

# *Dahlia Society of California Newsletter*



**AUGUST 2022**

## **NEXT MEETING**

**August 9 at 7:30 at 9th and Lincoln. Park behind the Fairgrounds building at 10th and Lincoln. We'll discuss how to stage blooms for THE SHOW. How to read a show schedule, fill out a show entry form, determine a class or section number, pick a container, avoid the dreaded blown center, and how to contribute to our Show's overall success. We will try to mount a simulcast for people who choose not to drive in to San Francisco. Cross your fingers; we have never attempted this before.....**

## **FLORIBUNDA! OUR SHOW**

**August 20-21 at the Fairgrounds Building at 10th and Lincoln. Invite all your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Send everyone you know our gorgeous poster—sent in a separate e-mail blast to all DSC members. Set up any time after 8 pm until 9 am the following Saturday morning. Bring your blooms and matted photos. We still need one person Saturday morning and another Sunday morning to preside over our Membership Table. (please contact Deborah) We especially will need volunteers to**

EYECANDY  
*2022 Annual Dahlia Show*

HALL OF FLOWERS 9th. Avenue at Lincoln, Golden Gate Park

Saturday Aug. 20 10:00am-5:00pm

Sunday Aug. 21 10:00am-4:00pm

FREE ADMISSION



The Dahlia Society of California is a San Francisco Parks Alliance Park Partner

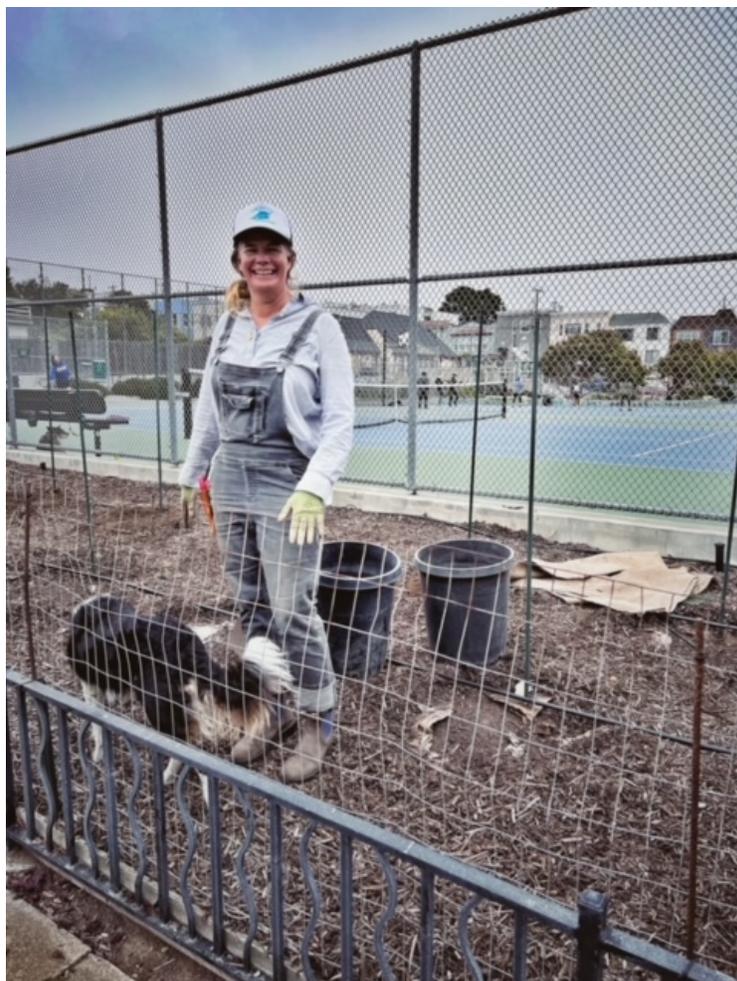
[www.sfdahlias.org](http://www.sfdahlias.org)

**tear down the show at 4:30 on Sunday.**

## **PASSING THE CABRILLO TROWEL**

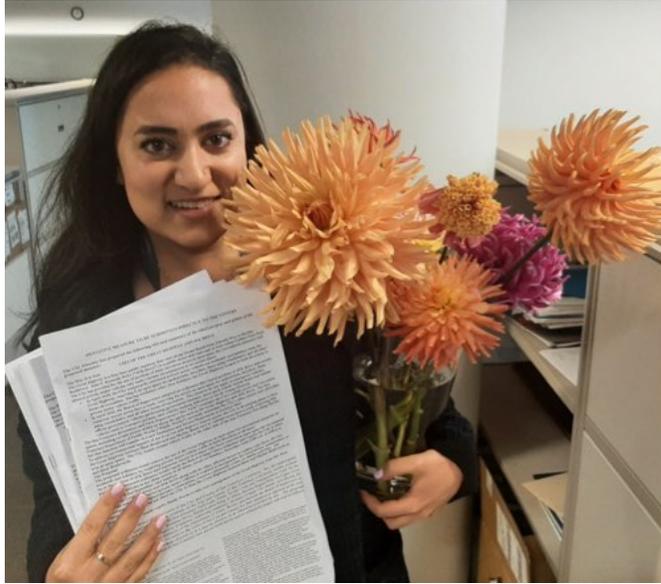


**The lovely Garden at 39th and Cabrillo lives! Mimi Clarke, a CalPoly horticulture grad, worked at Filoli “for years. When I noticed that the dahlia Bed (at Cabrillo) was empty, I got the idea to reach out and see if I could offer my services to get it going again. I connected with Devi and she gave me the lowdown.” Mimi has planted two rows of show quality dahlias which are just beginning to bloom. Check it out!**

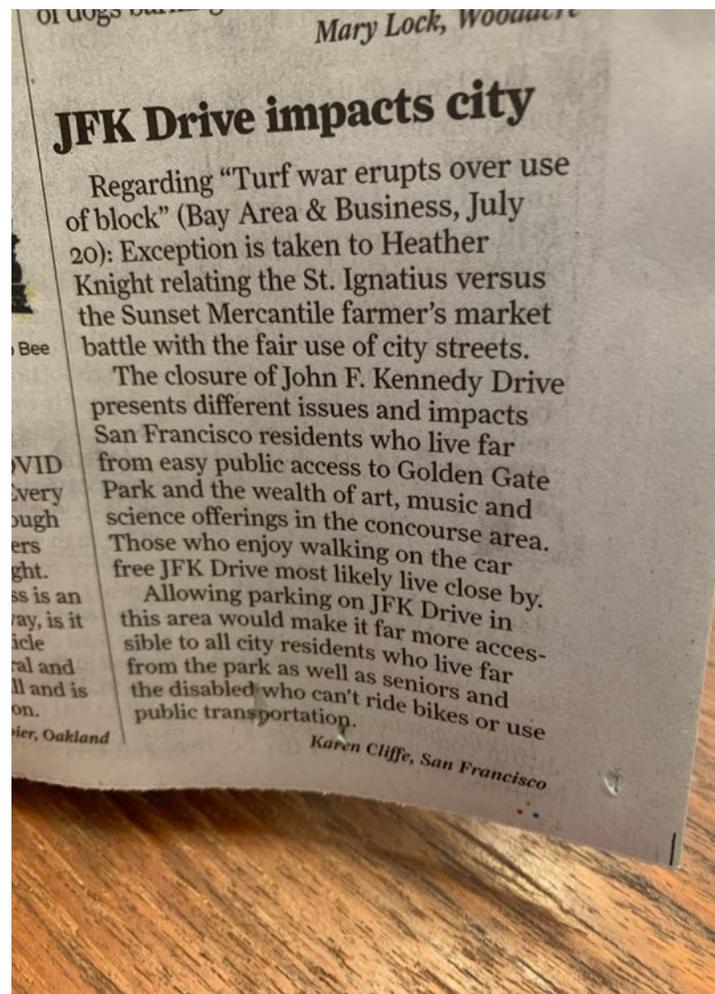


## **JFK POLITICS**

**Several dahlianeers helped gather signatures to put the reopening of the Great Highway and JFK Drive on the November ballot. Deborah delivered these petitions to the DeYoung collection site along with a huge dahlia bouquet. Deborah felt like the Pied Piper, gathering a little parade behind her as**



**museum staff oohed and awed. Congratulations! We collected almost double the necessary signatures to go on the ballot. Unfortunately, the Exclusive Parks People ALSO got something on the ballot to keep our park permanently closed. So it will be very important that ALL OF US and all our friends vote in the November elections. Thanks to Pat for submitting this excellent letter to the editor.**



## **MENLO MUSICAL DAHLIAS**

**For the last 20 years Menlo Music has showcased internationally famous musicians for 2 magical weekends. This year they invited Steve whose bio contains “Julliard, the New York Met and Broadway, presently with the San Francisco Symphony...and volunteers at the Dahlia Dell in Golden Gate Park.” To the delight of his fellows, he**



**brought 2 huge bouquets for the the concert hall lobby. After recording and performances, he invited each musician to choose a dahlia to take home. First 3 chosen: Ivanetti, Pam Howden and CV Jonas. You don't have to graduate from judging school to instinctively pick the winners!**

## DAHLIA SPOTTING WORLD WIDE

**Brigid spotted several dahlias whilst walking the Spanish Camino de Compostela. “301 kilometers and no blisters.” Major feat. (groan) Phil and Marilyn sent pix of dahlias**



**abounding in England, especially in Wisley Sussex.**



## LADIES WHO LUNCH

**This last spring, Lucy, Karen, Jenn, Sarah and Deborah helped dig out all the gopher-basketed clumps in the**



**Warden's back yard. it might look like in threw a pot-luck garden. Wow! Pretty Crazy towers over 8' darling diminutive Picasso and an Dancing Queen. share camembert**



**They wondered what bloom. So they party in the enclosed spectacular. Gitts tall! Check out a variegated waterlily, ineffable pinkish Truly delicious to and fruit salad,**



**curried chicken and almond pastry,  
and glorious  
camaraderie. As they were  
leaving, they  
checked out  
Phil's shelf of  
dahlia  
products and  
marveled at his  
ELECTRIC SPRAYER!!! No pumping,**



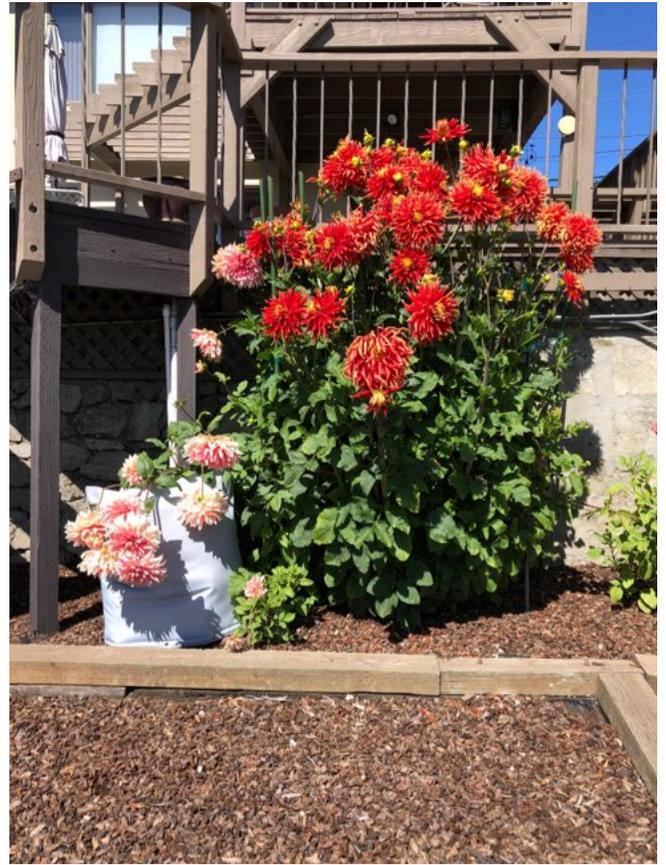


**just plug in over night and spray spray spray. Sooo snazzy and almost effortless.**



## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

**Larry and Theodore report that they have begun gracing their daughter's restaurant with**



**glorious bouquets. Ted likes to bruit Larry's great AC**



**Bens. Although Parrot Tom has passed into a Greater Garden, his riotous Show 'n Tells continue to bloom their hearts out. Lola, out in Fairfax, sends pix of splendid**



**Nick Sr., Andy's Gloriosa. Stacia bouquets from her dahlia beds. Wolfe a grower, so Kevin from the Dietz experimentation, design he devised**



**Legacy and loves making raised ground Lane Terraces lost chose more plants Deck. After 3 years look at the label to withstand**



**weather and still be legible. Check out this great Bernal Heights neighborhood garden. Jen sent in pix from Lucy's mixed planting**



**tiers in the shadow of Sutro Tower. Thank you all for sharing glimpses into your gardens.**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Laura has agreed to manage some of our social media accounts. She writes: Here are some things YOU can do to help increase the number of people who learn about us and join our society:**

**Follow us: SF Dahlia Society on instagram and Facebook. You can also find us by using @SFDahliaSociety**

**Anytime you post on social media, tag us using @SFDahliaSociety**

**In combination with tagging our accounts, use any of the following hashtags when posting on Instagram—these have a ton of followers and will get lots of views: #Dahlias, or #Dahlia or #Dahlia Society**

## **LOU'S LATEST HYBRIDIZATION**

**Lou has astounded first year, this BB. Last year it was now—AA!" Lou's brute grows with and excellent orange amazing visitors to couple weeks. So to grow it yet**



**himself. "The seedling was a a B. Look at it great hulking sturdy stems color. It's been the Dell for a Lou will have another year to**

**determine if its size stabilizes. Such a wonderful problem to have.**

## **DAHLIA DELL DOINGS**

**So many fun visitors this month! Dan and Billy, long-time volunteers-moved-to-Portland, returned for a blooming moment. Billy disbudded and deadheaded for years while**



**Dan redesigned our website. Phil and Marilyn trekked in. Stacia and family checked out Eden Stacia and the hillside. Thuy braved the overcast just long enough to be**



**dazzled by the early**



**flush of color. Mitsu,  
a regular now,  
promises to unveil**

**her latest dahlia painting soon.  
Collette dashed in for a glimpse of  
how her dahlias will look in a  
couple weeks. Disappointed that  
several of his newly purchased  
tubers did not germinate, Geoff  
stopped by to procure replacement  
plants. When Sarah enlightened  
him about copper collars around  
the base of each clump to prevent**



**slugs and snails from**



**ascending his dahlias, he went right out to buy some and bought us some too. Thank you Geoff. Sue was pleased with magnificent AC Roosters and deep purple Divas. Check out her well-labeled eastern Hillside.**

**Dexter cruised in bitzy bike and putatively he'd created; and more REAL please. (Dexter weekend with madeleines with cherries inside.**

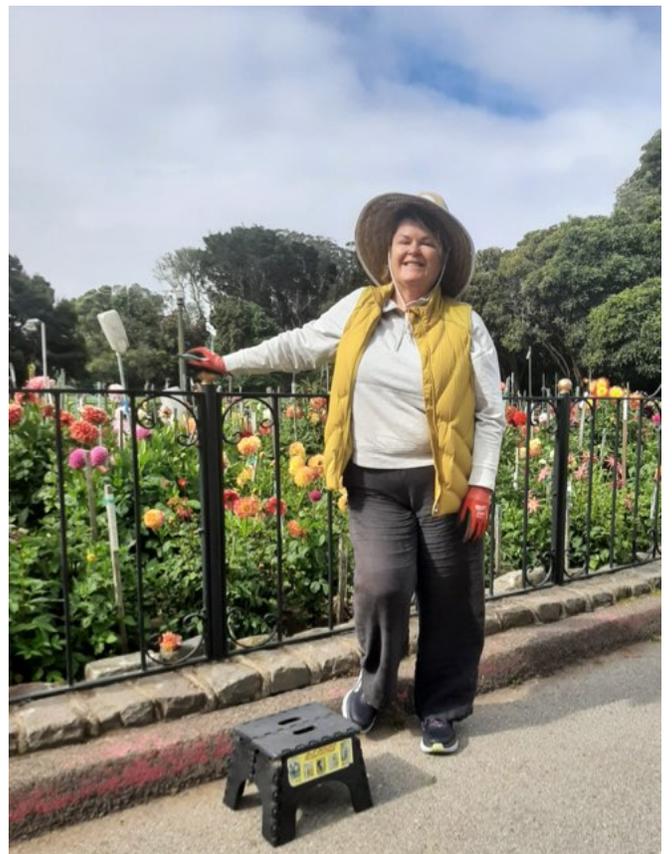


**on his foldable shared photos of delicious food next time less pix edible examples, returned the next banana bread chocolate and MMMM!)**



**Neighbors biked from Bernal Heights to delight in the dahlias. What stamina. Tara volunteered to ministrative to Elvira and the whole Petting Zoo. She came prepared with a wee stool to**

**save her precious knees. John P deadheaded, planted and made Dell time-lapse videos. See them at**



**jp\_art\_garden. Work out groups find that sweating surrounded by beauty is more fun. They've been spotted**



**early in the morning, mid-day and in the evenings after work. They huff and puff: more carbon dioxide for our beauties. Unbeknownst to us all, Francis Palmer toured The Dell and posted pix and video for her 100K+ followers.**

**Francis Palmer is a blogger, author of and dahlia grower. Who should stroll his soulful whole time, but serenaded us for**



**a ceramicist, Life in the Studio, from Connecticut. through playing accordion the Johan. He almost a half an**

**hour. We hope he returns often.**

## **AWESOME AUGUST**

**August is Show it Off month! Participate —some way—in both the San Leandro Show (Aug 6-7 at Lakeside Park in Oakland) and our SF Floribunda! Clerk, “run” for someone (convey their staged blooms to the correct spot on exhibit tables), judge, take lots of photos, interact with the public, help set up and tear down. Show up! At right: Ana Mari**



## **THROW A PARTY!**



**It doesn't have to be fancy. Share your dahlias with friends in situ. Just sit amongst the glory or design a special dahlia libation for festivities.....Take your dead heads to your local library or senior center or hospital reception room or dentist's office or Physical Therapy Rehab site. One or two dahlias changes everything. At Left: Mingus Nicole**

## **DAHLIA BONDAGE**

**At the Dell, rough winds sweep across our vulnerable dahlias, so we tie them up. Those who've set up Hortanova feel very smug right now. But the rest of us have to hustle. Phil re-uses velcro strips. I use plastic coated string of two types. I like the fatter variety because it's less likely to garrote my delicate stems. Sarah ties with fat green plastic cords. Lou and Pat use packing string to good effect. Some people simply insert metal tomato cages in place. Here's a gorgeous 12" KA's Cloud.**



## **AIR CIRCULATION**



**Strip the leaves from the understory of your plants. This allows the air to circulate more freely and sends all your plant's energy into the upper story to make flowers. If you have a particularly valuable variety, use one of these lower sprigs to make a pot root as insurance against poor tuber storage. LABEL! Hollyhill Spider**

**Woman writhes again!**

## **COCKTAIL HOUR**

**I try to spray in the late afternoon—even better—after sundown. But it gets a little creepy in Golden Gate Park after dark, so I spray from 5:30-7:45 PMs. This prevents the sun burning the shiny leaves. I deploy a very fine spray to both the top AND BOTTOM of my leaves. My cocktail de jour? Stylette Oil, Captain Jack's Dead Bug, Liquid fertilizer and dishwashing soap. A long wand saves my back much crankiness. Only 3," Josudi Neptune dances in the breeze.**



## **PESTIFEROUS PESTS GRR!**

**How do you know what's eating your precious dahlias? I often find fat contented caterpillars feasting away in my blooms. Thrips and leaf miners are a bit small for these eyes to spot. An ingenious way to capture a sampling of your invasive munchers, is to coat a**



**yellow dixie cup with Vasoline and staple it to the top of your stake. In just a day, it will be covered with bugs. This will give you a better idea about what you need to put in your cocktail du jour. I often get asked about diabrodica—or diaBRATica—, the green ladybug shaped voracious wretches. We rarely have to battle these prolific lunchers because they tend to thrive in temperatures above 80**



**degrees, something so very rare at The Dell. When Mike grew commercially down in Half Moon Bay, he used a mini vacuum designed to clean computers. He'd just vacuum his developing blossoms. When his gadget was full, he emptied it into the chicken pen. Ah! Jubilation! Spinosad also deters these insects. Here's Hilltop Kemper and Jomanda.**



**Here's a glimpse of a few crowd pleasers from The Dell. AC ABBY, AC Fernando, and Sandia War Bonnet**



**accompanied**



**by an overview of Jillian and KA's Peppercorn. What about Lou's numbered seedling? Very promising?**

**Yours in dirt,  
Deborah**

**Photo credits: Dibner, Deitch, Dietz, Ide, Obremsky,  
Palmer, Plute, Smith, Tobiason, Warden, Yee**

**Webmaster: Devorah**

**Snail Mail Benefactress: Patricia**

**Ketchup and Mustard, Snojo Storm and the magnificent  
Hollyhill Black Beauty with a combo shot of Clearview  
Magic and Belle of the Ball.**







**HOLLYHILL BLACK BEAUTY**