



March 2018

# Newsletter

*Fecund facundity from the fertile foothills*

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Read the newsletter online:

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

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## Upcoming Events

- Spring Victory Garden Classes March 3, 10, 17, & 24 9:30 AM-12:30 PM ACG deck
- [Tomatomania](#) Descanso Gardens on Sunday, April 8, presentation at 1pm
- Earth Day Sunday 4/22: Workshop, 4/19 or 4/20: 3 – 4:30 PM ACG deck
- Garden Workshop Saturday 4/7, 4/14 & 4/28 ACG deck
- Athens Compost Event Saturday 4/14 Loma Alta Park Parking Lot
- Garden Workshop Saturday 5/12 ACG deck
- General Membership Meeting Saturday 7/7, 10 - 11:30 AM ACG deck
- Fall Victory Garden Classes September 22, 29, October 6 & 13: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM ACG deck
- Executive Board Meeting & Garden Members & Family Potluck Picnic Saturday 10/20, 10 AM - 12 PM & 1- 5PM Loma Alta Park Gym & ACG deck
- Workshop - Sharing the bounty of your garden by preserving for gift giving Sunday 11/18, 10 AM - 12 PM ACG deck
- General Membership Meeting Saturday 12/1, 10 -11:30 AM Loma Alta Park Gym 3330 N. Lincoln Ave. Altadena, CA. 91001



## News

### The 2018 Altadena Community Garden Picnic

This year there will be no Annual Community Garden Picnic. The deck landscaping project which promises to provide a beautiful setting for garden events has become elaborate and extensive – too much so to be undertaken together with picnic planning and execution. See the complete article on the deck landscaping project below.

### Board Member Changes

Long-time member of the Gardens, Mary Gothard is now a member of the board as our Community Outreach Coordinator.



that body and promises to be a delightfully pleasant feature that will no doubt be enjoyed by our many bibliophiles as well as participants in our educational outreach programs. The [Proposal](#) in fact concludes by quoting the rather unambitious Cicero adage: “If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”

We all look forward with great anticipation to seeing the results of this project as they develop. Feel free to examine the full text of the [Landscaping Proposal](#).



## Deck Landscaping Donor Entreaty Letter

Dear Friend,

The Altadena Community Garden is one of the oldest community gardens in Los Angeles County. The two-and-a-half-acre site was constructed in the 1970s and comprises 75 individual garden plots and a beautiful deck with a scenic view of our mountains. It is one of the true treasures of Altadena. Four plots are designated for the support of educational programs-- the Loma Alta Park after school program, the Victory Garden classes, the Altadena Foothill 4H Children Club program and the Girl Scouts of America Troop #4601.

What started out as a repair project of the deck in 2017, turned into a complete demolition of the original structure, including the surrounding landscape of fauna-fostering flora. The deck has been a meeting place for over forty four years and the structure was showing wear and was becoming hazardous. The new construction by the Department of Parks & Recreation produced an improved deck able to support the needs of field trips and events in the garden but the surrounding landscaping remains to be done. The whole community will be proud. It is a wonderful place to relax, reflect and enjoy the quiet peace of the garden.

Under my direction a team of garden members came together and presented a plan for the new deck landscape design. The plan specifies gardens that are low maintenance, walkable and drought tolerant. The new landscape will include educational components for the school field trips and visitors.

The new landscaping design is ready to implement and **we need your help**. I am writing to ask for your financial support to secure the \$9,000.00 needed to complete the deck landscaping project. Will you help us? No contribution is too small, and all contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law, in accord with our 501(c)3 status. Please consider making a contribution. We are grateful for your help in this historic and important community project. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Silvera Grant, President

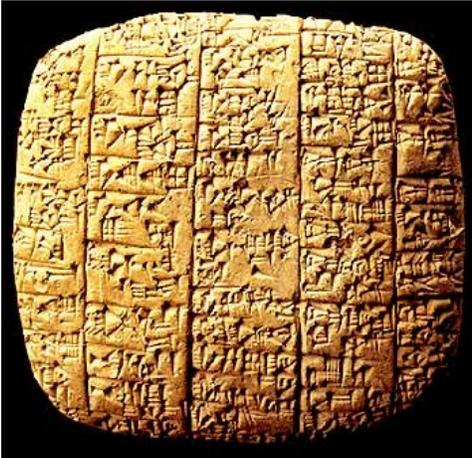
Altadena Community Garden

silvergrant@gmail.com or call me 626-398-9840.



## The Free Library

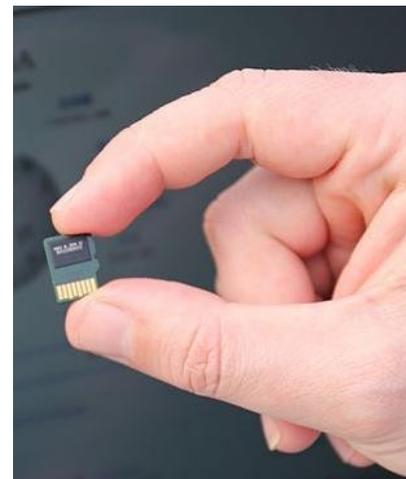
– Denis Titchenell



*Syrian Clay Tablet*

One early form of information recording involved placing marks on a clay tablet with a wooden stylus. The tablet then, when dry, could be carried and referenced as needed, though a simple calculation forces one to conclude that schlepping about more than a few minutes of reading matter in the form of clay tablets would be a fairly formidable, not to say backbreaking undertaking. Over the millennia, papyrus, parchment, vellum and variants of paper improved the words/weight quotient immensely, but the medieval chained library of handwritten books did little to improve universal access to the written word. Even the great technological leap of Gutenberg's moveable type took centuries to evolve into the affordable and ubiquitous paperback.

Though clearly the words-to-weight ratio of the paperback compared with that of the clay tablet seems mind boggling, it is, in turn, dwarfed by developments of the past decade alone. Readable by most smartphones, tablets or laptops, a micro SD chip the size and weight of one's fingernail can contain, as ebooks, the fully illustrated text of tens of thousands of books and that capacity is continuing to double every year or two. But far more importantly, the literature of all past centuries since the birth of written language is now accessible to anyone with such a device for free! From Thucydides to Thomas Aquinas, Shakespeare to Twain, Newton to Einstein, it's all there, with a fee required only for that recent segment which is still under copyright.



*Micro SD Card*

A few useful resources:

- [The Gutenberg Project](#): An effort to make public domain works available in digital form.
- [Librivox](#): An effort to make public domain works available as audiobooks with the aid of volunteer readers.
- [The Internet Archive](#): a collection of works from many sources in many media, including the above mentioned.

In short, anyone with a now almost universally used pocket device (of the sort unfortunately so frequently used for more frivolous purposes) has at his/her disposal a library vastly more extensive than any that has ever previously existed – anywhere.

One further side-effect spawned by digital libraries, is the increasing infeasibility of effective censorship. Though censorship of ideological, philosophical and political books is not officially a legitimate practice in this country, it is nonetheless common to find that works have been stifled, bowdlerized and

marginalized, not just in schools and libraries but through publishing coercion. One noble effort to make targets of such censorship available is the [Forbidden Bookshelf](#) project which has released ebook versions of well researched historical accounts of events, practices, policies and campaigns that some influential parties would prefer to keep hidden. Not a pornographic work among them, they are eye-opening reading.

Another little-known resource is [Library Genesis](#), a repository of all manner of books and periodicals from scholarly journals to comic books (and, yes, porn, but clearly labeled and avoidable) with little regard for censorship or copyright. Whatever other effects Library Genesis might have had, it has certainly been a boon to scholarship in less well-endowed institutions around the world.



Despite ebooks and digital information access, there certainly exists an atavistic, or perhaps vestigial, aesthetic appreciation for the printed book (though probably less for the clay tablet) and the proposed [Little Free Library](#) and reading space soon to appear in our Altadena Community Garden will no doubt delight, inform and captivate readers of all ages. It might even be unsurprising to see group public readings or dramatic recitations, perhaps even play readings taking place amid the *Muhlenbergia rigens*, *Lavatera maritima*

and *Lavandula multifida* of the new Deck landscape.



## Outreach Report

– Mary Gothard

**School Tours:** Denise Martinez, teacher at Odyssey Charter School, will be bringing 50 kindergarten students to the garden for a visit. They will arrive by 9:30AM on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The children are always so delighted to be in the garden. This year the goal is to enhance the children's visits by having members give “mini information segments” to the children. If any member would be interested in helping with the school tours, they would be welcome on the team. We are seeking members who could spare a couple of hours to give two 10-minute, or less, stories on something garden related. We could tell them about the tools, compost, seeds, watering, good bugs, bad bugs and the list goes on. We could also use a couple of volunteer members to just lead the children around on the tour.

**Meet Girl Scout Troop 4601:** The Troop Leader, Ayesha Randall, oversees the activities of the mixed troop which is currently made up of Daisies, Brownies and Juniors for a wonderful blend of age groups. There are 30 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. This year was a proud moment when the girls led the flag ceremony.





The Girl Scouts will be resuming garden duties on the third Saturday of each month, starting in March. The Scouts need a garden box (see picture). The girls have their own garden tools that are appropriate for their size and skill level. They need a place to keep their garden tools. Ask: Does anyone have an old box lying around? Maybe you know someone who has one. It does not need to be this big and it does not need to be pretty, the girls would enjoy the painting and decorating. Thanks everyone!

This girl scout troop is unique as the membership includes girls in kindergarten all the way through high school. We love working with the girls and due to the age differences, there is a natural mentoring among them. They are a busy troop and the girls have been exposed to science, arts and outdoor activities. The majority of the girls reside in the northwest Altadena area and many come

### *Garden Box*

from families with minimal resources. The troop leader works hard to make sure all the girls can participate in all the activities.

The scouts struggle with finance and have not had the funds to purchase uniforms, badges and sashes without which they are not allowed to participate in some Girl Scout activities, like selling cookies. The Altadena Community Garden donated \$250.00 to the Girl Scout Troop. When Ayesha received the donation, she was overwhelmed, grateful and joyful. She informed us how the money would support the girls. Garden members opened up their hearts and donated additional monies to the troop. I have received more requests from other members on how to donate to the girls as the needs are ongoing.

I have checked with the troop leader, Ayesha Randal, and she does have a dedicated bank account for the troop activities. Donations can be made by check payable to: Girl Scout Troop @4601 mailed to the garden: Altadena Community Garden, PO Box 6212 Altadena, Ca 91003-6212 with the attention line: Girl Scout Troop #4601. Donors will receive a thank you with all the formal information for tax deduction. Garden President Silvera will make sure that Ayesha and the Girl Scout Troop receive any donation.

Ayesha Randall, Troop leader sends the message:

*“I initially became a Girl Scout leader because my daughter wanted to be involved. But now I do it because I love it and what it stands for. It gives girls an opportunity to learn so much about the world, their community, and themselves. And it is because of people like you that this organization continues to keep keeping on. Thank you so much. The girls and parents in our troop are very grateful.”*

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Again, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mary Gothard, Outreach Chair



## Garden Maintenance

Maintenance, Repair & Upgrade Projects by Los Angeles County department of Parks and Recreation 2018

1. Continue to work on the deck to install lights, hand rails, garden hose placement holder, handicapped parking space, install mail box and painting.
2. Provide the expertise and labor to complete the recommendations of the Garden Deck Landscaping

Committee. Install the recommended irrigation system. Provide the labor and materials/supplies to do so. The Garden will undertake a fund raising campaign to secure the funds for completing all of the other recommendations in the deck landscaping report. Complete by December 2018.

3. Work with the Altadena Rotary Club to develop a new garden plot for the Altadena Foothill 4H Club Garden, Make a sign to read: ALTADENA FOOTHILL 4H CLUB GARDEN. Install the sign on an 8 foot metal pole. Complete by April.

4. Refurbish the back of the three display showcases located on the front of the large building. Complete by April.

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

6. Repair water spigot in plot 6, 27 and next to the main entrance gate. Replace broken water shutoff valve handle in plot 13. Stabilize/straighten main entrance gate iron posts. Complete by April.

7. Repair large pothole in circular area in front of the Garden main entrance gate. Install replacement light pole in the Lower Park. Coordinate with the Garden to replace three dead trees in the Lower Park. Complete by April.

8. Construct a 6 foot border from the eastern Garden fence in the Lower Park and add mulch to the area. The Garden will remove plants growing on the fence and plant more fruit trees in that area. The Garden will be responsible for providing the ongoing maintenance for this newly created area. Complete by April.



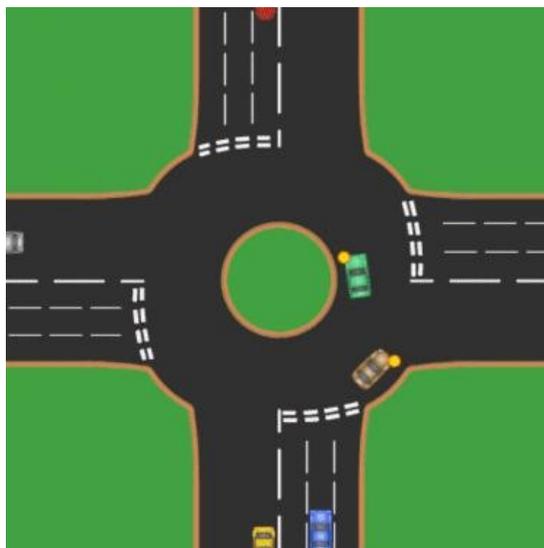
## The Roundabout

The Altadena Community Garden is blessed with a brilliant but rare (in this country) traffic regulation feature – a roundabout. True, with only two entry points, ours does not negotiate complex traffic congestion in a busy intersection but it nonetheless qualifies as a roundabout as defined in the California vehicle code which states, “A roundabout is an intersection where traffic travels around a central island in a counter-clockwise direction... Vehicles or bicycles entering or exiting the roundabout must yield to all traffic including pedestrians.”

It goes on to explain, “when you approach a roundabout:

- Slow down as you approach the roundabout.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the roadway.
- Watch for signs and/or pavement markings that guide you or prohibit certain movements.
- Enter the roundabout (heading to the right) when there is a big enough gap in traffic to merge safely.
- Travel in a counter-clockwise direction. Do not stop or pass.
- Signal when you change lanes or exit the roundabout.
- If you miss your exit, continue around until you return to your exit.”

Unfortunately, roundabouts are rare in California and are generally confusing to the uninitiated Southern California driver who can clearly not be trusted to understand nor follow the laws governing roundabouts, in particular the mandated direction of travel and the prohibition on stopping within the circle. A simple unscientific sampling of traffic in our roundabout leads one to conclude that is as often traversed in the wrong direction as in the right one which is tantamount to traveling the wrong way on a one-way street. Also, vehicles often park in the circle, forcing traffic to break the law in order to reach the garden entrance.



Roundabouts, used intelligently, reduce accidents, improve traffic flow, save gas and reduce emissions by serving as a safe intersection at which traffic is never required to stop unnecessarily. The four way stop and (to a lesser extent) the traffic signal intersection are egregiously wasteful but require only minimal noesis from the driver. Let's join the civilized world and use our roundabout intelligently. Roundabouts have never achieved popularity in California as their safe use apparently presupposes mentation beyond the capacity of the bulk of Southern California drivers, but ACG members at least can become expert in them.



## Notifications and reminders

From the President

### Letter to George Buck, February 27, 2018

Dear Mr. Buck:

The members of the Altadena Community Garden Executive Board would like to thank you for your many years of membership in the Garden. We appreciate your participation on the Water Conservation Committee and your other contributions to make the Garden a better place for everyone. We will miss not seeing you in the Garden and hope that you are doing well.

We wish you the very best of everything in the future.

### Letter to Michael Grady, February 27, 2018

Hello Michael,

Hope you are doing well. Finally we were able to get someone who is interested in the position of Fertilizer/Wood Chip Coordinator. I would like to thank you for your years of service to the Garden and the community while serving on the Executive Board. Thank you for your steadfast support. You are a good person and will be missed.

I wish you love, peace and happiness.

Appreciation to John Lynch for his years of active service to the Garden and community. We appreciate his service on the board, his leadership role on the Corner Beautification Project, Fruit Tree Orchard Project, participation on the Grape Vine Pruning Committee and his yearly pruning of the fruit trees in the Garden. We will miss not seeing him prune the fruit trees in the Garden.

Thank you John.

## Welcome Back to Arthur Fudge

Welcome back Arthur Fudge to the Garden. It's nice to see you working in your plot again after recovering from your broken foot. We also extend our sympathy to you for the recent death of your best friend.

## Hay Bales

Hay bales in the compost stall are available for you to take and use in your plot. You may take more than one for your plot.

## Garden Dues

GARDENERS, UNPAID DUES FOR 2018 ARE NOW DELINQUENT. 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 3/31/18 WILL JEOPARDIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GARDEN.

THANK YOU!



## Housekeeping reminders:

From the President

## See Something Say Something

Refer to the following emergency phone number list that is posted in the Garden.

- MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN GARDEN DIAL 911
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PARK BUREAU (213) 974 – 8000 24-HOUR DISPATCH (800) 834-0064
- SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – ALTADENA STATION (626) 798-1131
- PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT (626) 744-4620
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT/ALTADENA FIRE STATION #12 (626) 797-1911
- PASADENA HUMANE SOCIETY & SPCA (626) 792-7151
- PENNY DANIELS, RECREATION SERVICES SUPERVISORS LOMA ALTA PARK (626) 398-5451 or 5452
- NICOLAS BERNAL, OUR GARDENER Cell: (626) 379-0593
- SILVERA GRANT, PRESIDENT, ALTADENA COMMUNITY GARDEN (626) 398-9840
- LEO STALLWORTH, VICE PRESIDENT (626) 398-8846

## 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.

## Inspection Violation Errors

A number of inspection violation letters have been sent out recently to Garden members. Please take these violation letters seriously and correct the violation by the date indicated on the letter. You may contact the Inspection Chairperson, Eva Story at: [evastory@att.net](mailto:evastory@att.net) if you need more time to correct the violation. It is time for you to get

your plot ready for spring planting.

## 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.

Please remember to close the door of the small refrigerator in the tool shed tightly.

## 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, boards, chairs and personal hand tools.

## Open Gates:

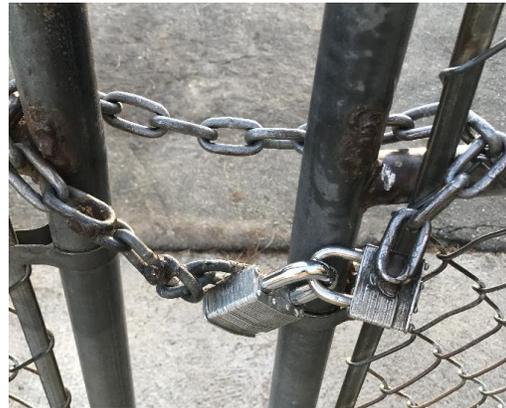
If you are the last to leave the Garden, please make sure the gates and tool shed are closed. You can also close the gate if you are alone in the Garden.

## The Deck Fountain

Please use the bottom electrical light switch on the pagoda next to the deck to turn on and off the water fountain. You can also use the hose on the side of the deck to fill the fountain with water when it is low. If you are the last person to leave the Garden and the water fountain is on, please turn it off.

## 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.



## 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](mailto:altadenacgnewsletter@abacus-es.com)