

December 2024



# On The Dry Side

## Greetings from the President

Dear fellow MBACSS members and fellow succulent lovers,

Well it is the end of 2024! How did that happen so quickly? I'm being facetious of course...the year goes by one month at a time involving numerous activities dealing with our plants and all the other aspects of our lives. There has been a lot of changes in my life recently since I moved from my long time home in Corralitos to an apartment in Watsonville! The saving grace of this move is a large deck on which I can have about 170 of my succulent collection to take care of and watch and be with. I love my new place because of my deck even though the move was pretty horrendous in terms of the time and energy it took. Now to begin a new chapter in a new home in a new year! Happy 2025 to all of us.

Our membership meetings have changed a bit in 2024 with the Show and Tell feature replacing the Mini-Show for the time being. The members who have been bringing their plants to show us and tell us about have helped to educate us by the members sharing their knowledge with the rest of us. Very interesting.

Also, we have tried several new things with the plants raffle/drawing in an effort to produce more interest and enthusiasm. Some have been more successful than others. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let Meryl Abramson know what you think could be done.

We have been trying to bring a variety of speakers and activities for your benefit and hope that this variety will be of interest to both the newcomers and those who have been around for a while. Again, if you have any ideas for speakers or activities, please let a board member know, especially Jorge Quiñonez, in charge of Programs for the Membership Meetings.

Our very good speaker for November was J. D. Wikert who helped us learn more about Gymnocalceum. I have one and was very interested in how to better take care of it. I always appreciate that he does not talk down to new people but neither does he avoid including information geared to those who have more knowledge and experience.

We did celebrate a bunch of newcomers who attended their first meeting during this year. They each got a free plant to acknowledge their new membership. I love doing that.

The plans for our December End of the Year Holiday Party Auction coming up this Sunday. Nancy has included all the info you need in another part of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you Sunday. Thanks for helping to make this a very good year for our Society.

Mary Louise Cross  
President, MBACSS



Photos By  
Paolo Albert

# APPROVED MINUTES

**October 6, 2024**

**Call to Order: Mary Cross.**

**Members present:** Mary Cross, Naomi Bloss, Nancy Thomsen, David Kurtz, Jorge Quiñonez, Thomas Karwin, Lou Falek, Lyn MacDonald, Meryl Abramson.

**Minutes: Mary/Meryl.** October minutes accepted as written.

**Treasurer's Report: Lou.** Accepted as written.

**Chairpersons' Reports:**

**Membership: Lyn.** Two new members attended the General Meeting. Our newest members have been engaged and very helpful in their volunteer efforts at meetings and in support of the Show & Sale. There may be a problem about Square not refunding someone a credit from the Sale.

**Programs: Jorge.** October speaker was well received, as were his plants and pots. November speaker is J.D. Wichert about *Gymnocalycium*. Mary will supply the raffle plants. December will be the End-of-Year party. Naomi noted that our Club has shared speaker expenses with San Francisco and San Jose in the past.

**CSSA: Jorge.** There is currently an auction on E-Bay of Bill Baker's rare and old books. The San Diego conference will be 4/23-27 and Jorge cannot attend due to work. Prior conference talks are available on You-Tube.

**Old Business: All.** Discussion on how to make the Club more profitable. We were lucky after COVID to have a nice reserve. This has been dwindling over time due to much higher expenses.

Shows: Our highest expenses are venue costs, food, and judges. Discussion ensued about raising vendor rates to 30%, in line with many local clubs. No resolution at this time. Reviews of alternate venues have not come up with a good alternative, and customers are used to the venue at Portuguese Hall.

All Club: Our highest expenses are the winter party and the general meeting rentals. We will be lowering party expenses this year as we will not be hiring a caterer. (Lyn is generously preparing and donating the hot and savory food.) Most of our income comes from winter party auctions (over \$900 last year) and the Shows. Membership contributes *some* income, about \$2300 in 2023 and \$960 this year. Membership rates have not changed in a very, very long time. The Board voted, unanimously, to raise dues by \$10 in 2025. Old dues: \$15/member or \$20/family. New dues: \$25/member or \$30/family.

**New Business: All.** Mary now has returned Grange keys back to Roger.

End-of-Year Party: Lyn will prepare the hot food. Membership will be asked to bring potluck finger food desserts such as cookies or brownies, for about 10 people each. Jorge will bring water and soft drinks. Mary will prepare hot drinks, perhaps a flavored tea or punch, and coffee. Naomi has punch bowls. Lyn has plates, cups, utensils and napkins. She will also bring the silent auction plates. Mary will handle decorations (table cloths, etc.). She will also contact someone to be in charge of clerks.

There will be three auctions: a live auction, a silent auction, and a plant exchange, like last year. Members are reimbursed for the cost of their plants for the Live auction, and the Club keeps the difference. Bidding for the plant starts at the stated plant price.

Mary will bring a white board and markers so we can note the times the auctions commence and stay on schedule. We also need to better schedule and respect the timing of the food.

**Library: David.** The Library case is overloaded and top heavy. It is not meant to be moved around and space is limited at the Grange. The case fell over and has some damage.

**Adjournment: Mary.**

**Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson**

# MEMBERSHIP

## It's Time For Dues!

It's that time again. Your 2025 Membership dues are due. A single membership is \$25.00 and a family membership is \$30.00. Please pay your dues in December. We have made it easy. You can bring a check or cash to the party this Sunday or go to the website and pay online. This method makes our Membership Chair's job easier.

If you want to pay at the party this Sunday, **please know your membership status before you arrive.** If you have paid your 2025 dues you received a thank you email from our Membership Chair. If you do not know your 2025 membership status, contact Lyn by email before Sunday.

[mbacss.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mbacss.membership@gmail.com)

There is a Dues Form ----->

You can fill it out before coming to a meeting along with you check or cash and put it in the dues jar.

MONTEREY BAY AREA

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewing \_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_

**(required to receive newsletter)**

Payment by: Check \_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_ CC \_\_\_

Type of Membership:

Single \$25 per year \_\_\_\_\_

Couple \$30 per year \_\_\_\_\_

You can renew membership or join via the web, or by mailing a check to:

Lou Falek, MBACSS Treasurer  
76 Nunes Road  
Watsonville, CA 95076

To pay online:

<http://mbsucculent.org/membership/>

**New Members** may bring dues to the first meeting they attend and give them to the Membership Chair

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MBACSS**

# HOLIDAY PARTY

**Sunday December 15, 2024**

## Year-end Holiday Party

Our December meeting will be our annual holiday auction and party. There will be a catered holiday meal followed by live and silent auctions and a plant exchange. If you attended a year end party in the past, you know how much fun it is. This year, the club will supply the meal and ask members to bring a desert.

### **Meal includes:**

- Spiral ham
- Turkey breast
- Real turkey gravy & a vegan mushroom gravy
- Mashed potatoes
- Vegan stuffing with mushroom and artichoke hearts
- Roasted vegetables (fennel, carrots, onion, parsnips and golden beets)
- Vegetable lasagna
- 3 salads - Brussel sprout & pomegranate salad, cauliflower salad, and Kale salad

**Pot Luck Dessert:** Finger Food - cookies, cut brownies, mini cupcakes, or any single serving dessert. Let Lynn know what you plan to bring when you RSVP.

Live Auction:

**Each member may bring up to 3 plants for the live auction.** Each plant should be at least \$30 in value.

Silent Auction:

**Each member may bring up to 3 plants for the silent auction.** Plants need to be valued between \$5 and \$30.

Plant Exchange:

**Members may bring 1 plant to enter in the plant exchange.** This is a 1 for 1 exchange, you give one and you receive one.

**If you would like to bring additional plants, please be prepared to give them away on your own - the auctions and gift exchange cannot accommodate extras.**

**Set up begins at 10:30      Festivities begin at 12:00**

**BRING CASH OR CHECKS!** This is a CASH only event so be prepared and bring lots of cash or your checkbook. (Editor's Note: I didn't have much cash last year and regretted it. I think I borrowed from friends. This time I will be prepared.)

*Thank you for your support this year!*

# CLUB NEWS

## Upcoming meetings:

### December 15, 2024

End of the Year Membership Party  
Corralitos Grange  
Holiday meal  
Live and Silent Auctions

### Jan 19, 2025

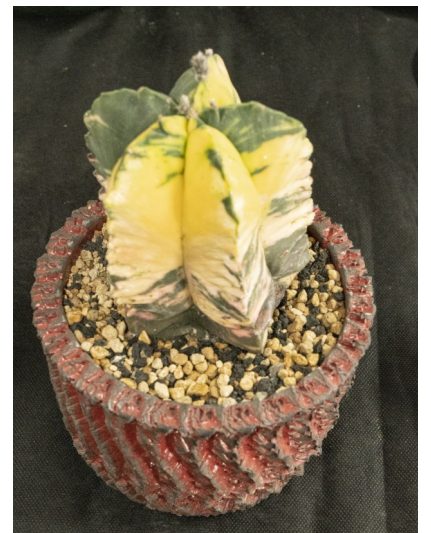
Presenter: Brian Kimble  
Topic: Hechtias  
Mini Show: Show and Tell

### Feb 16, 2025

Presenter: Ernesto Sandoval  
Topic: Propagation  
Mini Show: Show and Tell

### Mar 16, 2025

Presenter: Gerhard Bock  
Topic: Mangroves  
Mini Show: Show and Tell



## Future MBACSS Sales Save the Dates

Here are the dates of the  
upcoming sales for 2025

**Spring 2025 - Apr 19, 20**

**Fall 2025 - Sept 31, 14**



# LEADERSHIP

## Officers and Chairpersons for 2024 - 2025

### Officers

President - Mary Cross  
Vice President - Nancy Thomsen  
Secretary - Meryl Abramson  
Treasurer - Lou Falek  
Membership - Lyn MacDonald  
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez  
Directors at Large  
    David Kurtz  
    Peter Shaw  
    Daisy Szeto  
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin  
Founding Member - Naomi Bloss

### Chairpersons

Interim Librarian - David Kurtz  
Mini-Show - Stan Verkler  
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Thomsen  
Photography - Paul Albert  
Programs - Jorge Quiñónez  
Raffles - Meryl Abramson  
Sale Floor Manager - Peter Beiersdorfer  
Show Managers - Naomi Bloss  
Assistant Floor Manager - Janet Sparks  
Sunshine Committee - Cheryl Albert  
Webmaster - Diane Salewski  
Greeter - Dave Novarina

See our website for more information

[mbsucculent.org](http://mbsucculent.org)

Our next membership meeting will be:

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**Corralitos Grange**  
**165 Little Corral Way, Corralitos.**

There is plenty of parking near the hall and the building is ADA accessible.  
Doors open at 11:00am  
Bring your own lunch starts at 12:00pm  
Meeting starts at 12:30pm