

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

OVF is an amazing gift and it is a blessing to be part of it. It is a pleasure to serve you and the garden wherever I can.

-Janet Williams, Lower Phase 2 Representative

Hi everyone,

I was first elected 1L Phase Rep in 2020, and for the last four years have worked to make this garden better for members. I have supported new and veteran members with the same goal—to help everyone be the best gardener they can be, while treating everyone fairly and equally. No bias, no favoritism, no secrecy. I've given forty-seven orientations to new members, run more than thirty Garden Angel projects, and trapped a lot of gophers.

I've also initiated new programs to improve the garden and the members' enjoyment of it. During the pandemic, I created the Covid Sabbatical Program, had wild fennel added to the banned plant list, and started the current Garden Angel program in the Phase to clear plots for new members.

Last year, I proposed and organized the first Phase 1 Garden Party, which brought members together for a joyful celebration of our garden. This year, I brought the UC Master Gardener Grow LA Gardens class to OVF for the first time. I have also co-taught classes at OVF on (1) seed starting, (2) drip irrigation, and (3) rodent control.

My initiatives and approach apparently threatened the entrenched incumbent OVF Board members, and I've had to endure a stunning amount of abuse from a small clique of them. I've had three different Board members spew obscenities at me at Board meetings. The lack of professionalism of this Board has been dispiriting.

Perhaps they're also threatened by my background. I'm a UCCE Master Gardener, and currently the Master Gardener Co-Geographic Lead for the Westside of LA County. I'm a UC Davis CA Master Beekeeper Program graduate and have Certificates in Landscape Architecture and Horticulture from UCLA Extension. I'm a UC Certified CA Naturalist and have completed the Sierra Club Wilderness Training Course. I'm a Full Garden Docent at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and a docent at the UCLA Mildred Mathias Botanical Garden. I have been a Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour docent four times. In my retirement, I have pursued my interests in gardening, nature, and giving back to the community. I just like this stuff, I'm not a threat to anybody.

But I'm told that Board members have been spreading rumors that I'm somehow going to cause Rec and Parks to shut down the garden, which is absurd. They've even claimed that I tried to get in a physical fight with another Board member – which is a hilarious lie. The more outrageous the lie, the more desperate it is.

The Board members who disparage me are trying to distract members from the blatant mismanagement of this garden and their own incompetence. Simple things like paying the

bills have been botched; the OVF PO Box No. was lost because the bill wasn't paid, and the OVF website recently went down because, again, the bill wasn't paid. This year, their manipulative attempt to raise member fees was so fumbled that renewals were months late.

And so much OVF money has been wasted - on things like a useless security contract and a survey of the parking lot (seriously, they spent \$2,700 dollars to survey the parking lot). The waste and mismanagement have been appalling. Thus, they need a distraction and attacking me is all they've got. Don't believe it. I haven't spoken at a Board meeting for over a year. I'm not the problem.

In this election, to hide their failures, they're trying to switch up their Board roles. The departing president wants you to replace him with his anointed successor - another phase rep who's sat on the Board for years. The presidency is the only contested position in this election, so I urge you to not vote for a continuation of the failures and hostility of the past Board.

See you in the garden,

Les Hairrell

1L Phase Rep candidate



As your Lower Phase 4 representative I am committed to keeping our phase connected, weeded, and leak free. I value communication, kindness, and community. While we have ongoing rodent problems being so close to the field, I believe phase 4 is still a unique section of Ocean View Farms. Our small phase is mighty encompassing master gardeners and leaders in beautification, pot luck organization, and online media. Let us continue to care for each other and enjoy social gatherings while we celebrate our sweet time at the farm. Please vote to reelect me for Lower Phase 4 representative.



Talia Tinari, Plot B2 & IP 68
Candidate Statement for Education Chair

I have always been happiest with my hands in the dirt. As a child I would re-arrange my Grandmother's garden, re-propagating her chicks and hens, and replanting her red geraniums to where I thought they looked best. My mother enrolled me in summer courses at The University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, my first introduction to the meaning of 'genus' and 'species' and to Latin.

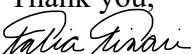
I completed the California Master Gardener Program in 2005 and learned the value of growing food locally and being a resource for others. I have volunteered and taught gardening in Community Gardens from Venice to El Monte. This study furthered my interest in alternative farming methods such as Biodynamics, Companion Planting and Bio- Intensive, and I try to use them as much as possible in my gardens.

I have been gardening at Santa Monica's Main Street Community Garden for over a decade and served as a site representative, (*similar to an OVF phase rep*), for most of that time and for several years was the Chairperson of the City's Community Garden Advisory Committee. I also organized Main Street's monthly educational workshops during that time.

At OVF I have been volunteering in the greenhouse, and slowly building out the IP along the driveway. I am also an avid seed saver.

I would be honored to serve as OVF's Education Chairperson, and to continue OVF's tradition of monthly newsletters, workshops and to support gardeners in cultivating their own gardens while building a strong and resourceful community.

Gardening can be challenging but it *can also* be productive. I would love to help create more opportunity for sharing knowledge and engaging with our neighbors while being good stewards of the land and our local ecology.

Thank you,

Talia Tinari

Ocean View Farms has always been my happy place. While I'm not exactly a master gardener, there's something about watching seedlings grow that feels like magic and there's nothing I like better than putting my hands in the soil. Every year on New Year's Day, I bury a pumpkin in a symbolic ceremony to release the past and welcome the future. And the garden always gives back... especially when the occasional pumpkin sprouts up in my plot. But Ocean View Farms is more than hundreds of individual plots, it's a community of families, friends and neighbors gathered together in a sacred space for sharing the many pleasures of organic gardening.

My name is Steven Reich and I've enjoyed being a member of our wonderful community for over 25 years. During that time, I've found new friends, served on the board as Phase 4U rep, and even made a short film celebrating our unique oasis. I'm seeking the office of President because I'd like to improve harmony, communications, engagement, outreach and participation - along with anything and everything else to ensure that Ocean View Farms remains a happy place for all of us to garden and enjoy.

Candidate Statement 2024

My name is Wendy Scott – or as I am also known, mom, grandma and writer. I have been a member of the garden for 27 years this month. I am the current Lower Three Phase Rep and have held this position for the last 17 years.

Being a mom really helps in this job and it makes me smile just to write the following because it is so true...every mom has said innumerable times, “Clean your room” or “Do your homework” and it is no different here: “Clean your room (clean your plot)” and “Do your homework (do your community hours)”. It all comes naturally to me.

That said, there are very specific duties and responsibilities required of a phase rep, many of them behind the scenes. 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.

This year should be very encouraging for everyone in our phase. For the first time in many years, and most especially since the pandemic began, everyone in our phase has paid and is staying. During those prior pandemic years of uncertainty and instability, many members moved away or left the garden and it wasn't unusual for me to bring in 10 to 12 new members and/or associates each year so having a zero turnover now is really happy-making!

Of course this year like last year we will have to deal with mountains of weeds growing from our overgenerous friend the rain, but that is a small price to pay for calm and peace, for fragrant air and darting butterflies, for the pleasure of life blooming all around us.

I am running for the Treasurer to serve my community at OVF. I joined the garden community about 2 years ago after waiting close to 7 plus years to become a member, and that sense of waiting made me appreciate the opportunity of being a member and part of OVF community.

After joining the garden, I was blessed to be supervised by dedicated and passionate people to do my community hours. Though a very short time, I saw first hand how dedicated Warren and Ed were. It is unfortunate that we lost such great people, but for those of you who know who these great people were, I am sorry for your and my loss, and the reason I am running is their dedication, their passion and their care about the OVF community.

Thank you,

John Ibrahim

I have had the privilege of serving as Secretary for the OVF Board of Directors for more than 20 years, providing an accessible record of meetings for reference by all members. As a Board member, I take an active part in Board decisions and revisions to our operating documents.

I hope to continue in this capacity for many more years, and would appreciate your support in the April Election for the upcoming term.

Thank you,

R. Rose Sonshine
OVF Recording Secretary

Hi everyone!

I'm running for OVF president. I have the experience, energy, and new ideas to make OVF a better garden for everyone and I hope you'll give me the opportunity to serve as your president.

Experience

Before my recent retirement, I served the public at the Santa Monica Library for twenty years. While at the Library, I started their *Seed Library Exchange Program*. We provided information, resources, and free seeds, and I led and organized workshops and seed swaps for the library patrons. During my tenure, the program grew to over 100 members.

Now that I'm retired, I teach gardening at local preschools and helped found the *Westside SEED Exchange*. Even with these commitments, I still have time and energy to devote to being OVF President.

My background working in the public library system gave me years of experience in diversity training and working with a wide variety of people. That experience, in addition to other administrative positions in corporations, municipal governments, and schools, has left me well qualified to serve as OVF president.

Gardening

Nature and gardening have always intrigued me, and I have been gardening for 30 years. At college, I earned a degree in Environmental Education and Ecosystems. When I joined OVF I knew I had found a new garden home. I have thrown myself into the OVF community—I've done work days and beautification projects, and attended meetings of the board and the membership. I joined the OVF Water Committee and volunteered with the OVF Greenhouse team. I'm presently working on a proposal to install hawk perches, which will encourage those beautiful birds to feast on the rodents we're all tired of!

The Future of OVF

I believe in this garden and have many ideas for how to ensure our future success. My decades of experience working with the public has given me a solid foundation in building consensus and finding cooperative solutions to common problems. The important part of our beloved community garden is the *community*. As president I will restore open, clear, and transparent communications with everyone.

As president, I will listen to you. I will be open to hearing differing views and suggestions for how to manage OVF into the future. I will consider all new and existing projects to better our garden environment, such as the upgrade of our outdated website technology. I will increase the member educational opportunities at OVF. I will commit to transparent, on-time annual budget discussions with input from all members. And finally, I will maintain cordial and strong relationships with the LA Department of Rec and Parks, Little League, and our GrandView neighbors

It has been wonderful to meet so many of you during my time here at the garden. I love this garden and want the very best for its future.

I am ready to take on the responsibility and opportunity to serve the members and mission of OVF as your president. I will provide leadership as we all cherish the privilege of gardening and being in this beautiful park. I very respectfully and gratefully ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

Shirley Vernale