ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD
Since 1966

Atherton Garden Gate
March 2025

AGG is a member of the California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Calendar

Meetings

Board Meetings: 9: 00 am
Social: 9: 30 am
Meetings: 10: 00 am

Meetings are on Mondays unless otherwise noted

March
Monday, March 3
Atherton Town Center
History Room

April
Monday, April 7
Suzanne Legallet's home
88 Selby Lane, Atherton

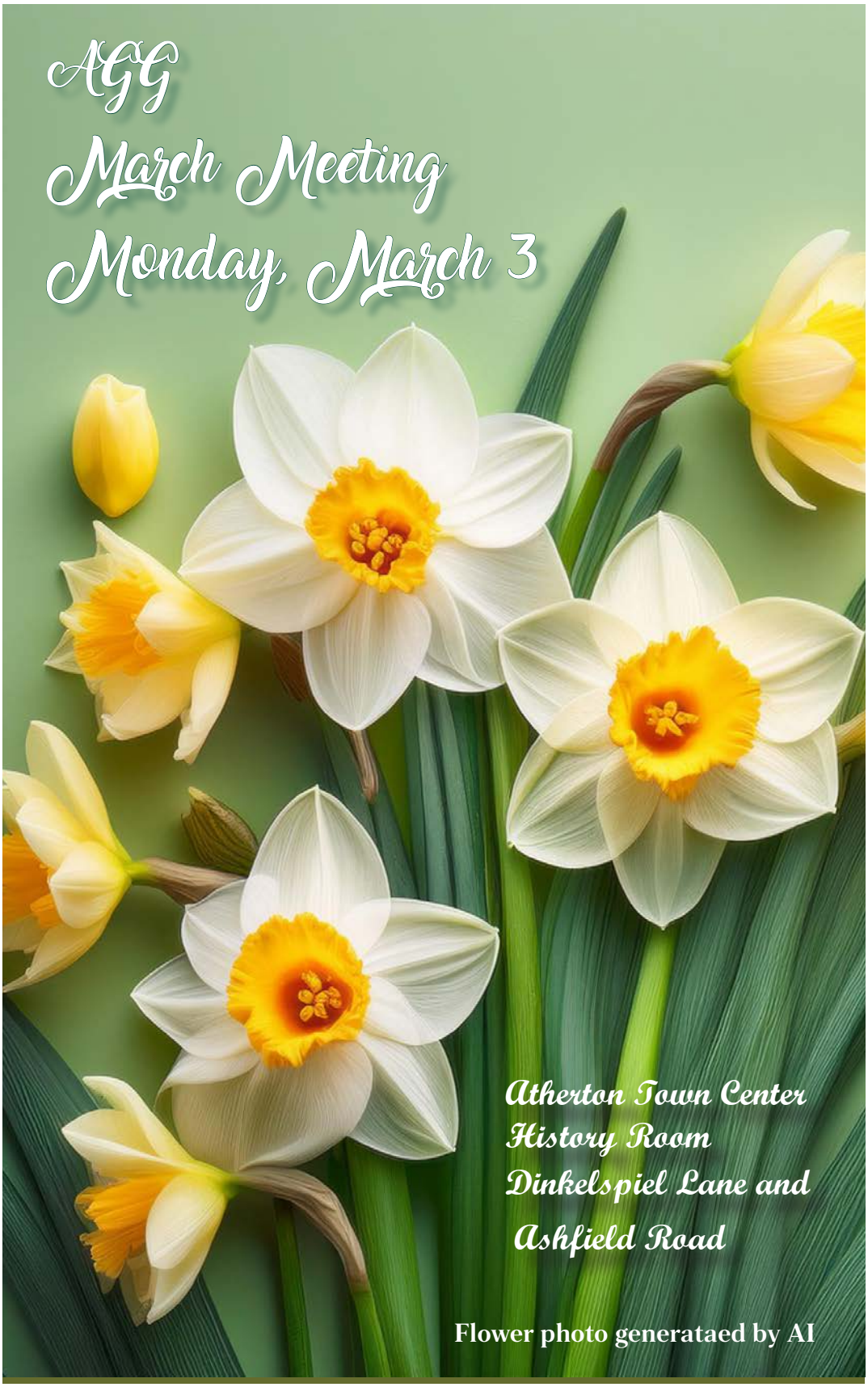
May
Monday, May 5
Atherton Town Center
History Room

June
Monday, June 2
Suzanne Legallet's home
88 Selby Lane, Atherton

Bouquets to Art

to be highlighted in the March program with AGG Members Nyna Dolby & Carol Selig who participate each year with their own designs

AGG March Meeting Monday, March 3



Atherton Town Center History Room Dinkelspiel Lane and Ashfield Road

Flower photo generataed by AI

The President's Letter

"For me it's the most marvelous, therapeutic business."
King Charles III

King Charles III's love of gardening goes all the way back to his childhood where he showed an interest in growing vegetables at Buckingham Palace. His grandmother, the Queen Mother, was an avid gardener. Her garden, set on a twenty-one-acre property in Windsor, ignited his passion for gardening. Inspired by the Royal Lodge, Charles went on to transform his own organic garden at Highgrove into one of the most inspiring and innovative gardens in England.

In a BBC interview, Charles shares seven things a new gardener should do in their own garden.

1. **Enjoy yourself.** You can be rewarded but be aware it can also drive you mad.
2. Take care of your trees. Your trees are the foundation of your garden, and without them there is no anchor.
3. **Stay young**. Charles makes a point in designing his garden from a child's perspective. He adored mazes because when he was young they were so much fun. Create wonder.
4. **Paint a picture.** To Charles, "gardening is rather like painting. You need to get the paint on and not muck about."
5. **Create a path.** It's very important to design a curve path that you don't know where it takes you. How magical is that!
6. **Work with nature**. So much of nature has disappeared. Consider creating a meadow of wildflowers.
7. **Keep your chin up**. "No two years are the same. So, what was a disaster one year will probably be a success the next year. So don't despair. Nature's quite interesting like that."

Charles' lifelong passion in gardening is indeed contagious and inspiring. May we all not lose sight of how magical it is.

Looking forward to seeing you all for another fantastic general meeting on March 3rd at the Atherton Town Center, History Room for Behind the Scenes at Bouquets to Art with exhibitors Nyna Dolby and Carol Selig.

Atherton Library

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
Friday - Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm
Deliver flowers early Monday, pick up late Sunday
Closed Sunday, March 30, 2025 - Monday, March 31, 2025

March

3 Erika Enos
10 Karen Handal
17 Kasey Hansen
24 Lynne Heppberger
31 Mimi Hillyard

Hospitality

March

Sue Connelly, Chair
Pam Brown
Susan Barkley

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 17

AGG Meetings & Programs

Carol Selig & Nyna Dolby at Bouquets to Art 2024

The March AGG Program

will feature SFGC members

Nyna Dolby and Carol Selig

Exhibitors a Bouquets to Art

Carol & Nyna in Their Own Words

Nyna grew up around flowers as her family loved to entertain and garden! She honed her skills as a young mom in Seattle through the Career Floral Design Institute which allowed her entry to the Filoli House Flower Arrangers when she moved to CA over 30 years ago. The long experience at Filoli opened doors for her to arrange flowers for weddings, churches, garden clubs and special events over the years where her designs have been featured on the website "Style Me Pretty" and in local newspapers. Three times she has had arrangements at the SF Fine Arts Museums "Bouquets to Art" where she is also a monthly volunteer arranger. She also arranges at Palo Alto's Gamble Garden and is a member of the Atherton Garden Guild.

For BATA 2024 we interpreted the advertising poster art for the event: The Brazilian Rain Forest with orchids and hummingbirds

Carol is a floral designer presently doing arrangements for the DeYoung and Legion of Honor Museums. She was part of the Filoli Gardens Flower Design team for many years and has been active providing flowers for weddings, theatre openings, and fund raisers. She is also a member of the AGG.

Having been surrounded by her mother's floral creations, she remembers participating as a child in the children's section of a number of flower shows.

Living in Japan for 3 years allowed her to study Ikebana, and upon returning to the US, raising funds for a number of nonprofits was a push to do large scale arrangements for events to keep expenses low.

Participation in Bouquets to Art at the DeYoung and Legion of Honor museums, where she also serves as a docent, has been a real treat.

Nyna a the de Young with their 2024 installation

Nyna at the Legion of Honor in 1998 transporting materials

Nyna assisted fellow Filoli volunteer, Nicki Weicker representing Filoli interpreting two Rodin Sculpture 1998

Arrangement by Carol for the SFFAM

For the 2020 virtual Bouquets to Art, Nyna interpreted her cousin Agnes Pelton's 1910 CT farm American Chestnut tree

February Meeting

Atherton Library
Floral Demonstrations

On January 30th AGG Members Carol Selig and Suellen Rottiers joined together to present a demonstration of flower arranging with a Valentine theme at the Atherton Library. The event was a sellout with a waiting list.

The next floral demonstration will be on March 10th. The event will feature AGG Members Nancy Butler and Kathy Ladra. 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

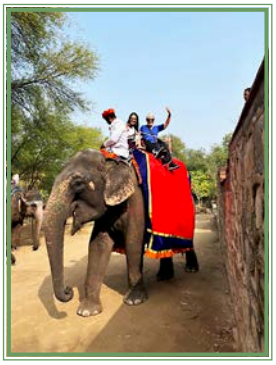
Library Flower Arrangements

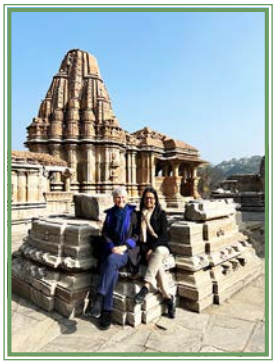
Library Floral arrangement by Sally Brudos

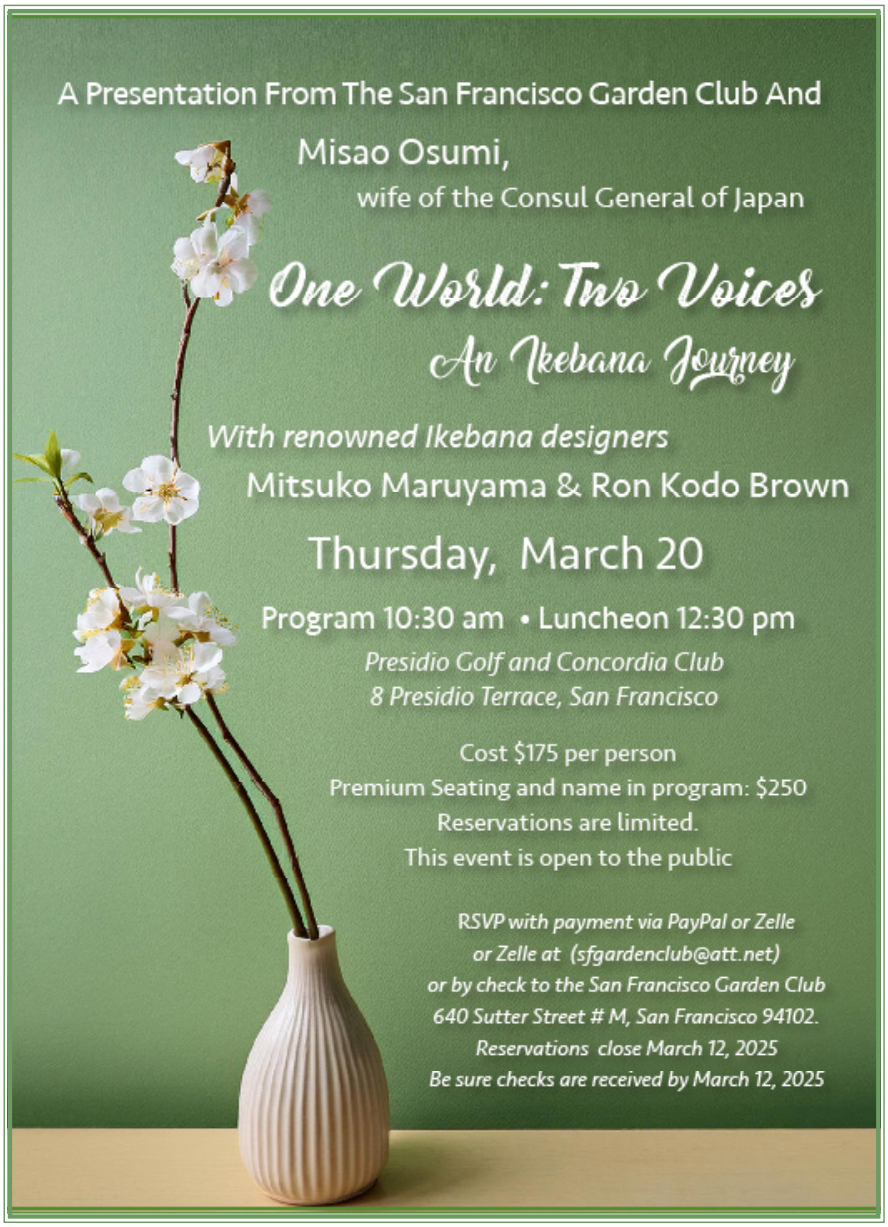
February arrangement by Rita Wachhorst in a vase from her mother-in-law

This & That

Barbara Tyler's Amazing trip to India







For those interested, car pools can be arranged

Rose Garden
Holbrook Palmer Park

Despite the cold rainy weather our dedicated volunteers pruned our rose bushes at HP park on Feb. 7. Our Dream Team consisted of Katy McCormick, Barbara Tyler, Carrie Drake, Dana Bonham and Suzanne Van Ness. They were not daunted by the inclement weather and made fast work of getting the roses ready for spring. Not pictured are Nyna Dolby and Suzanne Legallet who got the ball rolling on the pruning duties in late January. *Patty Leugers*

Who's in the Garden with Patty Leugers

by Patti Spezzaferro

Which three historical or present gardeners would you invite to your dinner party?
Claude Monet, Thomas Church, Suzanne Legallet.

What is your greatest fear?
I do fear losing my sight. So much of the pleasure of gardening is being able to see the gorgeous colors and variations of design in plant life.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Perfect happiness is being able to experience the beauty of nature, both flora and fauna, surrounded by loved ones. A cottage on a temperate coast (where one can grow a garden) would really fit the bill, but I am very happy with my present situation.

Which gardens are your favorites?
Longwood Gardens has to be at the top of the list of gardens that I love. When I lived near Philadelphia, I also enjoyed Winterthur and Chanticleer.

What have you learned recently about gardening that you wish to share?
I've learned that some plants thrive better than others no matter what you do. I no longer beat myself up over losing some plantings that did not do well in my garden.

What is your favorite gardening product?
My favorite gardening product is the HydraHyde gloves I bought at Costco. They have nice leather palm and finger linings so that I can safely cut my roses and not suffer the thorn bites.

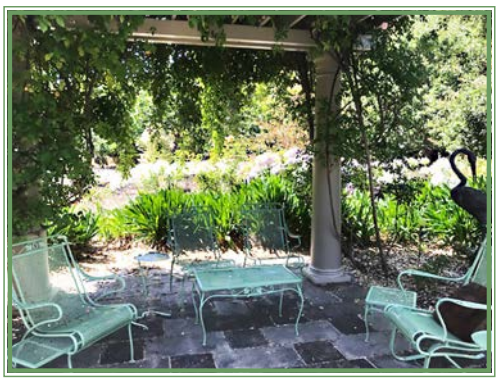
What inspires you to garden?
The beautiful and serene garden views I enjoy from my home inspire me to keep up the hard work of maintaining it.

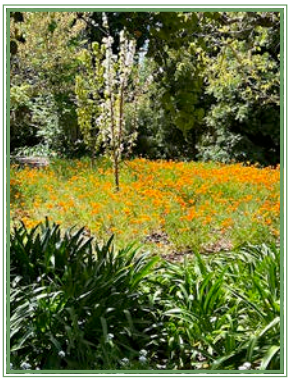
A motto by which you live by while gardening?
Well, I would say that I keep telling myself to enjoy every single moment spent in such delightful and calming surroundings. We are truly fortunate to live in such an enriching environment.

What is your greatest extravagance?
My greatest extravagance is most likely our house and garden and the maintenance that they both require.

What does AGG mean to you?
AGG means friendship and the ability to share common interests with such accomplished and fascinating women.

Views of Patty's Garden





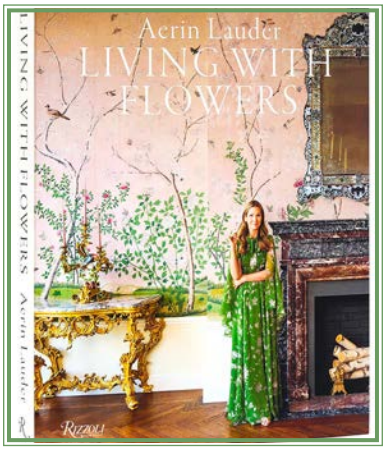
Horticulture Report

March Horticulture Report

by Patti Spezzaferro

March Master Gardener's Checklist

- Feed your garden with organic, all-purpose plant fertilizer.
- This is the best time to shop for rhododendrons and azaleas. Feed them after they have flowered with organic azalea/camellia/gardenia fertilizer.
- Continue to prepare planting beds for spring. Turn the soil and add at least 4 inches of compost. Test your soil for pH, nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, and add the appropriate fertilizer or supplement.
- If you planted fava beans as a cover crop in your garden, pull up the plants when half of the blooms have opened. This will give you the greatest return of nitrogen to your soil.
- Feed citrus trees this month with granular citrus fertilizer.
- Plant vegetable starts.
- Check the nurseries for blooming and budding annuals for spring.
- Plant gladiolus and dahlias for summer color.
- Consider planting companion plants to provide an environment that welcomes beneficial insects. Choose cosmos, marigolds, nasturtiums, sunflowers, and zinnas to attract bees.



Book of the Month

by Patty Spezzaferro

Living with Flowers

By Aerin Lauder

I have been following Aerin Lauder for years. Her sense of style, strong work ethic, and love of family have always inspired me. Aerin Lauder who is the daughter of Joe and Ronald Lauder is the style and image director for the Estée Lauder Companies and has her own cosmetic, perfume, fashion, and furniture line named AERIN.

Living with Flowers showcases Lauder's love of flowers from fresh bouquets to floral patterns on wallpaper, fabric, and tabletop pieces. As a little girl, she would collect flower objects and little flower books. Today, in her book, she shares the many ways she brings flowers into her home. Whether it's an arrangement of daisies in the kitchen to welcoming friends and family for dinner. A single stem on her desk brightens her workday. Lauder strongly believes that flowers are an essential part of any home. Our kind of girl. Buy it on amazon.com

Welcoming friends and family

Plant Power

Who Knew What Some Plants Can Do

Scientists study the use of plants in Battery Power

Taken from an article in the Wall Street Journal by Jon Emont

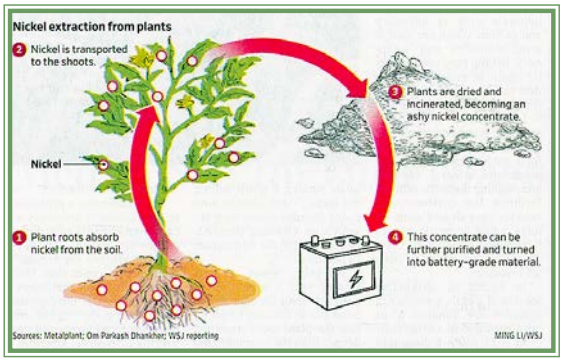
Oilseed-rape-brassica-napus-plant

Worries about China's domination of critical minerals are driving Western scientists and companies to embark on increasingly novel ways to develop alternative sources. One such effort seeks to exploit a quirk of nature: Certain plants, called hyperaccumulators, absorb large quantities of minerals, like nickel and zinc from the soil. Cultivating these plants, and then incinerating them for their metal, could provide U.S. companies with a small stream of domestically sourced minerals—without the expense and environmental destructiveness of conventional mining.

"When we're in this intense competition we do have to think about alternative methods," said Evelyn Wang, the former director of ARPA-E, an Energy Department agency that is dispensing $10 million to find ways to make nickel farming feasible in the U.S. "It is a technological white space that potentially could be transformative."

At a greenhouse in Amherst, professors are using the funding to undertake gene editing to build a new fast-growing, nickel-absorbing oilseed plant. If successful, the plant could be used to harvest the metal from mineral-rich soils in states such as Maryland and Oregon.

A team led by Om Parkash Dhankher, a plant biotechnologist at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, recently received $1.3 million in U.S. funding to try to imbue an oilseed plant with genetic material from the nickel-absorbing plant deemed a noxious weed by Oregon authorities. Dhankher's team must isolate the array of genes involved in absorbing nickel and then shift them into an entirely new plant. Nickel is toxic to plants, so consuming the nickel could kill the oilseed plant. As a result, Dhankher's team must identify the genes that will direct the nickel flow to central vacuoles—parts of plant cells that function as landfills—where the nickel can be stored safely. By taking the nickel-absorbing genes from Alyssum and inserting them into the oilseed plant, which is widely cultivated in North America, they hope to avoid it becoming the noxious type that prompted pushback from state authorities.



If Dhankher succeeds, farmers planting his creation in the nickel-rich soils of Oregon or Maryland could glean revenue both from seed oil, used in biofuel, and nickel. On a recent day, the lab and greenhouse saw a flurry of activity. A postdoctoral researcher ground a plant that has been exposed to nickel to extract its RNA so that the team can work out how exposure to nickel alters its genes."Our target is to have maximum accumulation," Dhankher said.

Some 10 million acres of barren, nickel-rich soil are scattered around the U.S. In such areas, concentrations of minerals are generally too low to justify large-scale mining, but could offer opportunity for inexpensive nickel farming. In the case of nickel phytomining, as such efforts are known, the plants are dried and incinerated, leaving an ashy nickel concentrate. This concentrate can then be further purified and turned into battery-grade material.

Now, a handful of private companies are seeking to capitalize on the appetite for minerals that are both environmentally sustainable and free of Chinese influence. The nickel recovered from plants is already in a purer chemical form than that coming from conventional mining, saving on energy-intensive and costly processing.

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

AGG Newsletter

March 2025

OFFICERS 2024 - 2025

President:	Patti Spezzaferro
1st Vice President: *Programs*	Suzanne Legallet Mimi Hillyard
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Parliamentarians:	Julie Douglass Joan Sanders
Newsletter:	Martha Woollomes
Website/Technology:	Carrie Drake

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Suellen Rottiers, Carol Selig,
Patti Spezzaferro, Martha Woollomes

PROOFREADERS

Kasey Hansen, Pamela Smith,
Patti Spezzaferro

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2024/2025

Atherton Library Flowers: Chair Rita Wachhorst
Donations: Chair Barbara Tyler
Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden: Chair Patty Leugers
Holiday Party: Location: Holbrook Palmer Pavilion
Committee: *Dana Bonham, Carrie Drake, Erika Enos, Ginny Nile, Suellen Rottiers, Pam Smith, Lynne and Dave Heppberger*
Horticulture: Chair Patti Spezzaferro
Hospitality/Refreshments: Chair Lynne Heppberger
June, 2024 Luncheon: Hostess: Suzanne Legallet
Committee Chair: Suzanne Legallet
Committee: *Karen Bartholomew, Dana Bonham Sue Connelly, Mimi Hillyard, Sue Matthews, Karen Olson, Joan Sanders, Patti Spezzaferro*
Newsletter: Editor Martha Woollomes
Nominating: Chair Suzanne Van Ness
Website: Chair Carrie Drake
Yearbook: Chair Terri Bailard

Birthdays

March

Birthday Flower

March

Daffodil

New Beginnings

March Birthdays

March 4	Sally Young
March 8	Suzanne Legallet
March 14	Toni Heren
March 19	Nin Lyon
March 20	Patricia Davis