



A member of
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Atherton Garden Guild

Since 1966

Garden Gate

January, 2026

AGG
Meeting
Monday, January 5

Program
Jim Salyards

*Filoli's Associate Director
of Horticultural Initiatives*

Atherton
Town Center
History Room
*Dinkelspiel Lane &
Ashfield Road*



Calendar

Calendar Meetings

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

January

Monday, January 5
Jim Salyards
Atherton Town Center
History Room

February

Monday, February 2
Atherton Town Center
History Room

Wednesday, February 4
Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library
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 Pavilion
Holbrook Palmer Park

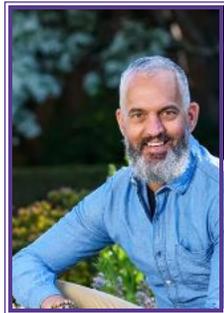
May

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



AGG January Meeting Monday, January 5 Slide Show Presentation

*Atherton Town Center
History Room*

Jim Salyard will share observations about gardens he visited during a sabbatical he took this past year.

Jim Salyards has worked at Filoli for 30 years and jumped into Associate Director of Horticultural Initiatives at Filoli Center in early 2025. Jim oversees a wide range of horticultural programs that support Filoli's external relations, learning and engagement, development, retail, and interpretive strategies, with a particular emphasis on community engagement. He also oversees Filoli's plant collections work. Additionally, Jim is responsible for building and nurturing relationships within the fields of public gardens, horticultural science, gardening, retail product production, and the culinary arts.

January Library Flowers

*Deliver flowers early Monday and pick up late Sunday.
Library closures: January 1, New Year's Day
January 18, Marten Luther King Jr. Day*

5	Kasey Hansen	19	Lynne Heppberger
12	Julie Douglass (Sub)	26	Mimi Hillyard



January Hospitality

Chair Patty Leugers
Pam McGraw ~ Jeanne Quinlan

Happy New Year



President's Letter



Happy New Year garden friends! Hope you each had a spectacular holiday season full of family and friends, love and laughter!

Our holiday “Souper” luncheon was delicious and relaxed fun but feels like ages ago! Many thanks to Suzanne for opening her lovely well-decorated home to us all and to Kasey and her diligent committee for making the day so “Souper!”

Our last business meeting involved BUGS! So helpful and informative! Yesterday while shopping here in Fredericksburg, Texas, we saw crickets and maggots packaged for sale in a candy store!! Despite all we learned in November, I still couldn't bring myself to buy BUGS as treats!

I am writing this from my sister's house in Texas. Sitting here looking out at her dormant pecan grove full of wildlife, I am struck by how different this environment is from ours in the CA Bay Area! The vegetation is all gray and very much asleep. But the wild-life is visible everywhere! Red cardinals are easy to spot, so striking against the gray trees. They are surrounded by other busy birds who are only visible as they flit from branch to branch as their coloring matches their surroundings. Deer, squirrels, armadillos, ring tail cats, cattle and donkeys are all around us. (One ring tail cat got a little too close, though!) For all the unique beauty of this Texas Hill Country, I am very grateful for our more stable climate (despite the recent heavy rains) with more predictable weather conducive to the gardening we all love. Yesterday here it was 75 degrees and hot the sun. Today it is 37, but the weather app says “feels like 20 degrees”! How rapidly conditions change! Confusing for plants, animals and humans!!

I hope each of you are starting the new year with hearts full of gratitude for the many blessings received during the past year, anticipating another beautiful spring and abundant summer and fall! So much to be thankful for!

See you at the Atherton Library at 9:30 am on January 5! Happy New Year!

Grateful for you,
Nyna

The Gardens of Golden Gate Park

You will not want to miss one of the most significant conservation collections of Magnolias in the United States in bloom January through March.

In the winter of 1940, horticultural history was made at the newly-opened San Francisco Botanical Garden when its exotic cup and saucer magnolia (*Magnolia campbellii*) became the first of its kind to bloom in the United States. Huge crowds of excited and curious visitors stood in long lines to see the stunning, large, pink blossoms of this famous Magnolia that still stands in the Garden today. That was just the beginning. The Garden is now home to more than 200 Magnolias— many rare and historic. The Garden's current collection includes 63 species and 49 cultivars.



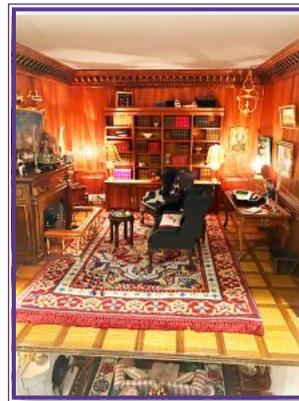
December Holiday Luncheon



Winterthur & Longwood photos by Suzanne Legallet



Winterthur



Winterthur



Longwood



Longwood

Horticulture

January Horticulture Report

by Patti Spezzaferro

Master Gardener's Checklist

- Pull weeds brought on by recent rains now before they go to seed.
- This is a good time to plant dormant fruit trees and roses.
- Top dress tender plants with a mulch mix.
- Keep the garden clean. Prune and cut back overgrown perennials, roses, and shrubs. Remove plants that haven't been doing well to make room for healthier ones.
- Protect citrus plants from frosty nights. Cover them and keep them watered - well-hydrated plants will hold up to the cold much better.
- Indoors, heaters can dry out houseplants quickly. Don't forget to keep them watered.
- Feed the birds in your garden.
- Start artichoke, asparagus, rhubarb.
- Start planning your summer garden now!

Book of the Month

Pansies by Brenna Estrada



Filled with beautiful photography, *Pansies* is the perfect book for growers, florists, artists, and collectors. Readers will discover the exciting history of pansies and violas, from their origin as a wildflower to every household garden plant. There are hundreds of pansies varieties classified by size, growth habit like trailing or mounding, and appearance like clear faces, blotches, ruffled edges.



The book will cover such topics as:

- Growing pansies and how to save pansy seeds!
- How to keep pansies healthy and resilient all year round
- Inspiration for incorporating pansies in crafts, recipes, and in the apothecary
- Inspiring examples of knockout bouquets and arrangements
- Estrade focuses on 50 varieties of pansies and violas available today.

Buy it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Light Show

Experience Golden Gate Park in a Whole New Light

by Jane Bradford Evans, San Francisco Garden Club Member



During the winter and holiday season, the San Francisco Botanical presented “Light-scape at the SF Botanical Garden After Dark.” The 55-acre Botanical Garden was transformed into a magical, illuminated, one-mile trail set to music. This immersive experience, with more than one million lights, was custom designed for the unique landscape of the SF setting, highlighting the beauty of the plants and trees with dramatic colored lighting, and water features. One walked through suspended strands of light, encountered glowing sculptures, and viewed trees wrapped in vibrant colors. Those who attended during the first week of December were also able to see the December full moon or Cold Moon, also a Supermoon, while in the garden.

The Light-scape experience has been recreated around the world at the world’s leading botanical gardens in the UK, Europe, US, and Australia as well as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Plants are the priority and the SF team took great care to select suitable trees, utilize appropriate paths, and uphold the integrity of the garden collections and local wildlife. The following protective strategies were implemented:

- Lights off no later than 10:30pm every night – allowing for approximately 7 hours of normal urban darkness.
- No use of lasers or light rays pointing into the sky.
- Use of LEDs throughout to reduce power requirements
- Signature displays included the Cathedral of Light, a massive light tunnel created with a multitude of strands of white light, and the captivating Singing Tree or Meadow of Light, where light and music were perfectly synchronized.
- Light-scape is a festive, family friendly, seasonal celebration for the senses, offering a special opportunity, an atmospheric submersion, to see a familiar natural space come alive after dark.



Christmas Luncheon Recipe

Submitted and made by Patti Spezzaferro to serve at the AGG 2025 Christmas Luncheon

RECIPE COURTESY OF INA GARTEN

Make It Ahead English Chocolate Crisps

Level: Easy

Total: 1 hr 45 min (includes cooling time)

Active: 15 min

Yield: 8 large crisps

7 1/4 ounces milk chocolate, such as Perugina

5 1/2 ounces bittersweet chocolate, such as Lindt or Perugina

3 cups cornflakes, such as Kellogg's

1/3 cup dried cranberries



Directions:

Chop the two chocolates and place 3/4 of them in a heat-proof bowl. Place the bowl in a microwave on high heat for 30 seconds, remove the bowl, and stir the chocolates vigorously with a wooden spoon. Continue heating and stirring the chocolates in 30-second intervals, switching to 15-second intervals as the chocolates start to melt, continuing to stir vigorously with a wooden spoon in between each heating. Heat only until the chocolates are just melted. Add the remaining quarter of the chocolates and stir vigorously until melted and smooth. (If the chocolate isn't completely melted, microwave it for another 5 or 10 seconds.)

Place the cornflakes in a medium bowl, pour the chocolate mixture over the cornflakes, and immediately fold them together with a rubber spatula, being careful not to break up the cornflakes. You'll want to work quickly so the chocolate doesn't harden. Fold in the cranberries.

Line a sheet pan with parchment paper. Working with 2 soup spoons, spoon 8 mounds of chocolate crisps onto the paper. Set aside at room temperature to cool completely until hardened. Peel the crisps off the paper and serve.

Reprinted from Make It Ahead, Copyright 2014 by Ina Garten, Clarkson Potter/Publisher. All rights reserved.



“Forget Me Not” Fund Donation

Joan Sanders made a donation in honor of Nan Ray

Blue Forget Me Not

Community Garden Calendar

Community Garden Calendar

Submitted by Patti Spezzaferro



Gamble Gardens

California Native Garden Design, Part 1

January 17th - 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

This two-part interactive class explores both the art and ecology of native garden design, blending classroom learning with outdoor experiences at Gamble Garden led by Gamble Garden's Horticultural Director, Corey Barnes.

\$32 Member (use code IRIS) / \$40 Non-member

Register: gamblegarden.org

Gamble Garden Tour

January 20th - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Step back in time to explore the life of Elizabeth Gamble and her historic gardens. This 90-minute guided tour starts on the front steps of the house.

Free for members, Non member pricing: \$15 adults, \$5 under 18.

Register: gamblegarden.org

Master Gardener

Maximize Your Bee-Friendly Garden:

A Workshop for Backyard Apiarists

January 8th - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Congregational Church of the Peninsula

751 Alameda de los Pulgas, Belmont

UC Master Gardener Presenter Michael Klein will explore practical tips and expert insights on designing and maintaining a garden that supports bees year-round.

Registration is not required.

Peninsula Rose Society

Winter Rose Pruning

January 21st - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

1455 Madison Avenue, Redwood City

6:30 pm Social, Meeting

Live Demo by Carol Wong, Carl Brannon & Stu Dalton

Registration not required. Free

UCIPM

Pests of Backyard Chickens

January 15 - 12 noon on Zoom

Chickens may host a variety of different pests, including lice, mites, and fleas. These ectoparasites can negatively affect chicken health, welfare, and production. This presentation will cover identification, prevention, and management of common ectoparasites found in backyard chicken flocks.

Register: ipm.ucanr.edu/#gsc.tab=0



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

AGG Newsletter

January 2026

OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Terry Bailard, Katie Blommer,
Di Bryan, Nyna Dolby,
Karen Handal, Suzanne Legallet,
Pam McGraw, 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



Birthdays

January Birthday Flower

Carnation & Snowdrop

Carnation: Mother's love
Snowdrop: Sympathy, Celebration

3 Julie Gosler
4 Kathy Ladra
15 Anna Zappettini
17 Carrie Drake
20 Katie Blommer
20 Mary Tan