President’s Message ~ from the Amalfi Coast
by Carol Sayers and Joyce Michalczyk

Happy Autumn! This time of year is my favorite...warm days and cool mornings and evenings. The only downside is that the days are getting shorter. However, autumn is an opportune time to plant!

Our October general meeting had a record attendance ~ 97! Furthermore, our membership is now full at 150. A special thanks to Louise Wiggins and her membership committee for all the work they do to make “it” happen. At the October general meeting Tena Gallagher distributed our Yearbook complete with member photos. Please read the last page of our Yearbook where Tena gives information on our “Friendship Garden”. Heartfelt thanks to Tena for a job VERY well done.

FYI:

1. A suggestion box will be at either the “sign in” table or at a table near the entrance. Paper and pens are provided. At the October meeting happily two people submitted suggestions which are greatly appreciated. Your participation is encouraged.

2. The twelve of us who did “Lunch Out” thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at the Peasant and Pear. Maureen Brooks, Social Chairman, has resurrected this fun activity that occurs after the General Meeting.

3. On a personal note, I encourage all of you who can to support Gary Bogue’s Lindsay Wildlife Museum fund raising effort. The money he raises will be matched by a corporate sponsor. Therefore, your $10 donation becomes a $20 donation! Lindsay Wildlife Museum is truly a local gem. He spoke to our club a couple of years ago and donated his speaker fee to the Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

4. Sandy March, at the Crow Canyon Gardens in San Ramon, encourages us to “work” at the organic gardens. Time commitment is minimal and very flexible. Please contact Sandy at 838.8596 for more information.

5. Our November program is non-other than Rosalind Creasy, a Bay Area resident, who is a keen proponent of edibles. To have her is a VERY special treat!

See you at the November 8th meeting. Ciao!
Horticulture

by Kristin Yanker-Hansen

We have a huge waste stream in the plant world. It primarily comes from the containers that our beloved plants are growing. When we buy them they are mostly found in plastic containers some of them are numbered with the recycling number and many are not.

In the world of recycling there is a motto, “refuse, reuse, recycle”. We aren’t thinking about that aspect when we see a pretty flower, well grown, and even in a pretty plastic pot. The pot is part of the packaging to make you want to purchase the plant.

To refuse to purchase the plant because the container may not be recyclable is not within my own personal power. So all I can do is discuss the reuse, and recycle part of the motto.

We have two fairly good places where we can bring pots to be reused in the tri-valley. The first is Diablo Valley College which pretty much takes everything. However, they always seem to have an overabundance of 5 gallon and large containers. What they are mostly looking for is 4 inch and one gallon although they do quite a bit of 6 pack growing. All their pots come from used pot donations. They are open every Friday from 12 noon to 3pm, and not only can you drop off pots, but you can buy new plants making your trip very worth while.

A second good location for dropping off pots is the Markham Arboretum. They also take pretty much anything, but again prefer 4 inch and 1 gallon. They are open on Tuesday mornings from 9am until noon. You can also shop for plants when you go there.

You can also talk to your local nurseries to see if they will take back the containers. If enough people return pots, the nurseries might develop links back to the growers and return pots and flats. This would be an additional marketing advantage to those nurseries who do accept the pots, since they get you into the store once again, and who of us can just go there and not take a look see for a new treasure!

The recycle part is somewhat more difficult. On the bottom of a recyclable container are chasing arrows with a number. You can recycle any of these containers with the numbers from 1-7. Allied Waste Management which services Danville north will pick up any of these containers. However, some of the containers have no number, so those can’t be recycled. These include most of the 6 packs and the trays they come in, as well as the flats. The only place for them if they do not get reused is the “basura” (that’s garbage in Spanish).

Most of our plant containers are from oil believe it or not. Needless to say, it takes a lot of energy to convert that oil into hard plastic. So if we reduce the demand for those containers, and make it clear to our suppliers that we want to close the loop and get the containers reused, we will once again make a small contribution to the reduction of carbon dioxide. So even if you don’t recycle every pot, but you recycle more pots than you did before you are making a contribution to reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere; that is better than what you did before. All you have to do is start!

Programs

by Joyce Michalczyk

The November program should not be missed! DAGC will host Rosalind Creasy as our speaker. Rosalind is a garden and food writer, photographer and landscape designer with a passion for beautiful vegetable and ecologically sensitive gardening. She is best known for her books, the Complete Book of Edible Gardening and Cooking From the Garden. She has lectured nationwide and has appeared on HGTV. Rosalind will have books for sale and will sign copies for you.

Also in November, our own Jan Glomstad will present a brief cooking demonstration in addition to our program. Jan is fabulous chef and instructor.

In keeping with so many club traditions, we will share our cranberry recipes again this year. Last year Pat Foley brought a family recipe and I made a cranberry chutney recipe from friend, Judith LeBris. Judith has recently joined our club along with friends Jeannette Duport and Pat Gilman. Please welcome them.

The Holiday season is upon us; do make time to enjoy family and friends this beautiful time of year!

Happy Gardening...Joyce

Membership

With the addition of three new members, guests at last month’s meeting, our roster is full for this year. Others interested in joining may attend two meetings as guests and are welcome to add their names to the waiting list, found at the membership table or by calling Louise.

As you arrive, remember to sign in legibly so that your name can be read if it is one of the lucky ones drawn for the plant raffle. That is the only way you have a chance to win!

Louise Wiggins, Marcia Steinhardt & Terre Hepburn

Club Email

Anyone who signed up to receive garden-related email and who has not been receiving these occasional messages and reminders, should email Louise Wiggins to correct the omission.
Social Committee
by Maureen Brooks

I would like to thank all the members who signed up for treats throughout this year. Last month’s treats vanished. Thanks ladies for bringing October’s delicacies. This month for sweet: Chris Waldera, Penny Adams, Susan Hill, Shelia Withers and Katy Andino and savory: Joyce Michalczyk, D’Arcy James, Barbara Norkus, Pat Madsen and Judy Scardino. Our own food coordinator, Sara Wood, will be calling you a few days in advance to remind you about bringing a dish to feed 15 - 20 members.

“Lunch Out” was enjoyed by all members who attended last month. This “Lunch Out” will be at Piatti Restaurant, 100 Sycamore Valley Road West in Danville. I will get a head count at our meeting so that your table will be ready for you when you arrive. Please plan to attend for more delicious food and a great opportunity to get to know your garden members and their gardens.

I think we had a record breaking attendance at the last meeting. We just kept bringing out the chairs. Thank you to Betty Barnet, Sandy March and Helen Miller who helped to set up and take down. We appreciate the help and extra hands from all of you!!!
Danville-Alamo Garden Club
“Holiday Luncheon”
Thursday, December 13th

Join fellow members for our “Holiday Luncheon”. Cost is $25.00; reservations are needed & are on a first come basis (limit 75). Deadline for receipt of reservation form is November 30th!

Location: Brass Door Restaurant
2154 San Ramon Valley
San Ramon 94583

11:30 am ~ No Host Cocktails
12:15 pm ~ Lunch Served

Menu Selection
• London Broil ~ Thinly Sliced Sirloin with Port Wine Mushroom Sauce
  • or
• Pasta Primavera ~ Vegetarian with Assorted Vegetables, Tomatoes, Garlic and Olive Oil
  • or
• Fresh Pacific Salmon ~ Charbroiled Filet accompanied by Chef’s Sauce-of-the-Day

All Meals are accompanied by a California Salad, Ice Cream, Coffee or Tea

Mail Reservation to: Judy Dehont (828 El Pintado Rd., Danville 94526) with check payable to DAGC noting your meal selection on your check.

For more than one person/groups: Identify all meal selections and list all names.

Name:_____________________________________________________________
Meal Selection:_____________________________________________________

Phone Number:____________________________________________________
Email:___________________________________________________________

Questions: Sandy March 925-838-8596 OR email: slmea@sbcglobal.net
Judy Dehont 925-838-0763 OR email: jdehont@sonic.net

Committee: Sandy March, Judy Dehont, Rochelle Brown and Katy Andino

CARPOOLING IS SUGGESTED!!!
**Penny Pines**

by Joan Hines

**Wow!** Everyone was very generous in their donations to Penny Pines. The collection was $80.50 in September and 492.86 in October.

This will pay for reforestation of 2 1/2 plantation acres in a burned area of Northern California forest!!!

Thank you for your generosity!!!!!!!

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**Notes for Your Directory**

Please add San Ramon Irrigation and Drainage Supply, 12811-B Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583, **Lana Reichick**, Owner, 866-8325, to the inside of the front cover of your Yearbook.

Information for the three newest members of the club may be written on the Additions Page, to be found after the listing of the other members. (Or, cut it out of this newsletter and paste into place.)

**Patricia Gilman**
937-8161
1438 Via Loma
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**Judith LeBrís**
935-6528
48 Rider Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

**Jeannette DuPort**
833-0298
9712 Blue Mound Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583

JRDuport@yahoo.com

And one more item: Change **Rochelle Brown**’s phone number to 855-9104.

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**Tour Schedule**

by Nicole Gee

**Benziger Family Winery Tour**

Tour Coordinator: **Diane Scofield** 939-2007

Thursday, November 1st ~ 9:00 am

Benziger Family Winery is leading a new definition of wine quality through its “Farming for Flavors”, organic and Biodynamic winegrowing practices. Their 85 acre, certified Biodynamic Sonoma Mountain estate has become a research and teaching center for the cultivation of grapes with more flavor, intensity and site-specific vineyard character.

Set just above the wine country village of Glen Ellen, Benziger Family Winery occupies one of the most beautiful spots in Sonoma Valley. You will be touring their beautiful terraced vineyards; stopping along the way at a variety of exhibits learning their approach to farming and sampling wines at the source. They have a gift shop too!

**Sycamore Park n’ Ride at 9:00 am**

Cost: $10.00 plus lunch, carpool/gas money.

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**Sunshine**

by Kathy Till

Last month was a busy month for cards. Just to recap…

Cards were sent to **Win Cronin** for the birth of her new grand-daughter **Zoe** and to **Arlene Chang** for the birth of a new grandson **Preston**!!! **Diane Scofield** was sent a card after a really bad time with pneumonia and we were pleased to see **Diane** back at our meeting in October. **Fran Davis** lost her lovely cat Domino as did **Raquel Hansen**.

Also, Happy Birthday to all our ladies celebrating this month! Keep those birthdays rolling; we do not want to run out of them!

Once again, if you know of anyone who needs cheering up or celebrating a happy event, please let me know.

From your Sunshine Lady who is watching a beautiful sunset!!!
November 2007

NOTICE
THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARMS
Walnut Creek
Holiday Floral Demonstration
with Najat Nicola
Friday, November 16th, 9:30am to 11:30am
Get ideas for your own holiday arrangement! Instructor will make several arrangements with Thanksgiving and Christmas in mind. Cost: Member $15; Non-Member $20
http://www.gardenshf.org/AdultClass.html#holidayfloral
(Case Sensitive)

Remember, our commercial sponsors donate the door prizes, and they support us with speakers for our general meetings

Our Sponsors

Armstrong Garden Centers
7360 San Ramon Road, Dublin
925-551-0231

Diablo Valley College
Horticulture Department

Home Depot
2750 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon
925-838-0194

Markham Arboretum
1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord
925-681-2968

Navlet’s
800 Camino Ramon, Danville
925-837-9144

San Ramon Irrigation & Drainage Supply
12811-B Alcosta Boulevard, San Ramon
925-866-8325

Sloat Garden Center
828 Diablo Road, Danville
925-743-0288

Smith & Hawken
1365 North Broadway, Walnut Creek
925-280-0015

Sunset Color Nursery
1435 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville
925-831-3574

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