

NEWS LEAF

Club de Jardinería de San Miguel de Allende

December 2010



December Meeting Review

Hacienda La Lejona, at the end of the old stone road off the Celaya highway which runs past the new developments of El Encanto and El Secreto, was the breathtakingly beautiful venue of our November business meeting.

Handwrought iron gates with fanciful scroll patterns frame the entry to the Hacienda, a completely refurbished and updated 17th century property. It includes a lovely chapel, in addition to luxurious and well-appointed living rooms, salas, a dining room which can seat at least 20 -- and several beautifully decorated





bedrooms with adjoining marble baths. An interior courtyard with a six-foot tall arrangement of huge yellow, orange and gold flowers atop its central fountain greeted guests on arrival. The house and courtyard are surrounded by very tall, venerable trees, interspaced with areas of natural indigenous plantings as well as a series of jewel-like lawns, formal flower beds and -- hidden behind hedges and stone walkways, a large swimming pool, guest house and loggia.

The meeting was called to order by President Frannie Benner, who thanked Sally Gibson and for her organization of today's beautiful meeting site of La Hacienda. She asked Faye Guidry to comment on some facts about La Hacienda. Faye reported that the original 17th family are unknown to us, but that in contemporary times it has had several owners and once belonged to members of the Levi Strauss family. The Hacienda's refurbishment, remodeling and decorating was done by a team of local top interior designers including Bobbie Topp and with artwork commissioned from San Miguel artist Mary Breneman and other well-known artists. The current owners of the Hacienda, the Skinner family, have donated its

use in the past for several prominent San Miguel charity fundraising events.

Minutes of the October meeting were read by Secretary Carolyn Grant and approved. Treasurer Jeanne Humphrey reported the sum of \$115,550 pesos in all Club accounts. Lea Rege-Romo and Bunny Serlin reported on end of year Ways and Means activities for Chair Donne Geck, who was away. Bunny suggested publishing a list of where calendars are sold around town and these locations could be posted in the News Leaf for people wanting calendars as year end gifts. (See Bulletin Board below in News Leaf for this list).

New Business:

President Frannie then asked for the report of the 2011 Nominating Committee:

The Slate of Officers for 2011 is:

President: Frannie Benner

Vice President: Carolyn Grant

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Heydlauff

Recording Secretary: Lea Rege-Romo

Treasurer: Barbara Flynn

The slate, proposed by Maureen van Dine and seconded by Judy McKay, was unanimously elected. The votes of acceptance were followed by enthusiastic applause of the membership.



The President then asked for a report from the Admissions Committee for candidates for Garden Club membership 2011-12:

Leslie von Jaeger, chair of the Admissions Committee thanked her team, Barbara Flynn, Judy McKay and advisor Jeanne Depperschmidt for their assistance. She then circulated the slate of candidates for membership, read the slate aloud, and the proposed candidates were unanimously elected to membership, followed by much applause. New members will begin their Provisional year at the January meeting. *Bienvenidos* to:

Jean Ann Cole, Elizabeth Anne (Liz) Dieta, Jacqueline Farrington, Susan Haase, Karen Livingston, Jeanne Mills Janet Quinn, Joey Santori, Patricia Singer, Mary Sullivan.

President Frannie commented that we are indeed fortunate to have so many interested and well qualified new members coming into the Club. More about the Provisionals and their back-



grounds will be published in the January issue of News Leaf. Their contact information will be listed in the 2011 Directory.

In response to a question regarding requirements of membership and dropping members who did not meet the minimum requirements which include timely payment of dues, attendance at 5 meetings per year (6 for Provisional members) and contributing to meeting refreshments (twice per year for general members and three times for Provisionals), President Frannie reported that the Membership Committee would be reviewing member's status in question on a case-by-case basis and would take action unless extenuating circumstances deemed otherwise.



President Frannie then reluctantly noted the resignation of Garden Club member Camie Sands, submitted last month. She then called on Jeananne Mitchell to stand and take a bow for her longtime membership in the Garden Club and her work on its behalf for so many years. Frannie presented Jeanne with a lovely orchid plant as a remembrance. Jeananne is resigning from the Club but hopefully will be back for special meetings of particular interest. (Indeed the President reminds us that all former Garden Club members are welcome guests and are encouraged to attend meetings of their choosing.)



Jeananne accepted the orchid plant and held it aloft, claiming it was her “first ever!” Amid much applause, her picture was then taken. Jeananne, by the way, promises to keep in touch with us via an article now and then about “the olden days” of the Garden Club, when it was so very different in its focus and rules and regulations – and we all look forward to hearing these reminiscences from her.

Old Business:

Tree Fund Committee chair Jeanne Schnakenberg reported on the visit of President Frannie, Vice President Barbara Flynn and Secretary Carolyn Grant, to the Francisco Villa Community Center where contributions to the Garden Club Tree Fund have resulted in the planting of twenty-five trees and numerous jacaranda vines. The Community Center is located in a rural, poor colonia on the outskirts of San Miguel. The Memorial Garden at the Center is in memory of the mother of San Miguel resident, Joseph Kent. The Garden Club has been pleased to work in collaboration with Mr. Kent on the creation of this garden. President Frannie expressed the hope that a future meeting/visit by the Club will be possible sometime next year.

The Gardener’s Class in Spanish, was held on November 24 at La Hacienda de la Flores. Thirty-five signed up for this sixth and final class of the 2010 year. The Gardener’s Classes cover a variety of topics from soil amendment to the use of indigenous plants. In addition, in line with Garden Club members’ interests, there is now new emphasis on organic gardening practices.

Directory: Jeanne Schnakenberg, who has kindly consented to again put together the 2011 Directory of Members, passed around a list of members and contact information to be checked off and /or corrected by



members present at the Meeting. By unanimous vote it was decided that the new Directory need not be completed for distribution until February's general meeting, thereby allowing enough time to enter all Provisional members' pertinent information --as well as any last minute changes.

Questionnaire: President Frannie reminded members that the Garden Club questionnaire was due to be handed in by November 30. Thirteen (13) members have so far handed in their completed questionnaire, and Fran- nie thanked all who have taken the time to add their thoughts to improving Garden Club goals and activities. After the first of the year she will be meeting with a re- view committee consisting of Chris Kocourek and Jane Sallis to compile a report from Questionnaire responses.



Holiday Party:

Chair Joy Price thanked her committee consisting of Diana Heydlauff, Elaine Weisman and Sally Richman for their organizational help in arranging the Holiday Party at the La Puertacita Hotel on December 5. Approximately 70 members and guests attended this very festive and enjoyable event. A full report and photos will be in the January Newsleaf.

Dues:

Dues of \$75 are due and payable now to the Treasurer. Checks (no cash) should be made out to Jeanne Edmundson Humphrey, and left in her mailbox at Border Crossings, Box 139-A. All dues must be turned in no later than January 15.

Adjournment:

President Frannie adjourned the meeting and turned it over to Program Chair, Sally Gibson, who then introduced special guest Victor Herrera, the "Orchid Doctor". Victor cares for the gardens at La Orquida, the former orchid gardens of the late Stirling Dickinson. Victor, with past GC President Leigh Gersnoviez acting as interpreter, took questions and answered them about the types of orchids which grow well in San Miguel and the conditions of sunlight, shade and soil, feeding/watering necessary for various types of orchids. He illustrated this very interesting discussion by showing several orchids which he had brought along to show the membership. Victor, the "Orchid Doctor," makes



house calls for ailing orchids, and also tends orchids for vacationing gardeners. He invited members to visit La Orquida which has 200 species of orchid, and is located on Santo Domingo. Visiting hours : Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm. (The orchids at La Orquida are not for sale but he encourages visitors to come and to learn more about orchids). For those wishing help with their existing orchid plants, or to set up a group visit to the Orchid Gardens at a time when the orchids themselves are looking their best, Victor's cell phone is 044-415-113-0254 and his home phone is 154-0047.

Refreshments were then the order of the day in the magnificent dining room of La Hacienda, after which many members toured the home and gardens.



NEXT BOARD MEETING

There is no December Board meeting.

The January Board Meeting will be a joint meeting of the 2010 officers and committee chairwomen and the 2011 officers and committee chairwomen and will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18th at 11:00 AM at the Hotel Real de Minas (lobby area). Following the business meeting, President Frannie asks that "the old and the new" Board members and Committee chairs get together to exchange information and ask/answer questions.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting of the Garden Club will be Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 11 a.m. Our January meeting is always our Annual Membership Meeting/ "Changing of the Guard", when the new officers are installed and new Provisional members are introduced. At the same time officers and committee chairs are requested to hand in their reports/ notebooks on the past year's activities for the Club records/archives. January's meeting will be held at The Mezzanine Bistro, on Cuna de Allende. Lunch will follow (230 pesos). In addition, at this meeting, the 2010 Garden Club Exceptional Service Award will be presented.

Note: Reminders of these meetings, which are always the 3rd Tuesday of the month for Board meetings and the 4th Tuesday for General Membership, will be emailed to the membership.

CONTACTS

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All submissions are welcome and subject to editing. All Leaf submissions should be mailed to Judy no later than the third of each month. Please direct all photos to Linda Whynman and copy to Judy McKay

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