



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
APRIL 2021
Writer/Editor: Lise
Bixler (lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

THANK GOODNESS FOR POETRY

"It is spring again.
The Earth is like a child
that knows poems."
- RAINER MARIA RILKE



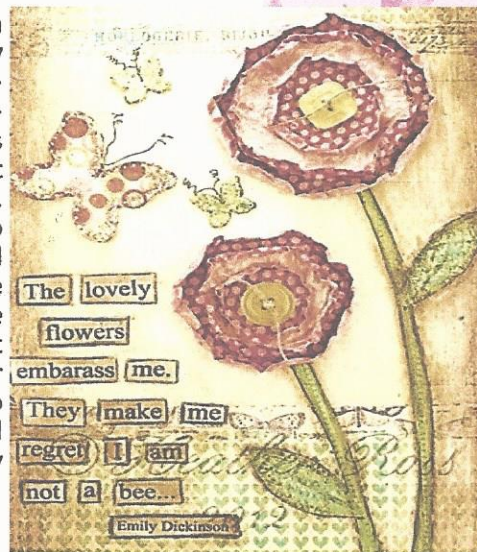
April is National Poetry Month. Last April brought lockdowns and COVID rising, but who knew we'd still be in a hard place this April, despite rising hopes and expectations? In January, at President Biden's inauguration, Amanda Gorman gave us the salve of her poem:

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew,
That even as we hurt, we hoped,
That even as we tired, we tried.

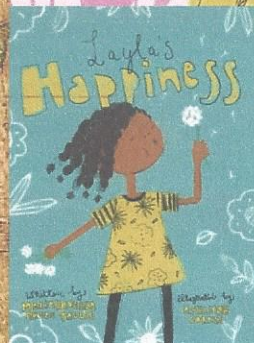
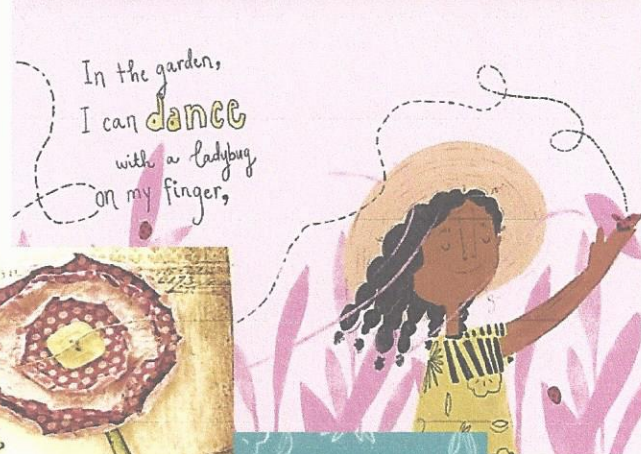
Margaret Renkl says, "...poets remind us, too, suffering is not our only birthright. Life is also our birthright. Life and love and beauty." This article was inspired by her recent Opinion Piece in the *New York Times* (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/05/opinion/poets-poetry-month.html>), and she says it all much better than I can.

"The poets are forever telling us to look for this kind of peace, to stuff ourselves with sweetness, to fill ourselves up with loveliness. They remind us that "there are, on this planet alone, something like two million naturally occurring sweet things, / some with names so generous as to kick / the steel from my knees," as Ross Gay notes in "Sorrow Is Not My Name" (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/92472/sorrow-is-not-my-name>).

We are a species in love with beauty. In springtime you can drive down any rural road in this part of country — probably in any part of the country — and you will find a row of daffodils blooming next to the shabbiest homesteads and the rustiest trailers. Often they are blooming next to no structure at all, ghostly circles around long-vanished mailboxes, a bright line denoting a fence row where no fence now stands. The daffodils tell us that though we might be poor, we are never too poor for beauty, to find a way to name it while we are still alive to call the gorgeous world by its many generous names."



Do you subscribe to Brain Pickings? Written by Maria Popova, it is a digest of the week's most interesting and inspiring articles across art, science, philosophy, creativity, children's books and other strands of our search for truth, beauty, and meaning. It is free— check it out at www.brainpickings.org/. It was there I discovered that poets can teach us to seize the day even through books for children. Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie gives us *Layla's Happiness*, illustrated by artist Ashleigh Corrin. Maria says, "Tallie constructs the story like a good poem, where the personal is the most welcoming gateway to the universal."



What role does poetry play in your life? What poetry inspires YOU?

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE AMAZING LIFE LAB

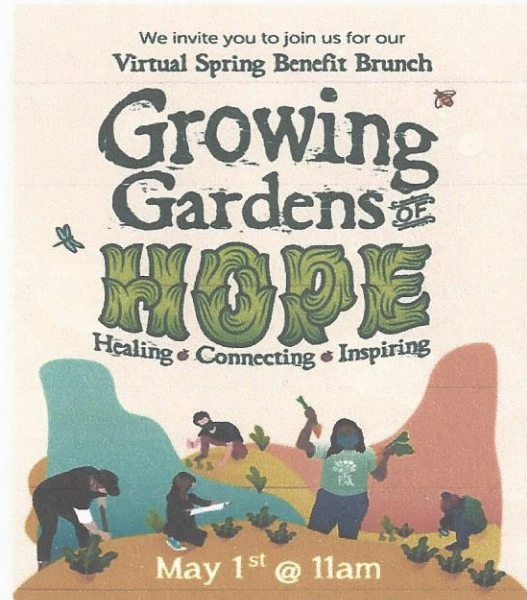


Spring Family
Gardening Webinar
was online in March !

OK, this year has been a LOT for everyone. While the pandemic and wildfires have been hard on us, Life Lab has found opportunities amid the challenges. With help from partners, special funding, and increasing community giving, we've stepped up our support for children and educators. Last spring, as our usual programs were suspended, we pivoted to support families with BackPocketLearning.org, a

web resource for parents and educators. Check it out for

fun, screen-free activities to inspire children's love of science, nature and healthy foods! As our training team faced a year without our usual in-person educator workshops, we took advantage of the time to create a new Life Lab Certified School Garden Educator Training. This new series of four 8-week courses over a year includes 40 hours of instruction and coaching for teachers wanting to learn the latest concepts and practices in garden-based education. We also stepped up collaborative work with the National School Garden Support Organization (SGSO) Network, now counting more than 1,800 organizational members. We quickly developed a robust COVID-19 resources page and hosted 11 webinars with over 2,000 participants to help garden educators adapt to the challenges of this year. In partnership with Whole Kids Foundation, our 5th annual SGSO Leadership Institute will become a series of virtual working groups developing and sharing best practices on key topics for SGSOs nationwide. We're also working closely with the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation and leaders of the SGSO Network on strategic planning and additional capacity to explore ways to accelerate the collaborative work of the Network to advance the movement for school garden education and children's wellness. All of this happened while we lost 90% of our earned income and an array of other normal funding sources. The Santa Cruz Community Credit Union helped Life Lab obtain a PPP loan during the COVID-19 crisis. We've used this loan to support staff and respond to the stresses brought on by the pandemic. Specifically, we've been able to increase the size of our outdoor educator teams at the Pajaro Valley Unified School District sites. This year, more than ever, your support matters to us now!



A VIRTUAL BRUNCH? YES—THAT'S RIGHT!

Spring is certainly in full bloom which means it's time for our Annual Spring Benefit Brunch that will be held virtually on May 1st at 11am.

Due to everyone's capacity, we decided to keep the format and message simple by focusing on the beautiful healing, connecting, and inspiring aspects of school garden education and the impact it has on students, families, and our broader community. Therefore our esteemed guest speakers for the event are Dr. Dilafruz Williams, PSU Professor and Environmental Education Champion (<https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/dilafruz/>) who will speak to the connections and inspiration cultivated through school garden education, along with Francisco Paco Estrada, Former Mayor of Watsonville & Pajaro Valley Health Trust Development Officer (<https://pvhealthtrust.org/francisco-estrada-mpa/>) who will address the healing and wellness aspects of school gardens.

We've cultivated a few special and generous community partners that are working with us to provide a Brunch Menu for guests to choose from. Brunch item purchases end on April 28th to allow for prep & distribution prior to the Benefit Brunch. To see the many options you can choose from, go to <https://lifelab.org/spring-benefit/#menu>.

Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_63xWAVM-RdCIT6SAzh5nKA. If you can't make it to the brunch but you'd still like to donate, go to <https://lifelab.z2systems.com/np/clients/lifelab/donation.jsp?campaign=69>.



We're Back!



What better way to celebrate National Volunteer Month than by expressing gratitude to our stalwart, committed, hard-working Board Members!

We had our first in-person Board meeting on April 8 hosted by April Barclay at her home. We all arrived wearing masks, then whipped them off in unison (all of us are vaccinated)!

April fed us gourmet enchiladas and chocolate cake, then we got down to business. Cherry announced that Cabrillo Horticulture will not be reopening until spring of 2022. Our lease with the Aptos Grange will be re-negotiated when we our

ready to resume our activities there. We discussed the possibility of an outdoor Ice Cream Social in July and/or a plant exchange in the fall. Lise expressed her feelings that times have changed since the Club last formulated its mission statement long ago and with all of the social changes and awareness happening now it might be time to look at it with fresh eyes. An interesting discussion ensued.

The Board approved a \$500 donation to the California Garden Clubs, Inc. Sempervirens Fund for the benefit of Big Basins State Park Recovery Fund and we got a thank you from the Santa Clara District. This will be matched by CGCI so our donation is doubled. We welcome your suggestions for other donations the Club could make this year in lieu of our scholarships.

THE TILED WAGON

by Jan Olaffson

What a year it has been! But then, I probably don't have to tell you that. We've all been trying to adapt to changed circumstances. As a gardener, I often have plant starts, produce, etc. to share with others. Lately though, I don't have my gardening community to share with.

On a rainy evening last winter, I spied a broken red wagon on the side of the road. It looked to me like it could be salvageable. So, I hauled into my truck and took it home. The bottom was rotted out, but most of the rest was fine. I took it all apart, fixed the bottom, put it back together. Painted and tiled it.

By that time, my garden was producing like crazy. I had more tomato and squash starts than I needed. At the same time there were more people walking down our cul-de-sac than I'd ever seen. Now, I had this beautiful wagon and nothing for it to do. So, I started putting the plant starts in the wagon with some signage and put them at the end of the driveway. Later, I found that people would pick up the overabundance of my fruit trees as well.

After the harvest was winding down, I found I'd made new friends and new gardeners as well. One woman told me she'd never grown any produce before. Now she's hooked!

Now I'm getting ready to put the tiled wagon into use again. I hope the walkers will keep at it. It's good for them and good for me, too.





The Royal Horticulture Society has a wealth of resources for gardeners. They have articles, an advice section that is searchable and now a new YouTube series for beginning gardeners. I subscribe (free) to receive

regular gardening tips, inspirations and more—always learning from them. Subscribe at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Search?query=rhs%20newsletter>.

Spring is finally in evidence with daffodils and flowering trees in full bloom. It's an exciting month to start growing your own fruit and vegetables. If you are a beginner or want to refresh your knowledge, check out this new video series.

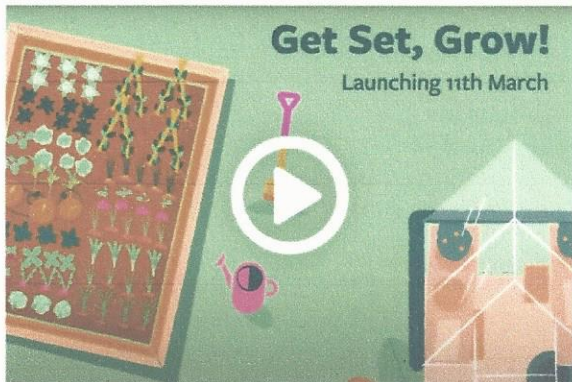
GET SET, GROW!

Join us on an exciting journey this spring as we show you how to grow a feast of fruit and vegetables in your garden. Our new Get Set, Grow! video series explains everything you need to know to prepare, sow, plant and harvest a whole range of delicious

Here's how it works

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Every two weeks we'll release a new video showing you what to prepare, plant or sow now. As we progress we'll explain how to nurture the crops you've got growing so that you get the best possible harvest. We'll share plenty of essential tips to help you along the way. And we are easy to access on YouTube.



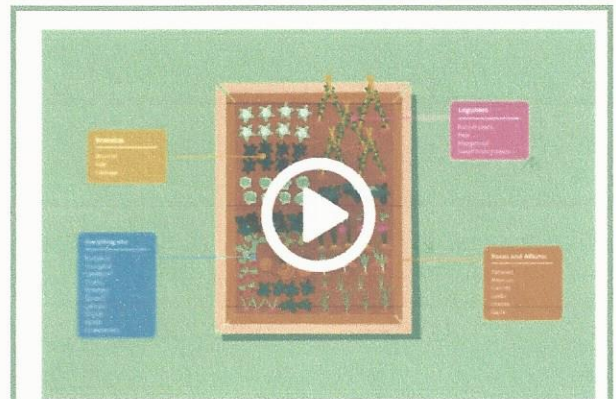
Get Set, Grow!
Launching 11th March

Introduction

Introducing Get Set, Grow!

Find out how Get Set, Grow! works and how you can join us in growing a feast of delicious fruit and vegetables.

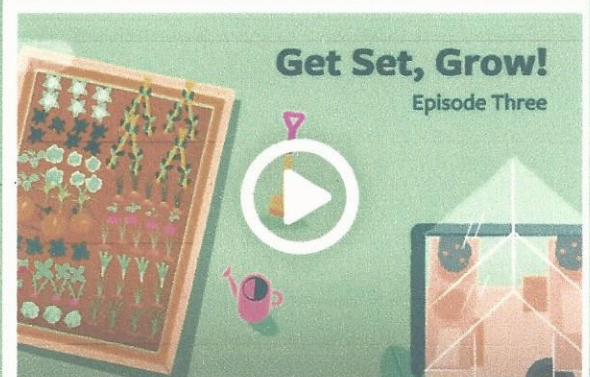
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIY6g6B7TbQ>



Episode one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew295EVedFs>

Plant strawberries and chit potatoes

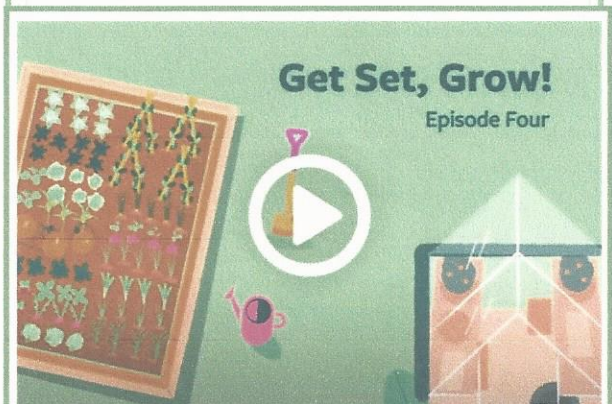
Prepare your growing space, and plant your first crop – strawberries! Learn how to chit potatoes ready for planting in the coming weeks.



Episode three <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUdBXn5OSg4>

Sow seeds outdoors and protect crops

In episode three you'll be guided through sowing seeds directly into your soil, separating seedlings, weeding, and staking and protecting your crops.

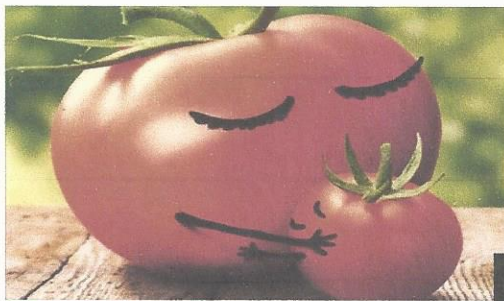
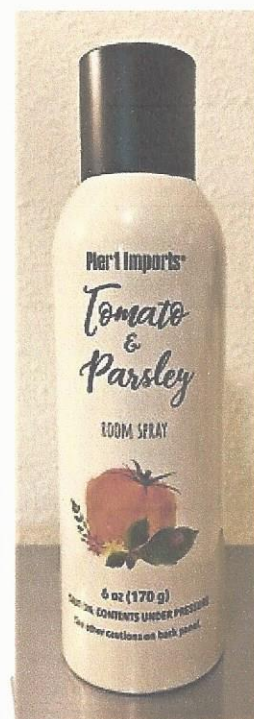
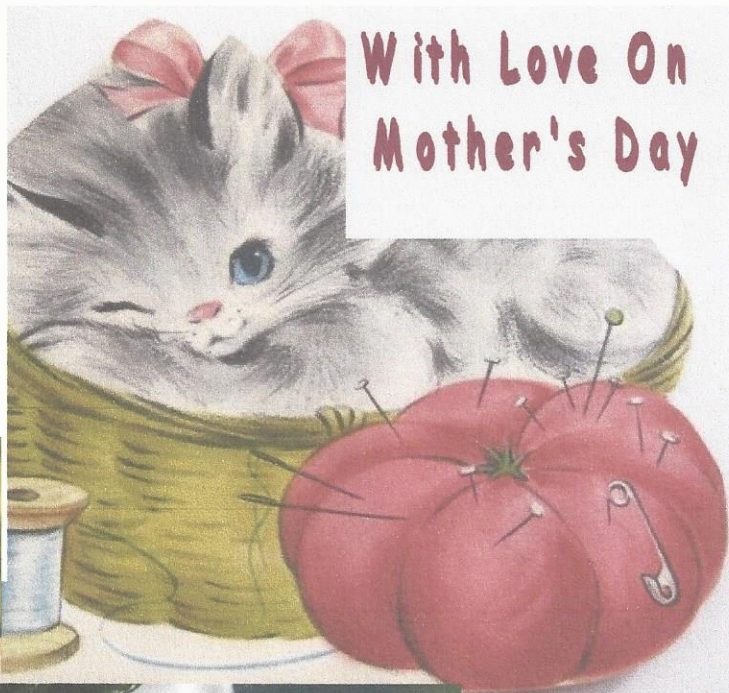


Episode four <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENQYu7vqxY4>

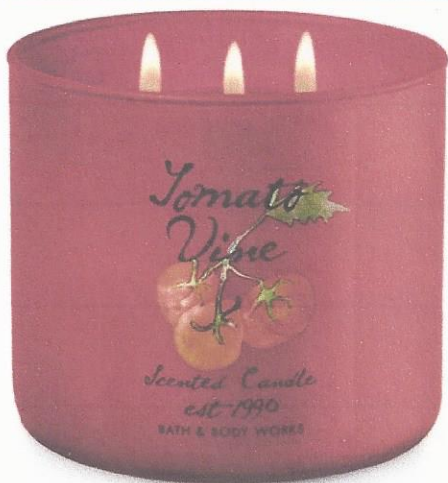
Thin out and harden off seedlings

Find out what thinning out and hardening off mean. Plus, create a wigwam to support plants, such as runner beans, and sow larger seeds indoors.

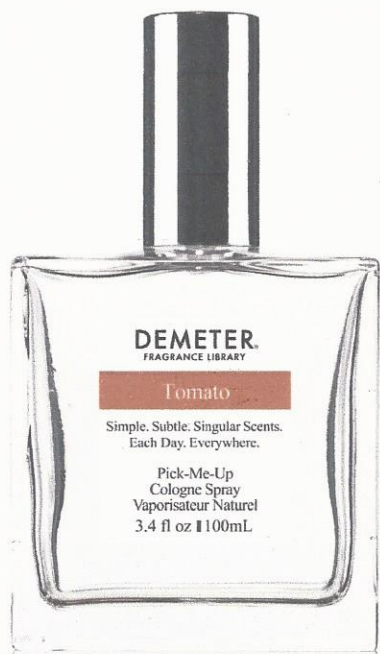
You can blame Sunset Magazine for this page, because they just published an article on tomato-scented candles. I didn't know I needed one. Nor did I know there was tomato-scented room spray, cologne, diffusers and soap. If you're stuck for ideas for Mother's Day gifts, consider these—remember how the smell of a home grown tomato makes you feel. Etsy has many more choices.



Mother's Day card from Avanti Press



Tomato leaf diffuser set



Beeswax Candle

www.qualitascandles.com/products/tomato-leaf



This newsletter may be a little top-heavy with online resources. But for those of us who are desperately tired of binge-watching Netflix, there are a wealth of garden classes we can binge-watch instead. I was particularly impressed when I stumbled upon the resources of the UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County—there are way too many online classes to list. So many, so varied, so well-produced. I am planting sweet potatoes for the very first time, and haven't a clue how to do it, so imagine how happy I am that they offer a class on it! (See information about our own Master Gardeners' classes on last page.)

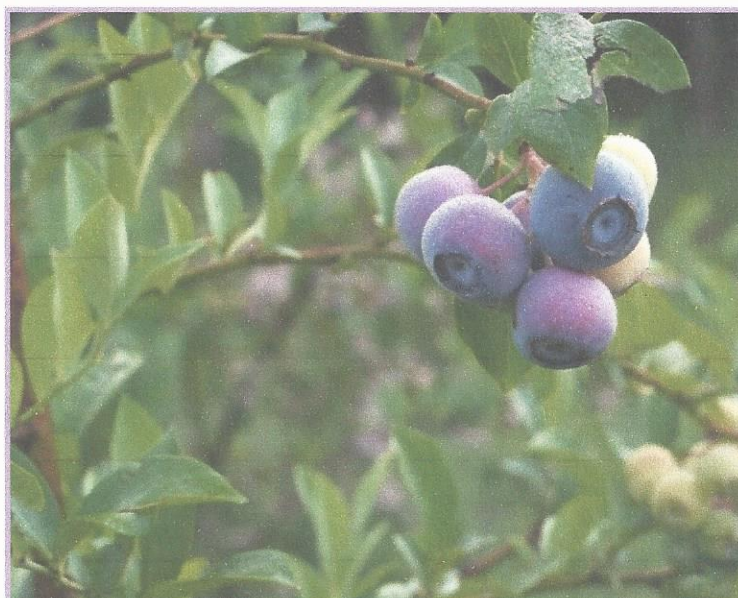
<http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help/videos/>



UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County

SUBSCRIBE

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS COMMUNITY CHANNELS ABOUT



A Primer on Growing Blueberries, with Lee Reich-Encore Presentation

If you have a sunny location and well-draining soil, you can grow blueberries — but there are a few things to know first.

<https://joegardener.com/podcast/growing-blueberries-lee-reich/>

Those of you who would rather be out in the garden can listen to this while you are weeding!



Celebrate California Native Plant Week with the virtual

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

View new garden videos & photos

Live Kickoff April 17, 2021 at 11am

Register free at gnqt.org

CNPS membership discount with registration



Hosted by Santa Clara Valley Chapter of California Native Plant Society and UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County

The Going Native Garden Tour 2021 will be held in a virtual format. Your registration will be used to send you notifications as the virtual tours of the gardens become available. Register at

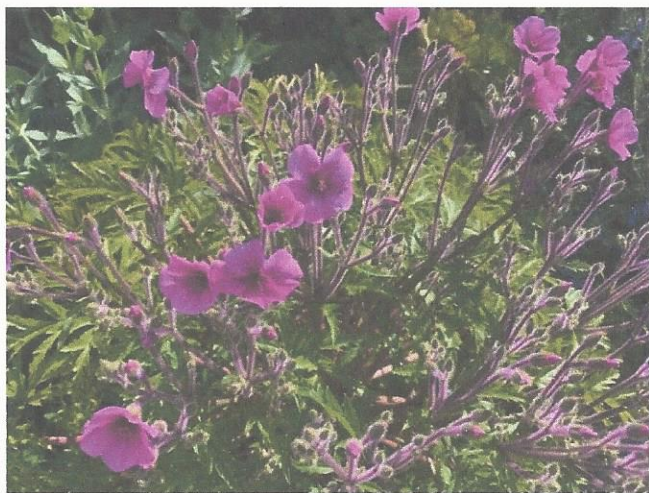
<https://gnqt.org/GNGT/EmailRequestNC.php>

MAGGIE REYNOLDS, GARDENERS' CLUB AFFICIONADA

Penny Hanna recently wrote to Cherry,

"My sister Maggie died recently. She loved the Gardeners' Club. Everyone was so kind to Maggie in her red power chair - she felt very welcomed at the monthly meetings!

Maggie (some of you may remember her best as Pat Hanna or Pat Reynolds) had a rich and full life with many adventures, travels, jobs, careers and friends. She had a bright and curious intellect, a talent for numbers and music, a love of nature and food and a terrific will to succeed despite the difficulties and challenges that come with a life well-lived. She leaves us her legacy of friendship, laughter and the memory of a warm smile freely given.



Cherry, Maggie picked this up at the Gardeners's Club maybe 4 or 5 years ago. This is it's first time blooming in all those years- the day before she died on April 3rd! I hope it continues to bloom every year as a bright reminder of her lovely spirit. It looks like some sort of geranium, but we misplaced the info. along the way."

Cherry answered,

"Penny, I so loved your sister's uplifting attitude. Debbie Kindle and I would wait with her after meetings until her ride arrived and had interesting conversations.

The photo looks like an unnamed geranium of mine that I started from a cutting from a club member. I have shared many cuttings over the years and mine has now started blooming. I will now think of Maggie when I prune it. How wonderful that it bloomed before she died. My condolences in your loss of such a bright and shining spirit."

More pictures and memories at her memorial page <https://slimandpenny.com/web/articles/MaggieMemorialPage/>.



Volunteering for the Prolific Propagators at the Watsonville Wetlands Watch plant sale

May Day Art Faire

421 Gharkey St., Santa Cruz, CA
(West side~Mission to Bay to Centennial to Gharkey)

Sat. May 1

Sun. May 2, 2021

10:00 am ~ 5:00 pm



for more information ~ 831-425-1602
<http://www.paintedchairstudio.com>

Member Suzanne Caron will have her gorgeous glass flowers available at the Faire!

Spring Gardening Things to Do

Plant more lettuce, spinach, arugula and peas while the soil is still cool enough. There are some seeds that don't like to be transplanted and should always be direct sown. They are sunflowers, beans, and corn. Other cool weather plants that should be direct sown are carrots, peas, radishes, and turnips. Watch out for snails and slugs, and protect from birds eager to snack on young seedlings.

Divide phlox, coreopsis, coral bells. Pinch back Sedum Autumn Joy, asters and mums.

Beef up borders with perennials before the soil warms too much. Cooler soil encourages healthy roots.

Thin leafy greens so plants have plenty of room – about two inches apart is just right.

Loosen roots of annuals crammed into cell packs so they spread out and grow strong.

Sow seeds of corn, squash, carrots and cucumbers. Sow bush beans 2 inches apart. Pole beans need a foot between plants – and a trellis to climb

Snip off faded daffodil flowers. But remember to let the foliage stay to feed the bulb.

May is usually warm enough here in Northern California (USDA zone 8-9) to put out our warm weather transplant starts like tomatoes, peppers and eggplants. But this has been a cold and windy spring, at least us here in the Santa Cruz mountains.. Some of us are putting off planting for heat-lovers like eggplants and petunia and tomatoes. If you started your seedlings from seed, make sure to harden them off. I've planted some of my tomatoes using Wall of Waters and homemade soil-warming contraptions. Keep some floating rowcover on hand just in case the temperatures drop below 45-50°F.

Support or cage tomato plants early.

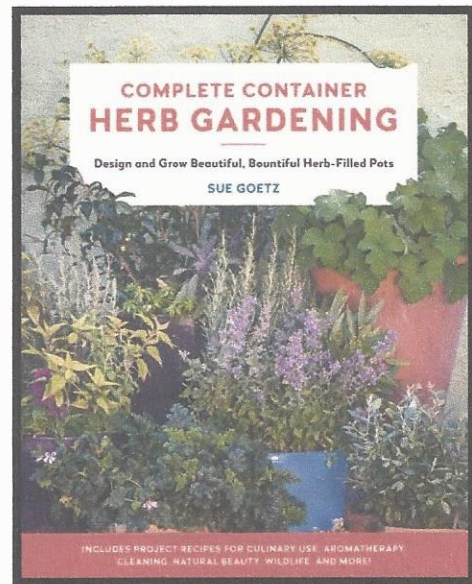
Loosen or remove stakes from trees planted in winter.

Deadhead and groom geraniums for longer flowering.

Nature doesn't encourage bare soil and neither should we. For shrubs, trees and ground covers, use at least 1" of compost and 3" of shredded native tree trimmings or shredded hardwood bark. Mulch vegetable gardens with 8" of partially completed compost or straw. Mulch preserves moisture, eliminates weeds and keeps the soil surface cooler which benefits earthworms, microorganisms and plant roots.

Check out and prepare your watering system. The easiest time to either set up your irrigation system or check your existing system for leaks is before you plant. If you haven't already done so be sure and check the batteries in your timers. If you planted garlic, shallots or onions in the fall,

you can start pulling back some of the mulch and give them some fertilizer. You can use compost or worm castings or a good all purpose fertilizer.



Book Recommendation: *The Complete Container Herb Gardening: Design and Grow Beautiful, Bountiful Herb-Filled Pots* by Sue Goetz

This 192 page book covers every aspect on growing herbs in containers, for beginners and experienced gardeners. It is nicely illustrated with hundreds of photographs. Topics include;

- Choosing the right kind of pots - there are terra cotta, concrete, metal, plastic, wood, vintage and repurposed. The various pros and cons of each are covered.
- Location - Light needs and microclimates are essential factors to consider and then there are topics on placement (balcony, rooftops, entries, patios, decks, living walls, and growing herbs indoors).
- Container garden design might be not a topic of consideration by the author opens your eyes to the possibilities of choosing containers for color and style, composing pots for pleasing arrangements and grouping plants for color, form and texture.
- Descriptions of the major herbs as well as varieties used for exotic flavorings.
- An entire chapter on herbal beverages that covers herbs for garnishes, simple syrups, and teas.
- Herbs used for healing properties and aromatherapy. Lemony herbs are profiled individually.
- Herbs for household uses and beauty treatments like foot soaks and cleansers.
- Pollinators (plants to attract bees, hummingbirds and butterflies).
- Cultivation (choosing plants, soil types, watering, maintenance, harvesting).
- Propagation techniques.

Letter to the Editor

How lovely and unusual to get a real, handwritten letter in the mail! It is rare, in these days of texting and emailing, so I am saving and treasuring this, while sharing some of it with you. Sim reverted to her previous name, so many of you know her as Sim Gilbert.

1-28-21



Ms Priscilla M Strahal
3999 Glen Haven Rd
Soquel, CA 95073-9736

Dear Wise,

Thanks for your latest newsletter. I was surprised but pleased that a tomato has been named after Paul Robeson. When I was ten or so, I was living on a small farm in Canada a half mile from the U.S. border. Two miles away on the border was the Peace Arch Park. which honored the peaceful relations between the U.S and Canada. Around 1950 or so (maybe during the McCarthy era) Paul Robeson sang there in sort of an impromptu concert. It was held outside and free and I remember he sang "Ole Man River." He was afraid to if he visited Canada the U.S authorities wouldn't let him back in the U.S. ...

I am currently reading "Flower Confidential" by Amy Steward about the cut flower industry. I have never been a big fan of cut flowers and after reading this book even less so.

Even the optimist, I ordered and received eight packets of flower seeds to attract bees and butterflies. I have seen a few Monarchs flitting around the garden which is encouraging.

Fondly
Sim



UC SANTA CRUZ
FARM & GARDEN
SPRING PLANT SALE
May 1 and 2 at the Cowell Ranch Hay Barn
casfs.ucsc.edu

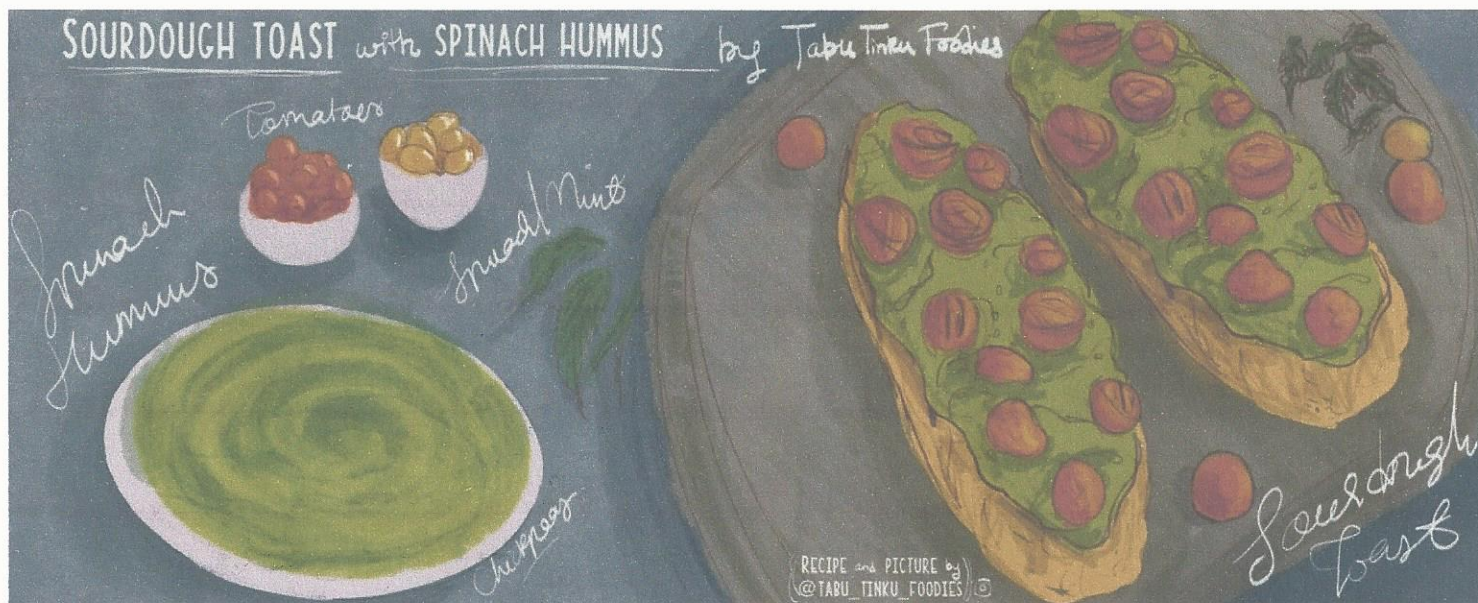
The annual UCSC Farm & Garden Spring Plant Sale will feature a variety of organic vegetable, fruit, flower, and herb seedlings grown at the UCSC Farm. This year's plant sale will take place at the **Cowell Ranch Hay Barn** (not the Barn Theater as in past years) on Saturday, May 1 from 9am to 4pm (**the hours of 9am to noon are reserved for Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden members**) and Sunday, May 2 from 9am to 3pm.

In order to facilitate a safe, socially distanced event we will be limiting the amount of people in the Hay Barn at a time, so please come prepared to shop and expect that you may be asked to wait to enter the building until other patrons have finished their shopping. **Folks who plan to shop on Saturday between 9am and noon should fill out this form to book a shopping "appointment."** The goal is that this appointment system will reduce wait times during the busiest hours of our sale.

Plant Sale attendees must wear face coverings and keep a safe (six foot) distance from others while shopping. Plan to park in the Carriage House/Campus Facilities parking lot (lots 115 and 116), across the street from the Hay Barn, as the Hay Barn parking lot will not be available except to those with accessibility needs. Find directions to the Hay Barn and lot 116 [here](#).

Plants for sale will include tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, cucumbers, greens, lettuces, squash, herbs, flowers, and more! [Download the list of varieties](#) we will have at the plant sale (more in-depth list with variety descriptions coming soon). **Please bring cash or a check**, as we will not be able to accept credit card payments (we're working on it...hopefully next year!)

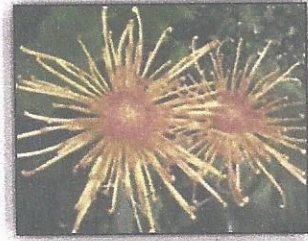
Members of the Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden gain early admittance to the plant sale and enjoy 10% off the price of all plants. [Find out more about the Friends and how to join.](#)



The weather's still cool enough that some of us have spinach that hasn't bolted. The recipe for the spinach hummus above is easy—make your own favorite hummus recipe or buy hummus from the store and add wilted spinach that you've either chopped up or blended. For more recipes with an Indian flavor, go to Divya Jadhav's https://www.instagram.com/tabu_tinku_foodies/?hl=en.

The Gardeners' Club Membership

We are past time for annual membership renewals, due to the newsletter pause. Annual dues, in addition to paying for our operating expenses, allow us to continue to contribute to help meet community needs. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$15.00. The membership year lasts through the end of December. Dues entitle members to all club educational programs, our special events, plant trades and our awesome monthly newsletter. Of course, this year, with the COVID situation still resolving, our events, meetings and plant trades and sales are in flux—our Board is hard at work to envision new ways to make our activities happen safely.



newsletter e-mail option below. The paper option is black-and-white.

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. In past years, we have provided scholarships to horticulture students in high school and Cabrillo College, but that can't happen this year. Instead, we are making contributions to

programs, nonprofit organizations and other groups which have been adversely effected by COVID and wildfires. With heightened awareness of food security and social justice issues, our giving opportunities are expanded. Please give us your suggestions for who to support with our funds.

The "green" newsletter option is to receive an electronic PDF FULL-COLOR version of the newsletter by checking the

If you have a friend, family member or colleague you think would enjoy our club and newsletter, you can give them a gift by filling out the form below.

YOUR 2021 MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email _____

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE (CHECK ONE):

Full color PDF via e-mail

Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

gift MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE (CHECK ONE):

Full color PDF via e-mail

Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

Enclose check for \$15 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to The Gardeners' Club. Mail to:

The Gardeners' Club % Suzanne Caron
P.O. Box 3025
Ben Lomond CA 95005

Membership Dues: \$ _____

Gift Membership(s): \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

During National Volunteer Month (April 1 - 30), the UC Master Gardener Program celebrated its 6,000 incredible UC Master Gardener volunteers and their contributions to California communities. Throughout the month, they featured stories of special Gardeners with Heart volunteers who are Diversity Equity and Inclusion Leaders. In its statewide blog, it published two very important sets of stories. Because we've run out of room in this issue, I will share some of their content next month.



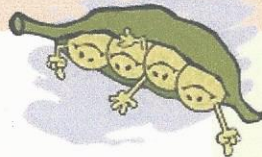
Our own Master Gardeners are keeping up their good work with ongoing classes and other resources. Check out specific information about upcoming classes at http://mbmng.ucanr.edu/Find_a_ClassEventorMeeting/, Special thanks to Trink Paxel and Denise Muir for their hard work and expertise.



FREE - Plant Communities: Our Gardens as Habitat	5/1/2021
FREE Chicks in the City- Hens in the Hood	5/2/2021
FREE Worm Compsting - Vermiculture!	5/6/2021

Our front page logo its graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

It's easy-peasy to join our club! Dues are \$15 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos



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