



December 2017

# Newsletter

*Fecund fecundity from the fertile foothills*

President – Silvera Grant  
Vice President – Leo Stallworth  
Secretary Jean Courtney  
Treasurer – Johnie Driver  
Orientation – Mary McGilvray  
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Wood Chips Coordinator – Michael Grady  
Inspection Coordinator – Eva Story  
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Correspondence – Maria Shufeldt  
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Newsletter Editor – Denis Titchenell  
Archivist – Anne Reid  
Nominating – Marie Yeseta  
Fertilizer Coordinator – Michael Grady  
Albert West Advisor  
Isaac Turner Advisor

Article submissions: [altadenacnewsletter@abacus-es.com](mailto:altadenacnewsletter@abacus-es.com)

Read the newsletter online:

<http://www.altadenacommunitygarden.com/newsletter.html>

[Visit our members discussion group on Facebook](#)

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## Upcoming Events

- Annual Picnic June 23, 2018

## Editorial

Holiday Felicitations Everyone!

The year has been eventful and ultimately, we trust, rewarding and fruitful. Our annual picnic this year, at the end of July, was a remarkable affair with an impressive array of raffle items, booths representing many local organizations, a bouncy castle, two bands, a repast of unprecedented magnificence, record attendance and much mirth and frivolity. Our picnic next year will be earlier, on June 23, 2018. Please put the date on your calendar.

The garden has seen a number of improvements, foremost among them being a new well-designed and constructed deck and a fine new fountain. Other additions include nice looking chipper shredder.

The New deck was barely completed well enough for the annual picnic but has now reached its final state but for some planting and landscaping. With its cantilevered shade structure, disabled-friendly access, tables and benches, the lighting and switchable fountain, it will no doubt serve as a venue for much celebratory jocular and prandial indulgence.

The old deck, frail and decrepit as it was, would have borne the weight of members and guests only with decreasing safety margins and it would have been folly indeed



to have staged anything more burdensome than traffic by relatively sedentary guests of light build. Clog dancing, tumbling and indeed acrobatics of any sort would have been highly ill advised as would virtually any activity involving choreography with ungulates, however tame and well-mannered they would no doubt be. However, with the new deck in place, one need have no qualms nor hesitation when it comes to staging such activities. Those who have been anxiously awaiting the opportunity may now schedule sumo, rodeo, ballet or other high impact sports or terpsichorean presentations with complete confidence in the integrity of the decking.

Our appreciation for the new deck goes to the many who contributed – Chris Spisak - Architect, Michael Ralston - Construction Division Manager, Charles Isbell - Carpenter Supervisor, Rick Ortega - Electrician Supervisor, Joel Andrade - Paint Supervisor, Brian Pollaccia - Plumber Supervisor, Steve Mannschreck - Lead Carpenter, Eric Pelton & Josh Servin - Carpenters, Darrin Jeffers - Locksmith who installed the scenic cable rail system, Danny Mirada & Josh Hernandez - Electricians, Albert Trujillo & Art Montanez - Painters, Adrian Valenzuela & James Burton also had prominent involvement in the project. The Concrete Staff did an excellent job. A special thank you must go to Gardens President Silvera Grant for spearheading the project and making it happen.



The Fountain, donated by garden member, René Amy, is a resplendent structure whose presence will qualify our gardens as an official wildlife habitat, as the one requirement we were lacking was a water source. The fountain stands just to the north of the deck and is invoked by a switch. Please be sure to turn it off after using the facility.

Acquisition of a chipper-shredder was suggested and one was very kindly donated to the gardens. After an extension cord was donated by Leo Stallworth, it was inaugurated with a variety of waste including cornstalks, comfrey, beanstalks, and tomato plants. It was discovered that the device was clearly not designed to be used to digest any of these – the cornstalks became slightly frayed but retained their rigidity and resolutely refused to go through the machine. Moist material very quickly congealed and occluded the exhaust grating entirely. The device spent far more time disassembled than functioning and though it may well function admirably with some as-yet-to-be-discovered

garden byproduct, it seems not to be compatible with any currently known plot refuse. The device donor had stipulated that the machine not be returned and may therefore have been similarly unable to isolate the substance upon which the shredder would perform as intended. Perhaps it is a species as yet to be discovered or a cultivar yet to be developed. Sadly, we will have to convert the immense quantity of potential compost our gardens produce by some other method.



## From the President

### Picnic Appreciation



Hello Everyone,

Let me extend my appreciation to all of the Garden members for their endless hours and hard work in making the picnic a tremendous success. Special Mention goes out to:

Picnic Planning Committee: Jean Courtney, Leo Stallworth, Harold Charles, Rene' Amy, Albert West, Eve Story, Johnie Driver & Denis Titchenell.

Newsletter: Denis Titchenell

Cooks: Fred Shotlow, Leo Stallworth, Albert West, Darrel Shurney, Harold Charles, Douglas Jones & Bob Brooks (non Garden member). Helen Liddle & Jean Courtney for cutting and saucing the meats, Leo Stallworth for making the delicious BBQ sauce & Roosevelt Williams for purchasing quality meats

Food Service: Pamela Green, coordinator (non Garden member), Helen Liddell (non Garden member) & Girl Scout Troop 4601 serving water and lemonade. Harold Charles for arranging the purchase and delivery of cobbles.

Raffle Committee: Yvonne Scaggs (Chairperson), Tanya Slatton & Tony Brock (non Garden member). Special assistance from Mary Gothard, Rene' Amy & Harold Charles

Raffle Items & Pre-Sale Tickets: Our deepest appreciation to all the gardeners who secured raffle items and sold pre sale tickets. Brad Adams for securing the Disneyland tickets and other items. Eve Story, Roosevelt Williams, Albert West, Leo Stallworth & Darrel Shurney for their robust pre-sale ticket sales.

Flag Ceremony: Girl Scout Troop 4601 – Ayesha Lindsey Randall, Troop Leader & Mary Gothard, coordinator

Blessing: Isaac Turner

Security: Douglas Jones

Tour Guide: Mary McGilvray

Entrance Gate Workers: Mary McGilvray, coordinator, Louise Jandura, Leigh McGilvray, Bernetta Driver, Carol Kurachi, Rebecca Garza, Kelly Morrison, Kelly Fernandez & Jared Burton

Setup Crew: Suzanne Mitus - Uribe, Carol Kurachi, Rebecca Garza, Kelly Morrison, Julie Vanden Broeder, Anne Reid & William Smith (non Garden member)

Clean Up Crew: Thank you to all of the Garden members and non Garden members who stayed after the picnic to assist with the clean up.

Thank you everyone for the delicious side dishes. We had a wonderful variety of side dishes and everyone was pleased with the presentation. Again, thank you for obtaining the terrific raffle items. Thanks to your participation and support, we once again had a very successful picnic. You are welcomed to provide us with any feedback you may have about the picnic. This will be helpful in planning for next year's picnic on June 23, 2018.



## News

### Executive Board Elections

#### Election Results:

At our last membership meeting the following were reelected.

Silvera Grant - President

Leo Stallworth - Vice President

Jean Courtney - Secretary

Johnie Driver - Treasurer

## Approved Donations

The Altadena Community Garden supports a number of worthwhile local programs.

- \$600.00 Loma Alta Park Children's Programs
- \$500.00 Triangle Park Renovation Project
- \$250.00 UC Master Gardener Program
- \$250.00 Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- \$250.00 Girl Scout Troop 4601
- \$170.00 Loma Alta Park Thanksgiving Turkey Program (8 turkeys were purchased for the program)

Our picnic in 2018 will be earlier than in previous years -- on June 23. Please put the date on your calendar.



## Garden Improvements

Maintenance, Repair & Upgrade Projects Completed by The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation in 2017

Continue to provide the maintenance for the Garden Corner Beautification project...ongoing. Coordinate with the Farmers' Market to replace the rotten trees that were removed last year from the Lower Park. Trim the palm tree in the Garden. Complete by April.

As agreed, provide and install safety "SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING" signage in the Garden by March.

Begin construction on the deck to replace rotten foundation boards, address any related ADA issues, and add seating 18" to 20" in width to the inner east and south sides of the deck. Provide 2 picnic tables to accommodate someone in a wheelchair. Complete construction by April.

Refurbish the back of bulletin board, display showcases and replace the one termite infested wooden display showcase. Upgrade cases for Garden newsletters and applications. Complete by April.

Continue to replace rotten perimeter plot boards as identified. Complete by March.

Remove Victory Garden Class sign to Handicapped plot-4. Replace outside light bulb over large shed door. Install replacement light pole in Lower Park next to Garden outside eastern fence between the main and middle entrance gates to the Garden. This rotten light pole was removed last year. It provided light to eastern section of the Garden and Lower Park. This is a safety issue. Complete by February.

Continue to provide logistical support to ensure another successful Community Garden Annual Picnic on July 29th.

Construct a 6 foot border from the eastern Garden fence in the Lower Park and add mulch to the area. The Garden will plant California native plants and additional fruit trees. The Garden will also provide the ongoing maintenance for this area. This request has been made for the past two years, with no action by your Department's managers. This project is necessary to enhance the appearance of the eastern side of the Garden facing the Lower Park. Complete by April. We are in discussion with the Department of Parks and Recreation, but nothing has been done to date.



# Triangle Park Opens!

– René Amy



Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Altadena's once-moribund Monument Park officially reopened on November 18 as [Triangle Park](#), as L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger cut a ceremonial ribbon.

Speeches were made, and nibbles were consumed by the large gathered crowd, that, under a gorgeously clear and sunny morning, enjoyed all that the new park has to offer.

The park features several hundred native plants, many planted by Altadena Community Garden members, who, along with many others from the community, volunteered their time in putting the finishing touches on the park. These new native plants are thriving, and growing larger and stronger every day, attracting pollinators of all sorts!

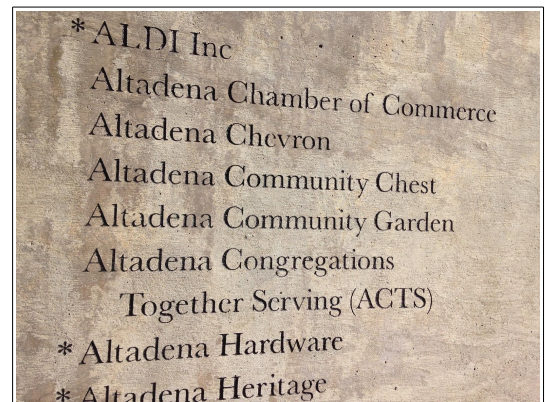
*René Amy*

The park is also accessible to individuals with disabilities, and includes numerous seating areas, including special mini-tables for kids.

A new donor wall faces into the park, and on it is the Altadena Community Garden, thanks to a \$500 donation made by the Garden to help with the costs of the park's renovation. Visitors to the park will know of the generosity of Garden members for generations to come.

Be sure to visit the park, located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Lake and Altadena - and be sure to take enough time to actually see all that the park has to offer. There is *\*far\** more going on in that tiny park than appears when one drives past.

Every day, the park is a little different, and changes of all sorts will be taking place in coming months - so be sure to visit Triangle Park often!



*Kathryn Barger cutting the ribbon. Photo courtesy Amigos de los Rios*



## Yule Reflections; rounding the year

Holiday Felicitations Everyone,

This Musical Christmas Card contains a melody that may be sung as a round. Links reference an mp3 of the melody and recordings of two choral settings.



*A Christmas Round. Each voice enters at the bar line.*

Lyrics, each line, one measure:

Now it's Christ-mas.  
Gone is the year.  
What did I do in Ap-ril?  
Or mid sum-mer's day?  
Then as the leaves turned gold  
It slipped a-way.

See [The Christmas Round Page](#) for audio and other arrangements, or just the [audio link](#).



## Notifications and reminders

From Yvonne Savio ([yvonnasavio@earthlink.net](mailto:yvonnasavio@earthlink.net)) If you live in Los Angeles County and are interested in applying to become a Master Gardener, here's the link: [http://celosangeles.ucanr.edu/UC\\_Master\\_Gardener\\_Program/](http://celosangeles.ucanr.edu/UC_Master_Gardener_Program/) . The deadline to submit the online application is January 8 at 6pm.

Did you happen to find a pair of lady's sunglasses in the Garden? If you did , please get them to Chris Baughman in plot 9. This is her favorite pair of sunglasses. Her phone number is 626-536-5571

Missing Garden Hose: Gardener Claudia Van Corva in plot 51 is missing her plot garden hose. Please help if you know its whereabouts.

From the President

GARDENERS, YOUR DUES FOR 2018 ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE MAIL YOUR DUES TO:

ALTADENA COMMUNITY GARDEN  
P.O. BOX 6212  
ALTADENA, CA 91003 - 6212

DUES ARE:

REGULAR MEMBER...\$73  
ASSOCIATE MEMBER...\$30  
HANDICAPPED PLOT...\$43

Failure to pay your dues by 1/31/18 will jeopardize your membership in the garden.

THANK YOU!



## Housekeeping reminders:

From the President

### Dumpster Area:

Gardeners, please be responsible for cleaning up after dumping your trash and other items from your plot into the dumpster. The area should be kept clean as much as possible.

### Tools & Equipment:

Please clean the tools and equipment before returning them to the tool shed. This is also your responsibility. Notify Leo if a tool or equipment is broken or needs attention. Let him know if you would like to have a tool that is not in our inventory.

### Thievery:

Reminder: The Garden By-Laws call for the termination of membership of any member taking something from another member's plot without their permission. Several gardeners have reported items missing/taken from their plot without their permission -- items such as, vegetables, stepping stones, chairs and personal hand tools.

## Open Gates:

If you are the last to leave the Garden, please make sure the gates and tool shed are closed. You can also close the gate if you are alone in the Garden.

## Gate Locking:



When locking the gate, please be sure always link the padlocks to each other so that opening either one will undo the chain. Padlocking to a chain link locks out legitimate users whose keys fit the other padlock.

## Plot Markers:

Markers with plot number will be provided/installed in the plots without markers and numbers. You can let Silvera know immediately where you would like the markers to be installed in your plot.



## Call for Newsletter Submissions

Have you done anything interesting lately that you would like to share with garden members in the spring newsletter? Please let ideas propagate in your imagination and share the harvest with us. Artwork is most welcome. As the ACG Newsletter will be in digital form, multiple media may be included as links. Please submit creative thoughts or material to [altadenacnewsletter@abacus-es.com](mailto:altadenacnewsletter@abacus-es.com)





“Hot Lips Salvia” Plant at the new Altadena Triangle Park Photo: René Amy