

UC Santa Cruz

News & Notes of the UCSC Farm & Garden

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NEWS & NOTES

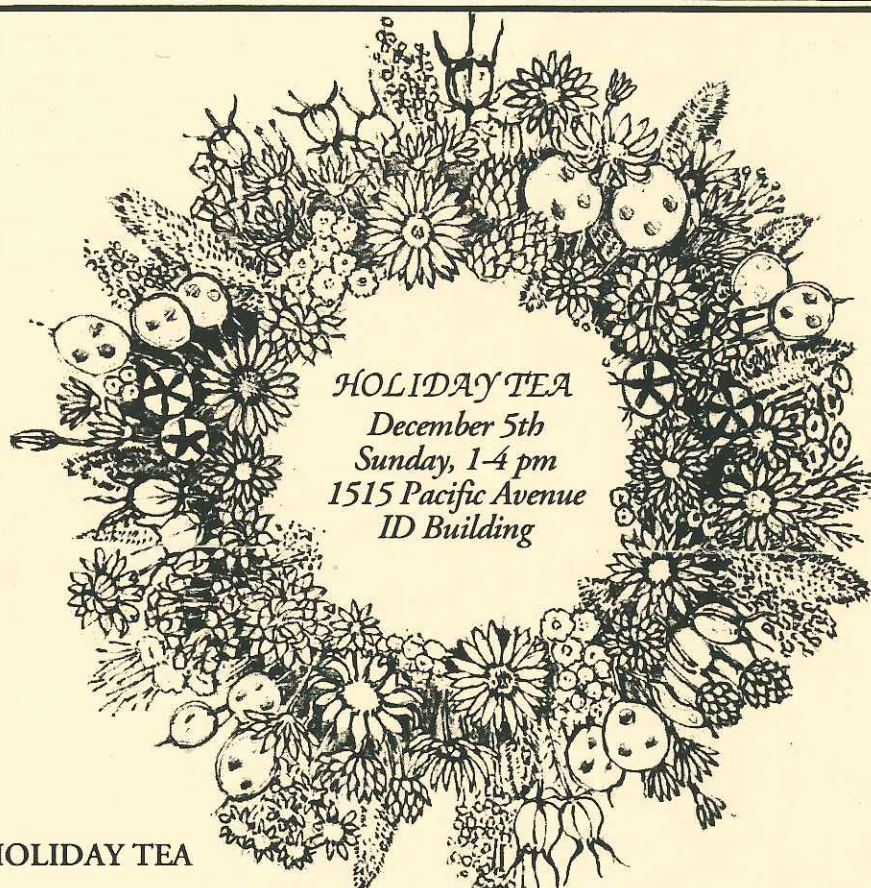
*of the UCSC FARM
and GARDEN*



Issue 61

December, 1993

Jeff Arnett & Beth Benjamin, Editors



FRIEND'S HOLIDAY TEA

In her graciousness, Board member Mona Martin and owner of ID, will host the Holiday Tea in the spacious and festive surroundings thereof. In other words, we're going downtown with our annual holiday fundraiser. Sales sage Sirima Sataman has selected a sprightly array of wreaths and other holiday treasures for Friends and other discerning shoppers. Special this teatime: a limited supply of 95% unbleached cotton sweatshirts (embroidered with the Farm & Garden logo); the first Farm & Garden coffee mug; Graydon Livingston's handcarved ritual dibbles; sterling silver "garden inspired" jewelry by Ann Harvey; along with a festive collection of wreaths, garlands and plants. A selection of our regular items (aprons, shirts, cards, shopping bags) will also be available.

Along with toothsome treats from Friends' kitchens, our saturnalia will offer tea, holiday punch and the angelic music of harpist Pamela Scholz and flutist Lars Johannesson. Come be wreathful, punched, fed & merried.

WINTER PRUNING WORKSHOP

*Sunday, January 9, 1993, 10:30 am - 2 pm
Louise Cain Gatehouse, UCSC Farm*

Join Jim Nelson, local organic farmer and orchard manager, for this popular workshop offering tips on how to maintain your trees and shrubs. The workshop will include hands-on demonstrations of various pruning techniques, with plenty of time for your questions. Bring a lunch and wear warm clothes.

Noteworthy news . . . Agroecology

Program researcher Sean Swezy was recently featured on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" discussing organic cotton agriculture. Elsewhere, the Farm & Garden were highlighted in the San Francisco Chronicle's *Image* magazine Oct. 31 article on organic gardening, in which they characterized the F & G as the probable birthplace of organic gardening in Northern California.

Ann Lindsey, Docent Coordinator, and Eric Anderson, apprentice '92-93, will be moving to the Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center in February 1994 to manage the gardens, develop a market garden, and contribute to the environmental education of children. Ann rhapsodizes on the "gorgeous view" and welcomes visitors! Call after mid-February (707) 874-2442 for information. The docent program especially has flourished under Ann's ministrations, not to mention the compost piles of local gardeners. Ann and Eric will be missed but our loss is Ocean Song's gain.

Board member Gary Kliewer reports he is working ahead of the garden calendar preparing upcoming issues of his *Coastal Gardens* (his much-admired labor of love). Watch for features on gopher control, urban wildlife, and wildflowers. For more information, write *Coastal Gardens*, P. O. Box 759, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

On the sowing and reaping front, a new sprout appeared in the family for Board member Sirima Sataman and Tom Voelkel. Madison Alexander Voelkel was born 9/23/93, sprouting in at 10 lbs. 7 ozs. Also gracing our human garden, Kima Fenn (formerly Muiretta), Agroecology Business Manager and Friends' Treasurer, brought forth Nora Leslie Fenn on October 2nd, tipping the scales at a mere 8 lbs. and change. Sharon Ornellas confirmed Nora's "sweetness" enhanced by "gorgeous, chubby cheeks." Closer to the farm itself, is Al Johnson's new baby girl Jaime. Not to mention Board member Kurt Christiansen, organic landscape gardener and designer, licensed contractor and doting father of 11-month-old Leif, who Kurt reports is "flowering at his home garden." Call 458-1933 to speak to Leif's father. The Farm & Garden is fruitful and thus do we multiply.

An older sprout but gracefully grounded, Board member Graydon Livingston has turned his prodigious talents to experiments with a set-up for asexual propagation on a small scale. Knowing Graydon, the results will be both fruitful and intriguing.

Board President Jody Stix Garsia, a landscape architect conducting her own business, is currently working on a "design guidelines" plan for Santa Cruz's downtown alleys with Joni Janecki & Associates.

Our much-treasured Friends' secretary Babette Scott continues her other life as an international advisor at UCSC, thus supporting "the international goals of UC and Agroecology."

Free, freeeeee at last from taking temperature readings, former Board President Mary Offerman continues her ardent artist's life, recently mounting an exquisite show of her pastels, "Demeter's Harvest, at the Women's Center at Cardiff House at UCSC.

Friends' board member and UCSC Arboretum director Gail Page Williamson announces the Arboretum Docent Classes. Beginning January 5, 1994, they continue for eight Wednesdays from 9 am - 12 noon. Contact Nancy Andreason (423-4086) for more information.

Jered Lawson, our newest board member, reports that Jane Freedman, former F & G apprentice, has been the Garden Director of the Homeless Garden Project since 1991. Another apprentice sowing good seeds and deeds.

Jered also urges the elf in you to consider the Homeless Garden Project's wreath making workshops on the following December Saturdays: 4th, 11th and 16th. For a modest fee, the workshops will supply materials and hot apple cider. Call 426-3609 (days) or 462-6012 (eves) for more info.

Finally, in a benefit for the Homeless Garden Project, David Brower (renowned environmentalist) and Mike Ableman (organic farmer and author of the book, *From the Good Earth*) will speak about the environmental crisis and the restoration of the planet. Saturday, Dec. 4, 7:30 pm, UCSC, Classroom Unit 2, \$8 general admission. Michael has a great slide show too. Call 458-2044 for more info.

CALL FOR WORDS: NEWS & NOTES
continues to solicit articles, poems, recipes, illustrations, and other contributions from Agroecology staff, Friends and other gardening enthusiasts. Deadline for the spring News & Notes is January 15. On-campus contributions can be sent to Jeff Arnett, Kresge Faculty Services. Or send to News & Notes, c/o Friends . . . , UCSC Farm, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. Call Jeff Arnett (425-1750) or Beth Benjamin (338-4268) for more information.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISE CAIN

I'd like to say a few words of fond remembrance about Louise Cain, as a friend of twenty years and unofficially as a representative of the farm and garden and the apprentice program. She was a staunch ally -- in fact it was almost by the sheer force of her will as well as her considerable organization skills and her political savvy that the farm and garden and the apprentice program, found an administrative home in the early seventies with college eight. It was Louise who planted the "suggestion" that this effort was a good and compelling one in the ears of Chancellor McHenry, Ken Norris, Jim Pepper, Ray Dasmann, Carl Tjerenen and I suspect Stanley Cain. As all who know and remember Louise recall, a "suggestion" from Louise bore considerable weight -- for while she was a good friend and a staunch ally -- the thought of her as a formidable foe was enough to cause one to "hop to", spring into action and get the job done -- pronto, post haste and all that.

Personally, I remember many an evening during the twelve years she edited the News and Notes picking up the telephone and hearing her (as she referred to it) shouting Methodist voice saying -- "Well (with that husky voice of hers) Orin (or it may have been honey or dear as she often referred to those around her), what do you think about an article on the philosophy and technique of the French Intensive system or on *Thunbergia gibsonii*? It should be about 600 words and it's due on such and such a date. Well -- never mind that you were working a 50-60 hour week, or that writing was a laboriously painful ordeal for you etc., etc. -- you started sharpening the pencils while the phone conversation was on going, got out the dictionary, thesaurus and White and Strunk's, The Elements of Style and commenced to make time for this article. And always the English teacher, one profited from the two or three rewrites that Louise "suggested". As a matter of fact, I owe my meager writing ability and style to Louise--fundamentals (of course) but tone and tenor as well. Actually, I suspect she was really the audience I was writing for. And she did a better job of teaching writing in the context of getting the job done than any English teacher I had in school. But the real reason you "hopped to" when Louise "suggested" was out of consummate respect for this very considerable woman who had an ideal, a goal and the concrete steps to get there. It was an honor and a pleasure to be in her company.

Regarding her prodigious and invaluable efforts on behalf of the apprentice program, while it's true that Alan Chadwick had the original inspiration and

formative vision and that the many hands of apprentices and staff have quite literally built the program -- its fertility and utility as well as its greenhouses, abors, gazebos, and farm centers, it was Louise Cain who was the skillfull strategist and technician who put the program in a context within the University to ensure its stability and longevity. Very simply, without Louise there would be no farm and garden today and the world would be a sadder place because of its absence, just as it will be due to her absence.

But beyond that, Louise was one of the few individuals that I have know who could and would see beyond some superficialities that often prevented people from getting to know the apprentices -- their unique life stories, their capabilities and their dreams. She could see beyond the scruffy beards, long hair, soil (not dirt) under fingernails, sweat upon brows and half-nakedness (sometimes a little more than half-nakedness!) She wanted to know them and how she could assist them in their odyssey through life. Whether you were a hot shot politico, a world renowned ecologist, a hippie, a high school dropout, a rogue or a delinquent, Louise would invite you to lunch (and what exquisite lunches they were) and strike up a true friendship. When she was talking, listening to you, one had the feeling that you had her undivided attention and that you were somebody who mattered.

Louise had that amazing ability much like the linee in the Kipling poem "If": "To walk with the kings (and I should add queens as well) and yet keep the common touch." I'll always remember her sparkling eyes, that amazing broad smile of hers, those dangling earrings (usually silver or turquoise.) Her radiance will echo in my heart forever. And let us not forget that shouting Methodist voice, may it always ring in our ears.

...Orin Martin



ANOTHER INSPIRATIONAL, CHADWICK-INSPIRED GARDEN

In just three years, the Homeless Garden Project has trained over eight people in the Chadwickian methods of horticulture. Unique to this garden, the emphasis has been on giving homeless people the skills necessary to grow food, flowers and herbs. As Michael Walla, now harvest coordinator, has said, "The Garden is showing we're people with pride, people willing to struggle . . . We don't need someone who will carry us. We need someone who is willing to help get us on our feet."

The Homeless Garden Project offers homeless people an opportunity to move from the margins of society to the center of the community. For shareholders, who commit to supporting the budget for a year (and in return receive a share of the harvest), the Project offers a chance to direct their dollars into socially and ecologically sound farming. Through tours and classes, school children and UCSC students learn about the roots of homelessness as well as the roots of the food they eat. Finally, for many Santa Cruzans, The Garden provides solace amidst the sweet-smelling herbs, nutritious vegetables and colorful flowers.

According to Lynn Bashore, the Project Director, "The Garden has been useful to those who simply need to witness life's abundance. Most of all,

it has been a renewal for long-time jobless and homeless citizens of our community." The purposeful work, she believes, enables many of the homeless to make changes in their lives.

The Garden utilizes Alan Chadwick's French-intensive/bio-dynamic method of gardening. As Chadwick liked to say, "Give to Nature, and she will repay you in glorious abundance." Local restaurants, horse stables, landscapers, and neighbors give to the Garden's composting and thus Chadwick's legacy lives on and the cycle continues. Overall, the Garden demonstrates that more than just job training and food for the homeless can be derived from a once-fallow urban lot. The Homeless Garden Project has become a shining example of a community's work toward ending homelessness and a fresh start for community-based organic agriculture.

Jered is a Friends board member and 1992 graduate of the UCSC Community Studies program, through which he became involved in the Homeless Garden Project. He setup and continues to coordinate the Community Supported Agriculture program of the Homeless Garden. Jered has also been working on a video of the Project. For more information about the Garden and Jered's work, call 426-3609 or 425-7232.

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