



SCMA Alliance & Foundation...building healthy communities

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Sonoma County  
Medical  
Association  
Alliance  
&  
Foundation

[www.scmaa.org](http://www.scmaa.org)

PO Box 1388  
Santa Rosa, CA  
95402

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## Garden Tour Success



2010 Garden Tour artist, Michelle Weitzenberg

What a wonderful and successful Garden Tour! Take a bow if you played a big or small role in this, our 19<sup>th</sup> annual garden tour. With help from each of you, the planning of the 2010 tour was what we can call the *Excellence of the Alliance*, everyone working together to produce an event that makes us all proud.

Sonoma County health care services will benefit from this year's tour. Our funding will support the expansion of the Santa Rosa Community Health Centers and the Windsor Alliance Medical Center facility, along with funds for SCMAAF programs: our Foster Children's *Give-a-Gift*, Health Awareness and Safe Schools.

Our gross was over \$56,000. Ticket sales were over 800 this year, with many sold at the door. The Restaurant Raffle alone brought in \$4,630 in raffle tickets! \$750 in the Art Raffle, plus artist Michele Weitzenberg's generous donation of \$500 from art purchases made during the two day tour. The popular "Lunch at Charlie's" was a \$400 profit for our garden tour fundraising event.

In addition to lunch and art in the garden, tour guests enjoyed visiting with the knowledgeable Master Gardeners. All in all, it was a delightful day for our longtime attendees and the many who ventured out on the most glorious May days we could have asked for.

It's our pleasure to thank all of you for your enthusiastic participation in this year's tour. Events like this do not "just happen." They need the likes of all of you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Schroeder & Sori DeVore

See pages 3-4 for a list of the volunteers & donors who made Garden Tour 2010 possible



## Mark Your Calendar

### July

#### Join the Team!

Thursday, July 15 at 9:30 a.m.

20th Anniversary Garden Tour Planning Meeting

A light lunch will be served.

For information, call Mary at (707) 578-0444 or Sori DeVore at (707) 538-4990. Or email Mary at [alanmary764@comcast.net](mailto:alanmary764@comcast.net)



### August

#### SCMA Alliance & Foundation

#### Board Retreat

Wednesday, August 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lisa Sugarman's home

For information, email Lisa at [lcsugarman@yahoo.com](mailto:lcsugarman@yahoo.com) or call (707) 280-0813



Victoria Soto

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the SCMA Alliance President. Sonoma County is a remarkable organization with incredible women who are committed to making our community stronger and healthier.

*"Success happens when good people with good intentions cooperate and work together over a shared interest. Believing that people are basically good is what fuels most inspired individuals." Meg Whitman*

As I reflect back on the past year, I can say we have some of the most dedicated volunteers in our county. They are willing to step up to any challenge and make our fundraising a success. The teamwork and stewardship is amazing and the philanthropic spirit to those in need in our county is undeniable. A special thanks to all who served as part of my Alliance and Foundation Board this past year. Your support, energy, and friendship will forever be valued.

It has been a true pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to help shape the future of this organization and surround myself with a team of volunteers who care passionately about our mission and each other. I extend my sincere gratitude and value each and every one of you. I feel our team pulled off a successful year from the summer retreat, Annual Fall Luncheon, Safe Schools, Give-A-Gift, Holiday Card, SOH, Doctor's Day, Health Careers Scholarship, Garden Tour and installation of officers. I enjoyed attending the SCMA meetings and the CMAA meetings. It was a full year of expanding my horizons.

I want to thank my husband, Dr. David Soto and my beautiful girls, Allison and Breanna, for your patience, understanding and, most of all, unwavering love. Thank you, Jesus, for giving me strength and guidance during the difficult times.

I also want to express my appreciation to Debbi Ricks, our CMAA Past President, for being a wonderful role model, being in tune to each county's needs, leading by example and visiting Sonoma numerous times.

I have fond memories of this past year and look forward to fulfilling the role of past president. It is a privilege to pass this presidency of the SCMA Alliance and Foundation to Lisa Sugarman. I have complete confidence she will do a remarkable job carrying on the spirit of teamwork that has been so reflective of this organization.

Best Regards,

**The Grapevine**

Editor & Publisher: **Lisa Sugarman**

For information or to submit articles, please contact Lisa Sugarman at lcsugarman@yahoo.com

**SCMA Alliance Executive Board 2009-2010**

**President:** Victoria Soto

**President Elect:** Lisa Sugarman

**Membership/Directory:** Meta Lightfoot

**Treasurer:** Nancy Sumida

**Secretary:** Sonda Anderson

**Historian:** Mary Schroeder

**Parliamentarian/By-Laws:** Barbara Ramsey

**Website:** Margaret Peterson

**Grant Review:** Ann Hurd

**Legislation:** Barbara Ramsey

**Foundation Officers & Directors**

Sori DeVore, Ann Hurd, Gina Merwin, Maria Pappas, Janet Polson, Barbara Ramsey, Charlene Staples

**Program Chairs**

**Allie Awards:** Charlene Staples

**Doctor's Day:** Tricia Hunstock

**Garden Tour 2010:** Sandy Chute, Sori DeVore, Meta Lightfoot, Mary Schroeder

**Give-A-Gift Program:** Shawn Devlin, Ann Hurd, Lindsay Mazur

**Health Awareness Program:** Ann Hurd

**Health Careers Scholarship:** Gina Merwin

**Holiday Greeting Card:** Barbara Ramsey

**Safe Schools Programs:** Kathleen Cortez

**Services to the Elderly:** Victoria Shieh

**DID YOU KNOW?**



**Doctors' Day**

The first Doctors' Day observance was held on March 30, 1933, by the Barrow County Alliance, in Winder, Georgia. The program was developed to show gratitude to the physicians in our lives.

Medical alliances across the country soon adopted the program in their hometowns. Today, "Doctors' Day" is honored nationwide.

In Sonoma County this year, St. Joseph Hospital, Petaluma Valley Hospital, Palm Drive Hospital, and Sutter Medical Foundation

**"My Doctor Is Special Because..."**

Recent "Doctors' Day" submission from a child about her pediatrician.

*"My doctor is special because he is funny. He takes care of me. And he has helped me in school."*



**Post Office Update**

I want to express my apologies as we have had some of our Post Office mail returned. We have hopefully been able to resolve this issue with the help of the P.O. Box Master.

I want to thank you for your concern and understanding as we worked through the discovery process. I wanted to clarify that the P.O. Box was never too full. This problem has been recurring throughout the year, but it became clear with the larger mailing for the Garden Tour that we had some more investigation to do. We have discovered two major problems: One problem is with bulk mailing and the second problem is with the Post Office's electronic sorting machine

During Garden Tour mailings, Janet Shane and I realized that I picked up mail from the P.O. Box on the same day that a person reported mail "return to sender" due to P.O. Box being closed. We faxed the two letters with the same dates, but at different times, to the P.O. Box Master.

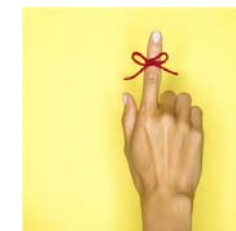
The P.O. Master called back the next morning stating the issue was coming from the electronic sorting machine. They stated that sometimes the mail is hand sorted and other times the mail is run through the electronic sorter; this is why the mail problem occurred on a random basis.

The electronic sorter had been calibrated with new updates added. This calibration process resubmitted the

flag on the electronic sorter that had previously been put on our box in Feb. 2009, over 15 months ago. The calibration made the flag resurface without the awareness of Post Office personnel. They removed the flag as they had reviewed that our last payment was received as scheduled on Feb. 2010.

Because garden tour mailings were being returned to our P.O. Box in a larger quantity, it became clear that there was another problem to be solved. The post office will put a yellow 3x5 card in our P.O. Box and will hold the undeliverable letters in a bin in the back. They will hold the letters until payment for the returned mail is made. The Alliance now has to pay for all returned bulk mail. We had 250+ GT letters returned due to out-of-date addresses or incomplete addresses. Bulk Mail will not forward mail as they do with first class mail.

The most important tool for the future will be keeping our data base up-to-date to the best of our ability or choosing first class stamps.



**If you have moved recently, PLEASE forward your new address information which will help prevent the additional cost and will allow us to keep you on top of our SCMA Alliance and Foundation most current news and fundraisers.**

Sincerely,

Victoria Soto