

Star Power

The Garden Club of Santa Barbara is a non-profit volunteer group dedicated to encouraging the knowledge and enjoyment of gardening, the art of floral design, the protection of our environment and native plants, the preservation of the historic and horticultural richness of our community, and the active support of our civic projects. The club was founded in 1916 and is affiliated with the Garden Club of America.

Every two or three years, they have a flower show that's free to the public and for its enjoyment and edification. They recently took over the estate house of the Music Academy of the West as a backdrop for their beautiful creations. Prior to the opening, there was a private preview party complete with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The show's theme was "Star Power" and was on view for two days.

A few of those at the reception were Daryl Banta, Judy and Leon Bartholomew, Betsy and Ken Coates, Mimi deGruy, Victoria Dillon, Susan Fuhrer, Betsy Gates, Joan and Palmer Jackson, Susanne McEwen, Sally and John Nordstrom, Karen Peus, and Harriet Pitman.

Organizing this grand undertaking were co-chairs Jocolyne Meeker and Cheryl Miller. President Susanne Tobey leads the group year 'round. There was a myriad of categories including floral design, horticulture, photography, and botanical jewelry. Fascinating to me since I'm a shoe freak, is that the shoes were made out of plant material. Not to wear, just to look at.

Since I'm a docent, I have the privilege of looking at the Garden Club's work as they come every week to the Casa del Herrero and make flower arrangements for all the rooms. They add a warm touch to the tours of that estate. The Garden Club also helps in the herb garden and with the refurbishment of the orchard.

Other community projects are supplying funds for continuing ecology programs at more than 30 schools, renovation of the Japanese garden in Lotusland, planting within the Healing Garden in the new cancer center, and the list goes on. Thanks, ladies, for all the beauty you create for us to enjoy.



One of the winners in the Garden Club show



Jocolyne Meeker and Cheryl Miller, co-chairs of the Garden Club flower show, on either side of the club president Susanne Tobey



Betsy Coates and Mary Alice Tudor in front of the team effort at the flower show