



Spring 2024

THE GARDEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN COMMUNITY



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April's Community Open House Celebrated Nature and Art Together

Open House 2024 was a big success! We welcomed nearly 300 visitors to the garden on Saturday, April 6. There were guided home and garden tours, a children's art workshop, and a bee presentation from our beekeeper, Mackenzie Hintz. Plein air painters roamed the grounds and the garden put on a good show for the artists as well as the visitors.

A big thank you to our amazing volunteers—from donating plants to running garden tours to holding art workshops and more. We also always appreciate the SoCalPapa Artists who came to paint in the garden. It was nice to enjoy a community event on such a perfect spring day!



Children's art workshop



Mackenzie Hintz explaining the importance of bee pollination





This month in the Aviary Gallery features Yevgeniya Mikhailik. The exhibition titled, *Plant Wisdom*, is an ongoing series of drawings

and paintings that celebrates plant life as beings, examining plant consciousness and communication systems. This work is a combination of observational drawing, studies of micrographs of roots and mycorrhizal fungi, abstract landscapes, and real and imagined plant and fungal forms.

Inspired and guided by indigenous knowledge that affirms plant consciousness, as well as the writings of Suzanne Simard on Mother Trees, these works explore connections among different species of plants, trees, and fungi, and look at plant intelligence through the complementary lenses of scientific inquiry and imagination, revealing an expanded dimension of plant life.

Yevgeniya Mikhailik yevgeniyadraws.com



Yevgeniya Mikhailik's "Walnut" is among the artworks on display

Dear Friends,

It's Spring! and at Hortense Miller Garden we embrace both the newfangled and the traditional, the practical and the artistic, the mundane and the spiritual.

Thus, it seems entirely appropriate to enlist ChatGPT for the purposes of composing "A Tribute to Spring in Hortense's Garden" ... here goes:

A Tribute to Spring in Hortense's Garden"

In Hortense's garden, Spring unveils its art,
Where flowers bloom and dreams take heart.
Amongst the paths, where whispers dance,
Nature's symphony, a sweet romance.

Petals unfurl, in hues divine,
With fragrant whispers, they intertwine.
In every corner, life's rebirth,
Echoes of joy, fill the earth.

Beneath the canopy of emerald green,
Secrets whispered, yet unseen.
Where sunlight weaves its golden thread,
Hope blossoms, in every bed.

In Hortense's garden, time stands still,
A sanctuary, where souls refill.
With each gentle breeze, a tale is told,
In Spring's embrace, hearts unfold.

Wishing you green & peaceful (non-AI) ideas,
Kimberly A. Jameson
President at the Hortense Miller Garden



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

AT THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDENS

June 29, 2024

Colored Pencil Workshop with Elizabeth McGhee

Learn to draw with colored pencils and blend them like paint through a step-by-step process taught by LOCA arts Education artist Elizabeth McGhee. Using layering and blending techniques on toned matte board, each person will complete a finished rendering of a flower. All materials provided. Includes a short tour of the residence.

***Request a reservation at
HortenseMillerGarden.org***



July 20, 2024

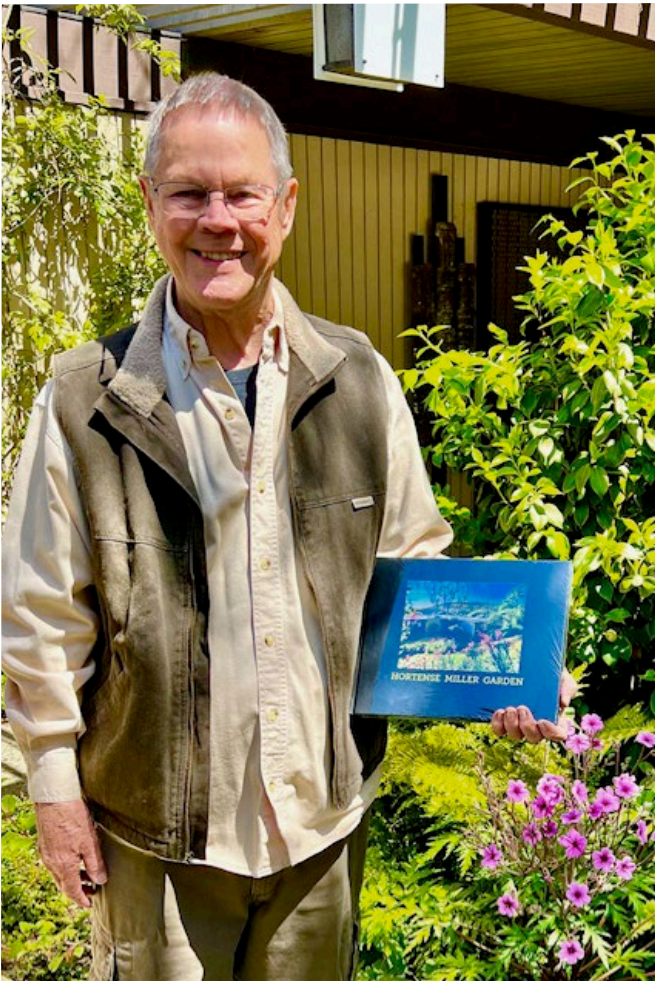
Cork Tree Succulent Centerpiece Workshop

Details to follow on our website HortenseMillerGarden.org



News Bites

Beautiful photography of the house and garden has been showcased in a new pictorial book published by **Tom Wood**, close neighbor and friend of Hortense for many years. Tom created the book using his unique archive of photos captured over the years including some great shots of Hortense. Tom is a gifted photographer and loves sharing his wonderful images. Thank you Tom! Limited editions available for \$25.



Carpenter Leo replacing rotted wood on patio and potting shed



One of our former board members **Mark Hussin** spent sometime in the garden these last two weeks. He refinished 5 of our benches and our large stump table with sanding and oil, hope you will have time to check them out. They look so fresh and amazing for Spring. Thank you Mark!

Thank you for your service and commitment!

Dedicated Volunteer Erika Giordano retires from the board

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the garden and Erika Giordano has given it a lot of life. For two decades her commitment has had quite an impact, helping the garden flourish and run smoothly. Here are a few words from her experience as a steadfast steward of the land...



"After answering a Spring 2003 advertisement from the Friends of Hortense Miller Garden in the "Independent" local newspaper, Dorothea Yellott and I were invited to become docents at the Garden. Having been taught the Hortense Millers saga and her Gardens history by Johannah Sisson and senior docents Joan Henderson and Eve Fletcher, we began conducting our first solo tours. Traditionally Hortense herself greeted all visitors to her garden after their tours.

With help from garden manager Marsha Bode we learned to identify trees, shrubs and plants by

referring to Virginia Worthington's, "Garden Guide" and the "Sunset Garden Book" and Joan shared her personal plant photo journal.

Not long after volunteering as full-fledged docents we were asked to join the board of directors. Dorothea soon was elected board president and Erika took the position of secretary.

While volunteering at Mission San Juan I pirated Jan Brown, Ben Brown and Joe Prendergast from the Mission gardening angels and they became HMG gardening volunteers. Eventually Jan took over recording board meeting minutes, and I assumed my role on the membership committee (with in-put from Sherry and Diane and technical help from Jim).

In February 2024 my term as board member expired. I retired as membership liaison when Cyndie Metz took over for me.

What I will miss most will be my time as docent, and I hope to continue assisting Diane Lannon in the preparation of the docent training manual."



From left to right, Sherry Stephens, Jim Magee, Erika Giordano and Diane Lannon