

# The Gardeners' Club

December 2010

## Annual Holiday Potluck & White Elephant Silent Auction

Thursday, Dec. 9th, 7:00 p.m.  
Aptos Grange Hall  
2555 Mar Vista Drive



The Gardeners' Club has a grand tradition -- our annual holiday get-together. Join us to celebrate gardening, good food, friendship and the fine art of re-gifting.

Bring a dish to share, labeled for the benefit of members with dietary restrictions. Please bring a serving utensil, and if you share a hot dish, please bring it already warmed. We'll provide plates, utensils and drinks.

No business meeting this month, and no plant table, either. After good eats and grand conversation, the liveliest part of our meeting will start. We'll browse the silent auction tables and discover items we didn't know we needed, and find perfect gifts for family and friends.

If you, like me, save your white elephants all year, your stash is overflowing. Bring jewelry, dishes, pottery, special plants, clothing, gardening items, gourmet goodies, birdfeeders, tools, chotzkes, bricabrac, vases, books, objets d'art and objets d'junk. You'll be thrilled whether you want to get rid of things or find bargains and treasures.

You are welcome to bring friends, guests, spouses, significant others and people who are interested in our club.

See you there! Peace and joy to all of you this holiday season.

# 'Tis A Season of Giving

2010 has been a year of enormous natural catastrophes around the world—earthquakes, floods and tsunamis in Haiti, China, Chile, Pakistan, Indonesia. We may feel “compassion fatigue” and or a sense of overwhelm, but let this season encourage us to dig a deeper for ways to help. Oxfam is an international charity which is focused on fighting poverty and empowering impoverished individuals around the world. Gardeners looking for unique green gifts might browse the web site of Oxfam America Unwrapped ([www.oxfamamericaunwrapped.com](http://www.oxfamamericaunwrapped.com)). Below is a small sampling of giving opportunities. Your friend or family member gets a card, and the money goes to those who need it most.



**Manure**  
\$12



**Pack of seeds**  
\$12



**Can of worms**  
\$18



**Honey bees**  
\$18



**Farmer field school**  
\$125



**Twice the manure**  
\$24



**Cooking stove**  
\$25



**Plant 50 trees**  
\$30



**Plant a vegetable garden**  
\$30



**Hill of beans**  
\$55



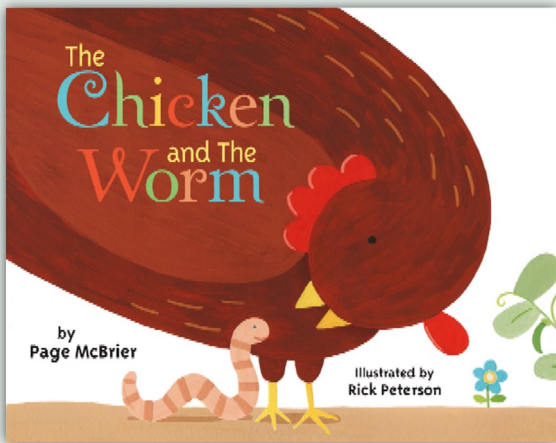
You may be thinking, isn't Oxfam's gift program similar to Heifer International? Yes, the Heifer International model has spawned other charitable groups to adapt this form of giving. Heifer International is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help end world hunger and poverty through self-reliance and sustainability. You still have the option of a Heiffer-filled holiday -- over at the Heifer International Online Gift Catalog ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) you can find many other ways to give, including the gardener's basket below.

**Gardener's Basket** A good gardener will tell you that the only thing a garden needs more than the sun and rain is lots and lots of love. Well, that's something our Gardener's Gift Basket has in abundance! This basket represents everything a family will need to start a sustainable farm – tree seedlings, rabbits to generate organic manure, chickens to eat pests and a hive of bees to pollinate crops and increase yields. Just as the garden grows, so will your gift as one family eventually passes on the same gifts as they received to another family in need. It's a one-of-a-kind gift basket that the gardener in your life will just love! Cost of a Gardener's Gift Basket is \$170, or you can purchase a share of a basket for just \$20.



Heifer International has some amazing children's books, too, and their Read to Feed program is an exciting initiative. Read more on the next page.

## Buy a book, fight world hunger

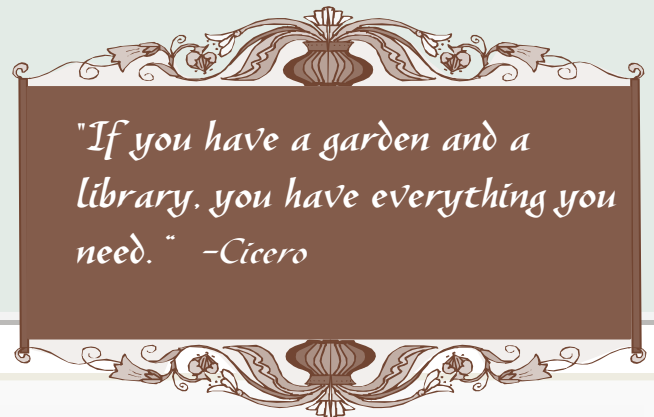


There is a crop of children's books available now inspired by projects like those developed by the Heifer International and whose publishing proceeds support them. They are a great way to introduce children and adults to issues that concern all of us.

The Chicken and Worm is a story of friendship, innovation and humor. Warm, colorful illustrations and straight-forward, often humorous dialog introduce young readers to the idea that even the smallest creatures can work together to care for the Earth.

*"Who knew worms could be so special? Who knew chickens could be so important? In this delightful seesaw story, the chicken and worm learn about each other and learn to respect one another. This book is perfect for inquisitive children and their grown ups." - Caroline Starbird*

You can order The Chicken and the Worm and similar books by visiting <http://shop.heifer.org> or by calling 1-800-422-474. This book and others are part of Heifer's educational initiative called Global Education Resources. These resources introduce students to the issues of hunger, poverty and environmental sustainability while satisfying educators' need for quality supplemental materials. The material consists of lesson plans, activities (for inside and outside the classroom), stories, video documentaries and more. For more information about Heifer Global Education, visit [www.heifereducation.org](http://www.heifereducation.org). There you can not only read about the "Read to Feed" program that gives school children opportunities to fight world hunger, but access a rich variety of educational resources. You can even download entire books, The Chicken and the Worm included!



## Donation Made to the Cabrillo Horticultural Learning Center

Board Members Bill

Patterson and Pat McVeigh are proud to announce that the Club has given a book stipend of \$200 this year to the Cabrillo Horticulture Department. This will be used to purchase reference books for the horticultural library at the Floyd Younger Horticulture Learning Center, in the Community Building. The books will be selected by the instructional staff.

The donation is made in honor of Virginia Saso. The following inscription will be placed within each book: "Presented In Honor of Virginia Saso by The Gardeners' Club." This honorarium will be continued in future years as a way of promoting gardening while supporting the teachers and aiding the horticulture students of Cabrillo College.

The library has 2,000 research volumes logged into the main library data base which can be accessed online. The HLC is a reference library (non-lending) open for students and the public to come and study about various aspects of plants and horticulture. You are welcome to utilize the library during hours it is staffed.

Bill and Pat wonder if in the future a landscape gardener or nursery owner you patronize will be someone who utilized donated resources that were made possible by your membership dues!

By the way, the Cabrillo Horticulture Department is in need of volunteers to help staff the library. There are many benefits of becoming an active volunteer including free admission to the Fall Lecture Series, free admission to the Mother's Day sale, interacting with wonderful people who share the same love of plants and helping with the next generation of horticulturists. There are various other volunteer opportunities in addition to staffing the library. If you would like more information, please call 479-5762 or 479-6241 or visit [www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture/getinvolved.html](http://www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture/getinvolved.html).



# The generosity of gardeners, comrades of the spade

A gardener finds that her favorite activity is filled with generous acts of communication and sharing.

*by Karen Davis Cutler*

Two decades ago, when I worked as a magazine editor, I received a telephone call from George B. Park Jr. That's the George Park, as in Park Seeds. The call reminded me of what a generous group gardeners are, a characteristic that seems worth pointing out in this season of giving.

I've always had good success buying seeds and plants through the mail. The selection and service are first-rate, and the baker's dozen is commonplace. This time, however, I had written Park Seed and a dozen other companies not to place orders but to ask questions about bush beans. I was unknown to these people, yet their responses were as hospitable as if I were the prodigal daughter, finally found and fully forgiven.

Rob Johnson of Johnny's Selected Seeds sent me a handwritten letter. He didn't carry any of the beans I was growing, yet he provided information about five of the six varieties. Harris Seeds and Burpee replied, detailing the varieties in their inventories and even gave sources for the types they didn't sell. Vesey's Seeds regretted that they sold none of my varieties, though they had trialed two of them in their Prince Edward Island garden. If I had more questions, I should write, they said. "We are always willing to help you out as much as we can."

Garden generosity isn't new, of course. In 1735, the Englishman Peter Collinson wrote his friend John Custis, the Virginian with whom he exchanged seeds and plants: "I think there is no Greater pleasure than to be Communicative and oblige others...Wee Brothers of the Spade find it very necessary to share. . . ."

Wee Sisters do, too.

Garden writing, also, is all about being "communicative,"



Engraving by Clare Leighton

about sharing ideas and experiences, collaborating. "I merely wish to talk to you on paper," Mrs. E.W. Earle begins "Pot-Pourri From a Surrey Garden."

Gardening is personal. And the best garden writers — like the best gardeners — are opinionated people. While willing to share horticultural secrets and help solve horticultural mysteries, we can be cranky and prejudiced. We may do things in distinct ways, we may not like the

same plants or the same color combinations, but we are comrades of the spade.

Moreover, most gardeners are as generous with their praise as with their criticism. One reader, for instance, wrote to tell me that I erred, that Anna Comstock's "Handbook of Nature-Study" was written in 1911, not 1939. Then she softened her censure, explaining that the book was also one of her favorites, that she had discovered it when a college student, and that she was delighted to see me refer to it.

Another gardener, a man in his 90s, wrote that "I liked your article, but I was amazed to read that your bleeding-hearts don't self-sow. Mine do — I bought them at the Woolworth store in the 1930s. You're welcome to a sample. Come and help yourself," he added, giving me directions to his house. "Go on in through the side gate — I won't be home — and dig up whatever you see that you don't have. I will like thinking of my plants growing in your garden."

"No one can garden alone," Elizabeth Lawrence observed. Her "Gardening for Love" celebrates the connections made by "hard-working farm women who are never too tired ... to gather seeds, to dig and pack plants, and to send them off with friendly letters." Similarly, her "The Little Bulbs: A Tale of Two Gardens" is more than a book about the minor bulbs of spring. It also is an account of the 10-year correspondence between two gardeners, Lawrence in North Carolina and Mr. Krippendorf in Ohio.

Another verse to their horticultural anthem was composed by Sydney Eddison, who, without our having met, mailed me a clump of Carl Krippendorf snowdrops after she learned

that I admired Lawrence's book. The bulbs' route was appropriately circuitous: from Krippendorf, who had dug his start from an old cemetery, to his granddaughter Mary Ley to Eddison to me. Not surprisingly, Eddison affirms that "every garden is a record of the life and times not only of its creator but a host of 'significant others' who have contributed to it" in her book [A Patchwork Garden](#).

Plants from friends and strangers, letters from gardeners unknown and known, advice and experiences imparted, books and articles and blogs written and read — all are testaments to the pleasure of sharing our gardens. Albeit individual and idiosyncratic, gardening ultimately is communal.

George Park's telephone call — made to answer my bush beans questions — affirmed this mutuality of gardeners. Park Seed is the oldest family-owned, mail-order seed company in the country, yet Park was helpful and modest, interested in how my small Vermont garden was doing.

His grandfather began the company in 1868, selling seeds he had grown in his backyard and insisting, "Your success and pleasure are more to Park than your money." Today, Park's offers thousands of different seeds and plants, shipped from a maze of climate-controlled rooms and greenhouses. Grandfather George wouldn't recognize the place, but he'd recognize his grandson's telephone call. Any gardener would.



*This article first appeared in [The Christian Science Monitor](#) ([www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Gardening/diggin-it](http://www.csmonitor.com/The-Culture/Gardening/diggin-it)) last December in their gardening blog "Diggin' It". Karan Davis Cutler, a former magazine editor and newspaper columnist, is the author of scores of garden articles and more than a dozen books, including [Burpee - The Complete Flower Gardener](#) and [Herb Gardening for Dummies](#). She now struggles to garden in the unyieldingly dense clay of Addison County, Vermont, on the shore of Lake Champlain, where she is working on a book about gardening to attract birds and other wildlife. She blogs regularly for "Diggin' It". Next time it is too cold or wet to garden, visit "Diggin' It" - lots of informative articles by many guest bloggers on a wide variety of topics.*

## Membership Renewals & Gift Memberships



*'When gardeners garden, it is not the plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves.—Ken Druse*

Last call for membership renewals—don't miss a single issue of our newsletter! Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$12.00. The membership year is January 1—December 31, 2011. Dues entitle members to all club educational programs, our special events, plant trades and our monthly newsletter. The "green" option is to choose to receive an electronic PDF full color version of the newsletter. If you choose snail mail, you'll get a paper black-and-white newsletter.

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. Renew your membership now so you won't miss a thing. You'll be glad you did.

Gift memberships are available. Consider sharing your passion for gardening, and supporting our club, by giving your favorite gardening enthusiast an opportunity to connect, share and learn with us. A gift membership is a gift nobody will want to return! Lovely cards announcing your gift will be available at the December meeting, or upon request.

For each membership you wish to renew or purchase, please provide the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the member, as well as the preference for either an electronic or paper version of the newsletter. Checks for \$12 per person should be made out to "The Gardeners' Club" and mailed to our Membership Chair Kerry Skyles, 270 Hames Road, #50, Corralitos, CA 95076.

# Love Apple Farm

Those of you who hang a Christmas stockings might ask Santa for a gift certificate from Love Apple Farm to put in it. Their classes just keep getting better and better.



For instance, on Sunday, December 19th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., they are offering this workshop: **Designing and Building Inexpensive Greenhouses.** They say, "We're teaching how to build simple greenhouse structures, folks! This class will familiarize you with the many options for providing heat and shelter for starting plants as well as growing plants in a greenhouse or cold frame. Beginning with a simple "cold frame" and building up to more

sophisticated structures, basic building techniques and materials will be presented. Many kits will be reviewed as well as ways to build a substantial greenhouse from inexpensive materials you can get from a

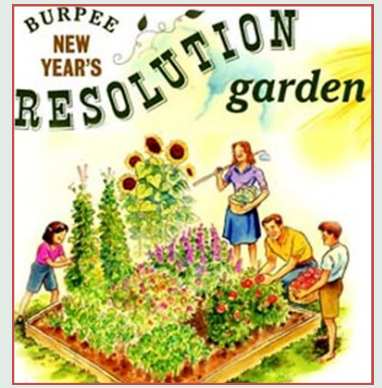


local lumber yard or recycle yard. Aspects such as finding the right site, venting, heating and cooling, as well as basic layout of the structure will be presented in a way that is comfortable for the non-builder or adventurous gardener. Our instructor for this workshop is Thomas Wittman. He has been building greenhouses and garden structures for over thirty years on his own farm, the UCSC Arboretum and The Farm and Garden Project as well as privately contracted installations." Advanced registration is required; tuition is \$49. Call (831) 588-3801 or email [loveapplefarm@gmail.com](mailto:loveapplefarm@gmail.com).



# To Resolve or Not Resolve?

Are you a person who makes New Year's resolutions, or one who finds them a waste of time? **My** first resolution is to fill the January issue of this newsletter with all of **your** resolutions for the new year, and/or your thoughts and wisdom on the



processes of reflection and resolution. Share, please. Ask your gardening friends to share their resolutions, too, so we can cross-fertilize. Send me your resolutions at [lisebixler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisebixler@sbcglobal.net) or Lise Bixler, 91 Country Estates Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Did you make resolutions last year, and if so, did you keep them? Let's inspire each other with goals, challenges, epiphanies, motivators and ideas for positive change.



MoPlants  
Garden Guides

HOLIDAY GIFTS & DECORATING IDEAS

FROM THE CRAFTER'S GARDEN

Maureen "Mo" Gilmer



Download Maureen Gilmer's absolutely FREE and inspiring book on holiday wildcrafting at [www.moplants.com/e-books](http://www.moplants.com/e-books). Mo's blog, called Mo ZONE ([www.Moplants.com/blog/](http://www.Moplants.com/blog/)) is full of "down to earth" ideas.

# Winter Solstice

A cup of milky coffee on the table, bundled up on a soft couch in my favorite rose-patterned fuzzy blanket, my laptop ready-to-go —the perfect set-up to begin writing the

newsletter on a frigid fall day. But all of my ambition faded when I came across this painting by Jaïne Rose of Stroud, England, and knew it was something I had to share with you. I e-mailed Janie for permission to print it, and when she returned from a frosty ramble in her hilly woods, she answered me with information about herself.

“I am an artist”, said Jaïne, “a lover of the land I live in Southwest England - and a gardener with a hopeful heart! We don't always have the climate to grow sumptuous vegetables and abundant fruit trees. But I have a small permaculture garden crammed full of herbs and seasonal vegetables, a little greenhouse, and an art studio from where I work “.

“This piece - Winter Solstice - is to celebrate the stillness of Midwinter, and the shortest day of our year in the U.K, December 21st. We will gather greenery: Yew, Holly, Mistletoe and make a wreath symbolising the Wheel of the Year turning, its seasons and cycles. The light will return - from now on the days will grow longer; many candles will be lit at home, and we will get up early to see the sun rise over the frosty hills of the Gloucestershire valleys. Wren's

are magical birds - tiny and with a beautiful little song from our hedgerows. Deep in the ground seeds sleep and dream of springtime.”

Jaïne Rose breathes the seasons, the natural world and her garden through her art. Visit her website at [www.jainerose.co.uk](http://www.jainerose.co.uk) to see more of her work—paintings, prints, books and cards. Overseas shipping is no problem.

Our winter solstice occurs when the “top” half of Earth is tilted away from the sun at its most extreme angle of the year. We honor the dark (sometimes by turning inward for introspection, sometimes by hibernating with family and friends) and patiently hold the light in our thoughts, hearts and souls. May you have much to celebrate this solstice.



## NATIVE REVIVAL NURSERY

### Holiday Sale!

Rustic wood furniture & wax candle scents  
Glazed garden pottery  
& wrought iron benches...  
Windchimes, handpainted pots made of clay  
Native plants for the whole holiday...  
fountains & birdbaths  
earrings & rings  
These are a few of my favorite things...

**ON SALE 20-50% OFF  
DEC. 3-5TH**

OPEN DAILY,  
2600 MAR VISTA DR. APTOS  
831.684.1811

### Cabrillo Horticulture Center Annual Open House & Poinsettia Display & Sale Wednesday, Dec 1, 3-6 pm

Beautiful 6" poinsettias for \$5, and refreshments will be served. Cabrillo will continue selling plants all week until they are gone, but for best viewing and selection, come early. There will be over 30 varieties from 3 breeders. Also for sale will be some really nice old succulents, most belonging in a greenhouse or sunny window, and tons of older garden and plant books selling for almost nothing.

## The Gardeners' Club

270 Hames Road, #50, Corralitos, CA 95076

#### President

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#### Secretary

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#### Members-at-Large

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Pat McVeigh, 475-9357  
pmcveigh@baymoon.com

#### Plant Table

Ilene Wilson, 724-4609  
grywilson@aol.com  
2nd position—vacant  
3rd position - vacant

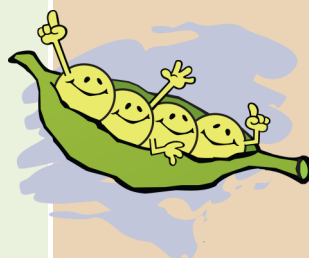
#### Refreshments

Joanna Hall, 662-8821  
jhavelock@sbcglobal.net

#### PSAs/Glenwood

Monica Pielage, 460-0215  
[mpielage@yahoo.com](mailto:mpielage@yahoo.com)

[www.thegardenersclub.org](http://www.thegardenersclub.org)



#### It's easy-peasy to join our club!

Dues are \$12 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to 270 Hames Road, #50, Corralitos, CA 95076. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos.

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