



June 2021

Newsletter

Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills

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Read the newsletter online:

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

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

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Upcoming Events

- Board Meeting, June 19 at 10 am in the Garden
- The Farmer's Market will reopen on the 30th of June. Market hours will be from 4pm-7pm.
- General Membership Meeting Saturday 8/21, 10 - 11:30 A.M., Altadena Community Garden
- Executive Board Meeting Saturday 10/9, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M., Altadena Community Garden
- General Membership Meeting Saturday 12/4, 10 - 11:30 A.M., Altadena Community Garden
- Postponed: Victory Garden Classes and Athens Free Compost

News

Covid 19 Measures

Mask requirements have already been rescinded and all other quarantine constraints will shortly be abrogated. Gaiety and rejoicing resounds in the Garden. Let's plan things!

Congratulations

Let's extend our congratulations to our fellow Garden member, Eric Callow - plot 36 as the newly elected president of the [Theodore Payne Foundation](#). We look forward to working with Eric to extend the service of the Theodore Payne Foundation to the Garden and community.

From Eric Callow:

I am honored to be highlighted in the Altadena Community Garden



Eric Callow

Newsletter as the upcoming board president of the Theodore Payne Foundation. Celebrating our 60th year of operations, we produce and sell nearly 100,000 California native plants a year. In addition, we have a full offering of educational classes, such as garden design and irrigation practices, plus on the spot advice for plant selection.

The mission of the Foundation is to inspire and educate Southern Californians about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plant landscapes. Those benefits include saving water and, perhaps even more importantly, providing habitat for native pollinators and birds.

Visit the Foundation at 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352. The sales yard is open Tuesday through Saturday, or [visit them online](#).

Garden Recycling Program

Due to the lack of securing a lead Garden member to manage the Garden Recycling program, the program has been terminated.

Congratulations

Yuki and John Paik (plot 03) welcomed Maile Kim Paik on December 17, 2020. Big sister, Kaia (3 yrs old) is pleased to have a playmate and "cannot wait until Maile can walk, so she can play chase and hide & seek". Both John and Yuki continue to work from home so the transition to life with two has been more manageable. (apart from the typical sleep deprivation). We look forward to bringing Maile out to the garden more often before the heat kicks in.



John and Yuki Paik, Kaia and Maile

New Board Members

Joe Nagy has taken over the post of webmaster and is updating the ACG website. Much thanks to former webmaster, René Amy, for all his web work service over the years.

Ayesha Randall is now our recording secretary. Much thanks to former secretary, Jean Courtney, for all her contributions.

Sacha Malin is now our treasurer. Much Thanks to Sandy Chang, our former treasurer, for her service.

Update from Jared and Kelly

Kelly, Jared, and their 5-month-old son Owen of plot 44A have been enjoying Spring very much (mostly at home). They are looking forward to catching up with the garden this summer."



Kelly, Jared and Owen



Changing The Way We Garden

– Joy Walters, Facilitator and Host of CHA CHA (Clean Healthy Altadena)

In the past few years, California has become more aware of the effects of drought that has brought on loss of water in our aquifer, rivers, and reservoirs. With our higher temperatures, water is evaporating instead of melting from the Sierras and other snow packed areas. We have increasing fires that devastate our forest, hillside and communities. Los Angeles air quality has improved, but is still one of dirtiest in the state. There is something we can do – reconsider the way gardening is done. Using soil health, regenerative principles and common sense will play a role in what we do.

1. **Leave the leaves.** Leaves feed the soil through decay, releasing nutrients into the soil enabling plants to grow and be healthy. Bare ground loses moisture and we water more, but leaving the leaves, retains moisture in the soil and protects it from erosion and compaction.
2. **Think native.** Native plants have deep-root systems which increase the soil's capacity to store water and help reduce air pollution by sequestering carbon from the air. Native plants, along with leaving leaves and other debris, support our native wildlife by creating habitats and food sources. And with natives, there is no need for fertilizers nor pesticides. [The [Theodore Payne Foundation](#) is an excellent source of knowledge and resources for California native plants.]
3. **Exchange your leaf blower for a debris sweeper.** We know that the 2-stroke gas power engine produces more smog forming pollution than a 2017 Toyota Camry driving about 1100 miles (LA to Denver) (Source: [SORE fact sheet](#)). And the noise that the gas leaf blower can be heard from a distance of 800 feet in all directions and penetrates through walls and windows causing more than just stress. Blower operators do lose some of their hearing over time. An electric leaf blower does reduce the amount of noise and the pollution, but they, too, are hard on the landscape, removing the beneficial leaves and drying out the soil. Keep the leaf blower (on vacuum) to clean out your gutters and debris off your roof. It doesn't belong in your garden beds.

Recently introduced legislation, **AB1346**, would phase out the sale of new gas powered small off-road engines (SORE), which have recently outpaced passenger cars in emissions of the criteria of air pollutants that adversely impact human health and the environment. Within the bill, is a request for funding from the ARB (Air Resource Board) "to administer an incentive program to support small landscaping companies and sole proprietorships, aiding them in transitioning to zero-emission lawn and gardening equipment, including leaf blowers and lawn mowers." The California Assembly has taken a 3rd Reading of the **AB 1346** and the bill will be taken up for a vote by June 4th before it goes to the State Senate committees.

What are **debris sweepers**?? Using a debris Sweeper is a better way of cleaning hardscapes. They do not produce noise nor blow debris into the air as a leaf blower would. However, they, with the assistance of a broom (corner work), clean off hardscape and are just as effective as leaf blowers. You can find yard sweepers at Home Depot, Lowes and even at Amazon. Check out all the varieties, and levels, and purchase the best one you can afford. Karcher, Bissell, and Ryobi are the ones most available.

CHA CHA has been spreading the word of South Coast Air Resources Board (ARB) developments regarding equipment exchange for landscapers and gardeners. We have hooked up with AGZA American Green Zone Alliance who has been instrumental in working with gardeners, giving them an opportunity to try out electric/battery operated equipment. We are reaching out to residents to encourage them to ask their gardeners to use electric/battery operated equipment.



Debris Sweeper

During the last two years we have participated in California Clean Air Day. Our first year was held at the library and was co-sponsored with the Altadena Library, Altadena Heritage and Safe Streets. Last year, due to COVID-19, our participation was limited to daily posts on NEXTDOOR and our Facebook page. We are currently making plans for the next Altadena Clean Air Day, so, mark your calendar now for the first week in October.

We are supporting **AB1346** which includes a source of funding to assist small businesses and sole proprietors who would have had difficulty in making the initial payments in the transition.

We continue to do outreach to residents, gardeners and our schools to educate and protect our children from the toxic exhaust and dust (mold, spores, insect eggs, feces) AND the noise that distracts and causes stress (to be treated in another presentation).



It Takes a Village to Raise a Giant Cabbage

– Sandy Chang

In the barrenness of mid-February, Silvera strode over in his signature wide brimmed hat and garden clogs offering up an armful of seedlings. Amongst them were cabbages still tiny yet already striking with a deep blue green hue. Some dozen or so were scooped up and sprinkled into various corners of plot #56, gracing the little garden like a speckle of purple gems.

In the ensuing months, the finger-sized seedlings were cradled with dark rich fertilizers procured and made abundant by Joe. On very hot days, Brenda working in her neighboring plot would keep a keen and experienced eye and dose the cabbages with water at the first hint of droopiness.

That is how at this tail-end of a year-long pandemic, when people, land, gophers all seemed dormant from fatigue and isolation, the cabbages through their various guardians quietly grew, the soil underneath pulsating with life carrying the hope of a good harvest. By the end of spring, the ruby specks have turned into comical 3' monstrosities - such are our cabbage patch kids, raised by many.



Sandy Chang's Cabbages

Cooking instructions -

1. Uproot a purple cabbage, cut off stem for composting.
2. Slice cabbage perpendicular to it's root into halves.
3. Give half of the purple cabbage to a friend or a neighbor.
4. Wash and shred remaining half cabbage into thin ribbons.
5. Stir-fry shredded cabbage with olive oil, minced garlic and black bean sauce.
6. Toss and mix cabbage, two scrambled eggs, and whole wheat pasta. Serve warm.



Fava Bean Research Project

– Ayesha Randall

The Girl Scouts sure did learn a lot doing the Fava Bean Research Project. After Yolanda sent out the email, there were 13 gardeners who came out and signed up for the 2-day planting kick-off. The girls took periodic pictures and plant measurements in addition to the work the gardeners were doing. The data was uploaded to the Chico State University site and is shared with many communities around the world to add to an information portal about soil regeneration. Troop 4601 would like to thank the following gardeners for participating in and contributing to the project: Vincent Augustine, Lidia and Kelly Avalos, Cole Bagley and family, Jared Burton, Art Fudge, Margaret Jones, Lea Rogers, Kevin Sandbloom, Prakash Shrivra, Albert West, Wendy Woods, and Marie Yeseta. Special thanks goes to Mary and Patrick Gothard for their continuous support and for specifically preparing the troop plot for the planting the fava beans. Also, thanks to Claudia Zhao for posting photos and Silvera Grant, Yolanda Jones, and Planet Earth Observatory.



Cole Bagley

Our Girl Scout troop member, Azza Brummer, is featured in [a five-minute video](#), Planting Seeds of Change, for a healthy soils investigation in which our troop was involved. Along with several other girls, Azza, her mom and aunt volunteered at a learning garden, located in Pasadena's Bungalow Heaven, preparing the soil and plot for planting. To view the video, visit <http://vimeo.com/528185810>. Azza is a rising 9th grader and budding actress who attends the Integrated Arts Conservatory for the California School of the Arts in Los Angeles County.

Girl Scout troop member, Alicia Randall, won first place in the Pasadena MLK Community Coalition Art Contest for Middle School. Using ink and watercolor paint, she created a piece highlighting soil health, entitled, Good Soil Health=Food Security to interpret the theme, What are you doing for others?. Alicia created a montage of events – one with a girl working in a garden bed, another with two people exchanging vegetables (both wearing masks), and another showing a person giving food to someone who looks to be living in a tent. She also added pictures representing the troop's work with fava beans (cover crop) and carrots (harvest crop). Her art was featured in the [virtual, annual MLK Celebration](#) located at <https://youtu.be/aZ6L2ytr1Rk>. Alicia is a rising 9th grader at Polytechnic School in Pasadena.



In celebration of Earth Day, girl scouts and parents met at the garden to watch and participate in a virtual workshop, "Observations in the Garden: The Climate Change Connection." Everyone practiced social distancing while watching the live workshop and snacking on goodies. There was a story time, an interesting talk, and an art challenge. Girls were given garden rules and were led on a fallen foliage hunt and collected berries, fruits, leaves, and more to create recycled garden art that was shared with Zoom workshop attendees.



The Online Garden

A [private Facebook discussion group](#) continues to provide online space for garden members to interact, share and rant with each other, instead of, or in addition to, talking over the fence.

Claudia Zhao has created a [Gardens Instagram resource](#). Suggestions and contributions are most welcome.

The official [Altadena Community Garden website](#), is being thoroughly updated by our new webmaster, Joe Nagy, who is delighted to receive contributions of news, prose, verse, screeds, diatribes, artwork and other media appropriate for inclusion therein. Much thanks to former webmaster, René Amy, for all his web work service over the years.



Our LFL

– Jared Burton



Our LFL Nook, Photo: Sean MacGillivray

A column centering on the Altadena Community Garden's Little Free Library

Happy Summer to one and all! Here are a couple things from our community libraries to look forward to this summer: [Altadena Public Library - From the Garden: Cultural Uses of California Native Plants \(Bob Lucas Branch\)](#) Saturday, June 26, 2021, 9 – 10am

[Pasadena Public Library - One City, One Story: Conor Knighton's *Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park*](#) Thursday, June 24 at 5:00 pm. Sign up to attend at Sign up to attend (registration begins on June 1st). [Note that the [Pasadena Main Library](#) building is currently closed due to seismic refitting. Projects are handled online.]

Special thanks to Claudia Zhao (Associate Gardener in Plot 42) for submitting answers to the following interview questions!

1. What is it about the garden having a little library that you think is worthwhile?

I love our Little Free Library! I love libraries and bookstores in general and really enjoy having a little library at the garden. I think libraries are places where you can go to explore with an open mind and where you will usually stumble upon books - on display or among the aisles - that will pique your varied interests. It's nice to have our Little Free Library as it's a place where we can share books and magazines and build our sense of community, even when we haven't been able to connect during pandemic times.

2. Is there a specific book that you found in the library that you were excited to read (even if you didn't finish it)? What was it about the book that drew you to it?

Yes! One book I discovered at the LFL is Elizabeth Gilbert's *The Signature of All Things* which I read from cover to cover in a matter of days - it was honestly hard to put down. It is a fictional story centered around plants and botany, the scientific study of plants, with the protagonist being a botanist named Alma, and set mainly in 19th century America but also crossing continents. Even though it's just shy of 500 pages, it's quite the page turner. I had already known about this book but was also drawn to it by the picturesque cover of flowers and foliage too. Honestly I was sad when I finished reading it!

Until next time, always remember:

If you have a garden and library, you have everything you need – Cicero

Jared Burton
Plot 44A

[And perhaps note [the corollary to Cicero's asseveration](#). – ed.]



Tool Time

– René Amy

While it's true that everything old eventually *is* new again, the once-ubiquitous "Ro-Ho" garden cultivator of yore is back once again, recreated and improved to become the "Rotavator."

It combines "hoe-point teeth," "shovel tines," and a "scuffle hoe" to create a pretty-much unbeatable combination cultivator that was the long the toast of gardeners. After all, "every tooth in every blade digs the soil like a spade," according to advertisements.

The original, made by the Rowe Manufacturing Company of Galesburg, Illinois at least as early as 1939, was a staple of "Victory Gardens" throughout America for decades – basically until gasoline-powered weedeaters and mini-tillers became popular and affordable.

Faced with such (literally) high-powered competition, the Rowe Manufacturing Company shut down in the late 1970s, and the "Ro-Ho" became yet another victim of "innovation."

But not everyone is a fan of fossil-fuel powered tools due to the noise and pollution that is part and parcel of their use.

Among those who don't use such devices are Amish folks, who maintain a simpler, far-healthier and planet-friendly lifestyle. The Amish tend to put elbow grease and effort ahead of convenience - and pollution.



Rotovator

The rebirth of the Ro-Ho came about when Lehman's Hardware and Appliances of Kidron, Ohio asked Pioneer Equipment Company, an Amish-owned company in close-by Dalton, Ohio, to recreate the original.

Lehman's has been selling the [newly created, Amish-made, push-powered "Rotovator"](#) for a couple of decades now [[Price: \\$279.99](#)], and the model produced for them by Pioneer has a wood handle - just like the original. Pioneer also sells a version that has a stronger (though not original) steel handle, pictured here. It weighs a hefty 14 pounds, and is made to last for many generations to come [[available from Tilmor](#) for \$235.00].

Old Ro-Hos, that "works as you walk" and "weeds - hoes - cultivates - mulches" while one walks through one's garden, can still be found on resale sites such as ebay, often with little or no information as to what they actually are.

The newly-minted version shown here can be found around Garden member René Amy's plot, where he uses it with glee to keep pathway weeds at bay.

Stop by sometime and check it out or watch the [Youtube demonstration](#).



New Members and their Plots:

– Mary McGilvray

Plot #60: Allison and Jon Burdett



Plot #53: Anne Nyarangi hails from a small village in northern Kenya. She loves to grow her own food and is attending nursing school at Glendale Community College. She lives in Pasadena with her two daughters.

Plot #53/54: Associate members of Sandy Chang and Fonda Yu are Evelyn and Frank Teng. Evelyn is a retired physician and researcher in neurobiology who taught at USC Medical School. Frank (Dr. Teng's son) has a mild disability and is very happy with his responsibilities at the Garden plot.



Plot #30: Associate of John and Michiko Lynch, Jonathan Flournoy is an arborist who lives across the street.

Plot #04: (different from #4) Max and Khanh (pronounced "Kang") Mosesman already have a lovely use of bamboo for support structures in their garden. Khang is from Vietnam and makes soaps. Max seems very willing to help and they are excited to be in the Garden!



Plot #32- John and Debbie Maust moved to their home in Altadena in 1981. They raised their 3 sons, John, Jason, Justin. The boys went to school at Altadena Elementary, Eliot Middle, La Salle High (La Salle at the same time as Silvera's & Corinne's boys). Their youngest son, Justin, is an avid gardener .



Plot #11: Also please welcome Ida Calderon-Morin who used to be Maria Zendajas' associate in plot 48.

Plot #27: new associate Heather Grant. Heather is our President, Silvera Grant's, daughter-in-law.



People of the Garden: Joan Banks

The Intersection of All Things Beautiful

– Elisa Callow

Some of our most vivid memories are the earliest ones. In the case of Joan Banks, she can recall her three-year old self sitting with her twin sister Jean on the back steps of her grandmother's home, looking out at the garden. As Joan grew she came to recognize the garden's importance as a source of delicious, nutritional food and the valuable work ethic required to keep it maintained and producing. Her early vision of beauty became a model of meaningful and family-focused living that has influenced and sustained Joan throughout her life. "I saw my parents work hard. I used to sit and watch my grandparents work. It influenced me to continue my education,



Joan Banks at the Altadena Community Garden

and helped me to love them even more. They died early because they were just exhausted. My mother and father lived a little longer. That's how it affected me. To think of how people had to work so hard to take care of their family. You learn about love through your parents. I was very grateful too."



Joan and Jean being read to by their mother, Katherine

Joan remembers her father, Andrew James, as a quiet man with a particular facility for mathematics; he attended UCLA and worked as a mechanical engineer at Lockheed. "He used his mathematical skills and was a very brilliant man – so much so that he helped the man who was the head of his division because this man did not have what my father had in terms of ability or education." Her mother, Katherine, was quite beautiful, and partly because of her beauty was hired as an elevator operator at Bullock's Pasadena.

Joan and her twin sister Jean were born and raised in Pasadena, part of a large family encouraged to move west from Covington, Georgia, by her Great Aunt Virginia. Joan's grandmother Mary sent each of her twelve children, including Joan's mother, "three by three" to Pasadena. One of these twelve was Joan's Uncle Walter Fleming Worrill, whose exemplary career concluded as executive of the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Council of the YMCA.

While less dangerous than the South, Pasadena was a community steeped in prejudice throughout the 1930s and '40s, something her Uncle Walter fought through his work as secretary of the Los Angeles chapter of the

NAACP. In 1939, the NAACP filed a lawsuit focusing on Pasadena's Brookside swimming pool, which was known as the Plunge. Blacks were only allowed to swim in the pool on Tuesdays, since workers cleaned the pool on Wednesdays. The NAACP won the lawsuit. However, rather than abide by the court ruling, Pasadena closed the Plunge altogether until the NAACP succeeded in enforcing the injunction, which led to its reopening in 1947, eight years later, without racial restrictions.

Walter was not only a model for Joan and her sister but encouraged and supported their academic aspirations throughout their university studies, which culminated for Joan in a career as a nurse practitioner and for Jean as a teacher and ultimately school principal at Pasadena's Allendale Elementary School. Joan's professional life as a registered nurse was greatly enhanced by her understanding of the relationship of nutritional, high-quality food, and health. Well before it was fashionable, Joan advocated for a healthy diet with generous helpings of fresh fruits and vegetables. As a school nurse for the Pasadena Unified School District for forty years, she taught health and nutrition classes. After becoming a member of the Altadena Community Garden, Joan initiated field trips to the Garden for PUSD students. Once again, her memories are vivid and touching, and in some ways linked to the wonder of her childhood experiences with her grandmother's garden. "I remember a child from Roosevelt school – a school for children with disabilities. They were standing all around the plot. I pulled this carrot out of the ground. Most of them fell over on the ground with excitement. It was a beautiful experience. With the children having disabilities, it was a challenge for them just to walk up the aisle and to keep their hands on their sides. One child, I can remember, had a vision problem. We had to make sure that the vegetable was near her eyes. She was just so excited."



The Worrill family of Covington, Georgia before moving west. Katherine, Joan's mother, is the little one sitting on her mother Mary's lap.

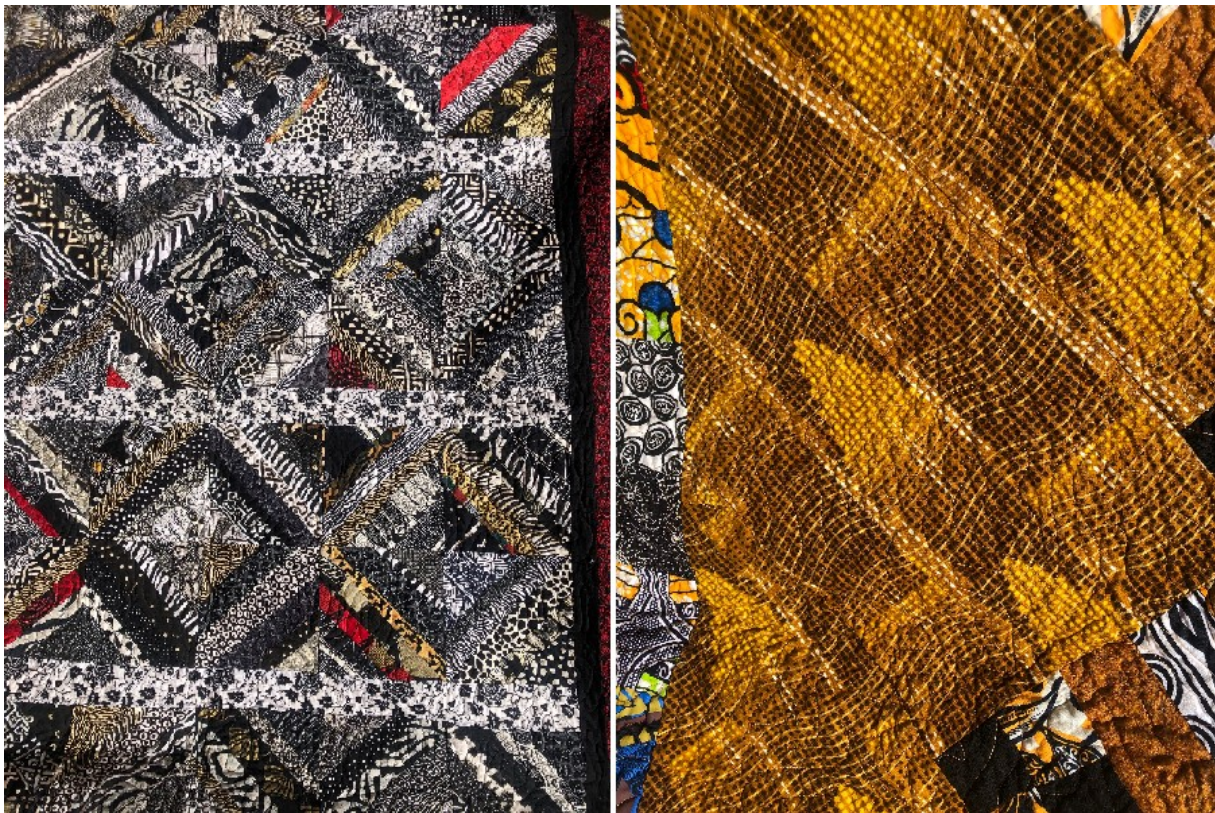
Joan well remembers when she first applied for a plot at the newly developed Garden, nearly fifty years ago. She laughs lightly when describing her interview with then Garden president Fred Shotlow, who was questioning her knowledge of gardening. "Fred put me through the ringer. I felt I was somewhat knowledgeable. I had already been with my garden. I asked him, why are you asking me all these questions about gardening? I bet most of these people don't know about gardening." This was no idle boast, for Joan, a consummate student of all things she cares about, had studied the importance of soil, had taken classes, and learned from her grandmother, an early "composter," whose technique included dropping kitchen waste in the garden and then walking it into the ground.



Family friend Joel Williams in the family Garden, photo by Sean MacGillivray

True to Joan's values, her garden plot has always been a family affair – a way to forge and deepen connection. She and her sister Jean often began a garden day in the cool of the morning, sometimes as early as 6:00 a.m. Along with a helper, they maintained their secret for the family's incredibly prolific garden: the "black gold" soil created from a rich compost. The garden continues as a family affair. After Jean's death in 2008, family friend Joel Williams became more involved, along with Joan's daughter Greta, a retired elementary school teacher. "I started growing by the sycamore tree and I have been in this garden close to fifty years. I enjoy fresh vegetables. I enjoy fellowshiping with other people who like gardening; we like to garden and we just molded together. I guess you could say I take gardening very seriously. I see it as a gift to be able to grow vegetables and eat them."

Last, but not least, Joan loves gardens simply because they are beautiful. She maintains a summer flower garden at her home along with the year-round Community vegetable garden. When sitting in her home on a cold rainy day, Joan brought out a trove of photos of both gardens, exulting in their beauty. Then she treated me to another series of photos, and a related passion emerged that tied it all together: Joan is an extraordinarily gifted African American quilter. Not only do these quilts evidence skill and design ability, they are a celebration of color and life. Her quilts are made to be shared, just as her garden's bounty is. She has donated many to auctions benefiting Black sororities and fraternities and the Altadena Community Garden and has given many to fortunate friends and relatives.



A sampling of Joan's extraordinary quilting artistry

When her husband died young of a heart attack, Joan became a single mother of two girls, Greta and Katherine. For some people this would be a challenge to be met simply by surviving, and that alone would be exemplary. In Joan's case, it has meant a life filled with purpose, community, achievement, and beauty. She concluded our conversation with a generous offering of delicious, vegetable-based recipes along with some garden wisdom that should be meaningful for us all:

- I grow everything organically. I make my own soil called "black gold" made up of grass cuttings, oak leaves, vegetable trimmings. We have that big bin in the garden and we turn it.
- Don't use potato skins as part of your compost, or you will have potatoes everywhere because of the eyes.
- I eat carrots raw or I will steam them. I don't add a lot of seasoning, as there is no need to camouflage the taste
- In cooking food, you don't overcook because you remove the vitamins as well as the flavor.
- I follow the Almanac. I follow what vegetables should be planted according to the weather, the season, and what I like to eat.
- Her spring garden plan? Carrots, beets, chard, onions, the white onions and brown onions.

Greta's Greens

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp. avocado oil
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 1 green or red bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- A large bunch of collard greens, ribs removed and sliced
- 16 ounces of low sodium chicken broth (may need a bit more)
- 3 to 4 purple striped turnips, sliced along with tops
- Large bunch of Swiss chard
- Large pinch Trader Joe's 21 Seasoning Salute
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic

Method:

1. Add oil to a large sauté pan.
2. Add onions and bell pepper and cook over medium heat until softened.
3. Add the garlic and cook for a few more minutes.
4. Add the collard greens until softened.
5. Add the chicken broth and simmer for at least 45 minutes
6. Add more chicken broth if needed; you will want a bit of liquid in the pan.
7. Add the turnips and continue cooking until softened.
8. Add the Swiss chard and cook for a couple more minutes.
9. Stir in the Trader Joe's seasonings and the granulated garlic.

Serve hot.

Pickled Beets

From: *The African-American Kitchen: Cooking from Our Heritage* by Angela Shelf Medearis

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients:

- ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ tsp. mustard seed
- ¼ tsp. celery seed
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 lb. fresh beets from the garden (high simmer covered in water until done—about ½ hour) or 1 16-ounce- jar beets, drained

Method:

- In a saucepan, combine the sugar, mustard seed, celery seed, salt, and vinegar.
- Bring the mixture to a boil and pour it over the beets in a bowl, stirring gently until well coated.
- Let cool, then refrigerate about 1 hour before serving.

*Joan Marie Joan Marie how does your garden grow?
With turnip, mustard, collard greens, corn, beets, and
squash, all in a row.*



*The glory of summer squash from
Joan's Garden. Photo by Sean
MacGillivray*

Written by Joan Banks based on the Old English nursery rhyme: Mary, Mary Quite Contrary.

For more information on the history and culture of African American Quilting these articles and resources are available:

[Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6234845-crafted-lives) by Patricia Turner (book)

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6234845-crafted-lives>

[Black Threads: An African American Quilting Sourcebook](https://mcfarlandbooks.com/celebrate-an-author-wednesday-18/) by Kyra E. Hicks (book)

<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/celebrate-an-author-wednesday-18/>

[The Power and Purpose of African American Quilting](https://blog.fabrics-store.com/2020/10/20/power-and-purpose-the-history-of-african-american-quilting/) by Rosie Lesso (blog)

<https://blog.fabrics-store.com/2020/10/20/power-and-purpose-the-history-of-african-american-quilting/>



Desultory Droppings

Compost for the cranium

Quixotic Vandalism?

There have been various windmills in the garden. One traditional farmstyle windmill was damaged unfortunately, presumably by the last Santa Anna wind but that is speculation. This prohibitory signage appeared on the Net recently, and might well imply attribution of windmill damage to fanciful chivalry – also perhaps a possibility.



An odd and disconcerting discovery

Recently, when attempting to share a link to the recording of a Garden meeting with other members, I found that emails sent were not arriving – no bounce, and eventually discovered that they were being tossed for containing a specific domain name, that of the cloud storage I use, which I cannot name here lest emails containing this be similarly waylaid. It was a startling realization to discover that one’s emails might be automatically deleted before being sent based entirely on their containing one of a number of forbidden words or names kept on a secret list. This experience and its implications inspired the following:

M3GA.NZ, The Forbidden String

*Email speech just isn't free.
Change "3" to "E" and try
To email these few lines and see!
Yes, you might well ask "Why?!"*

*It seems that some domains offend,
They're words we may not say.
No mail with those words can we send.
It's simply thrown away.*

*They say that it reduces spam
And that might well be true
But to repress these tins of ham
My every word's gone through*

*in search of a seditious trope
Or some unsanctioned claim
Which bodes a secret slippery slope
Of outlawed word and name.*

*Our email content -- word and thought
Thus fails to flourish free
And there may well be others, not
Just MEGA dot en zee.*

– D. Titchenell



What Garden Members Are Doing

[This is a new column that will showcase the work of ACG members. If you have your own blog, business, service or product, please describe it in a sentence or two and give us link. If you have done something interesting, received an award or written an article, please tell us and provide a link. We want to support our members.]

Eric Callow (plot 36) has acceded to the post of president of the [Theodore Payne Foundation](#), whose mission it is to inspire and educate Southern Californians about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plant landscapes, which include saving water and, perhaps even more importantly, providing habitat for native pollinators and birds. Celebrating their 60th year of operations, they produce and sell nearly 100,000 California native plants a year and offer a full range of educational classes such as garden design and irrigation practices, and provide on the spot advice on plant selection.

Kelly Fernandez and Jared Burton (plot 44A) welcomed Owen Aster Monzon Fernandez-Burton to their family on January 6th of this year. Kelly, Jared and Owen have been enjoying Spring very much (mostly at home) and are looking forward to catching up with the garden this summer.

Yuki and John Paik (plot 03) welcomed Maile Kim Paik on December 17, 2020. Big sister, Kaia (3 yrs old) is pleased to have a playmate and "cannot wait until Maile can walk, so she can play chase and hide & seek".

Denis Titchenell, (plot 43a) concluded his [online College Prep English class for homeschoolers](#) this year with most students completing more than was required for an "A" and amassing impressive portfolios of work. He is looking forward to being able to give his homeschooled daughter, [Fiona J.R. Titchenell, author of about a dozen books](#), a hug again when quarantine is lifted.



Garden Maintenance Update

Maintenance, repair & upgrade project by Los Angeles County Department of Parks Recreation in 2021.

1. Edges of decking board have twisted, especially at ends, causing numerous trip hazards across the decking surface - especially for older Garden members and guests. Twisted boards should be refastened, sanded, and/or replaced as necessary to ensure an even surface across all of the deck.

Earlier surface treatment is failing across much of the deck, leaving exposed, untreated wood. Entire deck should be pressure washed to remove loose material, allowed to dry completely thereafter, voids filled with [System Three Sculpwood Putty](#) then coated with [Vista Paint Prime-Zall](#) and top coated with two coats of [US Monopole Dex Cote](#) - non-skid for deck surfaces, smooth for benches, railings, and all other surfaces.

2. Teak Benches: Oil finish on teak benches at the west side of deck has failed. Benches should be cleaned (including wire brushing by hand as necessary), then top coated with two coats of [System Three Clear Coat Marine Epoxy](#).

Thank you René Amy for your assessment and recommendations.

3. As identified, continue to replace rotten perimeter plot boards and leaky water spigots in Garden plots.
4. Prune the grapefruit tree in the Garden.

We appreciate Mr. Lance Verdugo, Craft Manager 1, Facility Operations from the North Agency Headquarters for his immediate and positive response to all of our previous repair requests and look forward to working with him to complete our 2021 repair and maintenance requests. However, that prospect remains doubtful because we were informed the grant funding for such repairs is no longer available. We are hopeful that Supervisor Kathryn Barger will provide the necessary funding to the Department of Parks & Recreation for them to move forward with these vital repairs. Welcome back Sussy Nemer, Senior Field Deputy in the San Gabriel Valley Office for Supervisor Barger. We are confident that Ms. Nemer will do her best to expedite our funding request.



Notifications and reminders

From the President

Expert Gardening Consultation Offer from Jessica Yarger, UC Cooperative Extension

Dear Gardening Community Member,

Do you have a garden related question? Having trouble identifying a certain pest or want to get some information about how to start a vegetable garden?

Master Gardeners are available to answer all your garden related questions, including tree care, pest management, and soil health.

You can call the Master Gardener Hotline at (626) 586-1988 or send an email to mglosangeleshelpline@ucdavis.edu.

Regards,

Jessica Yarger
UC Master Gardener Program Assistant
University of California Cooperative Extension
Los Angeles County
700 West Main Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

Appreciation:

Altadena Community Garden would like to extend a special thank you to Altadena Stables for their on-going contribution of horse manure and wood shaving mixture. The garden uses this mixture to implement beneficial micro and macronutrients to the soil. Altadena Stables not only gives back to the earth with this free mixture, they offer lessons, boarding, and they are also an event space.



To find out more, visit their website at: altadenastables.com. Thank you Altadena Stables for your continued support!

Thank you to our Wood Chip Coordinator and Executive Board Member, Angelo Chiriaco, in plot 5A for establishing a working relationship with Mr. Jeff Johnson from Johnson Tree Service in Monrovia to provide the Garden with an ongoing supply of quality/clean wood chips. Thank you Mr. Johnson and your tree service for your support.

Thank you new Garden member Max Mosesman for taking the initiative to repair the fruit tree picker without being asked to do so.

Thank you new Garden members Allison & John Burdett in plot 60 for removing the extending grape vines into their plot along the Palm Street Garden fence.

Thank you Peter & Brenda Hurst in plot 24A for taking one of our large gardening carts to Steve's Bike Shop to repair/replace a flat inner tube and tire.

On The Mend:

Arthur Fudge plot 34 continues to recover from a leg injury. We hope to see him soon working in his plot.

Sympathy:

Please join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to our fellow Associate Garden member, Helen Liddell in plot 41 for the passing of her beloved 71-year-old brother Bernard. Bernard was Helen's second oldest brother, who resided in Altadena and would frequently attend our Annual Community Garden Picnic. Bernard was an avid tennis player, who could be seen frequently playing tennis on the tennis courts next to the Garden. Helen, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Congratulations:

Let's extend our congratulations to our fellow Garden member, Eric Callow - plot 36 as the newly elected president of the Theodore Payne Foundation. We look forward to working with Eric to extend the service of the Theodore Payne Foundation to the Garden and community.

Congratulations to Mark Mariscal, President Rotary Club of Altadena on his selection of Altadena Person Of The Year

Congratulations to Hoopla, made Business Of The Year by the Altadena Chamber of Commerce.



Call for Newsletter Submissions

Have you done anything interesting lately that you would like to share with garden members in the next 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 altadenacgnewsletter@abacus-es.com