

President's Message - Sheila Truschke

I cannot believe that our "summer" is almost over, and fall is upon us. This summer's weather has left much to be desired, but it will be perfect for early planners to start winter crops.

Welcome back, ladies. We have 13 new members this year, some of whom have been on the wait list for a while and are happy to be able to join our club this year. I have met some of you already and I can see that you will bring new, interesting, and eager ideas to our club. We look forward to a good bonding. This is one of the finest group of women you will see assembled, all with a common interest of "dirt gardening" as their bond. And it is right here in the Tri-Valley area. Welcome!

Thank you to Sharon Williams and Sheila (I always remember her name) Campbell for doing such a fine job on our membership fulfillment. This is a long process, finding out who is not returning, contacting potential new members, waiting for the checks to come in, etc. We thank you both for long hours of work. Give them a special "thank you" when you meet them at the General Meetings. They are the ladies who are behind the badge and sign-in table.

We are making progress in incorporating our web site as our major source of long term information. One of the most recent additions is the cookbook that Jan Hamby compiled. There are lots of good recipes in it, so make sure to visit our site at dagc.us. Sharon Gibson has done a wonderful job setting up additional pages as we need them. We are fortunate to have her.

Our donation recipients, Forest Home Farms, Children's

Programs at Heather Farms, and Markham Arboretum, have sent us wonderful thank you notes and really appreciated the donations. Forest Home Farms has once again extended an invitation to our members to come and tour the farm and the newly opened Glass House. More details on sign ups later as dates are firmed up. We are looking at Oct 6th as of this writing. Look for a sheet to sign up for the tour at the September meeting at the table in the back of the room.

Our "Helping Hands" program is under way and many of you have generously signed up to become part of it. If you have any questions regarding this program, contact Win Cronin.

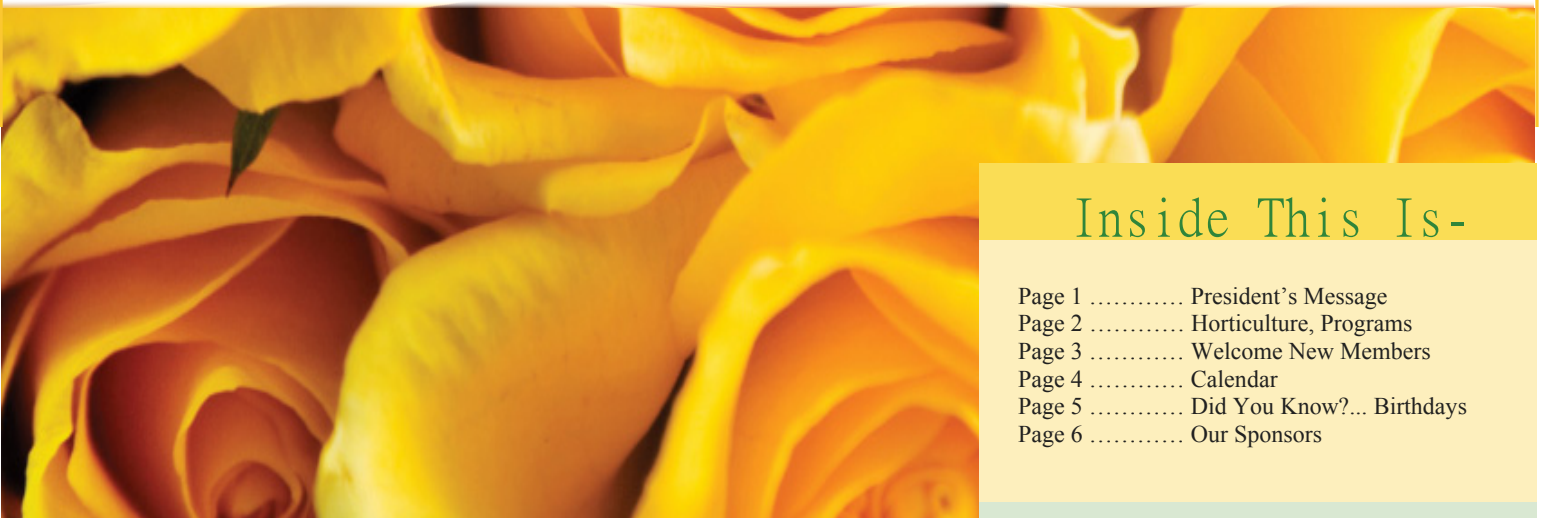
As is our custom, our September 8th opening meeting will be a potluck lunch. You can find more details as to time as well as what to bring inside this newsletter. Hopefully, over the summer, I have not lost all the knowledge that I painfully gained on how to set up the P.A. system during the course of last year. I apologize in advance for any deafening sounds you may hear if that occurs.

I leave you with this quote from Abby Adams, "*Gardeners are, let's face it, control freaks. Who else would willingly spend their leisure hours wresting weeds out of the ground, blithely making life and death decisions about living beings while moving earth from here to there.? The more one thinks about it, the odder it seems this compulsion to remake a little corner of the planet according to some plan or vision.*"

I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting and potluck lunch.

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Horticulture/Programs

Horticulture

Looking back at what I have written in the past, I realize that this is the beginning of my 5th year of writing these articles. I have always worried about repeating myself, but much of gardening is repetition. For example, this year is a repeat of last year as far as tomatoes are concerned. Here it is past the middle of August, and I am just starting to get tomatoes. We have had another cool summer. My friend Don Mahoney has suggested that if I want earlier tomatoes there is a variety developed for Alaska, and I am thinking of planting a few next year to get tomatoes earlier.

The bulbs arrived at Costco by August 5th this year. I jumped on the anemone coronarias. I haven't planted them yet, but should have. They, of course, have paper whites, and tulips, and hyacinths, and all kinds of daffodils. If you plant anything in the fall, it should be your bulbs, and the sooner the better. Yes, that means your tulips! Chilling tulips really doesn't affect their performance, but planting them in a place that gets no summer water guarantees they will come back next year. Just remember if you have gophers, tulips and anemones have to be basketed. The other bulbs I mentioned don't, unless your gophers are hoarding them deep underground where they won't grow.

Cool weather vegetables should be planted now. Broccoli, cabbage, peas, lettuce, parsley, cilantro, fava beans, beets, carrots, rutabaga, turnips, and radishes, are just a few. A friend of mind just served me a kale pesto on top of crostini that is to live for, and this will certainly be included in my garden this winter. Winter blooming "annuals" will be coming out soon; pansies, primroses, violas, calendulas, are or will be shortly available. Last year I tried an annual phlox which is available at Armstrong right now. It bloomed through 24 Fahrenheit all winter. So I think we have a new winter flower. If you can find them in 6 packs, plant your petunias this fall. They will be massive next spring, providing the best petunia show ever.

We still have an abundance of warm weather coming through the next 6 weeks, so enjoy your summer abundance. But remember now is time to plan for winter and spring. Happy gardening!

Kristin Yanker-Hansen
Horticultural Chair



Programs

*"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here.
With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."
~Author unknown*

Welcome to a new season and another year of garden club programs, tours, workshops and outings. As stated in the June newsletter, there will be an opportunity to share any new project or idea with your fellow members. Did you try vertical gardening, straw bail gardening, lasagna gardening? Did your garden produce a bumper crop of vegetables, any unusual gourds or plants? Did you build a gourd hut or a new structure to enhance your property? Do share with your fellow members during our brunch.

Please refer to the article from the Social Committee as to what food category you are to provide for the brunch. If possible, please bring an entrée or appetizer with tomatoes as an ingredient. The recipe might also be included. This is a new slant of our Tomato Tastings of years past. (I've heard that our members are excellent cooks.) Programs for the 2011/12 year will be announced at the September meeting.

As always, I am just thrilled when fall arrives! The weather is cooler, football begins, and so does another year of friendship, sharing, and joy at the Danville-Alamo Garden Club!
All the best to you,

Joyce Michalczyk
Program Chair

Welcome New Members

My name is Diane Ciardello. I am a returning garden club member. I guess I was a member for 4 years or so, but I did not rejoin in 2009. I should have just taken a sabbatical but wasn't informed of such. So, I went on a waiting list, and it took two years to get back in.

I have always enjoyed gardening, mostly ornamental. It is definitely my passion. I became a certified Master Gardener in 2005. I also love the social aspect of the group along with the wealth of information and knowledge we receive from experts and Kristin. So, happy to be coming back.

*Diane Ciardello
New Member*

I am joining the Danville-Alamo Garden Club because I like to be around other women who love to garden, and I already know a few of the current members. I learned how to garden and gained an appreciation for flower arranging when I was quite young and have enjoyed this hobby ever since.

*Sylvia Benzler
New Member*

I have gone from being a very busy and satisfied gardener at my east coast house to being a frustrated container gardener. I designed and created our yard in Orillia, Ontario only to find that as I was planting the last of my day lilies, my husband was presented with a career opportunity in California. Our present home is a rental with heavy clay soil, so my limited satisfaction comes from the six planters I have around the pool.

I joined the gardening club to meet other "lovers of the earth" and to gain the knowledge and skills that will prepare me for my own California yard someday. My hobbies include yoga, volunteer projects, cooking and entertaining, gardening and skiing.

I'm looking forward to meeting lots of new faces on the 8th.

*Nancy Peterson
New Member*



I'm new to the Danville area and I have been gardening for over thirty years. I decided to join the Garden Club because I love to garden and would like to broaden my knowledge and learn from others their experiences.

*Jan Rodrigues
New Member*

I am a happily married, 60 year old grandmother of two. I live in Concord and have been friends with Sue Naas and Deb Cattaneo for quite some time. They introduced me to the Garden Club.

I have been retired for over a year and always wanted to do something with flowers in my spare time. I have already learned things in the club - planting tips, fertilizer to use, pruning roses - things important to my home and garden. And I look forward to learning more and to meeting more of you in the club.

I will not be able to make the meeting on September 8th; I will be in Europe. I look forward to my invitation to the next one.

*Kathy Goodman
New Member*

September Calendar



Dates & Times	Events	Details
Tuesdays 9am-noon	Plant Sale Markham Arboretum	Great prices on 2", 4", & gallon-size plants.
Sept 1 2:30-5:30pm	Class and Book Signing: <i>Homegrown Herbs</i> The Gardens at Heather Farm	Speakers discuss harvesting, storing, and propagating herbs and photographing gardens. Plants will be sold, refreshments served. Cost: \$20/members; \$25/ nonmembers.
Sept 2	Deadline for Registration	See Sept 10 Class: Creating Healthy Landscapes at GHF below.
Sept 8 9:30am	DAGC General Meeting Alamo Women's Club	Welcome Back Brunch and tomato tasting. See newsletter article for details.
Sept 10 10am-2pm	Plant Sale Markham Arboretum	Come early for best selection of ornamental grasses, trees, shrubs, natives, vegetables, and a wide selection of perennials. Plants to satisfy the beginning gardener, as well as unusual plants to delight the collector. Call 925-681-2968 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-noon for more info.
Sept 10 2pm	Class: Citrus Navlet's Garden Center	Find out which varieties are best suited to the area where you live, plus learn how to keep your citrus pest-free, healthy, and happy.
Sept 10 9am-2:30pm	Class: Creating Healthy Landscapes The Gardens at Heather Farm	Learn to choose appropriate plants for the garden, to create healthy soils using compost and mulch, and which plants attract birds, butterflies and beneficial insects. Also tour the Gardens, participate in hands-on demonstrations of soil improvements, and create a worm bin (for a \$10 fee for materials and worms.) Cost: \$20 refundable reg fee due to limited seating. Deadline for reg: Sept 2. Call 925-947-1678 or go to www.gardenshf.org .
Sept 15 9:30am	DAGC Board Meeting Home of Sheila Truschke	
Sept 17 9am-noon	Sale: Fall Plant Sale The Gardens at Heather Farm	Featuring Mediterranean plants, CA natives, plants to attract birds and butterflies, shade plants. For further info, go to the web site: www.gardenshf.org .
Sept 17 10-11:30am	Class: Rethink Your Lawn Regan Nursery	Landscape designer Ann Morrison will provide design and plant selection advice as well as walk you through converting your lawn without breaking your back or your wallet. Cost: Free. Check out additional resources at www.LoseYourLawn.org .
Sept 17 9am	Class: Fall Veggie Seed Planting Armstrong Nursery	Learn to grow your fall veggies straight from seed. Pick out your favorite seeds, a container, and get planting!
Sept 19 7:15-9:30pm	Cal Hort Society Mtg: Plants for Winter Bloom SF Co. Fair Bldg, Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park	Annie Hayes and David Feix will showcase some of their favorite cool season Mediterranean basin, So. African, and cloud forest plants to achieve a wealth of bloom during the winter months. If interested, contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen. Cost: \$5/nonmembers. http://calhortsociety.org
Sept 26, Monday 9am Meet at Syc P&R	DAGC Tour: Morning Sun Farms Vacaville	This herb farm is closed to the public on Mondays, and Sept is the ideal month for seeing herbs at their peak, making this a perfect opportunity for a private tour. Herbs and salvias may be purchased at a discount. Bring your own sack lunch; ice tea will be provided. Cost: free. Sign up at the Sept meeting. Contact: Akari Mashburn.

Did you know? Birthdays

Did you know?...

Social Committee

Come and enjoy our Welcome Back Potluck Brunch on September 8th! Please bring a dish to share (for 8 people) according to your last name. We're doing a "tomato" theme this month, so let's have fun and get creative. If you have a new dish or old favorite that includes tomatoes, bring it on!

A - H Salad
I - R Main Dish
S - Z Dessert

Our Social Committee will be setting up festive fall table settings. Each centerpiece will be presented to a lucky winner. See you there.

Myra Cummings
Janet Howes
Social Committee Co - Chairs

Happy September Birthdays!!!

Donna Rascano
Jacque Schubert
Janet Howes
Joyce Rutherford
Julie Millias
Kathryn Benvenuto
Lorna Kruse
Ofelia Barr
Pauline Gagnon
Peggy Watkins
Sharon Wiscocil
Sheila Truschke
Sue Naas
Vicki Freeberg

Tours

Our first tour of the year is to Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville on September 26th. Note that this is a **Monday!** The herb farm is closed to the public on Mondays, so this is a perfect opportunity to view the herbs and salvias at their peak. Plants may be purchased at a discount. The tour is free. Those interested in going should sign up at the September meeting or contact Akari Mashburn.

We will meet at Sycamore Park and Ride at 9 am to carpool. The tour begins at 10:15. Bring a sack lunch; ice tea will be provided.

Akari Mashburn
Tour Chair



September Flower: Morning Glory, Aster
September Birthstone: Sapphire, Opals

Are you a new member? Would you like to update the photo you now have in the DAGC Directory? I will be taking photographs of any members who want or need one at the September meeting.

Penny Adams
Directory Chair



*Ofelia Barr ~ Editor
Danville-Alamo Garden Club
P.O. Box 920
Danville, CA 94526
obarr@sbcglobal.net*



Our Sponsors

Alamo Ace Hardware

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Diablo Valley College

Horticulture Department
321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill

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2750 Crow Canyon Rd. San Ramon
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Markham Arboretum

1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord
925-681-2968

Navlet's

800 Camino Ramon, Danville
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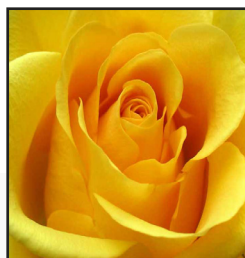
4268 Decoto Road, Fremont
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Sloat Garden Center

828 Diablo Road, Danville
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Sunset Color Nursery

1435 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville
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www.dagc.us

*September 2011
Welcome Back!!*

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