



ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD

Since 1966

Newsletter

August/September 2023

## Calendar

### Meetings

Board Meetings: 9: 00 am

Social: 9: 30 am

Meetings: 10: 00 am

*Meetings are on Mondays  
unless otherwise noted*

### September 11

Joan Sanders

156 Hawthorne Drive, Atherton  
*Book, Container, Plant Exchange  
Optional tour of next-door garden*

### October 2

Jennings Pavilion

Holbrook Palmer Park, Atherton  
*"Creative Table Settings"*

### November 6

FILOLI

86 Canada Road, Woodside  
*Claire Margetts from  
Sissinghurst, England*

### December 11

Leslie Howard

86 Fredrick, Atherton  
*Christmas Party*

### January 8

Gamble Gardens

1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto  
*Presidio Tunnel Tops Program*

### February 5

Suzanne Legallet

88 Selby Lane, Atherton  
*"Lets Play Antique Road-show"*

### March 4

Suzanne Legallet

88 Selby Lane, Atherton  
*Nancy Schram: unique plants  
Carmen's Nursery*

### April 1

Garden in Portola Valley  
875 Westridge Drive,  
Portola Valley

*Tour*

### May 6

Atherton Town Center  
Dinkelspiel Ln. & Ashfield Rd.  
Atherton

*Tour*

### June 3

Rita Wachhorst

298 Park Lane, Atherton  
*June Luncheon*

## AGG Meeting · September 11

At the home of

Joan Sanders

156 Hawthorne Drive

Atherton



# President's Message

*A garden is probably the most pure and spiritual of joys  
A communion with nature and beauty in their most simple and fundamental forms  
Oscar de la Renta*



I always knew Oscar de la Renta was one of the world's leading fashion designers, but not that he was an avid and passionate gardener. Guided by his green thumb and a couturier's eye, the late designer created a breathtaking garden at his house in Punta Cana. When friends dropped by, they often caught De la Renta wearing an old polo shirt and khaki shorts down on his knees, working alongside his gardener, cutting back, digging out, and watering his Casa de Campo garden. His wife, Annette, is famous among their friends as a ruthless weeder. She would bring her shears when visiting friends and have the front door walkway weeded before she said hello.

De la Renta loved symmetry with precisely clipped hedges filled with chaotic herbaceous flowers in captivating colors, much like Vita Sackville-West did in her own garden at Sissinghurst. He loved gardening so much that he carried his love of flowers to his china, stationery, and dress designs. In 2016, he created a wonderful rose perfume named Bella Rosa with middle notes of Damask rose and peony.

De la Renta believed and always said, "You have to appreciate every day you're alive. Life is a little bit like a garden — you must find time to plant the seeds for beautiful flowers to grow."

There is no better place for renewal and hope for a better tomorrow filled with unlimited promise than in one's garden. With this in mind, I am off to my garden with renewed optimism. In August, the fruit trees need to be pruned to control height, maintain shape, and eliminate suckers. In September, I will try to keep up with watering since it can be the hottest and driest weather of the year, paying particular attention to pots since they dry out so quickly. For a complete garden to-do list, check out the August and September Master Gardener Checklist in this newsletter.

Like De la Renta's garden that brought him much joy, I hope our monthly meetings will leave you delighted, your spirits lifted, and encourage you to get in the garden. I look forward to seeing you at Joan Sander's beautiful home on Monday, September 11th, where we will exchange books, floral containers, and plants and we have a special opportunity to tour a Sandringham-inspired garden next door to Joan's home. Karen Handal and Suzanne Legallet have planned stimulating monthly programs this year. It's going to be a fantastic. I am so honored and grateful for the opportunity to be your President, and I look forward to many amazing moments together. **Patti**

## AGG Board of Directors June 2023 - June 2024

President  
VP Programs

VP Membership  
Treasurer  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Historian  
Parliamentarians

Newsletter  
Website

Patti Spezzaferro  
Karen Handal,  
Suzanne Legallet  
Karen Olsen  
Judy Blommer  
Suellen Rottiers  
Sue Matthews  
Di Bryan  
Julie Douglass,  
Joan Sanders  
Martha Woollomes  
Anita Joy

## AGG Swap

September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Book • Container • Plant



Bring a book, container or plant(s) for the September 11<sup>th</sup> AGG Exchange Table. Swap your contribution for something new to you. You may be thrilled with a wonderful find and at the same time make another member ecstatic to discover YOUR donation!

# Garden Conservancy - Board Meeting/Luncheon

## The Garden Conservancy

*The Garden Conservancy will be holding a two-day, in-person Summit entitled*

*“How Gardens are Changing the Future” on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>*

*The Summit will focus on three essential topics within contemporary gardening: Environment, Community and Culture*



On the first day of the Summit which will be held at The New York Botanical Garden, more than a dozen influential speakers from across the gardening world will participate in sessions organized around the Summit topics. They will discuss the extraordinary potential of gardens and gardening to improve our physical, cultural, and emotional health and well-being.

On the second day of the Summit, attendees will be treated to exclusive experiences at both private and public gardens throughout New York City and the greater metropolitan area that embody the forward-thinking and transformative potential in gardens today.

*For more information, check out: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/education/gfs-2023>*



# Annual June Meeting & Luncheon



# Annual June Meeting & Luncheon



# Spring/Summer Gardens



*Rita Wachhorst's window box featuring snap dragons, Dahlias, ivy and maybe creeping Jenny*



*Sue Connelly: Wildflowers at Stanford*



*Photo by Sue Connelly: Patty Leugers in the AGG Rose Garden at Holbrook Palmet*



*In the spring, a beautiful Portola Valley garden that featured Rhododendrons was toured by some AGG members.*



# Horticulture Report

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## August/September AGG Horticulture Report

by Patti Spezzaferro

*Master Gardener's Checklists*

### August

- Maintain drip irrigation for the most effective water use: check for leaks or missing/broken emitters.
- Begin sowing seeds for cool-season crops, such as beets, turnips, cabbage, radishes, broccoli, peas, kale, collard, spinach, arugula, and lettuces.
- Water container-grown citrus trees once a week or more often if the weather turns hot.
- Remove runners from strawberries to promote buds for next year and to have a stronger mother plant.
- Plan your vegetable garden for crop rotation to avoid re-planting the same types of plants in the same area two seasons in a row.
- Prune fruit trees to control height, maintain shape, and eliminate suckers.

### September

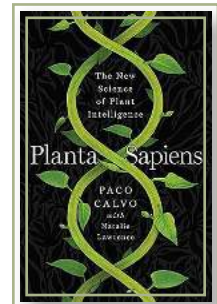
- This is an excellent time to start planting bulbs for spring.
- Plant garlic cloves 2 inches deep and 3-to-6 inches apart. Harvest late spring to mid-summer.
- There is still time to plant cool-season vegetables. See a list of suitable candidates in August.
- As you pull up veggie plants that are no longer producing, compost only those that show no sign of disease.
- Plant colorful fall flowers: Pansies, Violas, Mums, Stock, Snapdragons, Iceland Poppies, and Cyclamen.
- Fertilize azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons with fertilizer for acid-loving plants.
- As the fruit grows on second-year growth, cut back fruited canes of raspberries, leaving new canes for fruiting next year.
- September is the last month to fertilize your roses

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

### Planta Sapiens

*The New Science of Plant Intelligence*

By Paco Calvo with Natalie Lawrence



Paco Calvo, a professor of philosophy at Murcia, Spain, and Natalie Lawrence, a writer, and illustrator with a Ph.D. in the history of science who is based in London, believe that plants have a social intelligence where they release chemicals from their roots and leaves giving them the ability to speak to and identify one another. Although plants may not have brains, their internal workings reveal a system like the neuronal networks running through our bodies. They can learn and remember, possessing an intelligence that allows them to behave in flexible, forward-looking, and goal-directed ways. This means that plants can choose where best to grow based on the available resources, such as light and water. Buy it at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), and you will never look at plants the same way again.

## Garden Happenings

Foothill College Fall Horticulture classes start on September 22nd.

Check out the list of classes: [foothill.edu/hort/schedule.html](https://foothill.edu/hort/schedule.html)

Lyngso Recorded classes from garden design to soil science, [Lyngso learning resources](#).

Gamble Gardens offers stimulating events, such as **Yoga in the Garden** and other fun events at [Gamble Gardens](#).

San Mateo San Francisco Master Gardeners are dedicated to educating our community by answering all gardening concerns; check out for further information: <https://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.edu>

# 2013/2024 Program Schedule

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## Atherton Garden Guild Programs 2023 - 2024

*Guests are welcome at all meetings except for the June meeting*

*Christmas Party Guests: a member spouse or one guest unless there is a change closer to the date*

### September 11

Location: Joan Sanders

156 Hawthorne Drive, Atherton

*Program: Exchange: book, floral container and plant(s) • We have a special opportunity to tour the garden next door to Joan. A visit to Sandringham inspired this lovely new garden.*

**Hospitality:** Norma Baker\*, Diana Bryan, Nina Dolby

### October 2

Location: Jennings Pavilion, Holbrook Palmer Park, Atherton

*Program: Creative Table Settings*

*Presenters: Nyna Dolby, Julie Douglass, Karen Handal, Kasey Hansen, Berenice Manicilla*

**Hospitality:** Katie Blommer\*, Karen Olson, Sue Barkley

### November 6

Location: Filoli

86 Canada Road, Woodside

*Program/Presenter: Claire Margetts from Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent, England*

*Gather at picnic tables adjacent to the parking lot*

**Hospitality:** Pam Smith\*, Barbara Tyler, Sue Fitch

### December 11

#### Christmas Party

Location: Leslie Howard

86 Fredrick Avenue, Atherton

**Committee:** Leslie Howard\*, Julie Douglass, Kasey Hansen, Mary Rita McKay, Suellen Rottiers, Anna Zappettini

### January 8

Location: Gamble Gardens

1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

*Program: Presidio Tunnel Tops*

*Presenter: Michael Boland, Chief Park Officer for Presidio Tunnel Tops.*

**Hospitality:** Suzanne Van Ness\*, Patty Leugers, Nina Dolby

*On January 15<sup>th</sup>, join fellow AGG members for a visit to Presidio Tunnel Tops. Arrange Car Pools.*

### February 5

Location: Suzanne Legallet

88 Selby Lane, Atherton

*Program: "Let's Play Antique Roadshow": Discover if your collectable is treasure or trash.*

*Kevin will review and give possible value of selected treasures. Categories TBD*

*Presenter: Kevin Wisney, FILOLI Director of Museum Collections and Curator*

**Hospitality:** Sue Connolly\*, Jeanne Quinlan, Martha Woollomes

### March 4

Location: Suzanne Legallet

88 Selby Lane, Atherton

*Program: Carmen's Nursery, a small 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family-owned nursery in Gilroy.*

*Presenter: Nancy Schram, owner of Carmen's Nursery (Unique plants grown for our local environment).*

*Nancy will bring plants to show and sell.*

**Hospitality:** Terri Bailard\*, Suzanne Legallet, Sally Brudos



# 2023/2024 Program Schedule

## April 1

Location: Garden in Portola Valley  
875 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley  
Program: *Garden Tour in Portola Valley*  
Enjoy the view of Windy Hill. Please Car Pool. Limited parking up the driveway.  
Presenter: Bee Brown

Hospitality: Nan Ray\*, Erika Enos, Diana Bonham

## May 6

Location: Atherton Town Center  
Dinkelspiel Lane and Ashfield Road, Atherton  
Program: *Tour the new Town Center, Atherton Library  
and the beautiful landscaping (with plant labels done by AGG).*

Hospitality: Café Mademoiselle Colette - No host (If closed on Monday: Berenice Mancilla\*, Sue Matthews, Joan Sanders)

## June 3

### June Luncheon

Rita Wachhorst's Garden  
298 Park Lane, Atherton  
Committee: Lynne Heppberger, Patti Rodley, Suzanne Legallet, Karen Handal, Marion Oster

*Program and Speaker details will appear in future Newsletters - \*Indicates Hospitality Chair*

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP - AN EXPLANATION

*The Bylaws of the California Garden Clubs Incorporated state:*

**Article IV Section G:** Life memberships are honorary and require a one time contribution of \$100. A club or associate plant society shall pay dues for all members including Life Members.

Our Atherton Garden Club honors individual members with a life membership from time to time. The \$100 fee goes to the state scholarship fund. As of 2022 the AGG has 20 Life Members – Active and Associates.

**AGG Bylaws Article X Dues Section 1:** Members with Active membership status of 35+ years will not be required to pay dues.

As of 2022-23 we have four members who have 35+ years of Active membership status: Nan Ray 36, Barbara Hills 39, Joan Sanders 45 and Associate Sonia McLellan who was active 42 years before going Associate. **Joan Sanders**

## Atherton Celebrates 100

Sunday, September 24 from 11 am to 3 pm

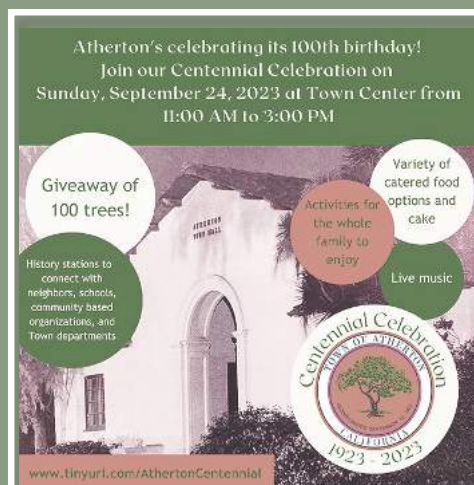
Tree giveaway  
competition

Musical performances

A variety of catered  
food options  
and a birthday cake  
for the Town

Family-friendly  
activities

An event shuttle from  
Holbrook Palmer Park  
and bike parking at  
Town Center



## Hospitality

September 11

Chair Norma Baker  
Di Bryan,  
Nina Dolby

## Library Flowers

September

Chair Sally Brudos

5 Sue Connolly  
(Library closed 9/4)  
11 Nina Dolby  
18 Judy Douglass  
25 Erika Enos



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

# *AGG Newsletter*

*August/September 2023*

## OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

**President:** Patti Spezzaferro  
**Co- First Vice Presidents Programs:**  
Karen Handal, Suzanne Legallet  
**Second Vice President Membership:** Karen Olson  
**Treasurer:** Judy Blommer  
**Recording Secretary:** Suellen Rottiers  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Sue Matthews  
**Historian:** Diana Bryan  
**Newsletter:** Martha Woollomes  
**Co-Parliamentarian:** Julie Douglass, Joan Sanders  
**Website & Technology:** Anita Joy

## CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Connelly, Suzanne Legallet,  
Karen Handal, Lynne Heppberger  
Joan Sanders, Patti Spezzaferro,  
Rita Wachhorst, Martha Woollomes

## PROOFREADERS

Sue Barkley, Kasey Hansen,  
Sue Matthews, Patti Spezzaferro

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2023 - 2024

**Atherton Library Flowers:** Sally Brudos  
**Christmas Holiday Party: Hostess** Leslie Howard  
**Committee:** Leslie Howard\*, Julie Douglass, Kasey Hansen,  
Mary Rita McKay, Suellen Rottiers, Anna Zappettini  
**Donations:** Pam Smith, Nan Ray, Karen Handal  
**Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden:** Patty Leugers  
**Horticulture:** Patti Spezzaferro  
**Hospitality/Refreshments:** Berenice Mancilla  
**June, 2024 Luncheon: Hostess** Rita Wachhorst  
**Committee:** Terri Bailard\*, Lynne Heppberger, Patti Rodley,  
Suzanne Legallet, Karen Handal, Marion Oster  
**Newsletter:** Martha Woollomes  
**Nominating:** Barbara Tyler, Julie Douglass, Karen Olson  
**Website:** Anita Joy  
**Yearbook:** Terri Bailard



## *Birthdays*

**August/September**

**Flower: Rose & Honeysuckle**

*Rose: love, romance*

*Honeysuckle: happiness*

### **August**

8 Sue Barkley  
10 Suzanne Shepard  
11 Nan Ray  
18 Rita Wachhorst

### **September**

12 Julie MacLean  
14 Suzanne Van Ness  
19 Patti Cavender  
25 Anita Joy  
29 Margaret London