



ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD

Since 1966

Atherton Garden Gate

October 2024

Calendar

Meetings

Board Meetings: 9: 00 am

Social: 9: 30 am

Meetings: 10: 00 am

*Meetings are on Mondays
unless otherwise noted*

October

Monday, October 7

Atherton Town Center

History Room

November

Monday, November 4

Atherton Town Center

History Room

December

Monday, December 9

Holiday Party

Holbrook Palmer

Park Pavilion

January

Monday, January 6

Atherton Town Center

History Room

February

Monday, February 3

Suzanne Legallet's home

88 Selby Lane, Atherton

March

Monday, March 3

Atherton Town Center

History Room

April

Monday, April 7

Suzanne Legallet's home

88 Selby Lane, Atherton

May

Monday, May 5

Atherton Town Center

History Room

June

Monday, June 2

Suzanne Legallet's home

88 Selby Lane, Atherton

AGG

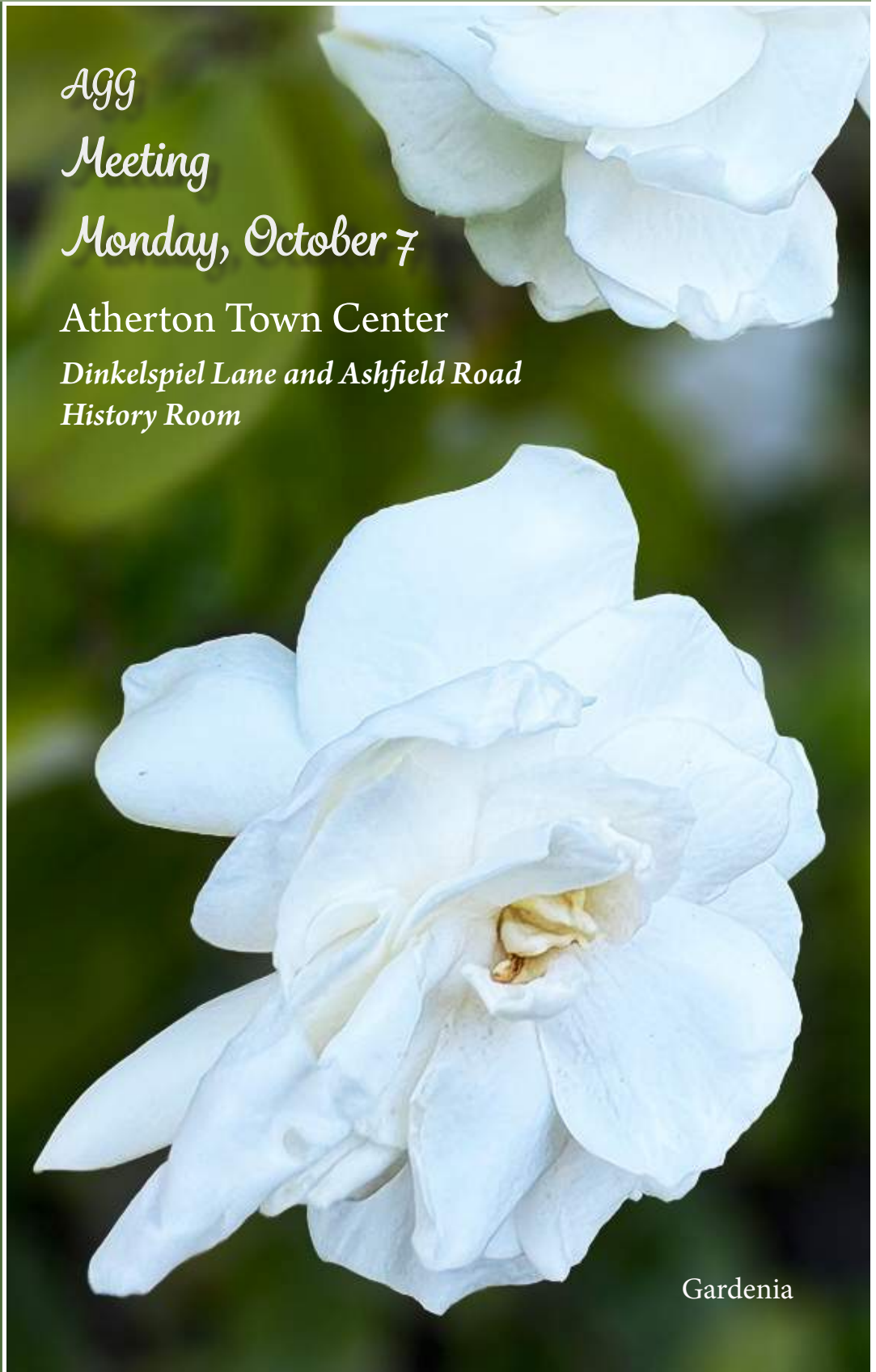
Meeting

Monday, October 7

Atherton Town Center

Dinkelspiel Lane and Ashfield Road

History Room



Gardenia

The President's Letter

Pumpkin spice and everything nice



Halloween and Thanksgiving would not be the same without pumpkins. *Cucurbita pepo*, pumpkin, is a cultivated winter squash. In Europe and South America, pumpkin is primarily served as a vegetable and used interchangeably with other winter squashes. Pumpkin seeds are edible and are commonly roasted. It is highly nutritious and packed with powerful antioxidants. In the United States and Canada, pumpkin is used to make pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving. This multipurpose fruit can be used for food, decorations, composting, and animal feed.

When choosing a pumpkin variety, think about what you want to do with it. Here are some recommendations from Master Gardener Chris Rusch :

- The best pumpkins to grow for pies include Small Sugar, Sugar Treat, and Winter Luxury. These varieties all have outstanding flavor and bright orange flesh.
- The best pumpkins to grow for carving include Autumn Gold, Magic Lantern, Spartan, and Howden.
- The best pumpkins to grow for their giant size and prize-winning include Dills Atlantic Giant, Big Max, and Big Moose.

Depending on the variety, pumpkins can range from small jack-o'-lanterns to more than 100 pounds. Pumpkins need ample space to grow. Keep the soil moist but not wet. Water deeply and regularly at the base of each plant, especially during hot weather and once the fruits start to form. Keeping leaves dry will prevent wilt diseases.

Most gardeners start their pumpkins from seed in full sun. Do not plant until all danger of frost has passed and the soil is above 65 degrees. Sow seeds directly into the garden soil. Rake the garden soil into small mounds and plant three to five pumpkin seeds in each mound, about one inch deep. Leave two to five feet between each mound. The bigger the pumpkins you grow, the more space you need to leave between mounds. It can take up to 120 days for a pumpkin to be ready to harvest. Pumpkins are big, greedy feeders and love fertile soil, so before planting, spade the soil about a foot deep and mix in some compost, manure, and well-balanced fertilizer.

Growing your own pumpkins will not disappoint, whether you use them for cooking, carving, or pumpkin competitions! Happy gardening, **Patti**.

Martha Stewart to the Rescue



At the September meeting, the members decided to keep the once-a-week floral service at the Atherton Library, with the condition that they check in on the flowers mid-week to ensure they are still alive. To make our job easier, I called on Martha Stewart for suggestions on which flowers she uses for arrangements that need to last a week.

Martha turned to Steven Cox, associate director of floral design at Longwood Garden, and Peggy Anne Montgomery, a horticulturist with Flower Bulbs, to tap into their expertise.

Zennia "With so many variations in shapes, sizes, and colors, they look good paired in a bouquet with practically anything," Steven Cox. Vase life 5-7 days

Dahlia "There is truly a dahlia for everyone's taste," says Peggy Anne Montgomery. Vase life 14 days

Peony "Cut them when the buds are showing color but have not yet opened to enjoy a week of beautiful peonies once they unfurl," Steven Cox. Vase life 5-7 days

Allium "Cut the flowers when about half of the florets are open." Opt for taller varieties when growing allium for flower arrangements with height and movement." Peggy Anne Montgomery. Vase life 14 days

Muscat "Grape hyacinths are one of the longest flowering early season bulbs." Peggy Anne Montgomery. Vase life 14 days

Coneflower "They hold up beautifully as a cut flower, and their cones look great when dried," Steven Cox. Vase life 7 days

Oriental lilies "Lilies like water, so in order to extend their lifespan once snipped, ensure there's enough water in your vase at all times." Steven Cox. Vase life 7-14 days

Montbretia "Very elegant, their warm shades are a terrific contrast when paired with dahlias," Peggy Anne Montgomery. Vase life 14 days

Hydrangea "Hydrangea can be a finicky cut flower, but will last for longer if the stem is placed in water immediately after being cut, says Cox; bring a bucket of water with you into the garden so they get the hydration they need. They can be resuscitated if they wilt by soaking them in a sink of cool water for 15 minutes, recutting the stems, placing the stem in warm water, and waiting" Steven Cox. Vase life 5-9 days

*Hope these suggestions help in supporting you while you create arrangements for the Atherton Library. Many thanks you for your valuable time. AGG and the Atherton Library are forever grateful. **Patti***

Program Page



October Program • Monday, October 7

Atherton Town Center History Room
Dinkelspiel Lane and Ashfield Road, Atherton

Presenter Charmaine Turbow



Charmaine Turbow is a practicing chiropractor, mother, wife, and Head-farmette of Turbow Farms. Turbow Farms is a small family-run, cut micro flower farm located in the midst of Silicon Valley. The farm features common and not so common cutting flowers. Charmaine offers elegant blooms through flower bundles, arrangements, and subscriptions, Additionally, both team building and private workshops, and garden inspired pieces for small events are available.



November Program • Monday, November 4

Atherton Town Center History Room
Dinkelspiel Lane and Ashfield Road, Atherton

Presenter Jenna Bayer

Jenna Bayer Garden Design was established in 1994, and has focused since then on creating one of kind garden experiences using sustainable practices, extensive horticultural knowledge and artistic principles. The team at Jenna Bayer Garden Design knows that every project is unique



September Meeting



September Meeting/Garden



Donor Norma Baker



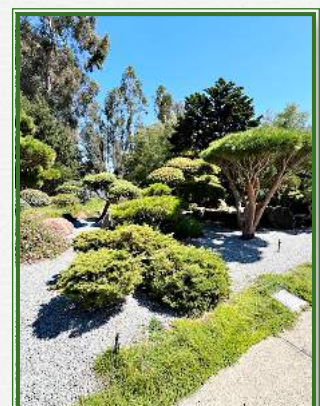
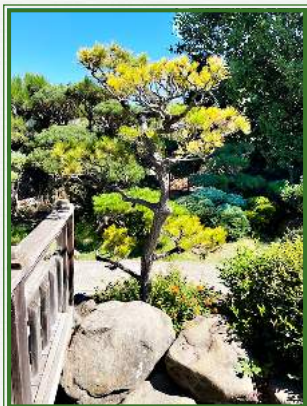
Recipient Lynne Heppberger



JAPANESE GARDENS

22372 North Third Street
Hayward, CA

*Photos taken by Terri Bailard during
a recent visit with her family*



Beautiful Gardens

Les Jardins de Quatre Vents

Photos & Text by Patti Spezzaferro



Francis Higginson Cabot (August 6, 1925 – November 19, 2011) loved gardens more than anything in the world, and he left behind two of North America’s most acclaimed private gardens—one in Cold Spring, New York, called Stonecrop and the other one near Port-au-Saumon, Quebec, alongside the St. Lawrence River in Canada named Les Jardins de Quatre Vents. Disillusioned with his career choice of investment banking, Cabot turned his full attention to gardening and garden preservation. He founded The Garden Conservancy in 1989, aiming to protect and care for gardens that might otherwise lose in a fight against land developers. For a time he served as chairman of the New York Botanical Gardens and as an advisor to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Ontario.



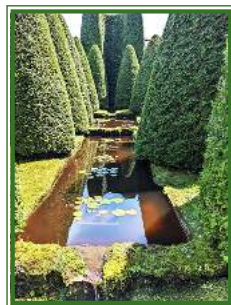
Les Jardins de Quatre-Vents, or the Garden of the Four Winds, 90 miles north of Quebec City, took shape toward the end of Cabot’s life. Spread out over 20 lush acres of rolling lawns and intricate boxwood hedges, comprising about 25 different gardens — including Japanese, rose, white, rock, sculpture, shade, and kitchen gardens. There are exotic and rare Asian plants, reflecting pools and waterfalls, and the St. Lawrence River itself—Les Jardins de Quatre-Vents’ major water feature.



The gardens are open to the public for four days only every summer, and the Ecology Center leads a two-hour tour. The fees collected help support the Ecology Center’s environmental outreach and education. Frank Cabot, who is dedicated to horticultural outreach and education himself, would likely approve.



Shortly before his death, Cabot was interviewed at length for the documentary film *The Gardener* by Sebastien Chabot (2016), explaining his philosophy of gardens and the history of his own garden.



Library/Hospitality

Library Flowers

by Chair Rita Wachhorst



September 9th display
by Jeanne Quinlan

Please deliver flowers early Monday and pick up late Sunday of your week. Our Atherton Library, open seven days a week, will be closed October 13-14 for “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” We voted September 9th to have one member responsible for each entire assigned week rather than a two-person weekly rotation. Each of you should plan to redo, refresh or replace your flowers as needed mid-week after three-four days, add water, or bring a something new for the second half of your week to assure that the AGG Library Flowers are always lovely and represent our organization at its best. Use the small watering can that was left with the Librarian last year or please bring yours. If you cannot do the flowers on your assigned date, you are responsible for arranging for your own member sub by switching dates and reporting the change to this year’s Library Flowers Chairman, Rita Wachhorst, ritawach@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for your ongoing devotion to this giving project, doing your part to keep the Atherton Library supplied with the beauty of fresh flowers or stunning, select plants. AGG is a charitable organization with the complimentary tax status and Library Flowers are our gifts to the community. The results of your time, energy, and contributions are really appreciated by our own members, the Library, town staffs, and visitors to the Atherton Library who see them. We have both a prominent display spot in the Library and our organization’s name on a recognition card by your flowers. The senior Librarian told our AGG Library Flowers Chairman 2023-2024, that people often ask about the names of the flowers. If you would like to list a description with the names of your flowers or plant, it would be a welcome addition, although there is no obligation. The only obligation is to do your job well, make sure it is attractive, and insure it stays that way for seven days as the contributing member and representative of the Atherton Garden Guild. Photos will be sent to our newsletter, The Atherton Garden Gate.

A complete 2024-25 AGG Library Flowers Schedule will be available at the October meeting. Please call if you have any questions. 650-321-1233 or email as above ritawach@gmail.com. **Rita**

Atherton Library Hours: Holidays and closure dates will appear on the monthly reminders.

Monday - Thursday 10:00-8:00

Friday – Sunday 10:00-5:00

Hospitality

October

Carrie Drake, Chair

Judy Blommer

Rita Wachhorst



Atherton Library

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm

Friday - Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm

Closed for Indigenous Peoples’ Day, October 13-14

October

7 Carol Selig

14 Joan Sanders

21 Pamela Smith

28 Patti Spezzaferro

Who's in Your Garden

Who's in Your Garden with Terri Bailard

by Patti Spezzaferro



Which three historical or present gardeners would you invite to your dinner party?

I have a rather broad definition of “gardener” here. The first is actually a science writer, Rachel Carson. She wrote “Silent Spring,” which questioned the use of commercial herbicides and pesticides like DDT. My second dinner guest would be Ellen Biddle Shipman, not only for the beautiful gardens she created but for her groundbreaking role as one of America’s first female landscape architects. And finally, the third is a photographer, Mattie Edwards Hewitt. I personally take thousands of photographs, and through photography, Ms. Hewitt preserved many historic gardens and landscapes created during the “golden age” of American gardens, 1890-1930.

What is your greatest fear?

That my neighbor’s huge, messy eucalyptus tree will fall onto my house, crushing my grandchildren and/or me as we/I sleep.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Creating a wonderful painting or enjoying a lovely meal with friends.

Which gardens are your favorites?

Butchart Gardens in British Columbia. I visited Butchart when I was 14 and have never forgotten how beautiful the garden is.

What have you learned recently about gardening that you wish to share?

I recently visited the UC Berkeley Botanical Gardens during their carnivorous plant sale. I had no idea how unique and interesting these plants are.

What is your favorite gardening product and why?

White vinegar for weed control (but never in close proximity to other plantings).

What inspires you to garden?

Natural beauty and being outdoors.

A motto by which you live while gardening?

Enjoy the moment.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Playing golf.

What does AGG mean to you?

AGG has given me a wonderful opportunity to meet some lovely women, to visit beautiful gardens and to learn more about gardening and horticulture.

Views of Terri's Garden



Horticulture Page

AGG Horticulture Report

by Patti Spezzaferro

Master Gardener's Checklist

October

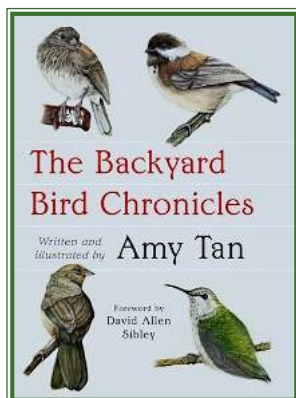
- Feed hydrangeas with an acidifier for bluer blooms. Feed them with agricultural lime to turn them pink.
- Plant bulbs now for spring blooms.
- Fall is a great time to plant natives. Check the UC Davis Arboretum website for ideas.
- Plant garlic and shallots now for a summer harvest.
- Prepare planting beds for winter by clearing out weeds and rocks, adding soil amendments, and planting winter cover crops such as fava beans to replace nitrogen in the soil.
- Add fallen leaves and plant debris to your compost pile. You can also leave them on the ground to serve as natural mulch for your garden.

Book of the Month

The Backyard Bird Chronicles

Written and illustrated by Amy Tan

“..both unexpected and spectacular.” - Ann Patchett, author of “These Precious Days”



In 2016, in search of peace, Tan turned toward the natural world just outside her window to the birds visiting her yard. While looking for comfort, she discovered something far greater—an opportunity to savor quiet moments and connect with nature in a meaningful way by studying the complex lives of the birds she so admired. In this New York Times Best Seller, Tan maps out the passage of time with endless charm and wit through daily thoughtful entries featuring over 100 of Amy’s illustrations reproduced in full color. Buy it on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)





The Atherton Garden Guild

PO Box 685

Menlo Park, CA 94025

AGG Newsletter

October 2024

OFFICERS 2024 - 2025

President:	Patti Spezzaferro
1st Vice President:	Suzanne Legallet
<i>Programs</i>	Mimi Hillyard
2nd Vice President:	Dana Bonham
<i>Membership</i>	
Treasurer:	Katie Blommer
Recording Secretary:	Pamela Smith
Corresponding Secretary:	Kasey Hansen
Historian:	Di Bryan
Parliamentarians:	Julie Douglass Joan Sanders
Newsletter:	Martha Woollomes
Website/Technology:	Carrie Drake

CONTRIBUTORS

Terri Bailard, Di Bryan,
Mimi Hillyard, Patti Spezzaferro,
Rita Wachhorst, Martha Woollomes

PROOFREADERS

Kasey Hansen, Pamela Smith,
Patti Spezzaferro

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2024/2025

Atherton Library Flowers: Chair Rita Wachhorst

Donations: Chair Barbara Tyler

Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden: Chair Patty Leugers

Holiday Party: Location: Holbrook Palmer Pavilion

Committee: Dana Bonham, Carrie Drake, Erika Enos,
Ginny Nile, Suellen Rottiers, Pam Smith,
Lynne and Dave Heppberger

Horticulture: Chair Patti Spezzaferro

Hospitality/Refreshments: Chair Lynne Heppberger

June, 2024 Luncheon: Hostess: Suzanne Legallet

Committee Chair: Suzanne Legallet

Committee: Karen Bartholomew, Dana Bonham

Sue Connelly, Mimi Hillyard, Sue Matthews,

Karen Olson, Joan Sanders, Patti Spezzaferro

Newsletter: Editor Martha Woollomes

Nominating: Chair Suzanne Van Ness

Website: Chair Carrie Drake

Yearbook: Chair Terri Bailard



Birthdays

October Birthday Flower

Cosmos & Marigold

Cosmos: harmony, peace, balance
Marigold: warmth, creativity, energy

October Birthdays

- 3 Patti Spezzaferro
- 8 Karen Olson
- 27 Sonia McLellan
- 29 Barbara Tyler