

## Iraheta, Alba

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**Subject:** FW: Please Increase Support for Arlington Garden

From: [Vince.Farhat@hklaw.com](mailto:Vince.Farhat@hklaw.com) [<mailto:Vince.Farhat@hklaw.com>]

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 1:08 PM

To: [disstrict1@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:disstrict1@cityofpasadena.net); Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Jomsky, Mark; Beck, Michael

Cc: [kickermckenney@mac.com](mailto:kickermckenney@mac.com); [betty@caltech.edu](mailto:betty@caltech.edu); [Vince.Farhat@hklaw.com](mailto:Vince.Farhat@hklaw.com)

Subject: Please Increase Support for Arlington Garden

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to support an increase in the City's FY 2015 Operating Budget allocation for Arlington Garden. My understanding is that Betty and Kicker McKenney will be making a short presentation tonight. I regret that I cannot attend the City Council meeting, but will be "there in spirit" to support Arlington Garden.

In 2003, Betty and Kicker created Arlington Garden in Pasadena to develop and care for Arlington Garden, in collaboration with the City to carry out the City's obligations to create a waterwise garden and park under its lease with Caltrans. After 11 years, the garden has grown from four mature trees and seven palms into a waterwise garden of 325 trees and thousands of plants that do well in our Mediterranean climate, and is now a renowned City landmark.

I am very grateful for the City's past financial support and hope you will vote tonight to increase that support.

One of our goals has been for the Garden to present well each and every day of the year, and it does. As the Garden has grown and matured, however, it takes more time and money to keep it healthy and horticulturally significant. Increased costs, the uncertainty of continued volunteer help, and the need to hire regular horticultural and gardening help to maintain this landmark require increased funding.

To show City Hall's commitment to Arlington Garden and as an investment in its future, please consider increasing the City's current annual allocation from \$18,000, where it has stood for 10 years, to \$40,000 annually.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Vince Farhat  
Member, Board of Advisors  
Arlington Garden of Pasadena  
Phone: (626) 375-6619

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05/19/2014  
Item 26

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:** FW: Arlington Garden of Pasadena

**From:** Susan Goodyear <[foggy.meadows.vt@gmail.com](mailto:foggy.meadows.vt@gmail.com)>

**Date:** May 19, 2014 at 9:15:16 AM PDT

**To:** <[bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Subject:** Arlington Garden of Pasadena

Dear Mr. Mayor:

As a volunteer gardener at Arlington Garden, I encourage you to increase the city's allocation to the Garden. It is amazing to see children, senior citizens, and everyone in between, enjoying this healthy, beautiful, quiet, calm space within the City. The increase in funding requested is minimal when compared to the benefits it provides.

Thank you.

Susan Goodyear

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:** FW: Arlington Gardens

**From:** Robert Miller <[60millertime@gmail.com](mailto:60millertime@gmail.com)>

**Date:** May 19, 2014 at 8:20:18 AM PDT

**To:** <[bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Subject:** Arlington Gardens

Dear Bill,

As Mayor and a 50+ year resident of Pasadena and supporter, we have been ask to solicit your support. Arlington Gardens, represented by Betty & Charles McKenney have a spot at today's council meeting, and are asking for an increase in support from the city. As a supporter and user of the garden the progress is simply awesome and the increased financial support is needed to keep the garden as a City showpiece Arlington Gardens needs to raise more donations under its 5012c-3 designation and the City needs to increase its support and together we can sustain this garden in perpetuity.

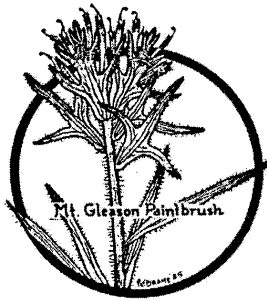
Thanks for your assistance, warm regards, Rob

PS: I love the garden and can be seen eating lunch and reading a book every week.

Rob Miller  
1127 East Del Mar Blvd.  
Unit 131  
Pasadena, CA 91106  
626-755-7424-M  
[60millerTime@gmail.com](mailto:60millerTime@gmail.com)  
Skype: rwmiller777



05/19/2014  
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# The Paintbrush

Spring 2013 Newsletter, Volume 29, Number 2  
San Gabriel Mountains Chapter, California Native Plant Society

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## EVENTS

### APRIL

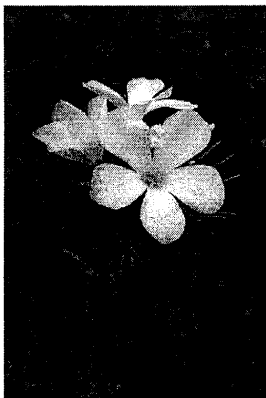
- 13 Field Trip, 9 am
- 14 Plant Walk, 9 am
- 20 Field Trip, 9 am
- 25 Program, 7:30 pm

### MAY

- 12 Plant Walk, 9 am
- 16 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 23 Program, 7:30 pm

### JUNE

- 1 Field Trip, 9 am
- 9 Plant Walk, 9 am
- 27 Program, 7:30 pm



*Linanthus grandiflora* has several common names: mountain phlox, large-flowered linanthus or leptosiphon. It is included in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants on list 4.2, plants of limited distribution. There are abundant seed sources for it. Photo courtesy of Michael Charters.

## Arlington Garden, A Pasadena Gem

by Jane Strong

PASADENA, California, USA is often heralded as “the Crown of the Valley” because it is situated at the apex of an alluvial fan overlooking the western San Gabriel Valley. Arlington Garden is a multifaceted gem in that crown. Whichever way you look, whatever season you visit, there is something of color, something of interest.

My midwinter visit featured fragrant, yellow, knife-leaf acacia, large-flowered white manzanita, tall white-flowered ceanothus, amethyst hardenbergia, giant, deep rose balls of dombeya, and rose-red mounds of grevillea. A visit around April brings a vivid wildflower display close to home when phacelia, poppies, penstemon, clarkia, and masses of white mountain phlox, also called large-flowered linanthus, bloom.

The newly planted alluvial sage scrub section has a silver-leaved lupine and white sage. My favorite section, the West Bank, dominated by five species of California native sages, flowers later in the year.

Then there are the heritage plants, those that were grown around California homes early in the last century – a venerable coast live oak, the beginnings of a restored fence of prickly, glossy-leaved Cherokee rose, daylilies, a wall of enormous succulents and a very productive orange grove. Marmalade is sold in season. Wildlife is abundant: goldfinches flocking in clouds, monarchs floating by and bees busy in the rosemary and eucalyptus. Such species richness and seasonal contrast is a result of integrating California native plants with climate appropriate plants from other Mediterranean areas.

Arlington Garden has introduced innovative technology designed to replace small, fragile, incomplete, and often illegible signs that gardens now use. The system, using a specially designed Arlington Garden Guide app, identifies plants and their characteristics, various areas of the Garden, using a scanner, a camera and an “audio tour”.

The garden is a collaboration among Betty and Charles McKenney, the City of Pasadena, and Pasadena Water and Power, who combined to create Pasadena’s only dedicated public garden, on property leased by the City from CalTrans. But without the energy, expertise and enthusiasm of the Constant Gardeners, Betty and Charles, this treasure spot would not exist.

Open daily all year round. Street parking. Arlington and Pasadena Avenues. More at <http://www.arlingtongardeninpasadena.org/>.

Such species richness and seasonal contrast is a result of integrating California native plants with climate appropriate plants from other Mediterranean areas.

*The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.*

# Pasadena's Only Public Garden

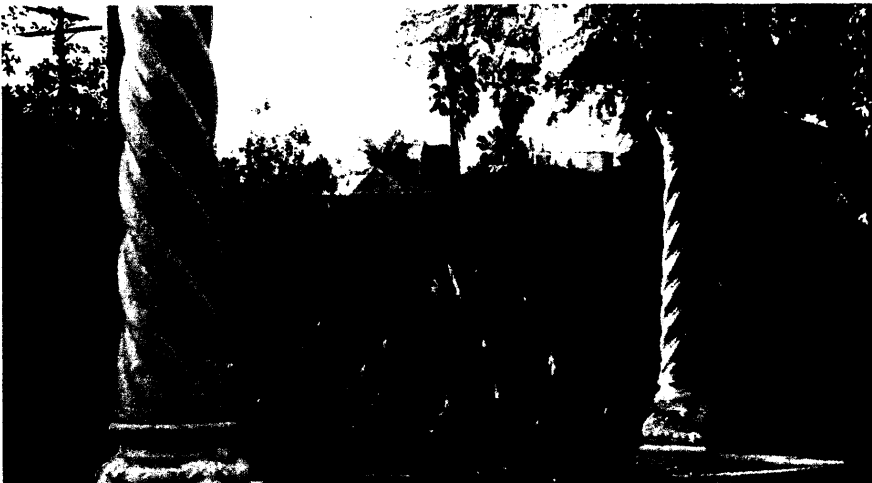
By Justin Kibbe



community how beautiful, practical, water-wise and satisfying a well planned and maintained climate-appropriate garden can be.

The Garden has demonstrated to private property owners, commercial developers, and those who drive past the site each day the beauty and practicality of drought tolerant gardens. The City has used our experience to plan and develop small gardens and to landscape public places throughout Pasadena and provided guidance to developers and property owners.

Local public and private school students learn horticulture. College and universities use the garden as a laboratory and classroom to train their



Arlington Garden is a 3-acre lot owned by Caltrans and leased to the City of Pasadena. The site was to have been a staging area for the construction of the 710 Freeway but had been vacant since 1961. Council member Steve Madison from District 6 initiated the project, requesting Betty and Charles "Kicker" McKenney to head up a steering committee to determine the best use of the site. Betty suggested a garden since the neighbors were interested in a passive development.

This garden is inspired by Jan Smithen's book *Sun Drenched Gardens: The Mediterranean Style* and is designed by Mayita Dinos. It is being developed by a collaboration among Arlington Garden in Pasadena, a nonprofit corporation, the City of Pasadena, through its Public Works Department, and the Pasadena Water and Power Department, with help from the Mediterranean Garden Society and Pasadena Beautiful Foundation. Support has come from the Metropolitan Water District, garden clubs, local business, nurseries, neighbors, and friends.

Our basic aim is to develop a water-wise garden that is in harmony with the Mediterranean climate. The garden's colors and cover attract and show butterflies and birds to this formerly barren lot and shows the

landscape architecture and horticulture students. Residents have the opportunity to plant and help maintain the garden according to our plan.

Best of all, Arlington Garden in Pasadena allows visitors and passersby to enjoy the beauty and serenity of a garden in our urban setting.

**PUBLIC GARDEN**

**Arlington Garden  
Betty & Charles McKenney  
626.441.4478**

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

# Pasadena Star-News

## Arlington Gardens to open Saturday

3-acre lot to be place of refuge

**By Emma Vaughn  
Correspondent**

**Thursday, July 14, 2005** - PASADENA -- A three-acre lot in southwest Pasadena, left empty for 40 years, will open Saturday as a first step in becoming one of the city's largest public gardens.

Still a work in progress, Arlington Garden will feature Mediterranean-themed plants that can adapt and adjust to Southern California's climate. The lot will be divided into multiple segments, each with their own themes.

"We have a wonderful garden designer who is doing the layout in the concept of rooms," said Betty McKenney, who, with her husband, Charles McKenney, is one of the organizing committee chairs. "There will be a room called 'olive allee' featuring olive trees and lavender. There will also be a room that will resemble the Arroyo Seco and one that will represent California in general."

Deliberations over what to do with the empty lot have been under way since Pasadena first leased the land from Caltrans in 2002.

"The lot used to (house) an enormous mansion," said Charles McKenney. "But it then became vacant for more than 40 years. Once Pasadena decided to lease it, everyone wanted something specific. Ideas like soccer fields, dog parks and tennis courts all came up, but people really woke up with the idea of a garden."

The McKenneys said they hope the people of Pasadena will see the new garden as a peaceful refuge in which to relax and appreciate nature.

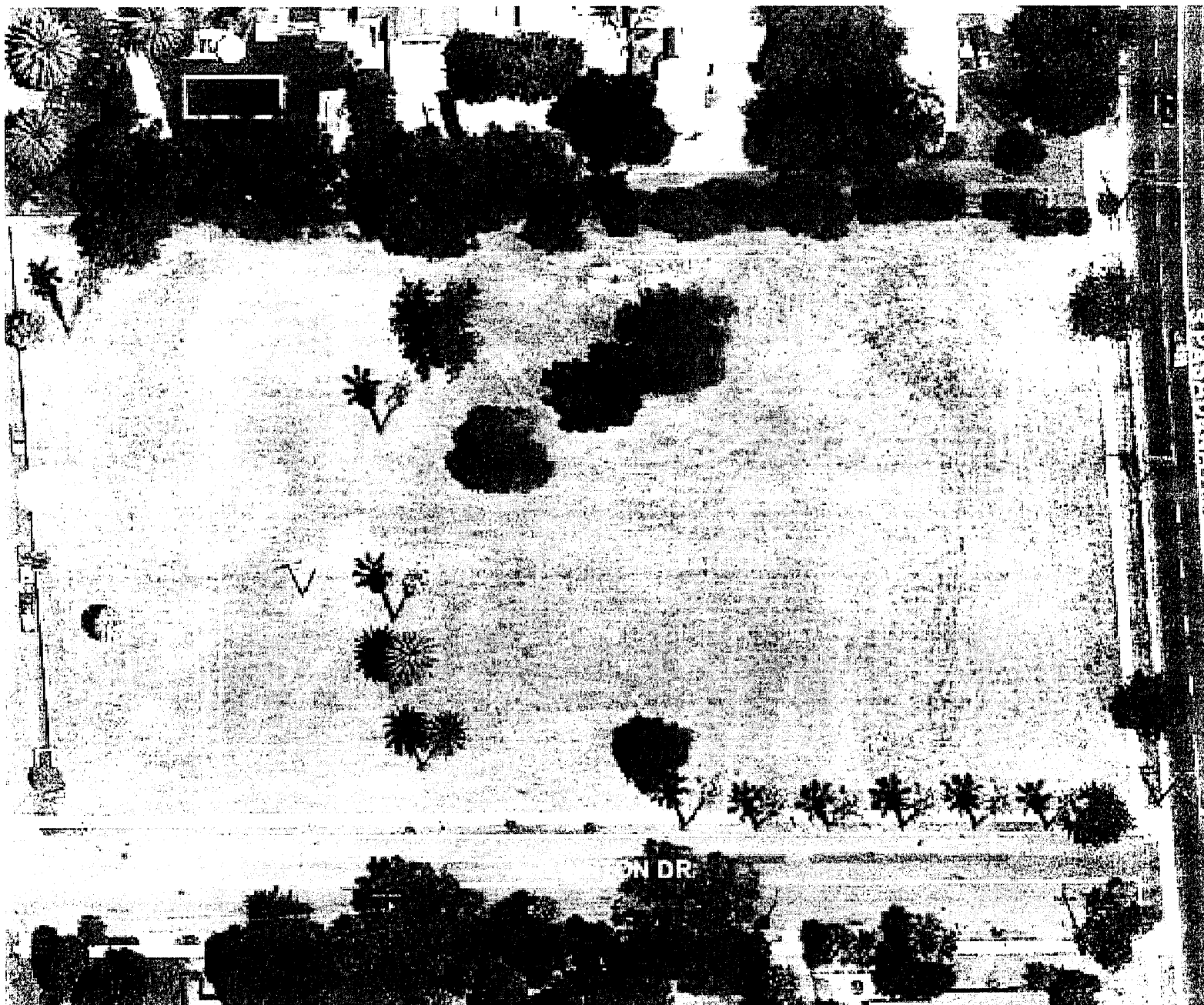
"Everyone thinks of Pasadena as a city of gardens," said Betty McKenney. "But I think this is because it's so green and there are so many trees. There really aren't many public spaces where one can just go and sit in a garden and listen to the birds."

Funding for the garden has come primarily from donations. Neighbors and local businesses have come together to raise more than \$5,000 for the project's creation and maintenance. The Pasadena Power and Water Company recently installed a complete irrigation system that runs throughout the three acres of land, and 37 California orange trees were donated to the project by the city.

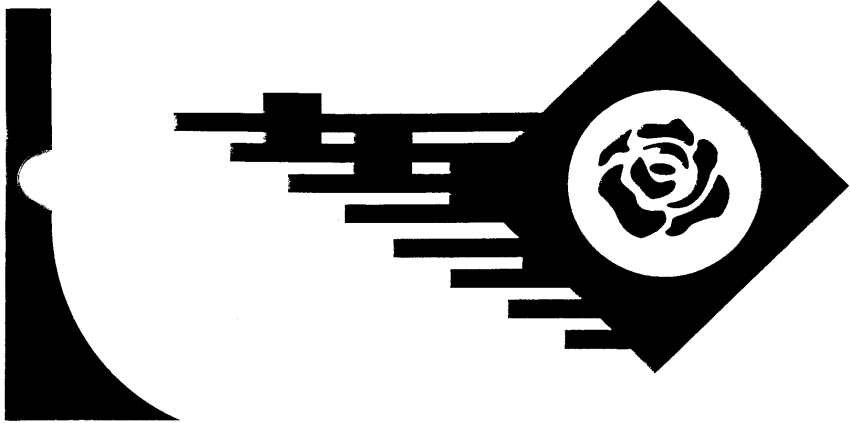
"People have expressed a lot of interest in helping," Charles McKenney said. "Obviously maintenance is the most important issue. We're open to any kind of help. We expect to learn as we go along and let the garden naturally evolve."

Some of the trees are already in place, and more will be planted by local youth groups on Saturday after garden opening at 8:30 a.m. at the top of the knoll on the corner of Arlington Drive and Pasadena Avenue.

For more information, call Charles and Betty McKenney at (626) 441-4478.







# Singer Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

October 2012

## Serenity Along Pasadena Avenue

Pasadena Avenue runs through a residential neighborhood and is an entrance to the City. It was changed 50 years ago to be a way to speed traffic through Pasadena and has been treated as a "freeway gap" ever since, resulting in decades of declining quality of life in the neighborhood. In 2003, Betty and Kicker McKenney formed a collaboration with the City of Pasadena, Pasadena Water & Power, and their non profit corporation to develop the three acre Caltrans-owned lot at Pasadena Avenue and Arlington Drive into a garden that now contains 350 trees and over 1,000 plants, and inviting benches, chairs, and umbrellas, as a demonstration of the wisdom of water-wise gardening in our Pasadena climate. It has been an unquestioned success.

Recently people are telling us that the Garden has also become a pocket of repose in the midst of the hurly-burly of our City. The Quarterly Magazine has written that Arlington Garden "brings the tranquility of nature to the city." A PUSD student told us that she likes the Garden because "I can hear my thoughts here."

You may have noticed that we have recently improved the parkway strip that for so long had been a repository for weeds and trash from cars as they sped by. Members from the City's Public Works Department, Joe Gagnier of Gagnier Landscape, Marco Barrantes of La Loma Development, and plant expert, Thomas Juhasz, have created a beautiful combination of large arroyo boulders, decomposed granite, and native plants and grasses surrounding a swale to catch and retain water runoff.

The next time you walk or drive by, take a few minutes to visit Arlington Garden. You will be surprised and pleased to see what is there.

*Arlington Garden is operated by Arlington Garden in Pasadena, a non-profit 501c3 corporation using volunteer labor, donations, and the sale of Arlington Garden Sweet Orange Marmalade made from the Garden's oranges. To help support the Garden, call (626) 441-4478, visit our website [arlingtongardeninpasadena.org](http://arlingtongardeninpasadena.org), or email us at [arlingtongarden@mac.com](mailto:arlingtongarden@mac.com)*

THE GREEN WAY

# Secret garden instead of freeway

**A**rlington Garden is the furthest thing from a freeway you could possibly imagine. If 7UP is the uncola, this place is the unfreeway.

It's got purple-and-white salvia swaying against pungent rosemary bushes. A different variety of pine tree to relive your fondest Christmas memories. Landscaping by famous designer Mayita Dinos that beats those freeway shoulders with the ice plants that look like they went through an Andy Warhol multiplier.

Besides, you can't relax on the side of a freeway! But at Arlington Garden, there are benches to sit on and hummingbirds and butterflies to watch. There's an arbor that frames Mt. Baldy's snowy dome. A bioswale along Arlington Drive between South Pasadena Avenue and South Orange Grove Boulevard that is superior to those concrete drainage ditches on the 210 Freeway.

People talk on the phone or listen to music while sealed away in their car cages. But at Arlington Garden, you're free to walk, and it's free to walk, too. Your feet can follow a classical seven circuit labyrinth of stones as your mind empties. And you'll never have to worry about the rocks bouncing up into your field of vision cracking your windshield.

It's no contest. This 3-acre greenbelt in Pasadena that was supposed to be part of the 710 Freeway extension has my vote. They're saying the freeway surface route will never happen. But they are now planning a tunnel that would run beneath the place.

No one knows the fate of the 710 extension, but that doesn't affect this garden, which exists in the here and now. It's a reality, the freeway isn't. But it is an oddity that a freeway defines this lovely



steve SCAUZILLO

space. The land is owned by Caltrans and leased to the city of Pasadena until 2018. So if it weren't for a freeway

threat, the garden wouldn't exist.

But that's where my freeway analogy ends.

I wrote last week in The Green Way column about how finding a tranquil, green place can ward off depression or sharpen your brain cells.

That's when I got an email from Chuck inviting me to experience *this* urban paradise. I went there Thursday morning. The rosemary smell is still with me as I type this.

In 2005, Betty and Charles McKenney got busy hiring a landscape architect to design the "rooms" and plant the trees and flowers that form an urban, Mediterranean climate garden.

They wanted to build a passive place for people to enjoy in different ways.

"We have plenty of places here where a group of people can come and have a picnic or just sit on a bench by yourself," said Chuck.

People come and just walk the paths between South African fynbos and the cactus garden. Other walk the labyrinth. In spring, phacelia and poppies blanket the meadow and water collects in the vernal pool. In summer, people play bocce or catch shade under an Englemann oak.

But fall is Betty's favorite time at the garden.

"Fall, after the first rain," added Chuck.

In February, the Girl Scouts help them harvest the oranges from the diagonally planted row of 48 navel orange trees in the mini grove. The link to the

San Gabriel Valley's past is demonstrated.

They send the fruit to E. Waldo Ward and Son in Sierra Madre, where the expert jam and preserves makers turn it into 10-ounce jars of orange marmalade that are sold to support the garden.

They have very little problem with trash or vandalism.

"When people are here, then it is their garden. We appreciate them treating it like it is their garden," said Betty.

If I had to choose between a stroll through this place or shaving three minutes off my drive to Long Beach, it's no contest. The garden wins every time.

[steve.scauzillo@sgvn.com](mailto:steve.scauzillo@sgvn.com)

Steve Scauzillo covers the environment and the communities along the Puente Hills. He's the current recipient of the Aldo Leopold Award for Distinguished Editorial Writing from The Wilderness Society.

# Looking for legacy, not mitigation, at Arlington Garden

**B**EING a house-hugger, I care a great deal about those hundreds of old shingled homes and other buildings in the path of the proposed 710 Freeway extension.

Oops — now that there are these necessary fictions about how a freeway might instead **roar** up San Rafael Avenue, where every home costs a million and most of them well over that, or turn into some kind of expressway up Avenue 64, where the young doctors and lawyers in their mid-century Moderns would sabotage any Caterpillar that got near — I should write, “the Fremont/Pasadena Avenue surface-route option.”

I’ve cared about them since I was a little kid, and they tore down the gorgeous ancient brown-shingle Neighborhood Church at Sequoyah School on California Boulevard and the virtual freeway that is Pas Ave.

Thank goodness they didn’t tear down the **Whit Smith** buildings that form much of the school now, some of the best mid-cent Mods in town and a great place for my daughter and her barefoot pals to have matriculated.



**LARRY WILSON**

But last week, amid all the new talk about the freeway, and about whether the Measure J sales-tax extension on the county ballot in November, son of Measure R, will give \$700 million toward building the 710, I got to thinking about one precious big Caltrans-owned property in the freeway route where there’s no building except a gardener’s shed.

That’s the incredible people’s success of Arlington Garden, the community-supported, water-wise oasis created by **Betty** and **Charles McKenney** on an empty lot.

And though City Hall leases it for a nominal \$100 a year for everyone’s benefit, fact is the state transit agency does own it. And

therefore would be required to sell it at fair-market value if the wooden stake is finally plunged into the old surface route’s heart by a tunnel alternative or by a no-build.

“Right?” I asked Chuck McKenney one blazing afternoon last week while sitting in the shade of the garden over a glass of ice water in an Adirondack chair.

“Right,” said Kicker, as his family and many pals call him. “If the surface route is eliminated, as through the current A.B. 204 in the Assembly, then the Caltrans properties go at market value. Zoned R-4. Twelve houses.”

He waved his arms around the 3 acres of greenery he, Betty and dozens of volunteers have created over seven years from what was a scraped, vacant lot, once home to Pasadena’s biggest mansion.

Oaks, peppers, pines and sycamores. Cherokee roses. The big citrus grove the marmalade from which, bottled up at **E. Waldo Ward** in Sierra Madre, funds thousands of dollars of garden improvements a year. The tranquil seven-circuit stone labyrinth created by the girls of Mayfield Senior School. The new

amphitheater built in memory of **Sabra Clark**, with a trellis arching over it centered around a pomegranate-colored piece of art glass.

In high summer, the garden part is just, as Kicker says, 35 shades of green amid the tranquil dust. But blooms will soon explode all around.

He’s hoping there’s a workaround. “See, if they go to a tunnel, or even something else, they’d have to mitigate. Just like BFI did when they added to their landfill, and far away from there, in the Lower Arroyo, they paid to recreate the natural open space there to make up for taking other land.”

There’s a real gleam in Kicker’s eye here. It’s not as if he hasn’t thought this through. I mean, sitting there, in a water-singing, Southern California garden that redefines lush to what it should be for us, he’s thinking legacy. He knows just how many passionate horticulturists he’s brought on board who will make sure the future of Arlington Garden is not a dozen McMansions.

Twitter: @PublicEditor  
larry.wilson@sgun.com



GARDEN

THE DRY GARDEN

# A community effort takes root

A Pasadena couple's labor of love grows into the water-wise and neighborly Arlington Garden.

EMILY GREEN

As beautiful as private landscapes can be, and they can be stunning, none can match the poetry, joy and solace of a public garden done right. As proof, look no further than Arlington Garden in Pasadena.

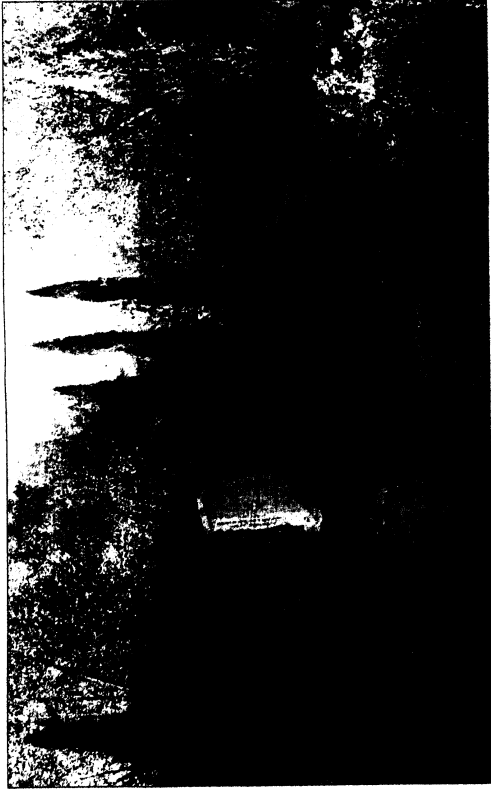
Since breaking ground five years ago, Betty McKenney has seen just about every kind of human interaction there.

"We have people who meditate and pray," McKenney said. "We have counselors and young people from a local clinic, some of whom are pretty troubled. Certainly there are schools and scout programs. People bring their computers, or they read. They walk dogs. We see engaged couples getting photographed."

She sees couples in their 80s holding hands. A mom sitting with her little boy, talking about birds. Teenagers who come in at night. "We have it all," she said.

And that's even before arriving at the plants, a mix of carefully selected, drought-tolerant California natives and Mediterranean climate-zone imports, assembled in a public space that is a first-class wildlife habitat and model of water conservation.

The people who did the most to make Arlington Garden are McKenney and her husband, Charles. After retiring from a computing job at Caltech (Betty) and practicing law (Charles), the couple bought a condominium on Arlington Drive. Next door were 3 acres of weeds interspersed



**EMILY GREEN FOR THE TIMES**  
 Betsy McKenney imports to create an eye-catching and drought-tolerant habitat at Pasadena's 3-acre Arlington Garden, largely the work of volunteers.

with palms and a few other trees — remnants of Durand Mansion, a baronial mansion mostly razed in the 1960s.

Caltrans bought the land during the construction of the 70 Freeway but never used it. By 2003, the city of Pasadena was holding public hearings to discuss alternative uses. Betty and Charles, a former Pasadena councilman, were asked to form a committee and canvass ideas.

Local colleges were enlisted to kick-start collective dreaming, and Cal Poly Pomona students' drawings helped to visualize a public garden. By the time Betty had the idea to make it a Mediterranean climate demonstration garden, the project had backing from their councilman, the parks department, Caltrans and Pasadena Water and Power.

Betty credits her in-

spiration to a class by Jan Smithen at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. At the time, Smithen's 2002 book, "Sun-Drenched Gardens: The Mediterranean Style," was a growing sensation.

Record drought on the Colorado River convinced water managers to promote local alternatives. "If their garden was to be a credible water-wise model, it had to be done right. Betty collared Smithen at a Vermont Bookstore signing to ask for help. Smithen recommended Culver City

landscape designer Mayika Dinos. Soon a fresh round of meetings with the community began. "Neighbors wanted places where they could meet with other people and get a little exercise," Dinos said. "They didn't want

people playing ball. There was also the feeling that it might be the place where you could go and pick a few herbs to take home."

For Dinos, another challenge was picking up the historical context of the site, so a grove of navel oranges was planned along Pasadena Avenue. Local school children planted the trees, which now bear fruit that goes into marmalade sold to cover some garden costs.

For the first two years, McKenney watered the 3 acres by hand. This saved water but wore them out. After raising money "in the low five figures" to put in a Netfam drip system, carpenters showed that they were using only 1/4 of the water required by a similarly sized park nearby.

Another part of water wisdom is catching and using rainfall, so adjacent to

the grove in a natural sink, Arlington Garden has a riparian area with sycamores and reed grasses. The most important element in a water conservation garden is plant choice. Rushing along the Arlington Drive perimeter is a desert garden shaded with succulents and palo verde trees. Paths winding up a slope lead through a succession of increasingly drought-tolerant olive trees surround a sweep of equally hardy lavender.

Good gardens have surprises, and one of Arlington's is its amphitheater. Local landscaper Marco Barranites built it using donated pillars, and an artist then topped the pillars with metal work.

Almost everything here has been donated or sold to the garden at a discount.

White- and pink-flowering crape myrtles studded throughout the garden come from Yoko Ono's Wish Trees for Pasadena, an art installation promoting peace. Benches, pottery, fencing and fountains are gifts of local residents.

Betty reels off other contributions: Pasadena Beautiful did this, the Boy Scouts that, the Girl Scouts, local craftsmen — you need a spreadsheet to compile them all.

The most touching sight is the volunteers at work. Poothill arborist Rebecca Latta is on contract but works even when the pay runs out. Biologist Thomas Jubasz, who teaches plant identification at USC, volunteered to develop the desert garden. Neighbors such as Dan DeLucie pitch in.

"The rain sets the weeds off," said DeLucie, taking a break from work in the herb garden.

Charles McKenney isn't sure how much it cost to turn 3 acres of Caltrans scrub into a meandering public garden. Somewhere in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars? Yet he's quick to add that in the five years since they broke ground, the garden has received thousands of hours of volunteer labor. Raising money for maintenance and a planned craft area is an ongoing challenge.

Designer Dinos knows of no other place quite like Arlington Garden and credits the McKennys' drive.

"When you want something so badly, like if it's food, you can taste it," she said. "I think that's how they felt."

The remarkable thing is that the McKennys wanted it for everyone, and that's what makes Arlington Garden so beautiful.

home@latimes.com

**One Of A Kind:** *Featuring unique homes and gardens and the people whoe create them.* Story By Chis Bertram

## Once Vacant and "Rather Unlovely" Pasadena Lot Transformed into Treasured Arlington Garden

Back in 1962, one of the largest homes on the west coast was razed; the lot graded out and left to accumulate weeds for four decades. In the interim, the homestead was acquired by CalTrans for a section of freeway never built. Left in limbo for forty plus years, Pasadena City Council member Steve Madison asked for "development ideas" from the public, early in the last decade.

New Arlington Drive residents in 2002, Betty and Charles Mc Kenney, fondly known as Kicker, volunteered that year to be part of the committee to decide the future of the land. "We knew what we DIDN'T want right away," said Betty. "No new buildings. The garden idea evolved."

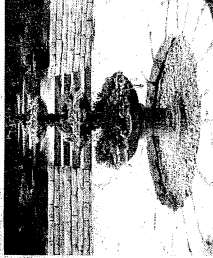
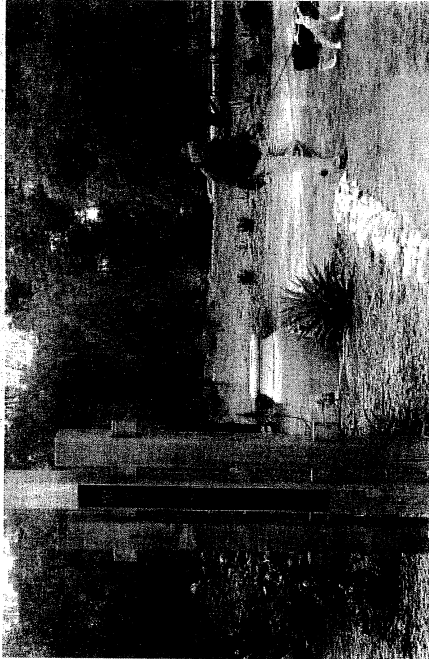
And so did the Mc Kennneys' involvement. "When we're not out here in the garden, we're back at the condo figuring out how to fund and expand it," chuckled Charles. "It takes \$40-50,000 every year, just to maintain, prune and irrigate the site. We solicit donations and support from organizations and individuals... We even sell marmalade made at E. Waldo Ward from our orange orchard here. Every little bit helps. Our next batch will be ready sometime in March. Check our website for details."

Today, Arlington Garden, located at Pasadena Avenue and Arlington Drive, is a tranquil 3 acre jewel with over 800 Mediterranean and drought tolerant plants. The gently sloping plot, a demonstration site for low water usage landscape, sits amidst the urban environment of Huntington Hospital, the bustling retail of Old Pasadena and the hundreds of "Millionaires' Row" condos along Orange Grove and its tributary streets. The city now holds a lease on the garden land from the state until 2018.

Mayita Dinos, deemed Best Xeriscaper (drought tolerant landscaping) in Los Angeles Magazine's Best of L.A., designed the master plan of Arlington Garden into 25 outdoor "rooms", such as the Butterfly Garden, Citrus Grove, the Arroyo, the Succulent Garden, the Amphitheater, the Mediterranean alley of olives and cypress, the Vernal Pool, the bocce ball court, the Oak Grove with complementary underplantings of dry summer tolerant narcissus, gooseberries, golden currant, wildflowers, huechera (coral bells), hummingbird sage and ceanothus.

"The garden has its bits of quirkiness that imbue a bit of light hearted humor into the garden. A friend decided we needed a 'fairy door' and one appeared at the bottom of one of our trees at Christmas this year," said Betty. Near the newly installed fairy door is a mysterious water feature, inviting mystified query as to its source.

"AG is being built 'room by room' as funding becomes available," Dinos commented. "The Arlington Garden has



for a succulent display."

been championed by the City of Pasadena from the beginning. In particular, I think we can count Mayor Bill Bogaard and Councilman Steve Madison among the many fans of the AG; if it weren't for their stalwart support, it wouldn't be here. They really 'get' what this garden means to the community of people, birds, insects, and native plants of Pasadena."

"Betty and Kicker, McKenney, along with many friends, have created a unique and wonderful new park in southwest Pasadena," reflected Mayor Bill Bogaard. "I hope it gains more and more support and continues as a great resource for the community."

Often, progress and growth in the garden comes from donations in kind and volunteer labor. We have a friend of the garden, Ken Colburn, who builds all the Adirondack style seating here in the garden. A stone, seven circuit classical labyrinth was installed by a cadre of sophomores at Mayfield Senior School nearby. The students there volunteer yearly at the gardens. Charles commented, "Last fall, we had a huge mound of stones piled next to our labyrinth room. The Mayfield students created a bucket brigade and had the labyrinth built in just a few hours. It was great."

Marco Barrantes of La Loma Development Company has partnered with AG in repurposing old concrete removed from construction sites. The gently sloping site needs retaining walls to level planting beds at various locations, so it's a win-win. "It keeps the concrete out of the landfill and it helps us continue to build the garden," reflected Charles. "Another friend of the garden donated a fountain we used as hardscape

at One Colorado recently," said Betty as she pointed out the semicircular arrangement of the myrtles. "The trees were installed as a 'Wish Tree' memorial (a Japanese tradition) for Ono's husband, John Lennon, for people to attach their written wishes. Other yearly memorials have been installed in Ito-kyo and Sao Paolo. Afterward, the 90,000 wishes were sent to an island off Reykjavik, Iceland, per Ono's request."

The garden is maintained and supported by the non-profit group Arlington Garden in Pasadena with generous help from local residents, Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, the Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Pasadena Public Works Department and Pasadena Water and Power.

A work day is planned for Martin Luther King Day this Monday. "Two years ago, we had 70 volunteers cleaning up the garden on MLK day, this national day of service. Now we need it again. Volunteers are needed to clean and weed the garden on Monday, January 17th, between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, to donate or volunteer, visit our website at <http://ArlingtonGardenInPasadena.org/> or RSVP for the cleanup day by sending an email to [ArlingtonGarden@Mac.com](mailto:ArlingtonGarden@Mac.com)

Referred to in April 2010 general plan meetings as "rather unlovely" in its former unkempt and weedy state, the Arlington Garden is now a place of tranquility and refuge from the city, where, as a student visitor saw it, "I like the garden because I can hear my thoughts here."

PASADENA  
**Outlook**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013

VOL. 7 NO. 8

## PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR 60 MORE YEARS



Betty and Charles "Kicker" McKenney

The Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF), is pleased to announce the appointment of Betty and Charles "Kicker" McKenney as "Environmental Ambassadors" as part of its 60th Anniversary celebration. Known as "The Constant Gardeners," the McKenneys are the founders of Arlington Garden, Pasadena's only dedicated public garden.

Rather than traditional honorees for our 60th Anniversary gala, PCF has recruited Ambassadors to act as year-long advocates for their particular area of passion. These Ambassadors will help the foundation spotlight each of the six areas in which the Foundation has made grants and for which PCF is building endowments to sustain this funding.

The Pasadena Community Foundation was established in 1953 by Pasadena philanthropists Mr. & Mrs. Louis Webb who pledged their estate to the Foundation. PCF raises and manages endowments to provide funding to six targeted areas, each representing important resources that merit support in the Pasadena community. These include: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health, Human Services, and Youth. Grants are distributed across these broad areas to ensure that the diversity of riches in the community is preserved for the next generation.

For more information on the Pasadena Community Foundation, please visit: [www.pasadenacf.org](http://www.pasadenacf.org)

PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Building Tomorrow's Legacy

### Grantees

Pasadena Community Foundation has awarded over \$210,000 to support environmental projects and organizations.

- Affordable Housing Services
- Arlington Garden
- Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy
- Aveson Charter School
- Boys & Girls Club
- City of Pasadena
- Descanso Gardens
- Eaton Canyon Nature Center
- Harambee Ministries
- LA Arboretum Foundation
- Pasadena Beautiful Foundation
- Muir Ranch

Through Pasadena Beautiful, Foundation PCF has funded the following recent projects:

- Pasadena Senior Center Garden
- Santa Catalina Library Garden
- Public tree replanting following the 2011 windstorms.

# Oranges and the City of Pasadena Forever Intertwined in History

“ It was in the immediate vicinity of Pasadena that oranges were first grown for commercial purposes in California. The first shipments of oranges from Pasadena by the Pasadena Fruit Growers’ Association were made in the season of 1892 and 1893” in a building which stood on the east side of the Santa Fe railroad tracks near the station at what is now Raymond and Del Mar, and in 1916 there were “about 115 shippers representing some 550 to 600 acres of bearing fruit.” (Wm. Pollard, President of Pasadena Orange Growers Association, September, 1916)

## **Arlington Garden’s Sweet Orange Marmalade, a link to Pasadena’s Past**

Arlington Garden’s 48 tree Washington Navel Orange grove is the only such grove remaining in Pasadena, California. Located 1/2 block from Orange Grove Boulevard (Millionaire’s Row) on the former site of the Durand House, our orange trees are arrayed in diagonal rows reminiscent of the orange groves that were such a part of Pasadena and its San Gabriel Valley environs. Arlington Garden’s orange trees continue to be a colorful remembrance of Pasadena’s past.

Today there remains a link to Pasadena’s long history with oranges. Year round, our trees are cared for by local volunteers and each February ripe oranges are hand-picked by local Girl Scouts and volunteers. E. Waldo Ward and Son in Sierra Madre, who have been making jams and condiments for 120 years, professionally manufacture our oranges into 10 oz. jars of sweet orange marmalade which are sold to support Arlington Garden.

Our Marmalade has proven to be a great hit, on English Muffins, on hors d’oeuvres and as gifts to family and friends. Be sure to order enough for this holiday season.

Arlington Garden Sweet Orange Marmalade is available in single jars (\$10) and by the case of 12 (\$100).

Contact the Constant Gardeners at 626-441-4478 or on line through Arlington Garden’s website:

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

We’re on Facebook! Be sure to check out our page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/arlingtongarden>

