel
June 3, 2019**

President: Anne Rhett Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:45.

Anne Rhett thanked Peggy Ittner and Ellen Pillsbury for organizing today's luncheon.

Thank you to those who arranged the centerpieces for today.

The minutes stand approved as distributed.

Mimi Owen and Mary Hampson made special remembrances to Esther Glover and Nancy Cudahy.

Jocelyne Meeker and Norma Jean Shaw introduced and welcomed the new provisional members; Louise Casey, Allyson Hayward, Nanette Nevins, Linda Phillips, and Leslie Schneiderman. Dan Bifano will be an honorary member.

Robin Martin and April Riessen will be sustaining and Sally Beckham and Dorothy Riley will be resigning.

Congratulations to Pat Tenney who was awarded second place in Botanical Arts at the GCA 2019 Annual Meeting Flower Show in Boston.

Treasurer: Alex Bongaerts reported: "as of today our checking account at Union Bank is \$134,277.87. Our Community Projects for 2019 have been funded in full. We are awaiting some final bills for our fabulous May Fundraiser; once those numbers have been finalized Anne Rhett and I will

meet to set the new Community Fund for next year. This fund is set aside solely for the purpose of supporting our Community Projects.

In general the Treasurer coordinates the inflow and outflow of monies. I coordinate Dues Collection; pay GCA their portion of our dues; work with Chairwomen of our various committees issuing checks as requested; reconcile our checking account; work with our accountant to submit tax returns; deposit monies and write letters to donors recognizing their tax-deductible contributions and work with our President to develop a budget.”

Corresponding Secretary: Vicki Hough reported: “Name tags and attendance sheets were brought to every General meeting. 68 emails were sent to GCSB members. They were for minutes and reminders of the General and Board meetings, and committee chairmen notifications to members. Five Paperless Post invitations were sent. 12 thank you notes were sent. 1 condolence note was sent. All email and Paperless Post contact lists were updated as needed. Additional stationary (notecards) with GCSB logo were ordered.”

Communication: Tina Wood reported: “Communications has been busy updating the GCSB website for iPhone compatibility and adding new tabs with our activities from the current year in addition to reorganizing some navigation for a more user friendly experience. We submitted three articles to the *GCA Bulletin* and the so far the first was published!

The Thomas Woltz event was covered in SB News Press; The Independent; Ed Hat, KCRW radio, and Noozhawk. The editor for SB Magazine attended our fabulous fundraiser at the Rosewood Miramar and had a wonderful time. We are excited to grow community awareness of our amazing club and its efforts!

Conservation: Anne Crowe reported for Susanne Tobey: “Primarily this year our committee has focused on familiarizing our members with the GCA position papers. We present a paper at each meeting and then tie the paper to something in the news, particularly trying to bring it to the local level. We have also worked to keep our members abreast of legislation in the works, as well as educating them on how to contact representatives on initiatives of interest. We write a Conservation Column each month for the Budding News to keep our members aware of national and local conservation issues. We had two members attend the GCA NAL conference in Washington D.C. (Norma Jean Shaw and Alice Van De Water). Anne Crowe is attending the GCA Conservation Conference in Louisville in September.

In the fall the committee attended the lecture of Dr. Susan Mazer from UCSB held at the SB Botanic Garden to learn about the California Phrenology department. Dr. Mazer was also a speaker at a general meeting to share this citizen science project. We partnered with the Santa Ynez Botanic Garden to plant the new pollinator garden.

We have just started to work on our end of year and next year initiative, Protecting Pollinators, in sync with GCAs current initiative. With our local botanic garden, we have developed a set of resources for members on choosing and maintaining native plants. We plan to involve our membership in creating monarch way stations by raising milkweed, and then moving that out to our community school gardens. We kicked this off with our May meeting topic, “It’s the Little things that count” detailing the importance of pollinators and the use of native plants. We be toured Lotusland’s insectary garden.”

Floral Design: Cheryl Miller reported: “This year’s goal was to instruct members in various styles of floral design and to pass along information from the workshops I have attended.

We had four workshops focusing on horizontal, modern mass and line design as well as a fun one to make holiday arrangements. These arrangements and design tips were then shared with the membership at our monthly meetings.

Two additional workshops were conducted to hone skills in the creation of botanical arts.

An in-house flower show was held at the April meeting with one Class in floral design and one in botanical arts. Dana Kent led the Horticulture class.

In October we made arrangements for the Fireman's Gala. In May we did arrangements at Rose Story Farm for the fundraiser, and this month members made designs using succulents and flowers for our Annual Meeting tables."

Garden History and Design: Teri Taylor reported for Sarah Heatwole: "This year The Garden History and Design Committee has been focused on creating an update to the Members' Gardens Album.

Thanks to the efforts of the committee, every garden club member who was not represented in the 2011 Album has been contacted. We plan to produce the new album this summer. I would like to thank all my Committee members who have helped photograph and collect descriptions.

Last November, grandson of landscape architect Peter Reidel presented to GCSB a collection of plans and photographs of garden designs dating from 1920-1950.

Our project next year will be to identify the current owners of those gardens which may still exist, and plan a garden walk.

This fall, the Zone XII chair of Garden History and Design will come to SB to present a workshop on the Smithsonian Archive of American Gardens. We have identified 2 Gardens we plan to present for consideration."

Horticulture: Amy Mayfield and Sharon Bradford reported: "Our primary activity and focus this year was the historical preservation and restoration of the Arizona Gardens at Casa Del Herrero. Our committee propagated materials from the garden, helped to identify areas to remove dead materials, repurposed plants to other areas of the garden, grouped like plants to form clear pathways and brainstormed to create a magical and contemplative space for others to enjoy. Casa Del Herrero had previously received grants from the Garden Club of Santa Barbara Civic Projects

Funds to assist in paying for new plant materials, gravel used for pathways and mulch, irrigation and some specialized labor.

In the fall, our committee had a few hands-on propagation days at the Casa using the prep house to replant succulents and aloes we later replanted in the Arizona Garden. Then in March we had a field trip to San Marcos Growers, where we ultimately purchased new plant materials used in the project. Randy Baldwin, General Manager, gave us a tour of the property including garden and we had an opportunity to see many of the species we purchased for the Arizona Garden.

Once all the plants arrived we placed them around the garden, including placed our propagated items. New items included: *Pedilanthus bracteatus*, *Yucca rostrata*, *Agave salmiana* green giant, *Agave angustifolia* 'Marginata', Mangave 'Mayan Queen', *Agave striata* 'East of Ramos', *Dracaena serrulata*, *Agave asperrima*, Aloe 'Orange Beauty', Mangave 'Bloodspot', *Euphorbia resinifera*, *Xanthorrhoea preissii*. Plus additional *Agave parryi*, *Agave franzosinii*, *Agave Victoria Reginae* and Golden Barrel cactus. Our propagation items included *Dasyliirion wheeleri*, *Gasteria* plus *agave attenuata*.

Our final event was a pop-up party to showcase the hard work of our committee to our members, friends and family. Prior to the event, we prepared the garden with our fine gardening skills clipping, removing debris and cleaning all the plants in the garden. We had a great turn out of guests including press people which generated coverage in the Santa Barbara Newspress and the Montecito Journal. A highlight from the existing garden was a bromeliad "Sapphire Tower" *Puya alpestris* in full bloom as it happens every 7 years."

Hospitality: Peggy Ittner and Ellen Pillsbury reported: "We had a busy, fun year. Our Fall September cocktail party for the membership was held at Susie Bechtel's lovely house and garden. Starting in October through May, our committee planned and provided food and beverages for each meeting. There were two specialty luncheons, a box lunch at The Music Academy following our November meeting, and a luncheon at The Little Town Club following our February meeting.

In June our Annual Luncheon and Meeting was held at The Rosewood Miramar Beach.

Our goal remains to make Hospitality a hallmark of our Garden Club meetings and events.”

Programs: Mari Mitchel and Carol Newman reported: “The Program Committee arranged nine meetings from October through May and a special community program with renowned landscape designer Thomas Woltz in March. Outside speakers included The Nature Conservancy’s Oceans Program Director Michael Bell, President of the California Botanical Society and UCSB Professor Dr. Susan Mazer, lifestyle guru and author Frances Schultz, Assistant Academics Dean of UCSB’s Bren School Satie Airamé, and Corey Welles, Lotusland’s Plant Health Care Coordinator. We also arranged two programs featuring the talents of our members: Celebrate our Bounty and an informal flower show. Our holiday outreach program featured flower arranging for VNH and adopting families through CALM. We coordinated with a variety of venues: the Maritime Museum, Music Academy, Covenant Church, Direct Relief, Historical Museum, Cate School, Lotusland and Westmont College. Two open meetings were held—Celebrate our Bounty in November and with Frances Schultz in February.”

Projects: Sally Fairbanks reported: “The Projects Committee met several times throughout the year to discuss grant proposals, eligibility criteria, timelines and grant amounts. We decided that we would extend the proposal deadline to February 1st of each year instead of January 15th which has been too early for some organizations to submit their proposals. We had \$47,000 in our Community account.

The Committee considers proposals in line with GCA’s Purpose: to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of Conservation and Civic improvement.

We had scheduled site visits which unfortunately did not occur because of rain and academic scheduling.

We received 5 new grant proposals that were submitted and reviewed and two grants that had been pledged and approved before this year. These were presented at our March General Meeting and funded the following amounts after voting at our April General Meeting:

1. \$4,980 to the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration for their Grassland Wildflower Restoration Project.
2. \$1,000 to the Santa Ynez Botanic Garden
3. \$2,500 to the Casa del hereto restoration of the Arizona Garden
4. \$12,500 to Explore Ecology School Gardens Program
5. \$2,500 to the Music Academy of the West for the Rejuvenation of the pergola in Ann's Garden
6. \$8,746 to the Completion of the Mission Olive Grove project
7. \$12,500 for the 2nd half of our 2-year commitment to the Museum of Natural History

The total amount granted was \$44,726.00”

Visiting Gardens: Mary Hampson reported: “This has been a fun year for Visiting Garden...starting with the quintessential garden visit of all times at Susie Bechtel's. Additionally, Members kindly hosted garden visits and lunch after several of our meetings; starting with my house, then Jocelyne Meeker's and Sue McKinley's. Our trip to Palm Desert was full of camaraderie, fun and fantastic venues. Members from 3 GCA clubs visited Santa Barbara, plus we hosted the annual meeting for the 12 Visiting Gardens Zone chairmen.

Looking ahead, there will be a day trip in October to visit gardens in West Los Angeles. Plus Anne Rhett and I bonded with 3 Birmingham AL GIRLS at the Annual meeting and we will be visiting Birmingham and Atlanta in April/May of next year.”

Ways and Means: Betsy Coates and Meghan Stoll reported: “The Ways and Means Committee worked diligently for many months to plan The Garden Club of Santa Barbara's 2019 fundraising event, *The Garden Club of Santa Barbara Entertains with Charlotte Moss*. The event was held on Tuesday, May 7 at the Rosewood Miramar Beach and included ten tablescape designed by teams of members, which were inspired by ten of our club's civic projects. Charlotte Moss, noted designer, author, tastemaker and philanthropist was our speaker. The ticket price for the

event was \$150 and completely sold out within two weeks of invitations being mailed. The profit raised from this event was well over \$60,000.

To help underwrite costs for the event and, with the unanimous approval of the club's Board of Directors, a patron letter was sent out on February 4, 2019 to all members asking for donations. The letter resulted in \$20,650 being raised by 79 out of the club's 127 members. A detailed breakdown of costs will be added to this report once all final accounting has been completed."

Old Business/New Business: None

Announcements:

Awards and Recognition:

Anne Rhett thanked the Executive Committee for their help with awards during the recuperation of Awards' chair and 1st Vice President, Mary Thomas.

Five members received the Mrs O. Dudley Knight Award, a Garden Club of Santa Barbara Award given to members who made extraordinary contributions to the club during the last year. The recipients were:

Mrs. Kenneth Coates

Mrs. Glen H Mitchel, III

Mrs. Stephen Newman

Mrs. Robert Stoll

Mrs Neil A. Wood

The President also recognized three members with the following commendations:

The "Kilroy commendation" to Mrs. Jon Henricks for participation and enthusiasm in all club activities

The "Xenia commendation" (Ancient Greek concept of hospitality, generosity and courtesy) to Mrs. Riley P. Bechtel

The “Caruso commendation” to Mrs. Willard McEwen, Jr. for her 7 year plus perseverance with the city of Santa Barbara to restore the Memorial Olive Grove.

Past presidents were recognized and honored with new gold name badges.

Anne Rhett wished everyone a Happy Summer and reminded members to keep “Gardening God’s Way”!

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kelly

Recording Secretary