



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

A Letter from Kimberly Jameson, Interim President of the Friends of Hortense Miller Garden:

Dear Friends of The Garden,

February 2023 was a dramatic month at Hortense Miller Garden:

We saw copious amounts of precipitation drench our hillsides, refreshing all the garden's nascent flowers, washing foliage, paths and burrows, and carving a fresh line in our nearby canyon (an apt welcome for 2023's Lunar New Year *Water Rabbit* and the *March Hare*?).

Of course, with big winter rains come gusty winds, and as a result we sadly suffered the loss of a legacy Torrey Pine that Hortense herself planted as a sapling (see related story in this newsletter).

In February we also carried out the anticipated changing of the guard for *The Friends of The Garden* advisory board – gaining fresh leadership in the form of new board members and volunteers, all of whom now have the opportunity to keep the vision of Hortense thriving for another year through curation of the garden, and organizing social events, educational seminars, and other going-ons (see related sidebar listing the new board members).

We also extended our profound appreciation to our out-going President Diane Lannon for her years of dedicated leadership, and – with a considerable degree of humility and an equal amount of enthusiasm – I have accepted the opportunity to step in as President. In doing so I hope to replicate a pattern of success going forward that resembles that provided by Diane's efforts, and this will certainly be helped by Diane's offer to remain nearby to advise and guide me and *The Friends* as we transition and delegate her leadership duties into 2023 and beyond.

Thus, much excitement and, due to the uncharacteristically heavy rains, it looks as though this winter promises to bring glorious growth in the coming Spring. We look forward to hosting your next visit to the garden.

Kimberly A. Jameson

Interim President of the Hortense Miller Garden



Saying Good-bye to the Hortense Miller Garden Torrey Pine

Hortense, being native of the Mid-West, became enamored by California and its natural wonders. Inspired by that love she planted her first Bougainvillea and then had that Torrey Pine installed in the Lower Garden, smack-dab amidst her Pacific Ocean View.

That tree became a beloved signature tree in her garden, and we all bemoan it's demise. More than a decade ago we felt that same grief when losing her fire damaged Coast Redwood Tree barely surviving in it's home below the Owl Gate.

Torrey Pines, *Pinus torreyana*, originating on the Channel Island of Santa Rosa; just like Monterey Pines, *Pinus radiata*, native to Monterey Bay; as well as Coast Redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, from coastal regions North of San Francisco, are for me – being a native of another continent – the essence of all that is California.

Although not mature enough in time for most of us to enjoy, I hope that another Torrey Pine can be planted in the Garden. - contributed by Erika Giordano



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The garden's Torrey Pine where it fell (shown above) and the wood harvested from its massive trunk (shown left). The beautiful wood will be dried and milled and distributed for projects and to local woodworkers.

Storm Damage in the Garden

Storms caused significant damage in the Garden. Our most notable loss was a magnificent Torrey Pine, a somewhat rare tree, that for years stood at the lower gate entrance. In falling, the tree crushed the lower gate and an underlying water main. A 60 foot crane must be brought into the garden to facilitate removing the tree. Garden Manager Stephen Crawford and Board member Rick Huffman are making arrangements to salvage much of the relatively rare lumber. This will be milled, stored at the Garden, and made available for creative projects along with lumber previously accumulated from the Agonis tree that fell last year. Thanks to Stephen for the picture. Inquiries about the availability of the lumber should be addressed to Rick, (714) 396-4707.



Recent exhibits in the Aviary Gallery have highlighted images of local wildlife and architectural renderings of the mid-century modern architect Knowlton Fernard, who worked with Hortense Miller in designing the Miller home.





Spring 2023 will host the SoCal Plein Air Painting Association to display fresh new artwork with the Hortense Miller House and Garden as their subject. We have already greeted several artists, who set up their easels and begin work with fresh perspective of the early spring blooms and green hills over Boat Canyon. The artists are met with an abundant choice of point of view; as many of you know, every direction is met with beautiful and interesting lines, shapes, and color. The changing weather and natural light is part of the challenge for these talented painters, and they are rising to it!

We hope you will take time to visit the Aviary Gallery on your next visit, and perhaps be interested to acquire a one of a kind souvenir, all of the artwork will be available to purchase directly from the artists. As a non-profit, HMG is not involved in any transaction, but we are pleased to be able to offer an unjuried and exclusive Aviary gallery show for the SOCALPAPA organization painting scenes from the Garden in spring 2023. The exhibit opens March 25th. Please come and appreciate this traditional form of landscape painting. By Curator Kristy Melita



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

The Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to the continuing support, preservation and improvement of this unique garden and historic residence. Your contributions, either as annual membership renewal or donation, are helping in this endeavor. When making a donation and/or renewal, please print and complete the form on this page, include your email address and check, and mail to:

Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden, Box 742, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

or enroll on our website: www.hortensemillergarden.org

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For information about HMG volunteer opportunities, please contact Diane Lannon at HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com or phone 949-374-2696

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www.hortensemillergarden.org

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