



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

August 2024—Newsletter #41



"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." - Audrey Hepburn

A message from the Executive Director

*"The heat of autumn is different from the heat of summer.
One ripens apples, the other turns them to cider."*

— Jane Hirshfield.

You know all the clippings from your garden boxes that you drag over to the compost pile and the sunflower giants that have bloomed throughout the summer and have now turned their crispy faces to the ground and also wind up on the pile? They don't just fade away!

I experienced the magical earth cycle that turns the dying and decaying plants we have tended and enjoyed all summer into rich dirt, ahem, soil to be reused in next year's growing season.

Marcia and I were planting succulents in the pallet garden near the compost pile. I was aware that there was dirt in one of the cages. There are a series of frames for sifting the dirt to remove larger debris. I used the frames to sift the dirt and before long I had a wheelbarrow full of rich soil for our succulent project! I was amazed and even startled at what had been created!! It is a process and there are regular tasks that need to be attended too to make the compost cycle happen.

You may have also noticed that we have been working on a project called the **"Diane Barnett Peace Arboretum"**. This is a series for four outdoor rooms which explore concepts of peace. Over the next two weeks, twenty-nine peace poles will be planted in the rooms. The poles have been created by people all over California and as far away as Missouri.

Creating peace is like creating soil in a compost pile. It is a cycle which needs regular tending to produce a rich life and a rich soil.

We will have a dedication ceremony for the Peace Arboretum on **Sunday 9/22/24 at 2pm.**

The garden will open at 1 for tours of the garden.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Thank you for all the richness you bring to the garden!

Karen Marshall
Executive Director.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 1

- ✂ A message from the Executive Director
- ✂ Thank You's and FYIs
- ✂ Save the Date

Page 2-5

- ✂ Garden Hints & Tips
- ✂ September - February Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide
- ✂ Milpitas Food Pantry donations

Thank You's and FYI's

- ✂ **Thank you Peace Pole artists!** – Thank you to everyone who participated in the Peace Pole project. The poles you created are amazing!
- ✂ **South Bay Modular Synthesizer Open Mic Nite**
Sponsored by Grateful Gardens Is On Summer Vacation (No July or August Performances) Open Mic Nites Will Resume September 14
- ✂ **NO dogs off-leash while visitors are in the garden.**
- ✂ **When you use a garden hose** – please return the sprinkler head to the faucet (or in the case of the hose on the south side, to the hose caddy.) -- as a kindness to the next person. Also please try not to tangle long hoses.

If you want to volunteer for an assignment, send a text or call Collette 408-466-6292.

Stay tuned for announcements and the September Newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE

- ✂ Sept 14 Saturday, 7pm Electronic Open Mic resumes
- ✂ **Sept 22 Sunday, 2pm Dedication of the Peace Arboretum**
- ✂ October 19 Saturday, Hymn fest and Ice Cream Social (evening, TBD)
- ✂ December - feedback needed for date - Volunteer Appreciation party
- ✂ January 18 Saturday, 6pm - Martin Luther King Jr Day of Remembrance: theatrical performance, dinner/reception afterwards

Thanks to WWW.kelloggsgarden.com and www.gardeningknowhow.com for much of the information in this month's newsletter.

ORGANIC GARDENING

We are an organic community garden.
Please use only OMRI approved products including soil amendments, fertilizers, and pest control products.



Gardening Hints and Tips

- Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to keep them blooming as long as possible.
- Pick tomatoes and peppers if frost is in the forecast.
- Divide iris and peonies.
- Bring green tomatoes indoors to finish ripening.
- Stop fertilizing trees and flowering shrubs. Tender new growth is likely to be harmed by winter freezes.
- Read more at Gardening Know How: [Regional Gardening Tasks - Growing a Western Garden in Sept](#)

September – February Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide

		Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest					
Plant	Seeds	Plants	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	NOTES
Artichoke		Transplant							
Arugula	Direct Sow	Transplant							
Beans	Direct Sow								
Beets	Direct Sow								Thin to 3" apart, final spacing 5"
Bell Peppers		Transplant							Ideal Temp 80-90 degrees
Broccoli	Direct Sow								Select a variety best suited to your climate that will mature before hot weather begins.
Brussel Sprouts		Transplant							Long growing season. Flavor improves with light frost.
Cabbage	Direct Sow	Transplant							Cooler season crop
Carrots	Direct Sow								Dislikes transplanting
Cauliflower	Direct Sow	Transplant							Brassica family.
Celery		Transplant							Thin to 10-12 inches when seedlings have 3-4 true leaves.
Collards	Direct Sow								Brassica family.
Corn	Direct Sow								Needs to be planting in rows for pollination.
Cucumbers	Direct Sow	Transplant							Consider growing vertically on support structures.
Edamame	Direct Sow								Long growing season. Succession plant for continual harvest.
Eggplant		Transplant							Transplant to garden or container.
Endive	Direct Sow								Direct Sow and thin to 6-12 inches apart

Fava Beans	Direct Sow									Prefers cooler weather.
Garlic	Direct Sow									Planting in Fall yields larger bulbs.
Gourds	Direct Sow	Transplant								Plant in hills that are well-spaced.
Green Beans	Direct Sow									Grow on support structure such as teepees.
Kale	Direct Sow	Transplant								Brassica family
Leeks		Transplant								Onion family
Lettuce	Direct Sow	Transplant								Plant in succession
Okra		Transplant								Soak seeds overnight before planting.
Onions		Transplant								
Parsnips	Direct Sow									Direct sow 1" apart in wide rows. Thin to 3-4".
Peanuts	Direct Sow	Transplant								Peanut plants need 1½ to 2 inches of water per week during kernel development.
Peppers	Direct Sow	Transplant								Peppers need heat to germinate, 80-90 F
Potatoes		Transplant								Give potato seeds a head start by pre-sprouting or chitting them before planting.
Pumpkins	Direct Sow	Transplant								
Radishes	Direct Sow									Plant in succession.
Rutabagas	Direct Sow									Direct sow 1-2" apart in wide rows. Thin to 8 inches
Shallots	Direct Sow	Transplant								Onion family
Snap Peas	Direct Sow									Plant in succession. Use support structure.
Soybean	Direct Sow									
Spinach	Direct Sow	Transplant								Plant in succession for continual harvest.
Squash	Direct Sow	Transplant								Consider growing on support structure.
Sweet Potatoes		Transplant								Grown from slips, not seeds. 50 Sprouts per slip. Wider spacing produces larger sweet potatoes.
Swiss Chard	Direct Sow	Transplant								Plant in succession.
Tomatoes		Transplant								May require staking. Transfer to to bed or planter.
Turnips	Direct Sow									
Zucchini		Transplant								Plant 3-4 seeds per mound 4 inches high.

[illegible]

Fennel	Direct Sow									Direct sow to avoid transplant shock. Not a good companion plant. Plant outside of vegetable garden.
Mustard	Direct Sow									
Scallions	Direct Sow									Sow seeds indoors early or direct sow.
Tarragon		Transplant								Start seeds indoors. Low light. Room temperature.
Marjoram		Transplant								Used in cooking and medicinally. Start seeds indoors.
Blueberries		Transplant								Start seeds in trays for later transplant.
Cantaloupes	Direct Sow	Transplant								Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
Honeydew	Direct Sow	Transplant								Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
Strawberries		Transplant								Plant in mounded rows.
Watermelon	Direct Sow	Transplant								Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.



Milpitas Food Pantry

Emergency Food & Food Assistance
For Residents of Milpitas and Alviso

Milpitas Food Pantry

EXTRA VEGGIES? If you have extra veggies, consider donating to a food pantry! Marcia works at Milpitas Food Pantry and can pick up extra produce on Monday and Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, she can be reached at the following number 408.892.8924.

