



Atherton Garden Guild

Garden Gate

A member of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Since 1966

February, 2026

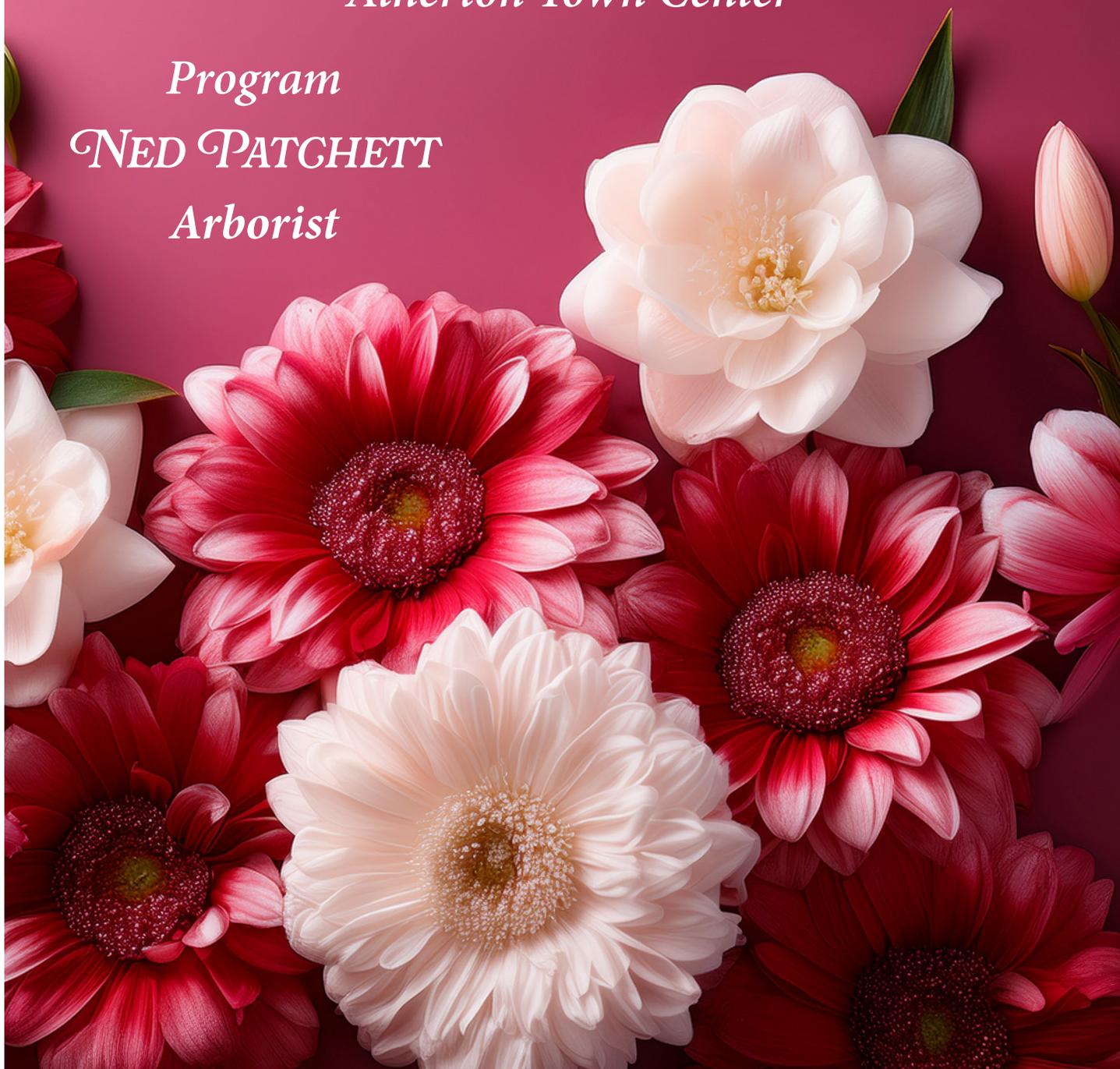
AGG MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Atherton Town Center

Program

NED PATCHETT

Arborist



Calendar

Calendar Meetings

Board Meetings: 9: 00 am
Social: 9: 30 am
Meetings: 10: 00 am
Meetings are on Mondays unless otherwise noted

February

Monday, February 2
Atherton Town Center
History Room

Wednesday, February 4
Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library Leuger
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

March

Monday, March 2
Atherton Town Center
History Room

Tuesday, March 10
Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

April

Monday, April 6
Jennings Pavillion
Holbrook Palmer Park

May

Monday, May 4
Suzanne Legallet
88 Selby Lane, Atherton

Wednesday, May 13
Garden Tour

June

Monday, June 1
June Luncheon
Patti Spezzaferro's home
130 Selby Lane, Atherton



Arborist Ned Patchett

Program Speaker

February 2

*Atherton Town Center
History Room*

Ned Patchett is the President and founder of Ned Patchett Consulting, Inc., a leading firm in arboriculture and landscape consulting. Ned's journey in the tree care industry began during his youth, working alongside his father, Kevin

Patchett, in the family business. Under his father's mentorship, Ned developed foundational skills in climbing trees, diagnosing pests and diseases, and mastering the art of holistic tree care.

With over 32 years of experience serving the Peninsula and the San Francisco Bay Area, Ned possesses unparalleled expertise in the region's native landscapes and diverse tree species. He deeply understands the challenges these trees face, including increasing susceptibility to pests and diseases, the impacts of urban growth, and the stresses from construction and development. His hands-on experience and dedication have made him a trusted name in the field



*Karen Handel Library arrangement
Photo by Patty Leugers*

February Library Flowers

*Deliver flowers early Monday and pick up late Sunday.
Library closures: Sunday, February 15, 2026
Monday, February 16, 2026*

2	Leslie Howard	16	Suzanne Legallet
9	Anita Joy	23	Julie Gosler (Sub)

*Library Flower Volunteer needed for the week of
April 27, 2026 due to the loss of Nan Ray.*

*Anyone interesting in volunteering, please notify
Library Flower Chair Nancy Hardesty
nancy.hardesty@gmail.com*

February Hospitality

Chair Suellen Rottiers
Joan Sanders ~ Carol Selig



Happy Valentine's Day
Saturday, February 14

President's Letter



The holidays are behind us. The days are starting to get a little longer. The garden is asleep (except for my narcissus!) And we are readying our hearts and gardens for spring. I will be back in Fredericksburg, Texas until right before our February meeting so I will get to see if the grey barren acreage at my sister's has started to green up at all or if its still REALLY cold! We shall see!

Wasn't Jim Salyards' presentation on all the English gardens he visited last summer inspiring? So many gardens to see in such a short time and so many he didn't get to see! Amazing! His lists of "best" gardens to visit is a great resource for planning next trips to the UK.

February's program will be very timely—Tree Maintenance—pruning, feeding, and caring for these beautiful oxygen producers in our yards. I have a pomegranate tree that I am worried about. Last year it produced a prolific crop of fruit, and this year only 5 that the wildlife in my yard stole in one night. I love the fruit and the jelly I make annually, but this year I could only make two small batches using fruit from others. The tree dropped its leaves prematurely and then woke back up in parts producing blossoms and a few small fruits when it normally is just losing its last leaves. I'm hoping for a resurrection! (and some good advice from our next speaker!) Do you have parts of your yard that you are concerned about? This winter season is the time to figure out next steps.

Thank you for such good attendance at our meetings. We are working on setting up a few rows of more substantial chairs in the Atherton Town Center History Room to make some of the seating more comfortable. It's such a nice space and close to several of our club projects. (and Mademoiselle Colette's!) Many thanks to each of the committees and all the great work that is being done for the club and for the community. You all are wonderful!

Thank you also for being so kind to my granddaughter, Chloe, who was in attendance at the last meeting. Pam McGraw introduced herself to Chloe and took her to the Library's "Maker's Space" where she had a great time before a big class came in. But right as that happened, Sue Connolly came by just to see Chloe despite health concerns that kept her from our meeting. Sue had given Chloe her Bouquets to Books "Secret Garden" (which Chloe loved!) and had mentioned Chloe in her Christmas letter. So sweet! Thank you all for all you do!

Looking forward to being with you again on February 2! *Nyna*

AGG Mission Statement Change

Has been approved by the AGG Board - To be approved by members at the February Meeting

Current Mission Statement

The Atherton Garden Guild meets to educate members in all matters related to horticulture, conservation, and Floral Design

Proposed Mission Statement

The Atherton Garden Guild educates members **and the greater community** in all matters related to horticulture, conservation, and floral design.

Reasons for the Suggested Mission Statement Change

The Atherton Garden Guild has been engaged with the greater community for some time and it has been suggested that the Mission Statement should reflect the AGG involvement.

Current Community Involvement

Atherton Library Flowers • Bouquets to Books • Civic Donations • Library Floral Demonstrations
Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden • Plant labels in Atherton Town Center • Spring Garden Tour



January Meeting 2026



Who's in the Garden/Floral Workshop

Patti Spezzaferro speaks with Berenice Hurtado about what inspires her in the garden



Which three historical or present gardeners would you invite to your dinner party?

Gertrude Jekyll, Fanny Wilkinson and Mary Somerset

What is your greatest fear?

I don't have any at this time.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Inner peace, contentment with my life and Spiritual growth.

Which gardens are your favorites?

Filoli

What have you learned recently about gardening that you wish to share?

I keep learning the basics of gardening.



What is your favorite Buckman product and why?

Apron for tools.

What inspires you to garden?

AGG ladies.

A motto by which you live by while gardening?

Get your hands dirty and your heart happy.

What is your greatest extravagance?

The act of being present.

December Atherton Library Floral Design Workshop

featured designers
Kasey Hansen
Suellen Rottiers

photos by
Dana Bonham



Horticulture Page

February Garden Suggestions

by Patti Spezzaferro

February Master Gardener's Checklist

- Now is the time to plant potatoes, garlic, onions, rhubarb, and asparagus.
- Finish pruning roses, shrubs and trees. After pruning, be sure to clean your tools. Soak rusty tools in white vinegar (full strength or diluted 50/50 with water) for 12-24 hours to dissolve rust, then scrub with a brush or steel wool, rinse thoroughly with water, and dry completely before oiling to prevent future rust.
- Prune and cut back perennials & ornamental grasses.
- Prune lavender back to emerging new growth for best spike production this coming summer.
- Shop now for citrus trees.
- Continue to clean up winter debris from beds and containers.
- If starting tomatoes from seed, now is the time to start them indoors.
- Divide perennials such as daylily and yarrow. Re-plant them in bare spots around your garden.

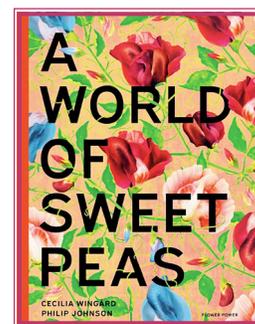
Book of the Month

“The World of Sweet Peas”

by Celia Wingard and Philip Johnson

Cecilia Wingård is the author of two popular books in Swedish on sweet peas and cut flowers, and co-author Philip Johnson is one of Britain's leading sweet pea breeders and an expert in the field. In

this book you will learn about the history, varieties, cultivation and development of sweet peas. Also featured is a groundbreaking discussion about the fragrance of these charming flowers. “A World of Sweet Peas” is the ultimate guide for gardeners and flower lovers alike. Buy it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Start Tomato Seeds

It's time to start tomatoes indoors for planting in the garden in March or April. Stick to favorite varieties such as Sun Gold, Cherokee Purple, San Marzano—or try new varieties like Green Zebra, Striped German, Pink Berkely, Tie Dye, Yellow Brandywine, Yellow Pear, Indigo Kumkuat, and Ferris Wheel. You also might want to try the new Tempting Tomatoes varieties from Proven Winners: Garden Gem, Garden Treasure, and Goodhearted (a compact plant that produces lots of fruit in a small space, perfect for containers.) [provenwinners.com](https://www.provenwinners.com) Seeds can be ordered online from: [johnnyseeds.com](https://www.johnnyseeds.com)



Goodhearted Tomato Plant

Calendar



Garden Community Calendar

Submitted by Patti Spezzaferro

Atherton Library - History Room

AGG Valentine Floral Design Workshop

Wednesday, February 4th - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton

Join Floral designers Joan Sanders and Suellen Rottiers as they arrange lovely flowers as a wonderful way to tell someone how much they mean to us. From a single rose to an elaborate bouquet, let's create our message of love.

Free - Register: smcl.org/locations/1A/

Gamble Gardens

Valentine Floral Design Workshop

February 7th - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

Katherine Glazier is an instructor and floral arranger at Gamble Garden and she co-led the floral design program at Filoli for eight years. Katherine will guide you in selecting flowers for freshness, form, color, and texture, helping you craft a stunning seasonal arrangement worthy of Cupid himself.

\$148 Member/ \$185 Non-member

Register: gamblegarden.org

Spring Flowering Bulbs

February 12th - 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Lisa Roper is a horticulturist at Chanticleer, a public garden in Wayne, PA. Lisa will teach you how to combine bulbs with perennials, annuals, grasses, and other bulbs for optimal effect, as well as planting techniques, perennializing bulbs, and how to ward off critters.

\$15 Members/\$25 Non-members

Register: gamblegarden.org



Spring Flowering Bulb

UCIPM

Diseases and Disorders in Vegetable Gardens

February 19th - noon on Zoom

Garden vegetables can be affected by a variety of diseases and abiotic disorders, ranging from powdery mildew to sun scald. But you need to know what's wrong with your veggies before you can fix the problem. In this webinar, you'll learn how to identify diseases and disorders and how to manage them.

Free - Register: ipm.ucanr.edu

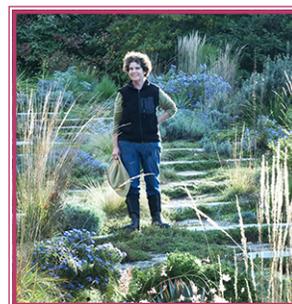
Western Horticulture Society

Chanticleer Gravel Garden

February 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave., Los Altos

Lisa Roper, Horticulturalists, Lisa Roper, will discuss some of her design choices, favorite plants, combinations, planting techniques, and the importance of editing. She will also touch upon her photography.



Lisa Roper



The Atherton Garden Guild
 PO Box 685
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

AGG Newsletter

OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

President: Nyna Dolby
 1st Vice President: Mimi Hillyard
Programs
 2nd Vice President: Dana Bonham
Membership
 Treasurer: Katie Blommer
 Recording Secretary: Bing Hai
 Corresponding Secretary: Karen Handal
 Historian: Pam Smith
Photography
 Parliamentarian: Patti Spezzaferro
 Newsletter: Martha Woollomes
 Website/Technology: Carrie Drake

CONTRIBUTORS

Dana Bonham, Nyna Dolby,
 Berenice Hurtado, Patty Leugers,
 Patti Spezzaferro, Martha Woollomes

PROOFREADERS

Nyna Dolby, Kasey Hansen,
 Pam Smith, Patti Spezzaferro

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2025/2026

Atherton Library Flowers: Nancy Hardesty
Bouquets to Books: Chair Patty Leugers • Co-Chair Julie Gosler
Committee: Mimi Hillyard, Suzanne Legallet, Carol Selig, Patti Spezzaferro
Donations: Chair Carrie Drake
Committee: Sue Matthews, Mary Tan
Flower Demonstrations: Suellen Rottiers
Garden Tour: Chair Carrie Drake • Co-Chair Suzanne Legallet
Committee: Julie Douglass, Julie Gosler, Carol Selig, Suellen Rottiers, Martha Woollomes
Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden: Chair Patty Leugers • Co-Chair Pam McGraw
Holiday Luncheon: Chair Kasey Hansen
Committee: Dana Bonham, Julie Douglass, Carrie Drake, Karen Handal, Mimi Hillyard, Suzanne Legallet, Patty Leugers, Katy McCormick, Suellen Rottiers, Carol Seleg
Horticulture: Patti Spezzaferro
Hospitality/Refreshments: Chair Carol Selig
June Luncheon: Chair Patti Spezzaferro
Committee: Terri Bailard, Julie Douglass, Nancy Hardesty, Mimi Hillyard, Suellen Rottiers, Joan Sanders
Nominating: TBD
Committee: Kasey Hansen, Suzanne Legallet
Yearbook/Roster: Chair Terri Bailard

BOUQUETS TO ART 2026

“A Floral Affair”

March 3 - 8

deYoung & Legion of Honor Museums

Opening Night Gala

deYoung Museum

March 2

5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

advance tickets required

6:00 pm

San Francisco City College

Floral Fashions

parade down the central staircase

moderated by Steven Brown

Programs

deYoung Museum at 2:00 pm

advance tickets required

March 3

Kiana Underwood: *Tulipina*

March 6

Gina Lett Shrewsbury: *Celebrating Nature*

with Sustainable Floral Designs

for a Greener Tomorrow



Birthdays

February Birthday Flowers

Violet and Primrose

Violet: loyalty, humility, love

Primrose: young love, hope, renewal

- 2 Darlene Shaheen
- 9 Suellen Rottiers
- 10 Joanne Baciocco
- 11 Julie Johnson Davis
- 18 Di Bryan
- 24 Nyna Dolby
Pam Smith
- 26 Marguerite Johnson
- 27 Kathy Schubin