

11 April 1989

HI!

*Alma!*

I'm glad to be back at the UEL this summer, and am excited to be involved in the community garden program again.

I have been in the process of enlisting and interviewing potential community gardeners, and have been selecting dedicated and excited people to garden and learn with.

Based on the level of interest and commitment you demonstrated last year, we have decided to offer you a plot in our garden this year. Please let us know if you plan to accept our offer (many of you have already dropped me a line saying you're still interested).

I have scheduled opening day for SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AT 12 NOON.

RAIN DATE APRIL 29 (Sat) at noon

Please try to make it! (and let me know if you can't)

On Opening Day, we'll be double digging beds, meeting each other, doing paperwork and collecting \$5. I'll also have a map of the garden ready (I have tried to give you all the same plot you had last year), and we can figure out when is a good night for our monthly meetings.

\*\* Feel free to start planting seedlings in the greenhouse! See me or Zoe or Jon for materials, etc. Please remember to log and label your plantings.

Looking forward to seeing you all again!

*Lisa*

*Responded  
April 14 -*

2 May 1989

Dear Community Gardener--

Hello!

It has been wonderful seeing you all in the garden; it feels so alive and I'm really glad to be back here again. I am anxious to begin the process of becoming a community together.

There have been a few changes since Opening Day: unfortunately, Dick and Mac Showman will be unable to garden with us, and there may be one other plot opening up. I have started a waiting list for people who contacted me after our final decisions were made; if you know any other interested people, please let me know and I'll keep their names on file. Occasionally spots do open up throughout the season.

I am putting together a phone list -- please let me know if it's OK with you for me to give your number to the group.

Very soon I'll be putting up a community garden bulletin board. This is for posting meeting times, general info., etc. PLEASE feel free to add anything you like to the board. Someone also suggested that we use it to post information about extra seeds and/or seedlings to make exchanging easier.

I encourage you to keep taking advantage of our greenhouse to start seedlings. We do supply soil, but are running out of extra containers to use, so please bring your own. The seedlings are watered every morning. Please remember to label your stuff, and make a note in the notebook.

An important thing I forgot to mention:

We ask that you keep detailed notes on your garden to be turned in to us at the end of the season. We will ask for a map of your plot, varieties planted and success or problems you've had, pests and pest control, etc. The information really helps us build knowledge from year to year, and-it

There are two big barrels in the garden--one for trash, one for compost. Please do not compost any weeds which have gone to seed. If you aren't sure what to compost, let me know and I'll try to clarify. If you don't have a compost pile, please consider contributing your kitchen scraps and such to our pile. Thanks-

I am enclosing a map of the plants and trees which surround the garden. There's a lot of interesting stuff, so be sure to notice. This summer I plan to make a serious effort to identify and label the plants we have, especially many of the ones in the flower and herb beds which surround the UEL. If anyone would like to help, please do. It's so much easier to identify plants when people are willing to help; our knowledge and expertise is so varied.

IMPORTANT :

Our first meeting will be on TUESDAY, MAY 16 at 7 PM  
Tuesday night seemed to be the best time for all of us. Please make every effort to come. Let me know if it's an OK time for everyone.

See you soon!

Use

hi Alma - your note -  
got it rained, so all was well  
in the garden.  
I didnt need to  
water anything  
See you on the 16th!

11 July 1989

Hello community gardeners--

I have decided to change the meeting day again to 25 July at 7 PM. Things seem to be going well in the garden, and I want to wait until I have more input on meeting agenda before getting together again. PLEASE let me know if there are things you feel should be on the agenda (you can tell me if you see me, or drop a note in my box or leave it on the board...). Are there specific things you want/need to know about? things you'd like to see done (or do) in the garden? I want to be sure we are using the meeting time productively.

I am enclosing a handout some of you may recognize from last year. This is mostly to help you keep track of what's happening in your plot so that you can hand in thorough, accurate records at the end of the season. You can give the handouts back to me at one of the meetings, or anytime that's convenient.

I got lots of HAY (4 bales) from a local gardener--it's good stuff, well-seasoned, clean. It's located near the strawberry patch, covered with black plastic. Use it for mulch!

Thank you to the person who mysteriously supplied a new nozzle for the hose. much appreciated!

One more thing: I am trying to plan the fence label project, and have started to generate a list of things that should have explanations/descriptions: compost, privet hedge, companion planting, cover crops like the clover... Let me know if you have ideas about what should be pointed out in the garden.

remember-- meeting on Tuesday, 25 July at 7 PM inside the UEL. Please plan to come or call. Thanks,

USA

hi Alma! thanks for coming

25 July 1989  
Community Garden mtg #3

attended by: Tina, Virginia, Marilyn, Catherine, Alma, Lisa, Deborah and Paul, Steven, & Lisa

- 3 handouts: insect repellants, info on what to plant now
- collected a couple "what's going on in your garden" handouts--more coming?
- people seem excited about producing a RECIPE BOOK this year; we're going to use recipes submitted last year and add new ones (3 to 5 or more new recipes each sounds like enough to make a good sized book). We are going to try to sell it in the Brown Bookstore (Paul works there and is going to check on the details about this) and donate the money. Steven suggested we give the proceeds to Southside Community Land Trust--any other ideas? We thought it would be a nice idea to organize the book by the vegetable, and include a little blurb about each vegetable at the beginning of the section, perhaps including some gardening tips and folklore. Marilyn has offered to do the graphics. So please hand in recipes SOON!! I need to have all submissions by the next meeting (end of August), so we can work on organizing them together. It would be great if you could write a "vegetable blurb", too, if you are so inclined. And don't forget to write down gardening hints, favorite quotes, or whatever else you'd like to include.
- As you know, I am in the process of setting up a project to woodburn labels to hang on the fence, describing what's in there. We probably won't get to this until Fall or Winter, but if any of you have ideas about what to include, let me know. Tina has offered to help with the project (thanks!) She also suggested that we draw the leaf of the plant being described, for easier identification.
- some people felt it would be helpful to have some general information on the UEL: design, history, etc. For all interested, I will get something out to you soon. Returning gardeners: let me know if you would benefit from this, too.
- beware of borers!! Tim's squash are being attacked again this year.
- we decided to close the garden later this year, in order to extend the growing season. We set closing date on October 31st: Halloween. So you can start planning your Fall crops.
- after the supposed tomato theft of a couple weeks ago, there was talk of putting a latch on the gate. The consensus seemed to be that it's not worth it if it will deter visitors. Paul suggested an unobtrusive latch--the kind that closes after you. Deb thought a bell might be best? I'll look around.
- Virginia made a distinction between hay and straw (HAY has SEEDS, straw is harvested wheat-no seeds). I will find out what we are using for mulch and let you know.
- about weeding the garden: perhaps it would be best for everyone to be responsible for the small strip around their bed?
- Virginia has some fresh-frozen ginger that she'll bring to the next meeting. yum
- next meeting is Tuesday, 22 August at 7 PM
- we'll have one meeting in September, one in October, and a harvest pot luck sometime mid-September.
- Marilyn's jelly day to be announced! Is anyone interested in going berry picking?
- I'm planning a perennial wildflower bed for the area near the driveway, where all the lilies and ugly groundcover are. It's a shady spot. Let me know if you have suggestions for what would do well there.
- see you on 22 August!!

the garden looks beautiful!!

take care--

U.S.

11 August 1989

Dear Community Gardener,

Hope all is going well--the garden is looking great this year!

I am writing to remind you of our next meeting on

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22 at 7 PM !!**

I haven't been getting submissions for the recipe book individually, so I hope you are planning to bring them to the meeting. We really need to get our materials together and start planning for this project if we're going to make it happen. Please remember to bring your recipes, ideas, and other gardening tips, quotes, vegetable descriptions... At the meeting, we can decide the format of the book, and everyone interested can organize and write up sections. Or if we want to make a more collective effort, we can have a separate meeting just to work on the recipe book. Let me know what you think on the 22nd.

As promised, I am enclosing some very general history and philosophy of the garden. I hope this is helpful for some of you, even though it's late in the season. Let me know about specifics you'd like to know--it's hard to know where the gaps in your understanding/knowledge are, but I'll try to help when I can.

Please remember to bring the completed "What's Going on in you Garden?" handouts to the meeting.

Feel free to use the greenhouse for Fall plantings (which should be done soon).

I'm on vacation with my family from 13 to 20 August--so if you need to get a note to me before Tuesday's meeting you can leave it in my box in the UEL and I'll get it on Mon.

USA

hi Alma-

am sure this info is "old hat" for you-

please bring that recipe book (Perennial Planters) for a model of your can.

thanks-

USA

Hi Alma

22 August -- Garden meeting

- thanks for coming

attended by: Deb and Paul, Maruta, Marilyn, Tish and Joel, Catherine, Tina, Stephen and Erica, Virginia, Alma

--handout: "Is there Life after Frost?" remember, we decided to close the garden on Oct.31, so there's plenty of time for Fall crops. Feel free to use the greenhouse if you'd like to start seedlings while you're still enjoying what's in your garden now.

--Maruta Marques was introduced; unfortunately, she wasn't receiving meeting notifications, so tonight was her first meeting. Welcome! Maruta's plot is the one near the Jerusalem artichokes--the one with the tomatoes.

--Virginia shared fresh-frozen ginger with the group. We also ate some grapes, which have produced nicely this year.

--collected some "What's going on in yr garden" handouts. Again, these are intended to remind you to document garden events all through the season; documentation is important so that we can share information, rather than learning in isolation. It also helps keep our knowledge cumulative from year to year. There will be a more extensive questionnaire to fill out in the next month or so.

--Marilyn is going to hold a chutney day!! (instead of a jelly/jam day). She will let us know when.

--lots of talk about the RECIPE BOOK:

I collected quite a few recipes, and am assuming many more are on the way. The FINAL SUBMISSION DATE IS LABOR DAY, MON, 4 SEPT. But please turn them in as soon as you can. After the recipes are in, we will decide on the sections of the book. We're going to have a dedication to Perennial Planters, the folks who donated the money to create the garden. We also thought it would be a good idea to write an introduction which describes the idea behind the garden and the Center -- a good way to let more people know we're here.

We will have a meeting to work on compiling, organizing, and writing text for the recipe book on TUESDAY, 12 SEPT AT 7 PM. If for some reason you cannot make this date but would still like to be included in the project, let me know and I can delegate some responsibilities to you individually (for example, writing text or organizing certain sections). People at the meeting definitely expressed an interest in making the book a real community project.

Also, a new development since the meeting: after talking to my supervisor who handles the budget, I found out that the garden fund has practically run out, and it looks like we need all the funds we can get. Does anyone have objections to using the proceeds from the book to add to the Community Garden fund?

IMPORTANT DATES:

LABOR DAY--FINAL RECIPE SUBMISSIONS(TO ME OR IN MY BOX @UEL)

TUES, 12 SEPT, 7 PM--TO WORK ON RECIPE BOOK

THURS, 28 SEPT, 7 PM POT LUCK! Bring your favorite dish!

USA

ll  
13 October 1989

Hello gardeners!!

HAPPY FALL! Hope you are all enjoying the beautiful foliage, the crisp coolness, the change in the air... for me, it helps keep things in perspective in the midst of all my busy-ness...

The pot luck was lots of fun -- thanks to all who made it such a success! We decided to have it in the UEL kitchen this year, and it was very homey and friendly (and the food delicious and various!) I am going to miss all of you and the garden next summer.

We have hired a new gardener--Heidi Breittbeil. Heidi has some excellent organic gardening experience in Germany, and she knows a lot and is very enthusiastic about the community garden program. We are fortunate to have her, and I feel good about leaving the garden in her hands next summer. You will all get to meet her in a couple weeks on Closing Day. Noa, our other gardener for the school year, will also be there.

We decided at the pot luck to CLOSE THE GARDEN on

SUNDAY, 29 OCTOBER AT 10 AM !!!!

It's very important that everyone be there; if you cannot come, I need to know about it so that we can figure out an alternative plan. On Sunday, we will compost the garden, clean up, and lay the beds to rest for the winter. We sent in soil from each bed to be tested, and the results of the test should be back by then and will be available for your information. URI has been kind enough to do a separate test from each bed, so we should be getting some pretty specific information back. If we need to add any nutrients to the soil, we will do that on the 29th. We will also add topsoil to bring the soil level up again (as some of you know, the levels have been sinking). Then we can protect the earth by adding leaves and/or hay. In the UEL Soup Seminar plot, we're going to experiment by sowing seed for a live mulch (clover, buckwheat, etc). We will keep you posted.

If we have time, we also planned to piece together the recipe book. Marilyn and Maruta have been typing in all the recipes for us, and they're going to print them out for us to cut and paste, and then we can add text, quotes, garden and cooking tips, or anything else we want. We can start to do this on Sunday, but I think we'll need to set up another time to work on the book. Unfortunately, I have another commitment that day at 2:00. We'll see how it goes.

I'm enclosing a final questionnaire; please fill it out and return on closing day. If you would like to be involved in the program next year, please indicate this on the questionnaire (and/or speak to Heidi).

Take care, everyone. Looking forward to seeing you on the 29th.

Lise