

OVF

2025 Election Slate

Vice President: Judith Morris

Garden Master: Les Hairrell

Membership Secretary: Lisa Broderick

IP Monitor: Tanya Brokaw

Phase 1 Upper Rep: Dean Cleverdon

Phase 2 Upper Rep: Marie Green

Phase 3 Upper Rep: Ron Fine

Mathew Fontana

Phase 4 Upper Rep: no nominees as of 3/28/25

Candidate Statements

Vice President: Judith Morris

Hello all garden friends and neighbors!

My name is Judith Morris.

Just to let you all know, I will be running for the position of vice president of the OVF board in the upcoming election.

For those of you who don't know me, I wanted to tell you a bit about myself and about my history in the garden.

I have been a member since 1994, at a time when we didn't have enough people to work the plots, so there was no wait list and no wait time.

Subsequently I was assigned 4 plots, one of which I gave up last year. You can find me at upper phase 3, plots E 43,45, and 47.

During my tenure at OVF I have served on the education committee, participating in programs and tours for school children. In addition, I served for a year as independent project monitor.

I have tended the unfenced swath of land along the driveway for approximately 15 years. This included establishing the terraces as well as planting and cultivating drought tolerant plants and shrubs. I recently gave it over to a group of gardeners interested in native plants as it became too much for me to maintain independently at this point in my life.

It has been one of my greatest joys to work the land on this hillside and I would appreciate the opportunity to give back by serving on the board. I hope to provide support for our president as she has taken on an incredible amount of work on our behalf. I also hope to bring my listening skills to the necessary conversation of the board as well as the general membership.

It is a great privilege to be at OVF and to be a part of this community. I will be happy to connect with anyone who would like to meet me. Looking forward to the coming days as we move into spring.

Sincerely,
Judith Morris

Garden Master: Les Hairrell

Hi everyone,

This year, for the first time in thirty years, OVF will elect a new Garden Master. This is the first election since 1995 that there is no incumbent Garden Master running for office. For twenty-nine years, the same person served as the OVF Garden Master, until he passed away last year. Thus, the 2025 election is a substantial transition point for the garden.

I'm running for Garden Master.

In 2019, I joined OVF. In 2020, I was elected Phase Representative for Phase 1 Lower. I was reelected 1L Phase Rep in 2022 and 2024. In November, 2024, the OVF Education Chair stepped down and I was appointed Education Chair.

Here's what I did while I was Phase Rep:

- In 2023 and 2024, organized and ran the Phase 1 Garden Party with other members.
- In 2024 and 2025, organized and ran the Master Gardener Grow LA Class at OVF with other Master Gardeners.
- Gave over 50 orientations to new OVF members and associates.
- Co-taught classes at OVF on seed-starting, drip irrigation, and rodent control.
- During the pandemic, proposed the Covid Sabbatical Program, which provided a way for members to leave the garden during the pandemic and then return when they felt safe.
- Formalized the Garden Angel Program where members cleared vacated plots for new members.

Here's what I've done while I've been Education Chair:

- Reorganized and restarted publication of the OVF Newsletter with the help of other members.
- Organized with other members the first OVF Native Plant Club meeting.
- Organized with other members the first New Member Meet Up.

Outside of OVF, I've pursued my interests in nature, gardening and volunteering. I am a:

- UC Master Gardener (and Westside Geographic MG Lead);
- UC Certified California Naturalist;
- UC Davis Master Beekeeper Program graduate;
- UCLA Landscape Architecture Extension Program graduate;
- UCLA Horticulture Extension Program graduate;
- Sierra Club Wilderness Training Course graduate; and
- Huntington Full Garden Docent.

OVF is at a turning point. We must face the changing environment with new ideas and new energy. If elected Garden Master, I will begin a process of evaluating how OVF functions with the goal of improving OVF for its members and the community. I will seek member input on the issues impacting the garden and themselves. There is so much potential at OVF – we must act to realize it.

Thank you for your time. See you in the garden.

Les Hairrell

Membership Secretary: Lisa Broderick

Hello Gardeners! My name is Lisa Broderick and I am your current Membership Secretary for Ocean View Farms. I have been a member of the garden since 2016 and became the Membership Secretary in April of 2023. The membership secretary receives membership applications to the garden (year round) and enters them into a database and then follows up with the applicant as their name rises on the waiting list, which is a 2-4 year process. An additional task of the Membership Secretary is to send Annual OVF Renewal bills each January to all members who have successfully completed their community service hours for the previous year. I have now been through 2 cycles of the processes. I am putting my name forward to continue the Membership Secretary Task as a board member for the next two years and seek to continue to improve the processes with our connectivity to the garden community. The membership tasks can be challenging and require a sense of how the garden operates and the details that go into assisting members and Phase Reps so that the community can have a place to grow organically. Being the membership secretary in an organic garden is a way of giving back to the community and environment. I am seeking to continue the progress of the Garden as a special and enriching place.

IP Monitor: Tanya Brokaw

Independent Projects give OVF gardeners a chance to care for trees, grow tasty and unique fruit to share with other members, and grow beautiful flowers for us and the pollinators. It is a great joy to help maintain our beautiful OVF trees, and keep them as healthy and productive as possible. I was elected IP monitor in 2021, and your vote will allow me to continue on this journey.

What I have accomplished so far:

Fruit Share: Organized harvests of IP fruit for Fruit Share at General Meetings and under the Pine Tree. This winter OVF had a good harvest of persimmons, pomegranates, oranges, mandarins, and lemons.

IP Wait List : Re-assigned 23 IPs to new IP gardeners.

Tree Care: Provided guidance and assistance with pruning, watering, and fertilizing the trees.

Projects I hope to complete if re-elected: Fruit Share : Build permanent squirrel and vermin proof Fruit Share boxes for members to easily access, at Pine Tree, Meeting Area, and Phase 4 Gate.

IP Map and Signs: Update the IP map online and in OVF office. Provide better signs to identify IPs, and how to contact me regarding IP maintenance or Fruit Share.

Orchard Skills: Create materials such as a Citrus Care sheet to support members to better care for the trees. Bring in the orchard team from the LA Master Gardeners for a tree care workshop.

Phase 1 Upper Rep: Dean Cleverdon

- No statement provided

Phase 2 Upper Rep: Marie Green

I have been a member of the OVF community since 2004. I have also been on the greenhouse crew since its inception in the fall of 2012. Gardening is my solace and pleasure, OVF is my happy place! I have been a phase rep for upper 2 for the last 5 years and I hope to continue working with you and representing you at board meetings for the next 2 years. Since my appointment as phase rep in February 2020, I have welcomed and orientated 27 new gardeners to our phase.

As your phase rep, I promise to keep you informed on the goings on in OVF and help and assist you anyway I can.

On line voting will be held from 9am Sunday, March 30th until midnight Friday, April 11th. There will also be in person voting at the general meeting on Saturday, April 12th at 1:00pm.

see you in the garden,

Marie

Phase 3 Upper Rep: (two candidates)

Ron Fine

I'm Ron Fine, and I've been serving as the Upper Phase 3 Rep and on the Board of OVF since 2008. My goal has always been to ensure the garden runs smoothly and remains an inviting space for everyone. Being part of OVF and getting to know so many wonderful members has truly enriched my life, and I've always prioritized giving back to this community.

In our phase, I've worked to fill any vacant plots quickly, ensure new members feel welcome and understand how the garden operates, and address any member's concerns as swiftly as possible. On the Board, I've focused on maintaining efficiency, discussing concerns, and tackling new issues as they arise. I've continued to work to ensure that OVF is a place of acceptance and tolerance where members can come and enjoy the garden and friends and escape the outside world. I'm committed to helping preserve treasured OVF traditions while embracing necessary growth and change.

If you think I've done a good job as your Phase Rep please take the time to vote for me again for Upper Phase 3 Representative. And, as always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me or call me or come to talk with me in the garden anytime. Thanks,

Ron Fine

Upper Phase 3 Representative ronfineovf@gmail.com

310-871-3966

Mathew Fontana

Hi OVF friends and gardeners!

I'm a candidate to be the new Phase Representative for Phase Three Upper. Please let me take a moment to introduce myself and let you know why I'd like to represent Phase 3U.

I grew up in the Central Valley, among orchards and farms. As a kid, I was in 4-H. As a teenager, I worked summers on my grandfather's farm, driving a tractor, irrigating the fields and pruning the citrus trees. I went to the Otis College of Art and Design, graduating with an MFA. After college, I worked at Warner Brothers before moving to a software company. I met my wife at Warner Brothers, and we started a family. This year, my son is graduating from University of Minnesota with a BA in sustainable horticulture, and has helped me with my OVF. I'm very proud of him.

I first got involved with OVF years ago as an associate but last year finally got my own plot. Since becoming a member, I've tried to help the garden and the gardeners experience the wonderful community at OVF. Many of the jobs at OVF are things I did growing up, so I jumped in to help where I could. I've worked on interesting projects and would like to continue my commitment to OVF as your phase rep.

One Saturday morning I was working composting, turning the piles, and I noticed that the metal posts framing the compost area were not covered, so I went out and collected tennis balls and capped the posts to make it safer for members. I like the idea of a community like OVF where we volunteer to help each other and the garden. I spent many summers pruning trees in my family's citrus orchard, so I've helped prune the fruit trees at OVF. With my background operating farm machinery, I've also been a supervisor on the workday wood chipper.

My favorite work at OVF so far is probably the rebuilding of the manure bins. As part of the gourmet compost group, I helped cut to size the telephone poles in Phase 4, which were then dragged to the manure area, where my son and I helped place them as the new supports around the manure bins. This was a group effort and very rewarding.

But doing the work of maintaining the garden is only one side of what I think it means to be an OVF member – building and maintaining the member community is also very important. So I was happy to get involved recently with the first OVF New Member Meet Up – a social event to encourage and welcome new members and build new friendships and community. I made waffles at the party and had a great time meeting new people.

As phase rep, I would like to organize events for the phase members to meet and connect. While OVF has hundreds of members, it can feel very isolating in your single plot – I would like to create get-togethers where we can meet and talk. Let's have a Phase 3 party!

Thank you for your consideration. If elected, I will try very hard to help all the members get the most from their garden and from the wonderful OVF community.

With gratitude and respect,
Matthew
Candidate for Phase Rep 3U

Phase 4 Upper Rep: no nominees as of 3/28/25

At the April 12 General Meeting, before in-person voting commences, additional candidates who are present at the meeting may be nominated for any office from the floor. These candidates will not be included on the pre-printed paper ballots, but their names may be written in to receive votes.

~End of Document~