



ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD  
Since 1966

Newsletter  
February 2024

## Calendar

### Meetings

Board Meetings: 9: 00 am

Social: 9: 30 am

Meetings: 10: 00 am

*Meetings are on Mondays  
unless otherwise noted*

February 5

Suzanne Legallet  
88 Selby Lane,  
Atherton

*"Lets Play Antiques 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

May 15

AGG Garden Tour  
*"Welcome to My Garden"*  
tour of 4 Private Gardens  
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

June 3

Rita Wachhorst  
298 Park Lane  
Atherton

June Luncheon

*Mark Your Calendars*

AGG Garden Tour

*"Welcome to My Garden"*

May 15, 2024

12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

AGG  
February  
Meeting  
February 5

*"Lets Play  
Antiques Road Show"*

*Suzanne Legallet  
88 Selby Lane  
Atherton*

*Garden Lilly*



# President's Message

*"The rose knows the language of love*

*"What we cannot express in words, the rose says." - Anonymous  
In 496 AD, the Roman Pope Gelasius officially declared the date of  
February 14<sup>th</sup> is St. Valentine's Day, a day associated with love,  
since it was said that birds started their mating season on February 14<sup>th</sup>.*



In the language of flowers, red roses symbolize deep love. In Greek mythology, the red rose became affiliated with Aphrodite, the goddess of love. This passionate tale of love begins with the news that her lover, Adonis, becomes mortally wounded by a wild boar while hunting. Grief-stricken, Aphrodite ran to his bedside, scratching herself on the thorns of a rose bush. Her blood started to flow, and the bush's white flowers turned red. From then on, red roses became a symbol of love and devotion.



*Samourai Rose*

According to the Society of American Florists, it is estimated that more than 250 million roses are produced annually for Valentine's Day, generating 2.3 billion worth of sales in 2022. With such a demand for roses on February 14th, it would be a good idea to order them now to be ready for the most romantic day of the year. So this Valentine's Day, profess your love and devotion by gifting a ruby red "Samourai Rose." This grandiflora has the perfect intense red that oozes luxury with 30 petals and an average rose diameter of five inches. The large petals are velvety in texture, complemented by the surrounding dark green leaves. The shape of the bloom is perfect for a romantic bouquet, as the oval buds open to a sizeable double-bloom flower. Another feature is that this particular rose is thornless, perfect for gift-giving. Nothing says love like a red rose.



*Radiant Perfume Rose*

The yellow rose symbolizes friendship. Reach out to your friends this Valentine's Day with a beautiful vase of fragrant yellow roses. Grandiflora Rose 'Radiant Perfume' says it all. The large, glossy, dark green foliage offsets the big, golden-yellow blooms. This 25-petal rose has a wonderfully intense citrus scent. Thanks to their long stems, the five-inch flowers are perfect for cuttings to bring inside.

Mark love in all forms. Celebrate with the language of flowers with the 'Samourai' rose for your beloved and the 'Radiant Perfume' rose for your friends. Happy Valentine's Day to you and all your loved ones. **Patty**



*Suellen Rottiers holiday decorations*



*Julie Douglass's Angel Tree inspired by a Metropolitan Museum tree*



*AGE Member  
Holiday  
Decor*



*Rita Wachhort's Christmas Village*

# Antiques Road Show

## LET'S PLAY ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW

By Suzanne Legallet

Pictured: Suzanne at Antiques Road Show Filoli, summer 2023



We are looking forward to sharing our Treasures or Trash with Kevin Wisney. Please bring one or two items for Kevin to review. His expertise is in American and European art, decorative art, and furniture from the 16th century to 20th. He is especially versed in glass, pottery, art, as well as British and Austrian Silver. He is moderately versed in Asian art.

Bring what you can carry to Suzanne's front entrance. There will be wagons if you don't want to carry it all the way to the front door. Move your car into the street after unloading. You will place your "treasure" on a table in the dining room or living room. Place your name on the item with a post-it or tape. Kevin will select items to review (when we are having our meeting). The owner will give the known history of the antique and Kevin will comment and give an educated guess on value.

It is important to note that these are not legally binding appraisals. Kevin will give some idea on what it is, some information on where it is made/ made of/ significance.... and a general idea of what to expect if sold on the open market.

*This will be fun and who knows what treasures we will find to be extra special.*

*Please dress warmly as we will be in the garage. Please no jewelry.*

*If you have any questions, please send an email to Suzanne Legallet.*

Questions about the AGG Garden Tour? Bring them to the March meeting

*Save the Date*

***Atherton Garden Guild Garden Tour***

**May 15, 2024**

***Welcome to My Garden***

Enjoy touring four lovely gardens the afternoon of  
Wednesday, May 15  
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

*This first-time private tour will feature the "Gardener's Garden."*

Tickets are \$40 each and are only sold by AGG members.  
Members are asked to sell a minimum of four tickets  
and to staff a garden for two hours.

*The monies raised will be used for our donation fund.  
The more tickets sold, the more AGG will be able to  
donate to horticulturally and community related causes.*

*Suzanne Legallet*



# Holiday Party

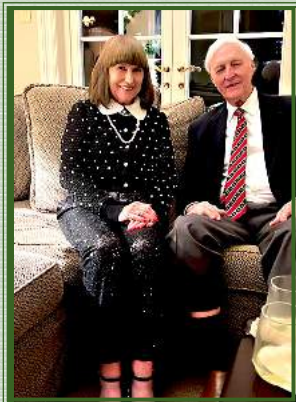
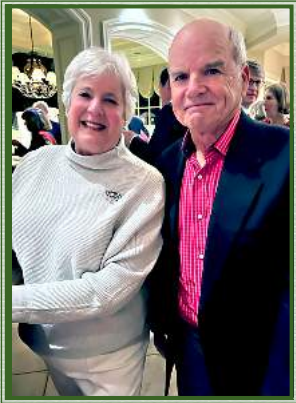
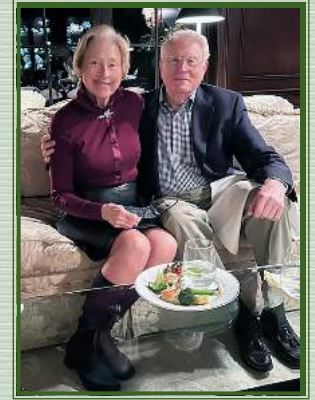


Hostess Leslie Howard





# Holiday Party





# January Meeting





# Holiday Tour

## A Memorable Holiday Tour

by Susanne Legallet

Suzanne Legallet toured Holiday displays in the mid-Atlantic states with Karl Gercens. Karl was an apprentice at **Filoli** 27 years ago and was hosted by Suzanne. He is from Mississippi and has worked in the Conservatory at **Longwood Gardens** in Pennsylvania for 26 years. He is an avid garden traveler and has been giving garden lectures throughout the United States in the last few years. His Facebook page is outstanding, sign up!

Garden Touring with Karl is always marvelous, easy, and packed full. He is very knowledgeable of the mid-Atlantic states, the best gardens, and historic sights.

We started in the **Washington DC** area with the **National Botanical Garden**, the **National Picture Gallery**, and the **Holiday Marketplace** on the Plaza. A favorite of mine is the house museum, **Hillwood**, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Collections of beautiful treasures from Russia are a highlight, and many collections of china, silver, furniture, artwork as well as couturiere clothing. A day was spent walking about old Alexandria, Virginia, and talking about Thomas Jefferson.

**The weekdays were spent in Pennsylvania.**

**Longwood** at night is definitely an over-the-top experience; lights, lights, lights, over 100 decorated trees, more poinsettias than you could imagine with so many color varieties, from deep red with almost black accents to white variegation with green. Daytime visits gave me time to enjoy all the decorations, plant varieties, and the outdoor train garden. We went to the flagship store for Terrain (part of Anthropology) which inspired me for more home decorations.

**Nemours**, a DuPont estate is the most authentic French house and interior in America.-

**Winterthur**: decorated trees were inspired by the designer Anne Lowe. Part of the exhibit was a reproduction of Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress. There were over 10 designer dresses in the museum and many "designer" trees in the house museum. The most famous is the dried flower tree.

**Philadelphia Zoo's** light show highlights were the light tunnel, the butterfly tree, and the flamingo tree.

**New York**

Brooklyn Botanical Garden light shows were fabulous. Many moving lights shows, several light tunnels and the leafless trees are lit in three different ways. We were there for 3 hours.

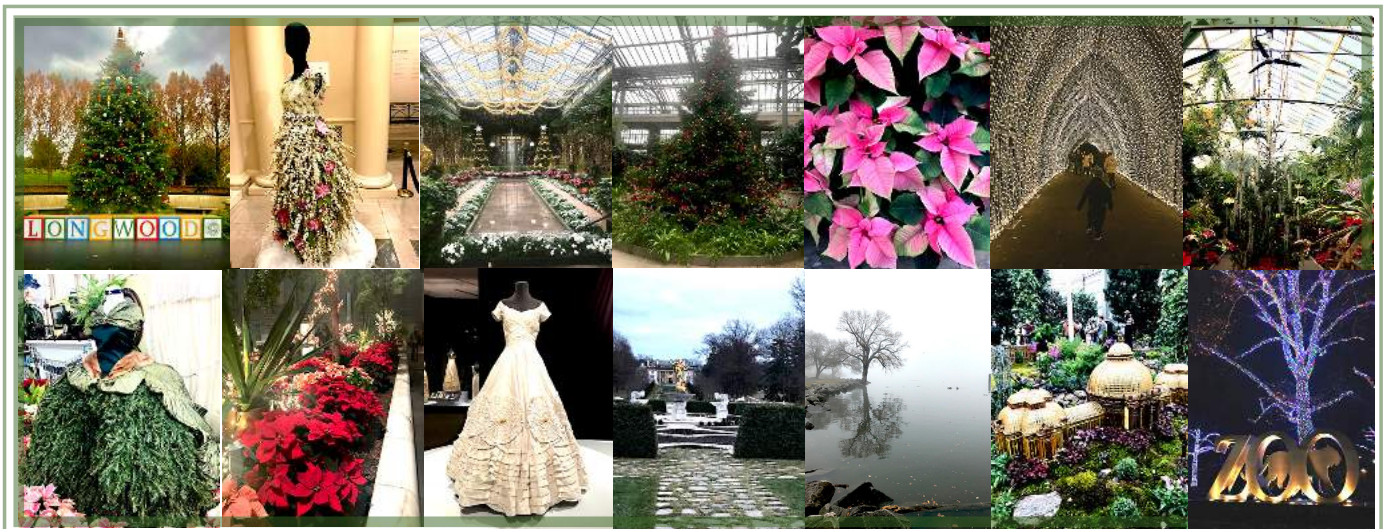
At the New York Botanical Garden, the favorite display is the miniature railroad showing famous buildings of NYC and the Hudson River valley, done in botanical materials. The detail is amazing.

On Long Island, we visited a Vanderbilt mansion, commercial nursery, and Planting Fields Conservatory.

Maryland touring included a small conservatory with marvelous poinsettias and two more light shows at the Meadowlark Botanical Garden, and a public park,

In **New Jersey**, we went to **Grounds for Sculpture**, a large light shows among modern large sculptures.

I have enjoyed this Holiday winter tour at least 3 times and it is always fun, great displays, inspiring, and yes exhausting too.



# Who's in the Garden

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## Interview with Julie Douglass

by Patti Spezzaferro



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

**Julie:** Joan Sanders - her knowledge and experience is always like taking a Master Class; Thomas Jefferson for his forward thinking ideas; Frances Hodgson Burnett – author of 2 of my favorite books and who created beautiful gardens in England, New York and Bermuda.

**Patti:** What is your greatest fear?

**Julie:** My life is usually viewed through rose colored glasses, so this was a hard one for me to answer but here goes: Lost and alone on a double black diamond ski run as the sun sets.

**Patti:** What is your idea of perfect happiness?

**Julie:** Dining with my family for a long leisurely meal, preferable alfresco.

**Patti:** Which gardens are your favorites?

**Julie:** La Foce in Tuscany and The Walled Garden at Inverlochy Castle in Scotland.

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

**Julie:** The importance of patience!

**Patti:** What is your favorite gardening product and why?

**Julie:** My Felco #2 Classic Pruners bring me back to the times I would stay with my Great-Aunt in Los Angeles and my Great Uncle in Tiburon – both taught me the virtues and importance of fearless pruning to create future beauty. Agrothrive liquid fertilizer works miracles!

**Patti:** What inspires you to garden?

**Julie:** To create beauty. To put the outside world on hold. To breathe. To lose track of time.

**Patti:** A motto by which you live by while gardening

**Julie:** See above....

**Patti:** What is your greatest extravagance?

**Julie:** Spontaneity • Champagne • Hair Color and Mani/Pedi's

**Patti:** What does AGG mean to you?

**Julie:** Friendship Ignites a passion for learning

Feeling of community and support

Feeling of legacy/belonging through my mother in law and those members who knew her.

### Views of Julie's Garden





# Horticulture Report

## AGG February Horticulture Report

by Patti Spezzaferro

- Now is the time to plant potatoes, garlic, onions, rhubarb, and asparagus.
- Finish pruning roses, shrubs, and trees. After pruning, clean your tools and dispose of diseased canes in the city recycling bins.
- 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 you start 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.

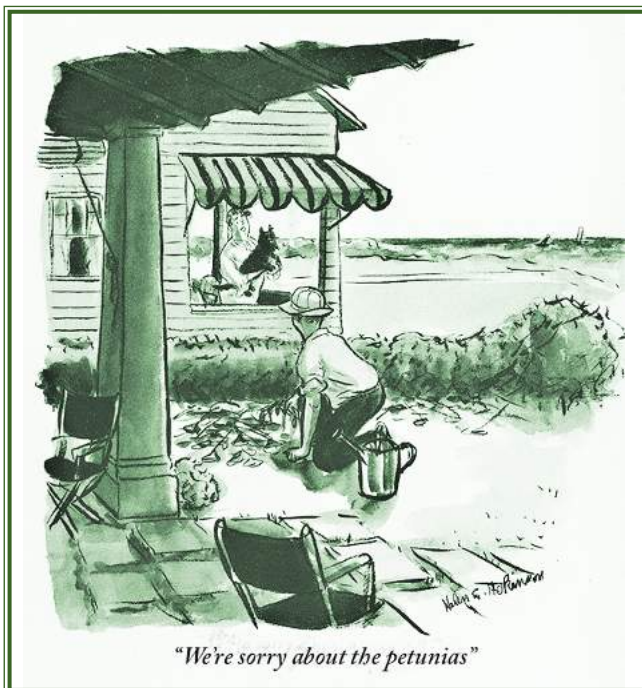
## Book of the Month

### The Money Saving Gardener

By Anya Lautenbach



I have been following Anya on Instagram for years and fell in love with the simple-to-follow gardening tips. She has now come out with her first book, *The Money Saving Gardener*. She teaches us how to repurpose what we have, give new life to second-hand garden furniture, discover savvy cheats to keep hard landscaping costs low and boost your plant collection with seed-saving and propagation hacks. *The Money Saving Gardener* proves that a beautiful garden does not have to cost the earth. Buy it on Amazon.



## Library Flowers

February

- |    |                   |    |                  |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 5  | Pamela Smith      | 19 | Barbara Tyler    |
| 12 | Patti Spezzaferro | 26 | Suzanne Van Ness |



## Hospitality

February

Coordinator: Sue Connolly  
Jeanne Quinlan • Martha Woollomes





*The Atherton Garden Guild*

*PO Box 685*

*Menlo Park, CA 94025*

## *AGG Newsletter*

*February 2024*

### 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-Parliamentarians:** Julie Douglass, Joan Sanders

**Website & Technology:** Anita Joy

### CONTRIBUTORS

Di Bryan, Julie Douglass,  
Suzanne Legallet, Patti Spezzaferro,  
Suellen Rottiers, Rita Wachhorst,  
Martha Woollomes

### PROOFREADERS

Sue Barkley, Kasey Hansen,  
Sue Matthews, Patti Spezzaferro

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2023 - 2024

**Atherton Library Flowers:** Sally Brudos

**Holiday Party: Hostess/Committee Chair** Leslie Howard

**Committee:** Katie Blommer, Julie Douglass,

Kasey Hansen, Berenice Mancilla, Nan Ray,

Patti Rodley, Patti Spezzaferro, Anna Zappettini

**Donations:** Chair 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 Chair:** Terri Bailard

**Committee:** Katie Blommer, Erika Enos, Sue Fitch,

Karen Handal, Suzanne Legallet, Jeanne Quinlan

**Newsletter:** Martha Woollomes

**Nominating:** Chair Barbara Tyler, Julie Douglass, Karen Olson

**Website:** Anita Joy

**Yearbook:** Terri Bailard



*Happy Valentine's Day*

*February 14*



## *Birthdays*

### **February**

*Flower: Violets and Primroses*

*Violet: modesty, faithfulness, love, innocence*

*Primrose: protection, safety, love*

### **February Birthdays**

- 2 Darlene Shaheen
- 9 Suellen Rottiers
- 10 Joanne Baciocco
- 11 Julie Johnson Davis
- 18 Di Bryan
- 24 Nina Dolby
- 24 Pamela Smith
- 27 Kathy Schubin