

Monterey Bay Dahlia Society

# THE DAHLIA DIRT



## September 2016

Next Meeting Friday, September 9  
at Simpkins SwimCenter  
7:00 Pot Luck Dinner  
7:30 Meeting

# FROM THE PREZ



Great Annual Show and congratulations to everyone who participated!

The show was a great success with dahlias filling all the rooms at the Museum of Art and History. A big thank you to Kevin Larkin and Iris Wallace for co-chairing the show and running it so smoothly. Also, thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the event so fun.

At Friday's meeting we will go over the show so bring your compliments and suggestions for next year.

We will be finalizing our three Dahlia Dine-around gardens at Friday's meeting as well as going over what to do in your garden this time of the year.

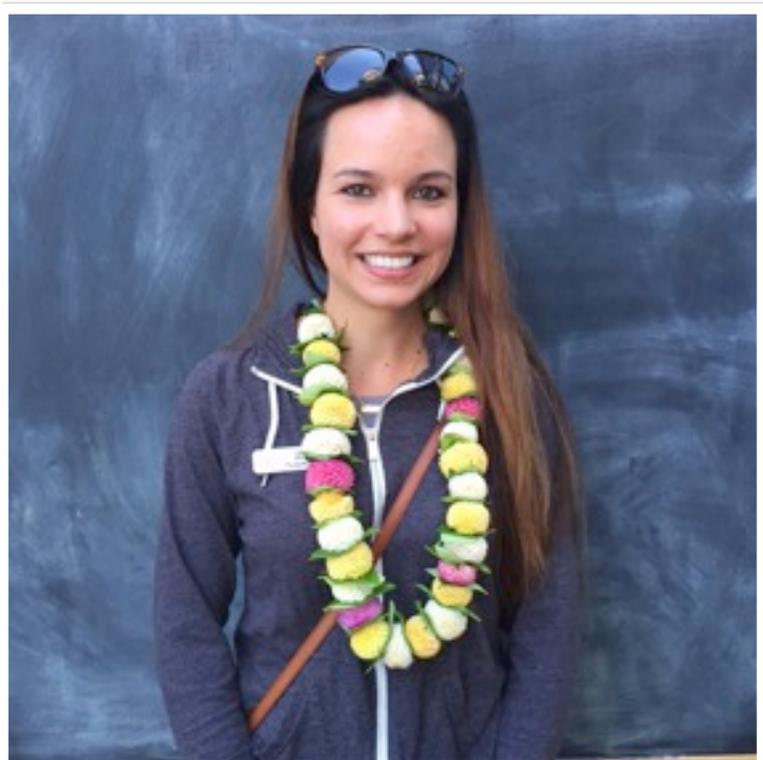
We are hoping to have a good showing at the County Fair from MBDS members so please consider showing at least a few blooms there. We will be going over the Fair details at Friday's meeting as well.

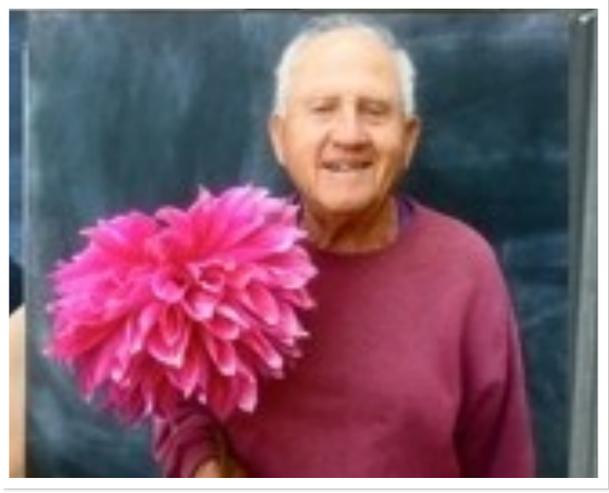
Happy Gardening....Kristine

# SAN FRANCISCO SHOW



# MBDS SHOW







# REMEMBERING JIM

## James William Crandall

January 11, 1936 - July 21, 2016 Resident of Aptos  
James William Crandall was born in Fargo, ND on January 11, 1936, and died at his home in Aptos on July 21, 2016, after a long, debilitating battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). His entire immediate family was with him, including his brother, Rich, when he passed away. He had remained in his home throughout his illness. He was always there for us. We could do no less for him.

Jim was, first and foremost, a family man. An unspoken agreement, early on, determined they'd be a working Dad and a stay-at-home Mom. It worked for them. No need for second cars or extra "toys". They never had a babysitter except for an occasional trip to Grandma's house, as much for her pleasure as their benefit.

When Jim was 2 years old, his parents left North Dakota, and joined other family members in California, living on Moss Landing Island for a time. He started school at Green Valley Elementary in Watsonville. They moved to Alameda during the WWII, and later moved on to live near Tillamook, Oregon until Jim was in high school. While there, they owned a farm on Three Rivers, which probably accounted for his life-long love of river fishing.

The family returned here to Corralitos in 1951. Jim attended Watsonville High where he met his future wife, Bettie Eustice, while both were members of Genevieve Carlyon's choral class and of a double mixed quartet. Guitar lessons while living in Oregon allowed him to team up with Dick Estrada of Watsonville to form a duo which performed at school functions and other events.

Winning a talent show at The Fox Theatre in Watsonville sent them on a trip to Hollywood and an appearance on TV.

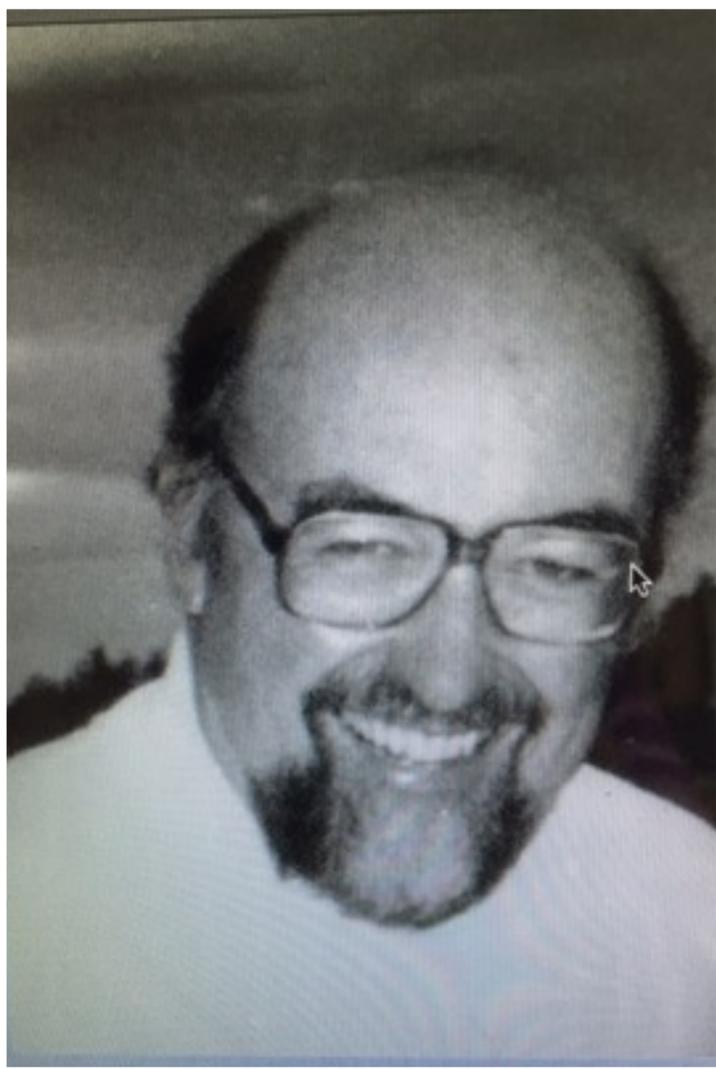
Jim graduated in 1953 as Valedictorian, and earned scholarships which took him to UC Santa Barbara and Berkeley. The profession he chose while in college was Property Appraising, influenced by a teacher who convinced him it would allow him to take advantage of his analytical expertise, while still spending precious time outdoors.

After graduation from Berkeley with several scholastic awards (though that's something he never talked about), he and Bettie were married in 1957. They lived for a year in Concord, where Jim worked in the Contra Costa County Assessor's office, just waiting for a job opening in Santa Cruz County Assessor's office so they could come home. Their first child, Daniel Robert, was born while there.

After returning to Santa Cruz County in 1958, they spent the last 58 years in Aptos. They lived 4 1/2 years in Seacliff Beach, where their second child, Donald William, was born in 1960. They then had a home built on Wallace Avenue, where they lived for 30 years, and their third child, Debra Louise, arrived in 1963 to finish out their family. They designed and built their current home on property they owned on Cox Road in Aptos in the late 1980's.

Jim had moved on to Santa Cruz Savings & Loan, which later sold to Golden West, and which soon changed its name to World Savings. After a few years, he left the savings & loan to start a free-lance business as an MAI Commercial Real Estate Appraiser which he and his wife, Bettie, continued from their home for 20 years before retiring.

As their children grew, they all were involved in 4H, County Fair and school activities. Jim coached his sons in Farm League Baseball and in Basketball, and they seldom failed to attend any activity, sports or otherwise, as a family. Jim and Bettie were on the Board of the first Home and School Club in the PVUSD, at Valencia School in 1968, as well as the Board of the Aptos High School Boosters...all of which led to many long time friendships.



Jim & Bettie were, for many years, and up to the present time, a part of the Reunion Committee for the Watsonville High School Class of 1953, thereby keeping in touch with their own classmates.

In addition to following each of their children in various activities; high on the list of enjoyment were camping trips to the desert, the snow, and to the rivers...anywhere Jim could drive them, always searching for new discoveries. Included were such things as visits to Native American Reservations (Hoopa, Crow, Navajo), Dinosaur digs in Vernal, Utah, rock hunting in volcanic areas, etc. And, of course, always a good place to fish.

Besides fishing and guitar, Jim had a passion for garage sales, to the extent that one Christmas produced a license plate holder which stated "I brake for garage sales". His former Office is now a veritable museum of "treasures" he gathered to surround himself.

Their home had always been a place for get-togethers, and they felt privileged to become Ma and Pa Crandall to dozens of Dan's kayaking cohorts, who, for 23 years, made "The Crandall House" on Cox Road their home away from home as they gathered there each Spring during the "Santa Cruz Surf Kayak Festival". There was much laughter among a wealth of international accents as the group converged each year, swelling a couple of times to 40 strong. They had to stagger breakfasts....too many for the dining room table. Serious competitors on the water....just one big family when they came home for dinner.

Jim leaves his wife of 59 years, Bettie, three children: Daniel (Colleen McKinnon), of Garden Valley, CA., Donald (Molly O'Brien) of Penn Valley, CA., and Debbie (Will Hammersmith), of Aptos, four step-grandchildren, Matt (Danielle) McKinnon, Lexie (Steve) Cuckovich and Miles O'Brien and Emilee O'Brien-Godeke (Alec), as well as 5 step- great grandchildren, Aiden, Finley & Zoey McKinnon and Claire & Jack Cuckovich. He also leaves one brother, Richard (Doratheia) of Portland, OR.

Descriptions we're hearing as people offer their condolences: "Mr. Crandall", humble, sweet man, gentle, intelligent, deep thinker, tolerant, lover of family, mysterious smile, sense of humor, honest, kind.....And we are missing him.

The Family of Jim Crandall

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2016

## September

September 14-September 18  
Santa Cruz County Fair

Saturday, September 24  
Dine Around



# MINUTES

## Minutes of the MBDS Meeting on August 12, 2016

Meeting called to order at  
7:30

Show Promotion: Postcard &  
poster distribution

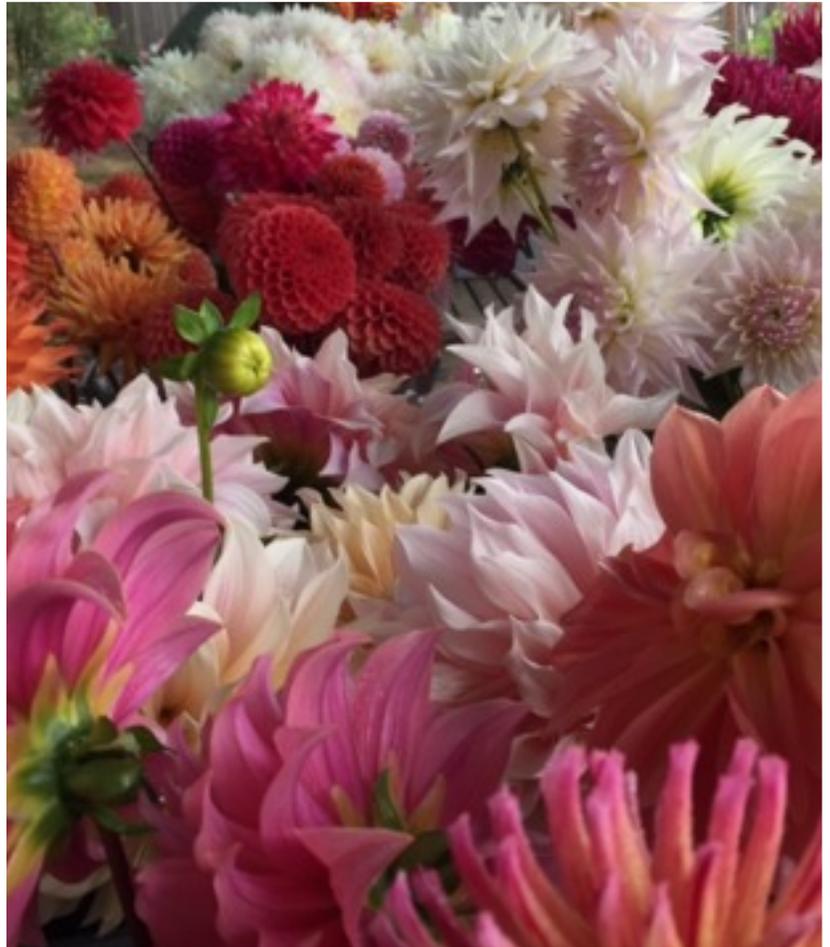
Show Volunteers: Sign up  
sheet circulated, large  
positions still in need of  
filling

Minutes: All in favor  
approved

Treasury: No report

Membership: No report

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Maia Pedemonte



# THE CREW



President: Kristine Albrecht

Vice President: Kevin Larkin

Treasurer: Katy Bannister

Secretary: Maia Pedemonte

Membership: Jean Biberdorf

Newsletter: Jan Palia

Website: Brion Sprinsock

Please send all your fascinating photos and interesting tidbits for the newsletter to [bgawlik@cruzio.com](mailto:bgawlik@cruzio.com)

Want to see past issues of the newsletter?

Check out our website [mbdahlias.org](http://mbdahlias.org)