



🌻 🌻 🌻 2022 Candidate Statements 🌻 🌻 🌻

President: Donn Hoffman

Donn Hoffman's Statement:

My name is Donn Hoffman, and I am asking you to vote for me to continue as your Garden President.

Even for the most fortunate, these past two years have been a trying time. The Garden as a place of refuge, hope and healing has never been more important.

As many of you know, I didn't find the position of President- it found me. I am honored to lead the Board with humility. I believe in achieving consensus with the tools of patience, kindness and fairness.

I am proud that we've reduced your required community hours by 25%, from 12 to 9 hours per year. And I am proud that we've kept annual dues level at just \$88/year.

Safety and security is always a concern, and I know that many of you are troubled by recent incidents and LAPD's failure to respond. We have obtained permission from LA Parks & Recreation to hire a neighborhood security patrol who will respond quickly to emergency calls from Members during the day and keep trespassing vandals out at night.

I look forward to the joys and challenges the future will bring. Our Garden can be a generous community that achieves a common purpose by honoring individual expression with mutual respect.

Thank you for your encouragement and your continued support. Happy Gardening!

Recording Secretary: Rena Rose

Rena Rose's Statement:

I am honored to run for the position of Recording Secretary at OVF for another 2-year term. I will publish meeting minutes that accurately reflect the decisions made by our membership and by our Board of Directors in our periodic meetings. Thank you for your support.

Education Chair, Candidates: Arthur Elzy, Nina Rumely & Amanda Goodpaster

Arthur Elzy's Statement:

I am excited about the opportunity to help curate and support educational initiatives for the garden, and expand upon the current offerings. I have been with Ocean View Farms since 2019 and look forward to contributing on the board.

Nina Rumely's Statement:

Hello everyone,

As you may have heard, I'm running for OVF Education Chair. I've been an OVF member for thirty years and OVF Greenhouse Manager since the Greenhouse was built ten years ago. We've probably talked at one of the greenhouse seedling sales that I've organized three or four times a year for the last ten years. I'm very proud of the greenhouse volunteers and the many other members who have helped make these seedling sales such a success. (Last year, for example, the Greenhouse generated over \$4,000 for OVF.)

One of the most enjoyable aspects of running the Greenhouse is researching and introducing interesting varieties of vegetables, flowers & herbs to OVF gardeners. I've worked to find plants that are especially suited to our microclimate and are good producers.

I'm now running for OVF Education Chair because I believe in sharing gardening knowledge and know-how with and between OVF members. OVF can become a valuable source of gardening information and a resource for new and old gardeners to learn and share from each other.

I'm usually talking about plants, not myself, but since I'm a candidate, please let me share with you a little of my personal background. I have been a garden designer, specializing in residential gardens, for over 32 years. At OVF, I have taught all kinds of gardening classes. For the last five years, I've been teaching the annual seed starting class. I've also taught classes on basic organic gardening, rose pruning, and how to set up your plot infrastructure. Gale Jones, the Orchard Supervisor, and I co-taught the fruit tree pruning class. I look forward to expanding the classes at OVF and bringing in new experts and teachers to help OVF members with their gardening.

As OVF Education Chair, I would focus on education – exploring new educational opportunities for members, encouraging a dialogue among members about gardening. We can learn from each other. I would try as education chair to bring us together around our shared interest in gardening. Thank you for your time and consideration as I ask for your vote.

Amanda Goodpaster's Statement:

Hi there fellow garden members! I have been a garden member at OVF for about 15 years but I am a lifelong gardener, forager, mushroom hunter and all around nature

lover. I love to share my gardening knowledge with other members, random people at the nursery and of course online via the instagram. In the roll of education chair I would like to hold workshops, write blog posts or newsletter articles on everything from seed starting, soil health, pest management, disease control, trellis & garden supports, to things like preserving the harvest & raising butterflies etc etc. I did hold a workshop years ago on fermenting your garden harvest for those of you who have been members for a while that was me! I hope you will consider voting for me so that we can play & learn in the garden together soon! - Amanda

Phase I Lower, Candidates: Les Hairrell & Joseph Schlitt

Les Hairrell's Statement:

Hello everyone,

OVF is a democracy -- you elect the people who represent you and who run the garden. I encourage you to become more involved at OVF. You matter, whether you've been a member twenty days or twenty years.

Change starts at the ballot box. Vote for new people with new perspectives and new energy. Ask the incumbent candidates what they have done to improve OVF. Ask them what new ideas, new programs, and new solutions they've proposed in the last two years (or ever).

I can answer that question for myself. Here are some of the things I've done in my one term as Phase Rep:

THE COVID SABBATICAL PROGRAM:

The week I was elected Phase Rep, Los Angeles County reported more than 10,000 Covid cases. Many members had reasonable and rational concerns about coming to the garden. In response, I proposed and had the Board pass the Covid Sabbatical Program, which allowed members who couldn't garden their plots to take a sabbatical and come back when they were ready.

Two members in our phase elected to go on the Covid Sabbatical list. Here is what they said: First Member:

"Hi Les, [we] can't thank you enough for taking the time to explain the Covid Sabbatical Program to us the other day. It is absolutely the perfect solution for us. As a result of my recent [medical procedure], I have been left immunocompromised and highly susceptible to the Covid virus... Thank you again for your foresight in creating this program. We have enjoyed our time at Ocean View Farms and look forward to doing so again in the future."

Second Member:

"Hi Les- Things have been very challenging. My husband was diagnosed with an aggressive and rare cancer... we made the very difficult decision to relocate (temporarily, we're hoping) to NYC where he could receive [treatment]... It has been all the more challenging as I am currently 9 months pregnant.

Our hope, depending on [my husband's] health, is to return at some point this year, but everything is in limbo at the moment."

The member went on the Covid Sabbatical Program and will hopefully return soon to the garden. I'm storing her son's hand painted turtle and her mother's metal cat sculpture in my plot for her until she returns.

THE GARDEN ANGEL PROGRAM:

Before I became Phase Rep, the common practice of phase reps was to dump the abandoned plot on the new member in whatever horrible condition the departing member left it. This was a recipe for failure. It was often overwhelming for the new member. Other phase reps, some in the position for over a decade, did nothing about this problem. They just let the new members fail.

A solution was needed, so I proposed and had the Board pass the Garden Angel Program, which allows existing members to earn community hours clearing the vacated plots for new members. It's a win-win solution. Since I started the Program, a dozen members and their families have volunteered as Garden Angels and helped new members get off to a good start. This program has been wonderfully successful.

INVASIVE WEED BAN: The Garden is Free from Wild Fennel.

For years, nothing was done about #wild fennel, a known invasive weed that endangers native habitats. Wild fennel was allowed to proliferate and was a burden to members and the garden. I thus proposed that wild fennel be banned. The OVF Board approved the ban without objection. (See the October 2020 OVF Newsletter for a link to my research report on wild fennel.) Look around the garden and you can see the improvement. You no longer have to deal with wild fennel moving into your plot from your neighbor. Wind-borne wild fennel seeds don't take root in your plot. Workdays are no longer spent digging up and removing wild fennel from the paths and public areas. The garden is much better without this invasive weed.

GARDENING IS OUR COMMON GOOD.

During the last two years of pandemic, we've had our plots as our refuge and oasis in a troubled world. We've been able to garden – the tie that binds us together as a community. We're all gardeners. The

Phase has moved forward despite Covid and OVF's own administrative failings. I want to thank everyone, including the Garden Angels, who've helped welcome the new members. I want to thank the new members who've brought their enthusiasm and energy to OVF. We're lucky to have the opportunity to garden at OVF. This is a great Phase and I've tried my best to make it better. Thank you for your time. See you in the garden.

Les Hairrell

Joseph Schlitt's Statement:

Hello folks,

My name is Joseph Schlitt, and I am running for the lower face rep position in phase 1. I have been a member at Ocean view farms for 10 years, and have seen many changes both positive and negative. One of the main problems that I have seen, witnessed, and have heard from Members is the lack of empathy from some board members. And I wish to change this even if it's in one small section of the garden.

I agree in any community there needs to be rules. However when rules are the primary focus, and their enforcement through fear is a motivating factor it is not good for a

community. And in the last 2 years at Ocean view farms we have seen the result of this. Not much difference than what is happening in Canada.

I go to nearly every board meeting, and most of the time I'm the only public member there. I am shocked by the attitude of some board members, and what I witnessed at the last one. One of the main focus was turnovers of new garden members, and the means to push out members that are seen as undesirable. This shows me a lack of desire to build community at Ocean View Farms.

Unfortunately a few people wish to have a perfect garden, and nothing is perfect in life. I enjoy seeing the diversity of garden plots, especially the ones that some people find untidy, because they offer a refuge for a variety of wildlife which also brings diversity to the garden. I believe a true unified community needs to celebrate diversity, even if it seems odd. Diversity doesn't need to be regulated, or pushed out using legal means. Let's protect our diversity, and please do your best to try to attend at least one board meeting a year. Thank you for your time.

Blessings

Joseph

Phase II Lower, Candidates: Emily Payne & Janet Williams

Emily Payne's Statement:

Hello fellow gardeners,

My name is Emily Payne and I have been a member of the garden since January 2018. As a kid, I helped my parents in their backyard/garden, mostly pulling weeds around the squash plants (not my favorite veggie) and mowing the lawn. Now, many years later, I'm enjoying all aspects of gardening; planting, nurturing, harvesting, the veggies I like to eat.

When I received the email letting me know a plot was ready for me (4.9 years after I applied), I was overjoyed. I was able to choose from 3 different spots – all of which were overgrown and had clearly been unattended to for a long time. I spent the first few weekends pulling out dead plants, and rebuilding the back wall. Then I spent my weekends for the next 2 months pulling out false garlic and prepping the soil. As I walked around the garden and saw many plots similar to mine, I became frustrated. It was clear that many people had abandoned their plots; dead plants, overgrown weeds, tall grass. I began to ask myself why it took so long for me to get plot if so many were clearly not being tended. Why wasn't action taken sooner to revitalize the spaces (if member was still active) or pass it along to someone on the waiting list? To me, one aspect of being part of the OVF Community means being a front facing presence for the garden; engaging with other gardeners and the general public who are interested in the garden. I work for the RAND Corporation and a large part of my job is being the first contact for potential new researchers, guest speakers and visitors of all sorts. I coordinate and guide interviewees from the beginning of the application process to onboarding them into the organization and am their contact for the first few years. I feel my Monday-Friday job is very similar to being a Phase Rep; meeting with new members, being their point of contact, making them feel welcome and a part of the Community, and making sure the gardeners around them

are actively utilizing the ground to grow and produce. I don't want my first experiences to be the same experiences for other new OVF members. I believe we've started to embrace outreaches like the Garden Angels and are creating a more welcoming community for new gardeners but there is still a lot of work to do. I would like to be a part of this effort. Thank you for taking the time to read a little bit about me and for your consideration of me as Phase Rep of Lower 2.

Janet Williams' Statement:

Lower phase. 2 it is a pleasure, an honor and a joy to represent you. You have demonstrated such a wonderful commitment to the garden and to each other, any and all duties assigned to the role of phase rep are completed with a 100% dedication to you.

My dedication to you comes with a full heart of wanting no less for you than I would ever want for myself. And with that I am able to work for you and with you, without effort or thought. It's all pure action. You make the job a joy. My commitment to you is tireless. It's like an extension of family where it's all for one and one for all. I have always said and continue to say, lower phase 2 is comprised of some of the BEST PEOPLE in the garden! You make coming to the garden a treasure.

When you call on me, it is a gift to help and when you are challenged, I am challenged and I defend you to the core. I will never falter nor relent in my commitment to you. This is the same gift you have always given to me which makes it easy to give back so selflessly. I rejoice that we have this precious garden and that we have each other. Without you, the garden would not be nearly as much fun. Sure, there would be the beautiful plants and interesting creatures but it's simply nothing without you.

Thank you for the amazing past and the glorious future.

Phase III Lower Candidates: William Bray & Wendy Scott

William Bray's Statement:

My name is William Bray, and I am running for phase representative. Gardens are where things grow, and during the pandemic I was able to watch my son Wallace take his first steps in the garden. His love for the garden, and what it has done for my family, made me want to give back as a phase representative.

As long as there is Los Angeles, there needs to be Oceanview. I want the garden to continue to thrive so it is here for the younger generations for the duration of their long lives. We owe it to the founders, and all the gardeners long past, as they are the soil from which we rise. Oceanview is the green-eden jewel set in the crown of our proud neighborhood, and I would consider it a joy to help in some small way.

As I learned from my elders, if you do right by the land, you will always be in the company of a friend. Like I tell my son, we are a team and the land is our captain, and everything can be peaceful and bountiful when teams work together. I hope to see you soon. I'm the guy either playing in the dirt or chasing a toddler around, come say hi. I can't wait to meet you.

Wendy Scott's Statement:

My name is Wendy Scott – or as I am also known, mom, grandma and writer. I have been a member of the garden for 25 years this month. I am the current Lower Three Phase Rep and have held this position for the last 15 years.

There are very specific duties and responsibilities required of a phase rep, they are very time-consuming, and there is a learning curve, but with so much experience I can say with confidence I know what I am doing. And because I do that means you can have confidence in me.

There is another important aspect to the job I have found over the years and it was highlighted for all of us by the harshness of the pandemic. Not only do we share the basic soul-need to garden but the equally significant soul-need to give and receive love and kindness in the garden. In fact, I can't think of anything more important than love and kindness. It has taken a while to get there, but we really do have that now in Lower Three.

Phase IV Lower: Angie Mason

Angie Mason Statement:

Greetings Lower Phase 4. With your vote, I would like to continue as your phase representative. I try to enforce the rules and lead with fairness, care, and humor while also understanding that weeds grow and we share our garden time with life's ups and downs, travel, sickness, work, children and parents. In the spirit of community, another Phase 4 gathering is planned for this summer or fall. Thanks for your support. Take good care, Angie Mason

No statements submitted. (Candidate statements are optional.)

Treasurer: Carol Velkes

Phase I Middle: Karen Pinto