



September 2017

Newsletter

Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

President – Silvera Grant
Vice President – Leo Stallworth
Secretary Jean Courtney
Treasurer – Johnie Driver
Orientation – Mary McGilvray
Website – René Amy
Wood Chips Coordinator – Michael Grady
Inspection Coordinator – Eva Story
Maintenance Coordinator Leo Stallworth
Correspondence – Maria Shufeldt
Programs Chairperson – René Amy
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

Read the newsletter online:

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

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

In this issue

- Upcoming Events
- From the President
- Annual Picnic
- Poem: The Gardener
- Meet Girl Scout Rainbow Troop 4601
- Autumnal Thoughts
- Gardens Participation
- Grow LA Victory Garden Volunteer Clean Up
- Housekeeping Reminders
- 4H Group Meeting Calendar
- In Memoriam, Garden Member Mr. Charles Johnson
- Call for Newsletter Submissions

From the President



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.



Upcoming Events

- [Fall Victory Garden Classes](#)
September 30, October 7, 14 & 21 Altadena Community Garden
- Executive Board Meeting
Thursday 10/12, 7 - 9 PM Loma Alta Park Gym
- Workshop - Sharing the bounty of your garden by preserving for gift giving
Sunday 11/12, 10 AM - 12 PM Altadena Community Garden
- General Membership Meeting
Saturday 12/2, 10 -11:30 AM Loma Alta Park Gym



Rene Amy and Harold Charles at the raffle randomizer, a repurposed device Photo: Mary Gothard

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.

Mr. John Wicker, Director Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Parks and Recreation, East County Community Services Agency are particularly deserving of our appreciation for providing the necessary services for our Annual Community Garden Picnic on July 29th. Due to their service and excellent leadership, our event was a tremendous success.

We appreciate Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director, Manuel Escobar, Regional Operations Manager, Anthony Montanez, Regional Recreation Director and Albert Gomez, Assistant Regional Recreation Director for their leadership and direction to ensure that all of our needs were met.

The new deck

We were proud of the construction of the amazing new Garden deck. The deck is a reminder of the talented workers in your Department. Our appreciation goes to 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. William Hottran, Bob Cruz, Joe Contreras and the Ground Maintenance workers did a fantastic job preparing the Garden and the Lower Park for the event. The wood chips were an excellent addition to the Garden walkways. Everything was outstanding.

We also appreciate Mr. Gomez's counsel and direction to ensure that the event complied with the county's health and safety regulations. Meliza Hernandez, Recreation Services Manager did an excellent job coordinating the vendors' setup in the Lower Park and co-emceeing the event. We would also like to thank Pernela Daniels, Recreation Services Supervisor and her dedicated staff, especially Gabriel Fowler. Ms. Daniels did an excellent job as the emcee and Mr. Fowler did another awesome graphic design for the picnic invitation/advertisement flyers/posters.

Although Director Wicker was not able to attend, Chief Deputy Norma Garcia and Deputy Director Mercy Santoro were in attendance and their opening remarks were well received.

Loma Alta Park had a booth that provided information about the various programs at the park. They also provided a bouncer for the children's activity area which included face painting next to their booth.

Compliments to the dedicated East County Community Services Agency staff for a job well done!

We hope that you will all be in attendance at next year's picnic on June 23, 2018. Please put the date on your calendar. Thank you all for your support.



The Altadena Community Gardens Picnic

The Altadena Community Gardens Picnic lived up to its promise. Under the leadership of Silvera Grant, Altadena Community Gardens President, the picnic surpassed those of previous years in attendance and many other respects.

The emcees for the afternoon were Pernella Daniels, Loma Alta Park Recreation Services Supervisor and Meliza Hernandez, Recreation Services Manager. Music was provided by The John Tirabasso Youth Jazz Ensemble and The South Pasadena Transit Authority.



South Pasadena Transit Authority Photo: Mary Gothard

- Chris Holden, California Assembly Member
- Phlunte' Riddle, Senior District Representative
- Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, 5th District
- Sussy Nemer, Senior Deputy
- Christian Daly, Assistant Filed Deputy
- Okorie Ezieme, Chairperson, Altadena Town Council
- Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Norma E. Garcia, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Manuel Escobar, Regional Operations Manager, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Anthony Montanez, Regional Recreation Director, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Albert Gomez, Assistant Regional Recreation Director, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Michael Ralston, Facilities Operations & Crafts Manager 1, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Joe Contreras, Assistant Regional Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Department of Parks & Recreation

The program included a kid's fun zone, garden tours, the raffle and community resource information throughout the day. Much thanks to the county, musical groups were able to perform upon the new deck which had just been completed and was fully functional.

Among the honored guests in attendance were:

- Honorable Judy Chu, Member of Congress
- Anthony Portantino, State Senator

Raffle items spanned the gamut from the grand prize, a flat screen TV courtesy of Aldi Market, to Disneyland Tickets, and Magic Mountain tickets, a vast array of gift vouchers for local businesses including many restaurants, Costco and the Lincoln Avenue Nursery down to a book or two by local garden members. Ticket holders got music; a healthy, filling lunch; a resource fair; Garden tours; a sweltering afternoon and a great time!





Supervisor Kathryn Barger with the gardeners and Yvonne Savio

Next Year's picnic will take place on Saturday June 23, 2018 12:00- 5:00. It has been suggested that an emcee be sought whose plangent tones will provide audible, felicitous, and memorable accompaniment to the festivities. Anyone interested in applying, please convey your willingness to the board.



Horticultural Rhyme-scheme Permutations

THE GARDENER

– Stephen Colley, Altadena CA
(Used by permission)

My garden may have too much mulch
or seem a thistly, gristly gulch,
have sometimes more manure than flower,
its fleshy fruit less sweet than sour.

Sometimes, for no apparent reason,
in spite of all my anxious care,
it gets neglected for a season –

turns, like me, more foul than fair.

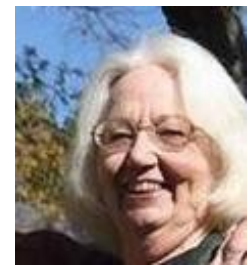
No matter, though. However plain
and anything but evergreen,
this potted plot of blooms unseen
by all but me, it's worth the pains.



Meet Girl Scout Rainbow Troop 4601

– Mary Gothard

The Troop Leader is Ayesha Randall who oversees the activities of the mixed troop. Currently Troop 4601 is made up of Daisies, Brownies and Juniors for a wonderful blend of age groups. There are more than 20 girls listed on the roster and they are a great help to our garden. This was the second year they volunteered to help at the ACG Annual Picnic and this year there was a proud moment when the girls led the flag ceremony.



Mary Gothard

During the year 2016, Troop 4601 worked hard keeping our herb garden weed free and fresh for the enjoyment of all garden members. This year we were unable to attend to the garden due to the hazards presented by the deck construction zone being so close. We do have a plan to bring our current herb garden back into splendor. We have some major work to address, starting with building up the soil. The girl scouts will be working in the garden on the second Saturday of each month.

Scouts providing water to parched picnickers Photo: Mary Gothard



Autumnal Thoughts

Once more the liberal year laughs out
O'er richer stores than gems or gold:
Once more with harvest song and shout
Is nature's boldest triumph told.
– John Greenleaf Whittier

[Reflections upon Southward migration by Kenneth
Grahame]

The Water Rat was restless, and he did not exactly know why. To all appearance the summer's pomp was still at fullest height, and although in the tilled acres green had given way to gold, though rowans were reddening, and the woods were dashed here and there with a tawny fierceness, yet light and warmth and colour were still present in undiminished measure, clean of any chilly premonitions of the passing year. But the constant chorus of the orchards and hedges had shrunk to a casual evensong from a few yet unwearied performers; the robin was beginning to assert himself once more; and there was a feeling in the air of change and departure. The cuckoo, of course, had long been silent; but many another feathered friend, for months a part of the familiar landscape and its small society, was missing too and it seemed that the ranks thinned steadily day by day. Rat, ever observant of all winged movement, saw that it was taking daily a southing tendency; and even as he lay in bed at night he thought he could make out, passing in the darkness overhead, the beat and quiver of impatient pinions, obedient to the peremptory call.

-- from *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame.

Then summer fades and passes and October comes. We'll
smell smoke then,
and feel an unexpected sharpness, a thrill of nervousness,
swift elation, a
sense of sadness and departure.
-- Thomas Wolfe

I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn
sunshine by staying in the house. So I spend almost all
the daylight hours in the open air.
– Nathaniel Hawthorne

The year was in its yellowing time, and the face of Nature a study in old gold. ... Edward and I, knowing that this particular field was to be carried to-day, were revelling in the privilege of riding in the empty waggons from the rickyard back to the sheaves, whence we returned toilsomely on foot, to career it again over the billowy acres in these great galleys of a stubble sea. It was the nearest approach to sailing that we inland urchins might compass: and hence it ensued, that such stirring scenes as Sir Richard Grenville on the *Revenge*, the smoke-wreathed *Battle of the Nile*, and the *Death of Nelson*, had all been enacted in turn on these dusty quarter decks, as they swayed and bumped afield.

-- *The Golden Age* by Kenneth Grahame

It was one of those perfect English autumnal days
which occur more frequently in memory than in life.
– P. D. James

There is a harmony
In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,
Which through the summer is not heard or seen,
As if it could not be, as if it had not been!
– Percy Bysshe Shelley

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it,
and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth
seeking the successive autumns.
– George Eliot

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stained
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe;
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruit and flowers.

- William Blake, *To Autumn*, 1783

No Spring nor Summer Beauty hath such grace
As I have seen in one Autumnal face.

- John Donne



Gardens Participation

– Marie Yeseta



Marie Yeseta

All Gardeners! The days are growing shorter and soon we will be in the mist of looking forward to the New Year. Try to evaluate all your New Year's resolutions and consider becoming a board member of the Altadena Community Garden.

This is your chance to become more active in the garden and a great time to spread your wings by taking on a board duty. We welcome new input and insight on the activities the Executive Board provides to the garden. It is a great way to "give-back" and meet new friends. Come December we have our final membership meeting for the year 2017 and this is the time to get your name added to one of the Executive Board positions.

Looking forward to having you join the 2018 Executive Board for the Altadena Community Garden.



Grow LA Victory Garden Volunteer Clean Up Offer

Randy Bayard of the Grow LA Victory Garden classes has a former GLAVG student, Peter Plass, who with his Clean Initiative group, has offered to bring 10-15 volunteers to the garden on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9-12 to help gardeners who might need assistance with cleaning out their plot from summer growth to be ready for fall planting. This offer is directed specifically at gardeners who are older, have special needs or might just need an extra hand to get their plot ready to grow food in the fall. This is not meant to be an effort to clean up the garden but an effort to help the gardeners in the garden so they can grow fall vegetables. Sometimes if the heavy lifting is done by someone else, it makes the gardeners jobs easier when they are ready to go to work and plant their fall garden.

They will probably be able to clean up about 18 plots on the 23rd. Please contact Mrs. Bayard for further information or to request plot cleanup help (thymetoogrow@gmail.com).



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.

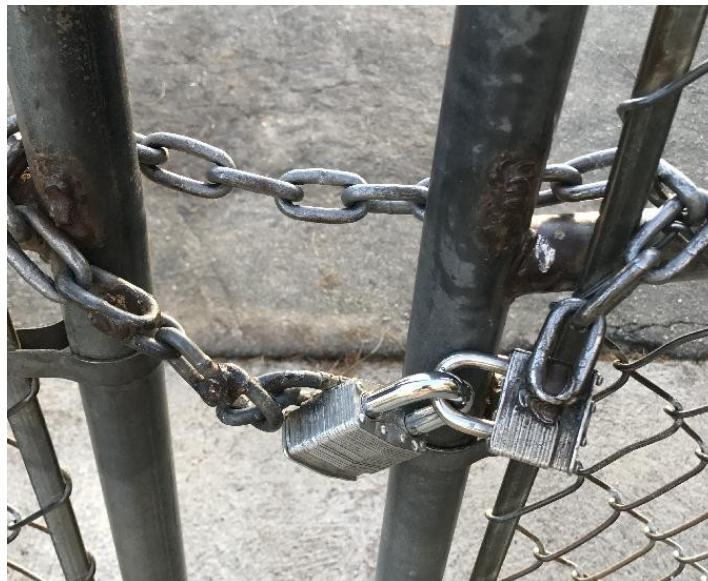
Thievery:

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.



4H Group meeting calendar:

2017

September 12 & 26

October 10 & 24

November 14 & 28

December 12

January 1/9 & 23

2018

February 13 & 27

March 13 & 27

April 10 & 24

May 8 & 22



In Memoriam

Mr. Charles Johnson

10/25/12 - 7/27/17

The First African American Dining Car Steward on the old Southern Pacific Railroad, Mr. Johnson was an early member of the Altadena Community Garden, plot 12, and was 105 when he passed.



Call for Newsletter Submissions

Have you done anything interesting lately that you would like to share with garden members in the winter/Christmas newsletter? Have you found a way to make economical Christmas decorations out of garden waste? Please share ideas with the rest of the garden. Understandably considering the Northern European climate, there are no Christmas carols mentioning garden vegetables, even of the cruciferous family. Perhaps in our Mediterranean climate this paucity could inspire new works honoring the season with titles that reference cabbages, turnips, kale and radishes, and perhaps even new traditions such as mustard and radishes as Christmas tree decorations. 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 altadenacgnewsletter@abacus-es.com



-- Justin C. Gruelle