



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

**Atherton Garden Guild**  
Since 1966

**Garden Gate**  
October 2025

AGG  
*Meeting ON October 6*

**TURBOW FARMS**

**2363 MORA GLEN DRIVE  
LOS ALTOS**



# Calendar

## Calendar Meetings

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

### October

**Monday, October 6**  
Turbow Farms  
2363 Mora Glen Drive  
Los Altos

### November

**Monday, November 3**  
Atherton Town Center  
History Room

### December

**Monday, December 8**  
Holiday Luncheon  
Suzanne Legallet's home

### January

**Monday, January 5**  
Atherton Town Center  
History Room

### February

**Monday, February 2**  
Atherton Town Center  
History Room

### March

**Monday, March 2**  
Atherton Town Center  
History Room

### April

**Monday, April 6**  
Atherton Town Center  
History Room

### May

**Monday, May 4**  
Atherton Town Center  
History Room

### June

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

## AGG Meeting Turbow Farms October 6

*2363 Mora Glen Drive, Los Altos*  
*Hostess: Charmaine Turbow*



**T**urbow Farms is a small, family-run, specialty cut flower farm nestled in the foothills of Los Altos, California. Growing common and not so common flowers, the harvest is shared through workshops. Each workshop is a unique experience that immerses participants into the world of floral farming and design. Turbow Farms fresh blooms are also available through flower subscriptions, bundles, and seasonal offerings, March through October.

*At the October Meeting, AGG Members will enjoy a tour of Turbow Farms led by the talented Charmaine Turbow who will give a floral demonstration afterwards using flowers picked from the garden during the tour. Those who would like to pick their own flowers during the tour may do so by purchasing tickets on the Turbow Farms Website ([turbowfarms.com](http://turbowfarms.com)) for \$65*

## October Library Flowers

*Deliver flowers early Monday and pick up late Sunday.  
Holidays and closed dates are listed each month.*

*The Library will be closed October 12-13 for Indigenous Peoples' Day*

10	Judy Blommer	20	Dana Bonham
13	Katie Blommer	27	Di Bryan



## October Hospitality

Chair Carrie Drake

Karen Handal • Martha Woollomes

## In Memoriam

*Sonia Shepard McLellan*

*August, 2025*

*AGG member since 1979*



# President's Letter



Our September meeting and Program involving an exchange of “treasures around our home and garden” got me looking at some books in my collection given to me by long-time Head Gardener at Filoli, Lucy Tolmach. When she retired from Filoli, Lucy kindly gave me Mrs. Roth’s collection of large metal floral cages and Lucy’s collection of books by pioneering floral arranger, Constance Spry. Spry became known for ransacking her attic for unusual containers for her arrangements and for using unexpected botanical materials in her arrangements to offset the flowers. I’m so thankful for her creativity and appreciation of the unusual yet beautiful.

I’m also thankful for this group of talented and creative women garden enthusiasts. Every time we gather I learn something new and come away feeling inspired and encouraged. Thank you all for bringing your best selves into our meetings. You made my first moments at president fun and almost easy! Thank you!

During the first Board of Directors’ meeting, we talked about the linking of the newsletter with the website. There had been discussion of encouraging everyone to go to the website to get the newsletter, but for security reasons, it was felt to be better to have the website accessed by the newsletter that goes out via e-mail rather than visa versa.

We also discussed my goal this year of improving our outreach into the community primarily through our association with the Atherton Library. The creation of a new Board position of “Community Outreach” was discussed that would combine the committees for flowers in the Library, Bouquets to Books, the Library garden plant labels, the Library flower demos, and possibly a program to introduce gardening to children. Let’s think about this and we can discuss it at our next meetings. Such a role would require a modification to our By-Laws and a vote of the group. Fun to think about possibilities, no?

Thank you to Mary Tan and Joan Sanders for providing our first “Member Moments” with fun facts about talented granddaughters who make “Comfort Chickens”, a tool known as a “zoom broom,” and a surprising connection between a recently married son and daughter-in-law returning from their honeymoon at the same time as fellow AGG member, Carrie Drake, was returning from her trip to Kenya! Interesting all the places we go and things we do! Thanks for sharing!

Looking forward to Turbow Farms flower farm near me in Los Altos! Don’t forget to visit the Turbow Farms website to reserve your chance to go home with freshly picked flowers! See you soon!

*Nyna*

## Atherton Garden Guild is awarded the Blue Ribbon Club of Achievement for 2024-25

The title, Blue Ribbon Achievement, refers to the award, Blue Ribbon Certificate of Achievement, the most prestigious designation that indicates the garden club participates in and fulfills the objectives of CGCI and National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), and demonstrates that it is a well-rounded garden club which has many diverse activities and projects—all for the good of the community. This certificate is given to clubs that completed a checklist of activities related to the garden club objectives. Clubs who earn 100 points of a possible 200 points are awarded this certificate. Congratulations Atherton Garden Guild!



*Nancy McDougal, California Garden Club Inc.,  
Bay Ocean District representative with Patti*

# September Meeting



# September Board Meeting/Luncheon



# Horticulture Page

## October Horticulture

by Patti Spezzaferro

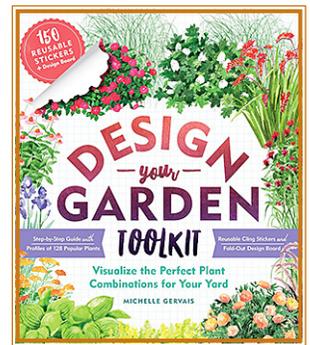
### October Master Gardener's Checklist

- Feed hydrangeas with an acidifier for bluer blooms. Feed with agricultural lime to turn them pink.
- Plant bulbs now for spring blooms.
- Fall is an ideal time to plant native species. Please take a look at the UC Davis Arboretum website for ideas.
- Plant garlic and shallots now for a summer harvest.
- Prepare planting beds for winter by clearing out weeds and removing rocks. Add soil amendments and/or plant winter cover crops, such as fava beans, to replenish nitrogen in the soil.
- Add fallen leaves and plant debris to your compost pile. Or, leave them on the ground to serve as a natural mulch for your garden.

## Book of the Month

### Design Your Garden Toolkit

by Michelle Gervais



*Before picking up the trowel, pick up the stickers.*

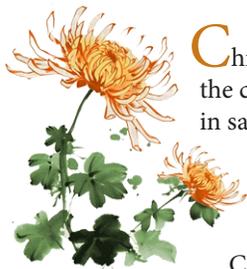
Has garden design always intimidated you? Well, it has me. But with this book, featuring 150 reusable illustrated stickers representing dozens of plant cultivars that are versatile, readily available, and suitable for our temperate growing zones, you'll learn the five easy steps of garden design. You'll have everything you need to bring your vision of the perfect garden to life.

The durable cling stickers, with beautiful, botanically accurate illustrations, can be layered, arranged, and rearranged to try out every variation before making any plant purchases. This book-and-kit combination makes it possible to create your dream border, bed, or backyard oasis without leaving your kitchen table. This is a great way to dip your toe into the world of garden design. Buy it here at Thrift Books. Thank you, Nan Ray, for this great book recommendation.

## The Chrysanthemum

### A fall favorite

*The name chrysanthemum is derived from the Greek chryos meaning gold and anthemion meaning flower.*



**C**hrysanthemums have a history that is as colorful as the flowers themselves. First cultivated centuries ago in China, the chrysanthemum was used primarily as a culinary herb. Its petals and young shoots found their way to the table in salads; its flowers and leaves were taken and brewed into teas.

The Japanese subsequently adopted the flower and were so enamored with it that they gave it the status of royalty. The flower is used on the Emperor's official seal and crest, and the highest level of decoration that can be awarded to an individual for distinguished service to the nation is the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum. The Japanese have a National Chrysanthemum Day, the Festival of Happiness, which is one of five ancient festival days in the country. Kiku is the Japanese word for chrysanthemum.

The chrysanthemum was introduced into European culture in the 17th century. Some European countries gave the flower a markedly different meaning, adopting it as a symbol of death, using it for funerals and graves.

Chrysanthemums belong to the Asteraceae or daisy family. It is one of the largest families in the botanical world. In evolutionary terms, it is considered one of the more advanced families because of its complex flower structure.

# Who's in the Garden

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## Who's in the garden

*Patti Spezzaferro talks to Bing Hai about what inspires her, what keeps her gardening, and much more.*



**Which three historical or present gardeners would you invite to your dinner party?**  
Gertrude Jekyll, David Austin, and Piet Oudolf.

**What is your greatest fear?**  
Dementia. My dad suffers from dementia. I'm doing my best now to prevent the ailment.

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**  
Sharing my garden and its bounty with family and friends makes me perfectly happy.

**Which gardens are your favorites?**  
I love the garden and landscaping at Donum Winery. Contemporary landscaping has been developed around large installations of contemporary sculptures. They look fantastic together.

**What have you learned recently about gardening that you wish to share?**  
Some new research shows that it's better to water plants shallowly every day than to water deeply less often.

**What is your favorite gardening product and why?**  
My favorite is EB Stone's organic fertilizer called Sure Start. It contains mycorrhizal fungi and phosphate, which help transplants and seedlings develop strong roots.

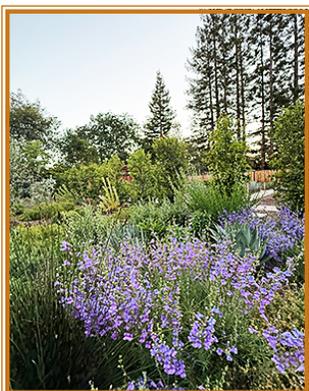
**What inspires you to garden?**  
I love observing various plants grow and change over time.

**A motto by which you live by while gardening?**  
Nothing is perfect, and my plants don't need to be, either.

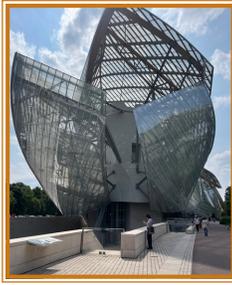
**What is your greatest extravagance?**  
I included an orchard in our landscaping design and now have over 40 fruit trees on our property. My family and I enjoyed the most delicious fruits all summer.

**What does AGG mean to you?**  
AGG means a new community of intelligent and interesting women with whom I can share my gardening hobby and learn from—in gardening and a lot more.

## Views of Bing's garden



# Member Page



**Julie Douglass's trip to Paris**



**Bing Hai's family trip to Spain**

- My kids in front of a winery designed by Frank Gehry.
- Family photo in front of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao (designed by Frank Gehry.)
- My picture with one of the best chefs in the world (Eneko Azurmendi) at his Michelin 3-star restaurant.
- Shrimp at Bar El Cañete in Barcelona.



**Karen Handal with Trolls and granddaughter at Filoli**



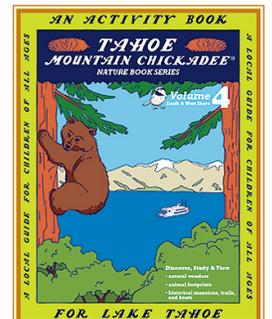
## Tahoe Bears & Books by Nancy Hardesty



My cabin is at the north end of Lake Tahoe, in a subdivision called Dollar Point. There is a nearby wooded slope which is still home to many wild black bears. I landscaped the front yard of my cabin years ago, and put in a little pond, which you can see in the photos. When I fill the pond with fresh water, and on very hot days, the bears come to drink at the pond, and sometimes they jump in and use the pond as a spa!

The mother bear in the photo came to drink. Her cubs suddenly climbed a tree next to my cabin when a dog walked by on the nearby street. The cubs stayed in the tree for several hours while mom lounged at the little pond. She finally had to climb the tree to get them down! Of course I stayed in the house and took photos.....did not venture out to my back deck during this adventure.

When I first visited Lake Tahoe, in the 1980's, I was fascinated by the ecology of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The animals, the mountain setting, the "Lake in the Sky".... all are full of wonder. When I realized I was about to have grandchildren, I looked for books with which to teach my grandchildren about the natural wonders of Lake Tahoe. I could find no such books! So I began to write books to encourage my grandchildren to take care of Lake Tahoe when I am gone. They have become guidebooks for children of all ages who visit Lake Tahoe!



# Be Aware/Take Care

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## Identity Theft

by Martha Woollomes

I was a victim of identity theft this past summer, and it took a tremendous amount of time and effort to resolve everything. I sincerely hope no other AGG member has to go through this experience. With that in mind, I'd like to share some ideas on how you can better protect yourself.

My husband and I had an AT&T landline phone number that was stolen and ported to TracFone. Because that number was linked to my bank accounts and credit cards, the thieves were able to gain access and compromise those accounts. Unlike cell phone numbers, landline numbers are not given the same level of protection—making them more vulnerable to this kind of attack.

### Some Ideas of How You Can Protect Yourself

- Freeze/Lock your phone number, especially if it is a land line. You can do this by contacting your carrier.
- Contact the three credit bureaus (Experian, Transunion & Equinox) and freeze your credit. Can be done online.
- Change passwords and user names every six months or so.
- Avoid clicking on links in emails or texts. Instead, go directly to the official website or app.
- Double-check the address of any email you are not sure about.

### A List of Scammer Tricks From Kim Komando

*So the bad links are not clickable, the word dot is used in the URL*

- **Check for funky URLs:** If your bank's site is usually mybank(dot)com, don't fall for mybank(dot)com. Note the Latin **α**.
- **Look for sneaky swaps:** Lowercase L's and capital I's (l vs I) can look the same, but googIe(dot)com is not google(dot)com.
- **Watch for extra words or dashes:** If the site is verizon(dot)com, skip anything like verizon-help-login(dot)com or secure-verizon123(dot)net.
- **Spot the weird endings:** Real companies usually use .com or .org. Be suspicious of .click, .online, .xyz or info tacked onto legit-looking names, like netflix-account-support (dot)xyz.
- **Beware of doubled-up letters:** Scammers repeat letters to fool your brain – amaazon(dot)com, netflfix(dot)com, paypaal (dot)com. If it looks off, it is.
- **Ignore random security warnings in the URL:** Some scam sites toss in words like "secure" or "SSL" to look official. For example, secure-update-google(dot)com.
- **Check for missing letters:** Typos cost you. Make sure you're not clicking on instgram(dot)com or facbook-login(dot)com.
- **Don't trust subdomains:** Scam links might start with something familiar such as amazon.fakeup date(dot)com or wells-fargo.loginverify(dot)net. The real domain is at the end, check it.

## Library Floral Demonstrations

*Mark your calendar*

**Chair Suellen Rottiers**

- Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Nyna Dolby and Carol Selig
- Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Kasey Hansen and Suellen Rottiers
- Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Joan Sanders and Suellen Rottiers
- Nancy Butler and Kathy Ladra will be doing a demo sometime between March and May. A date has not been determined.





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

# AGG Newsletter

October 2025

## OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

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

## CONTRIBUTORS

Di Bryan, Julie Douglass, Nyna Dolby,  
Bing Hai, Mimi Hillyard, Nancy Hardesty,  
Suellen Rottiers, 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, Di Bryan, Julie Douglass, Carrie Drake, Karen Handal, Mimi Hillyard, Legallet, Patty Leugers, Katy McCormick, Carol Selig  
**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:** Chair Nan Ray  
**Committee:** Kasey Hansen, Suzanne Legallet  
**Yearbook/Roster:** Chair Terri Bailard



## Birthdays

### October Birthday Flower

**Marigold • Cosmos**

Marigold: warmth, love, & passion  
Cosmos: harmony, balance, & tranquility

3	Patti Spezzaferro
8	Karen Olson
29	Barbara Tyler