



marin
art &
garden
center

January

2011

MAGC Happenings

PROMOTING THE ARTS, HORTICULTURE,
HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



in this issue

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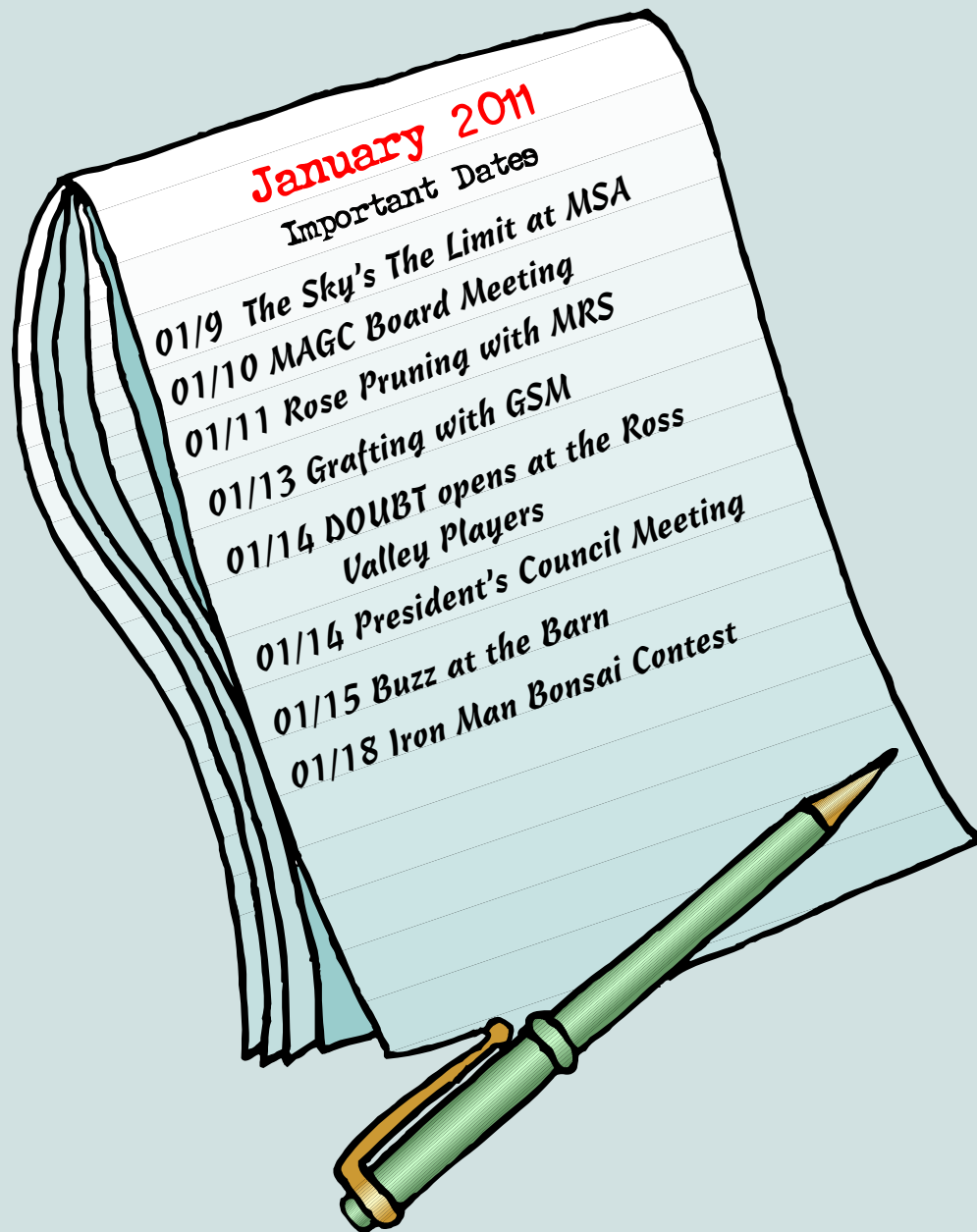
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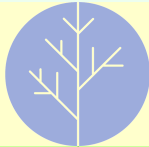
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The MAGC Happenings is an electronic publication of the
Marin Art and Garden Center's
President's Council



From the MAGC Board President's Desk



Happy Holidays From
The President's Desk



I would like to thank all the people that have supported us this year and hopefully will continue to do so.

Thank you again to our terrific Program Partner's who all these years have contributed generously with membership and donations.

A Big Thank you to our MAGC Board for their hard work and donations and to our IED Rozanne Junker.

Thank you to our Office Staff Ana Mayfair, Lauren Duncan, Bruce Richmond, and Angela.

A Special Thank you to those who have supported me this year as President it has been quite a ride. I will be stepping down as President. My commitment was for one year during the transition.

We have come close to balancing the budget and have sent out our annual appeal and are grateful to all off you that have donated and have helped us carry on with our Mission.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy
New Year!

Cheers,
Bobbie



Horticulture / Environment / Conservation

GARDEN SOCIETY OF MARIN

Contact: Pat Miller
Email: tampamjem@aol.com
Location: Livermore Room*
January 13, 2011 at 7:30 pm
GENERAL MEETING



Our guest speaker will be **Steve Hewett**. Steve will be talking about Grafting

The Garden Society of Marin, a founding member of the Marin Art and Garden Center, has made a history of making gardening enjoyable and interesting. We promote good gardening practices and enrich the botanical knowledge of our members through activities and presentations by gardening and conservation professionals. Our monthly newsletter provides up-to-date information, references and interesting articles while our web site supports all these activities by providing valuable links to a wide-range of gardening resources.

Please visit our website at: www.gardensocietyofmarin.org for more information about our club, our history and forthcoming events.

MARIN BONSAI CLUB

Contact: Alison Seaman
Email: alisonseaman@sbcglobal.net
Location: Livermore Room*
January 4, 2011 7:00 pm
MONTHLY WORKSHOP
Bring your tree in and work on it with **Tim Kong** and **Jay McDonald**. Fee is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

January 18, 2011 7:30 pm
MONTHLY MEETING

Our 2nd annual Iron Man Bonsai contest between Marin Bonsai Club and Redwood Empire Bonsai Society. Three teams from each club will compete. Contact **Candace Key (415) 491-1989** if you want to help out.

February 1, 2011 7:00 pm
REPOTTING WORKSHOP

Bring your tree in and work on it with **Tim Kong** and **Jay McDonald**. Fee is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

For over 50 years, members of the Marin Bonsai Club have been practicing the ancient art of "tree in a pot", which is what bonsai means in Japanese.



Please visit our website at: www.marinbonsai.org for more information about our club, our history and forthcoming events.

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

Contact: Bob Battersby
Email: therealpresidentscouncil@hotmail.com
Location: Livermore Room*
January 14, 2011 at 1:30 pm
GENERAL MEETING

Horticulture / Environment / Conservation

MARIN ROSE SOCIETY

Contact: Don Chapman

Email:

chapman.don@comcast.net

Location: Livermore Room*

January 11, 2011 at 7:30 pm

JOIN US FOR A HANDS-ON PROGRAM ON HOW TO PRUNE YOUR ROSES!

The Marin Rose Society developed and maintains a beautiful rose garden at the Center with over 150 varieties of roses, all grown organically, without the use of pesticides. The group holds monthly informational meetings and various special events that are open to the public at MAGC.

MASTER GARDENERS

**Marin Master Gardeners
Kathryn Reinhardt,**

kathryngardens@sbcglobal.net
or Linda Thompson,
elleyp@yahoo.com

Location: Livermore Room*

You can learn more about the Marin Master Gardener programs by visiting:

<http://groups.ucanr.org/MarinMG/>

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener and taking the 18-week certification program through the University of California Cooperative Extension applications are available online (www.marinmg.org) in July and August.



MARIN GARDEN CLUB

Started in 1931, the Marin Garden Club was a founding member of MAGC. The group promotes inter-

est in gardens and gardening by engaging in educational activities that encourage the conservation of the natural beauties of Marin County.

The Memory Garden at MAGC is maintained by The Marin Garden Club. They annually award the **Gwen Cooper** Scholarship to a high school senior from Marin County for the study of horticulture, landscaping, and/or conservation. The scholarship was named in honor of Gwen Cooper who lived in Marin County for over 50 years. She was a life-long learner and educator who founded the award to inspire students to pursue further education in horticulture, conservation or environmental studies. The number of awards and amount of the scholarship varies year to year with a minimum award of \$1,000.

Marin Society of Artists volunteers Jim and Karen Brainerd help decorate the White House for Christmas.

In their own words...

"We were invited as volunteers to decorate the White House!!! An e-mail message came in October from the Social Secretary. We accepted the invitation and made travel arrangements. The day after Thanksgiving we arrived at the Northeast Entrance along with 96 other volunteers from different states. We were then taken to a large warehouse. For two days we wired ornaments and made artificial garlands then packed and labeled the decorations for each room in the White House.

On Sunday we gathered at the White House. It was such a moving moment as we walked up the driveway and entered the Visitor's Reception Hall. The Chief of Staff greeted us. We were reminded that the White House is a museum and we were told what our restrictions were and what was off limits.

Jim and I, along with 4 other volunteers were assigned to the Lower Cross Hall. This hall is a thoroughfare for everyone coming to or leaving the building. The project was to wrap eucalyptus garlands around arches - 3 arches each with 4 posts and a top with a circle in it. The chande-



liers had been removed from the room as they are antiques purchased in France by Jacqueline Kennedy. We then wired white poinsettia flowers to the top of the arches and additional flower groupings were added to each post. It was beautiful and the scent was lovely!

We were able to see Bo the White House dog quite often. He is adorable and trained not to greet strangers. He has his own Secret Service Agent! To Jim's delight, he was able to pet him a few times.

The days and hours passed quickly and on November 30 around 2:00 pm everything was done.

December 1 was a SPECIAL DAY! Mrs. Obama invited us to an Open House from 4 to 6 pm. The weather was awful! It was very windy and pouring rain. Around noon the storm blew away and we traded our work clothes for our party clothes. We were ready. Oops! Where was Jim's tie? No tie! Thank goodness for the hotel manager, he saved the day.

The party was just fabulous! There was the Marine Corps Jazz Band, the men's a cappella choir from Princeton, Santa Claus and buffet tables brimming with wonderful delicacies. We had our full plates and drinks and enjoyed our meals in the beautiful Green Room. We will cherish the wonderful time we had in DC!" Karen Brainerd

Arts

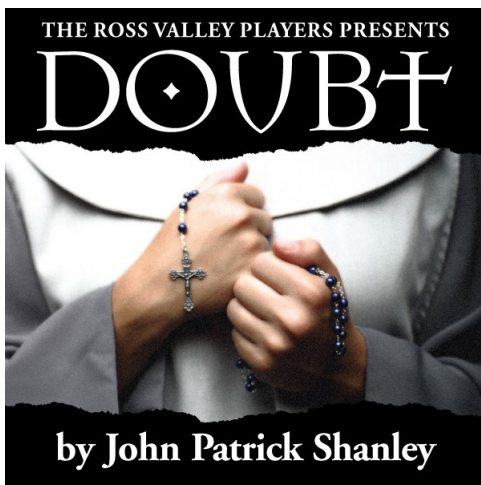
ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS

Contact: Tinka Ross
tinkar@rossvalleyplayers.com
Telephone: (415)-456-9555
Website www.rossvalleyplayers.com



Reputed to be the oldest community theater group west of the Rockies, Ross Valley Players presents six full-length productions a year, running for 30 weeks. The shows are typically a mix of drama, romance, comedy, and sometimes a musical.

The Ross Valley Players starts their 2011 season with....



Doubt

By: **John Patrick Shanley**

With themes still relevant today, John Patrick Shanley's award-winning play is set in 1964 at Catholic church and school in the Bronx, New York where a popular priest's relationship with a troubled 12-year old black student is questioned by the school's principal. This 2004 Broad-

way hit earned both the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play.

Directed by **Cris Cassell**

WHEN: Jan. 14 to Feb. 13, 2011
8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Jan. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 Feb. 4, 5, 11 & 12.
2 p.m. Sundays - Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 6 & 13.
7:30 p.m. Thursdays - Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 & 10
"Pay What You Will Preview" on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011
No matinee on the first Sunday.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Buzz at the Barn - 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011
Buzz at the Barn is pre-performance reception event, featuring complimentary beverages and appetizers included with performance admission.

WHERE: The Ross Valley Players Barn Theatre, Marin Art & Garden Center
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. at Lagunitas, Ross, CA.

COST: General: \$25; Senior (62+): \$20; Youth: (18 and under): \$20.
Thursday shows are \$15 for everyone (no additional discounts apply)

"Pay What You Will Preview" 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011

TICKETS: Order online through www.brownpapertickets.com; by telephone 1-800-838-3006; or purchase at the door.

PHONE: (415)-456-9555

WEBSITE: www.rossvalleyplayers.com

CAST: Sister Aloysius Beauvier - **Chris Macomber** of Oakland
Father Brendan Flynn - **Jamie Dawson** of Pt. Reyes Station
Sister James - **Shannon O'Neill Creighton** of San Anselmo
Mrs. Muller - **Clara Kamunde** of Oakland

THE ROSS VALLEY PLAYERS 2010-2011 SEASON

Mini - Season
Holiday Gift Idea

DOUBT Jan 14 - Feb 13, 2011
QUILTERS March 18 - April 17, 2011
RABBIT HOLE May 13 - June 12, 2011
TABLE MANNERS July 15 - Aug 14, 2011



Click [this image](#) to buy on-line.

The rather lengthy text on pages 7 and 8 is from a presentation by Gary Scales and Bob Battersby at the November 2010 MAGC President's Council meeting. It questioned the validity of make up of the MAGC Board and their actions. Take a few minutes to go through it. It affects all of us who are members of Program Partner organizations. It also stresses the need for and recommends a cohesive organization of Program Partners who can help and support each other.

Arts

PORCHLIGHT THEATER COMPANY

Porchlight Theatre Company

Core Artistic Directors: Ann Brebner, Candace Brown, Jon Burnett, Rebecca Castelli, Thais Harris, JP Hitesman, Mary Beth Smith (Managing Director), Ken Sonkin

Telephone: (415) 251-1027

E-mail: info@porchlight.net

Website: www.porchlight.net

PO Box 437 Ross, CA 94957

Porchlight Theatre Company is an ensemble inspired by world literature, nature and the human experience. We explore the power of theatre to educate, unite and ignite positive social change.

LAUREL HOUSE GROUP

Contact: Lois McLean

Phone: (415) 461-9012

Email:

loisamclean@comcast.net

Location: Laurel House and Livermore Pavilion

Laurel House Antiques offers quality consignments on items such as jewelry, furniture, lamps, artwork, figurines, Asian antiques and gifts for any occasion. With our unique selection of china, silver, and crystal, you are sure to find the perfect addition to your holiday table.



Laurel House Antiques offers quality consignments on items such as jewelry, furniture, lamps, artwork, figurines, Asian antiques and gifts for any occasion. Remember, the first of the

month always has 1/2 OFF selected items in the shop with fantastic surprises and discounted items featured!

Laurel House will be closed on December 24 and will reopen on Monday, January 3. No Consignments will be taken on that day.

Our Annual Member Meeting and Tea will be held on January 12th at 1:30 pm in the Livermore Pavilion.

Laurel House Antiques is a project of The Northgate Group whose objective is to provide support for the Marin Art and Garden Center.

Consignments are accepted Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shop Hours:

Monday & Thursday 10-3

Tuesday & Wednesday 11-4

Friday & Saturday 11-4

DECORATIONS GUILD

DECORATIONS GUILD

Telephone (415) 454-5720

Lorraine Slocam, President

Telephone (415)-898-7141

Famous for its handmade fur teddy bears, the Decorations Guild, a volunteer organization, operated a gift shop displaying its own uniquely designed bouquets, arrangements, tree plaques and wreaths made of natural materials. Time, termites and old age finally took their toll on the building that housed the guild and the repairs needed to keep their workshop safe and secure well exceeded their ability to make the repairs. A Marin Art and Garden Center founder,

the Decorations Guild will be sorely missed.

MARIN SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

Gallery Director: Jo Smith

Phone: (415) 454-9561

Contacts: Jane Liston

janeliston@msn.com

Marcia Higgins

mhiggins14@aol.com

Hours: Mon-Thurs 11 am-4pm, weekends, Noon to 4 pm, **CLOSED FRIDAYS.**

Marin Society of Artists is a non-profit association with over 450 members who are dedicated to creating and displaying arts and crafts of the highest quality. Our gallery, located in the Marin Art and Garden Center, offers a new show every month featuring contemporary and traditional fine arts and fine crafts. Works on display include paintings, sculpture, fiber art, ceramics, photography, jewelry, wood, and other media.



The philosophy of the Marin Society of Artists (MSA) is to encourage an appreciation of the visual arts. Along with works of art for sale, MSA has one of the finest art rental galleries in Northern California.

The MSA Gallery will be closed from December 13th through January 2nd. We will be painting the interior and sprucing up the gallery during that time as well as taking our annual inventory.



Our first show of the year will be "Sky's the Limit"-- January 9th thru the 30th.



Arts and History

Following that is our "Open Craft and Sculpture Show"--February 6th thru the 27th.

We are pleased to announce that our gallery will be hosting the California Watercolor Society's Annual Show in September, 2011.

See www.tfaoi.com/aa/3aa/3aa50.htm

It has been held at the San Francisco's Presidio in the past, but due to the refurbishing of the Officers Club, they have asked to have their prestigious show at our gallery. This will bring in lots of new people in from all over the state.

We are looking forward to this opportunity to show off our beautiful Marin Art and Garden Center.

MOYA LIBRARY/ ROSS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Contact: Alanna Brady
aj.brady@yahoo.com
or Richard Torney
rgtorney@aol.com
Phone: 258-9595
Email:
moya.rhs@gmail.com
Location: Livermore
Pavilion***



Moya/RHS has closed for the winter season and will re-start their lecture series the first Friday in March 2011

Staffed by docents, the Moya Library is open for research Wednesday thru Friday (11:30 am to 3:00pm) and

Saturdays (1 to 4pm) from March 1st to the end of December. Visitors are welcome to browse both the library and historical collections.

The Moya Library/Ross Historical Society still has several copies of **ROSS, CALIFORNIA - THE PEOPLE, THE PLACES, THE HISTORY.**

This fine hardbound book is for sale at \$40. Contact the library at (415)-258-9595 or the MAGC office.

The Way It Was

The Moya Library/Ross Historical Society ably assisted by the members of the President's Council, the Council organizations and the public will soon be starting on a new and exciting project.

The History of the Marin Art and Garden Center

Long a part of the Marin County community, the Center has never had a written history. We will be conducting interviews, searching old records and collecting old photographs and bits and pieces of ephemera that can be copied and made part of a visual history of the Center.

Everyone can help. If you have old photographs, pictures, programs, posters, anecdotes or memories that you would like

to share or if you just want to help,

Contact Bob Battersby at (415) 383-2946

or therealpresidentscouncil@hotmail.com

Opening Remarks by Gary Scales Spokesperson for Moya/RHS

I was perplexed when I received the invitation for the MAGC Birthday party. Not because I didn't think that honoring 65 years was a bad idea. But I was confused when a read that we were honoring the founders "for making the gift of MAGC."

I went to the Moya Library and read from an oral history that was recorded in 1974 about the Beginnings of the Marin Art & Garden Center. Gladys Smith, Helen Moya and Judge Jordan Martinelli were reminiscing about the creation of the Center.

Gladys Smith tells of a meeting to further the idea of making the Kittle property into an Art and Garden Center. Jose Moya del Pino was at the meeting, along with Caroline Livermore. This core then asked other groups to join their efforts. These included, The Ross Valley Players, Marin Society of Artists, The Music Chest, The Marin Conservation League, The Garden Club of Marin and the Garden Society of Marin. All the presidents of these groups attended a meeting at Gladys Smith's house in Ross and they formed MAGC before they owned the property! Gladys was the secretary, Jose Moya the vice president, and Caroline Livermore the president.

"So Caroline Livermore said, " Well, if we are in earnest, if this group will support me, I will go and put up a deposit of \$5,000 on the land and then sign a note for the \$20,000, which she did and we were on our way and started to have little enterprises here on the Center to earn our way and it was very difficult. But, we eventually paid Mrs. Caroline Livermore the \$5,000 deposit and paid the remaining \$20,000, all by our little efforts here on the Center grounds.

So this sounds to me that the

groups, throughout the following years, through their own efforts and contributions were the ones that paid for and supported the creation of the Marin Art & Garden Center. And these are the groups that truly constitute the Marin Art & Garden Center today.

Opening Remarks by Bob Battersby – President of the Garden Society of Marin

I have often used apathetic to describe the organizations (on a whole) in MAGC. The Garden Society Board exemplified apathy which the dictionary describes as *the lack of interest in or concern for things that others find moving or exciting*. They had no concern about what the other groups in the center were doing and cared only about their 'thing.' Thankfully, they are slowly changing.

Isolation like that in a community this small is harmful to the community as a whole. Part of that feeling of isolation is the fact that is that we are all doing different things; some akin to others as garden related activities and some totally unrelated as in art, theater, history, crafts and antiques.

Taking the first step towards eliminating any feelings of isolation or apathy easily correctible by:

- Reaching out and getting to know your other Program Partners and finding out what they do and why.
- Attending each others meetings, joining a second group, inviting other presidents to your Boards, etc. You may find that your concerns are similar. By:
- Taking an interest in this assembly of presidents and by
- Helping to further organize it as a cohesive group and giving it a voice where partners find support from the council rather than standing alone before the MAGC Board. And
- Always remembering that we are the steam that drives the

MAGC engine.

Gary

What troubles me now is that there seems to have been a subtle shift in definition. Somehow MAGC now is interpreted to represent the Board of Trustees. And the Program Partners, many of whom were the founders, are now referred to as being outside the main core. There are other groups that have an undefined relationship with the Marin Art & Garden Center such as Master Gardeners whose members do not pay dues to the Center, as do the other Program Partners. This was brought home distinctly by Board discussions that debated whether the Birthday celebration should be a "MAGC event or an all encompassing MAGC event including Program Partners." And a further reference that if those invited "ultimately will be asked to contribute to MAGC as opposed to MAGC and/or the Program Partners, then it is entirely appropriate that this [the Birthday Celebration] be a MAGC Board production."

Bob

This feeling of apathy I mentioned before and isolation also stems from the partner groups feeling toward the MAGC Board where they felt they are under-represented. Correcting this may be a harder nut to crack.

Alex Ross from Ross Valley Players, Bobbie Minick from Laurel House and Nanette Londeree from the Rose Society are members of Program Partner organizations and Larry Mulryan from the Master Gardeners. The remaining MAGC Board members (some of whom have recently joined Program Partner organizations) are from different backgrounds and are on the board because of their unique skill set. While the application of those skills is necessary in the running of the MAGC business, they should be balanced with the experience of veteran Program Partner members.

We are called Program Partners which is a blanket term that includes all of us and the MAGC Board. Well: *A Partner is - a person who shares or is associated with another in some action or endeavor and A Partnership is - an arrangement where entities and/or individuals agree to cooperate to advance their interests. In the most frequent instance, a partnership is formed between one or more businesses in which partners co-labor to achieve and share results.* Our current relationship with MAGC really seems more like lessor and lessee. The MAGC Board membership should be fully represented by 'Partners' with half the Board membership made up of the 'brightest and best' from the partner groups. By no means would this be a token membership but one with all the rights and privileges of full Board membership. These partner members while on the MAGC Board would continue to maintain close contact with their own constituency while tempering their Board activities and decisions objectively and with a thought to the Marin Art and Garden Center as a whole.

Gary

Recently, I asked for a copy of the Bylaws of the Center. I don't know how many of you have read the Center Bylaws lately. But I am deeply troubled if the current state of mind provides that there is a distinct separation between the so-called Program Partners and the MAGC Board of Trustees. . The types of membership in said corporation shall be Annual Members, Trustee Members and such other types as the Board shall from time to time determine and provide by resolution. An annual member shall be a person paying to said corporation all established annual dues membership dues and/or assessments. A Trustee Member shall be a person paying to said corporation all established dues..... and who is serving as an elected Trustee

of the corporation. The corporation shall keep a membership book containing the names and address of each member and the class of membership and in the case where membership has been terminated such fact shall be recorded in the book, together with the date on which the membership ceased.

And my concern basically comes down to an undated Amendment Article XVII which states that; *"Insofar as may be permitted by laws, the Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of all the Trustees at any regular or duly called meeting of the Board, a quorum being present. Notice in writing of the proposed amendment, including a copy thereof and notice of the time and place of the meeting at which the same shall be submitted to vote, shall be given to every Trustee not less than thirty [30] days prior to such meeting."* There is no requirement that anyone else be notified or advised of the vote.

In reading the remainder of the Bylaws I also am concerned that it appears that in a number of areas, the Board has not followed the Bylaws in respect to provisions dealing with Article VI: Election, Tenure, Vacancies and Quorum.

Except as specially provided in Article VI, Section 2 of these Bylaws, no member other than a Trustee Member, shall have any right to vote for or upon any amendment, alternation, change or repeal of any of the Bylaws of the corporation, or amendment of the Articles of Incorporation. The general membership has one and only one, recourse to change the direction of a Board or to express their views and that is through the election process as provided for in the Bylaws. A Nominating Committee of not less than five members must be formed annually. No more than two Board members shall serve on this committee.

There is a very distinct, very detailed procedure for nomination of Trustees and voting. There is a provision for an Annual Meeting of members. It does not appear that these provisions have been followed in recent years.

Bob

I have always felt a bit irritated when asked to leave a MAGC Board meeting after the 'public session.' The public to me in that instance would be a guest speaker or a stranger that wandered in off the grounds and sat in by accident at the meeting. I didn't see myself as a member of the public I saw myself as a president of a Program Partner. What can be so secret that will eventually in some way affect my group or yours that can't be brought out into the open in front of a Partner? In the Garden Society we encourage our members to attend our Board meetings. They can't vote on motions but they can voice their opinion. This serves two purposes; first, it is an informal way of screening future board members and second, it is democracy in action.

To paraphrase a quote from Dorothy H. Cohen teacher and author.

No organization can work well for its members if management and membership do not act in partnership on behalf of the organizations best interests. Members have every right to understand what is happening to the organization, and management has the responsibility to share that information without prejudicial judgment. Such communication, which can only be in the organization's best interest, is not possible without mutual trust between both parties.

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Page 2	MARIN BONSAI CLUB February 1, 2011 REPOTTING WORKSHOP

At a meeting held in the Octagon House on Friday December 10, hosted by Bob Battersby and Gary Scales a majority of the Program Partners agreed to form as a group naming themselves the President's Council. Yes, you say that's been around for years and don't they have meetings six times a year chaired by the President of the MAGC Board? Yes, they do and that's true but in fact the President's Council meetings were often poorly attended with only one or two presidents finding time out of their day to attend the meeting. Well, that was back in the day. What we have now is a fact becoming a reality. The members of the new President's Council shared some face time and found they have a common set of goals and interests and started using the 'we' term more than the 'I'. As a group they radiated energy.

Formation as a cohesive group was neither a radical move nor a cosmic shift. We know, change will come slowly as we get used to working together and as people see us as a unit.

All the presidents agreed one of the first steps is full participation at both MAGC Board and President's Council meetings, staying on target, supporting each other and discussing our mutual goals including our collective mission of supporting MAGC.

Membership Cards

There has long been a consideration about the way we might reap some of the benefits of Marin Art and Garden Center membership. So, you can consider these cards as 'discount cards.' At present, the only discounts (benefits) available are \$2.00 off the ticket price at Ross Valley Players when you pay at the box office, a discount off purchases at Sunnyside Nursery in San Anselmo and a 10% discount on purchases made at the Garden Society of Marin spring and winter sales. We will be working on discounts for MAGC members from other local vendors and as are made available we will let you know. The cards will be re-issued annually when you renew your membership. The 2011 membership card is shown below. They will be distributed to the Program Partner at the January 14th meeting.





JANUARY

2011 **MAGC Happenings**

PROMOTING THE ARTS, HORTICULTURE,
HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

Nonprofit
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
San Anselmo, CA.
Permit No. 26

P.O. Box 437
30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
Ross, CA 94957

MAGC Trustees and Staff

MAGC Board of Trustees

Bobbie Minick, *President*
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Kathleen Cerf, *Secretary*
Doug Murray, *Treasurer*
Lynn Langford Ed Lewis Nanette Londeree
Larry Mulryan Alex Ross

Gary Ragghianti, *Legal Services*

MAGC Staff

Lauren Duncan, Rental Technology
Coordinator
Anna Mayfair, Facilities Rental Manager
The Marin Art and Garden Center
P.O. Box 437 Ross, CA 94957
Phone: (415)-455-5260 FAX (415)-454-0650
Email info@magc.org website www.magc.org

MAGC Happenings

MAGC Happenings is a monthly publication of the Marin Art and Garden Center's President's Council, an organization of member groups that nurture the Arts, Horticulture, History and Conservation.

MAGC Happenings Editor, Bob Battersby

Email: therealpresidentscouncil@hotmail.com

GARDEN TIPS

Frost Protection

By Nanette Londeree

Marvelous Marin's temperate climate lets us gardeners grow a plethora of plants, including some that aren't particularly cold hardy. Your vibrant dwarf lemon tree, container of succulents or the bougainvillea adorning the wall of your home can fall prey to a sudden frost, and suffer, in some cases, irreparable damage.

With winter all around us, it's prudent to watch for the classic signs that frost is on its way – dry, still and cloudless nights with temperatures at 45 degrees or below by 10 p.m. Large, open areas and low spots are usually the coldest locations in the garden, and tender plants growing in these areas warrant protection from freezing.

Plants suffer damage when their cells freeze, and subsequently burst as temperatures warm. Protect susceptible plants by first ensuring they are thoroughly watered (that helps prevent desiccation and aids the insulating effect of the soil). If you've got tender plants in portable containers, bring them indoors or move them underneath the eaves of your house. To raise the temperature of around plants that aren't movable, cover them with cardboard boxes, burlap, cloth tarps, repurposed old sheets, towels or curtains, newspaper, pine branches or straw. The more opaque the cover is, the better it protects the plants. For best results, drape the cover over a frame to keep it from touching the foliage. Uncover them in the morning when the temperature rises above freezing.

Photo courtesy of Gary Scales

