

LOS ALTOS • LOS ALTOS HILLS • MOUNTAIN VIEW

# Home & Garden

A LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER PUBLICATION • SPRING 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

## LAWN GONE

Revitalizing  
the garden  
with native plants

## WASTE NOT

How to achieve sustainability through organizing

## SAFE HAVEN

Native plants protect pollinators

## TIMELESS VINTAGE

Finding pieces that fit your style and budget



# A Brand Like No Other

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
— SERENO —

Sereno has joined Christie's International Real Estate, the world's premier luxury real estate brand. The company will now be known as **Christie's International Real Estate Sereno**, and our clients will begin to enjoy a number of unique benefits, including:



Access to a global luxury network of more than 100 affiliate firms in nearly 50 countries and territories

Maximum exposure for luxury listings through exclusive advertising partnerships, as well as international PR and social media campaigns



Enhanced luxury marketing materials and online exposure

Special access to auction, private sale and appraisal services through Christie's the world-leading art and luxury business



While our name may have changed, the guiding principles that have made us the No. 1 independent real estate firm in Northern California have not: local, hands-on ownership; unmatched market knowledge; a culture of service; and most of all our commitment to our clients and communities.

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE  
— SERENO —







CLEAN POWER FROM THE SUN™



Make your own energy from the sun and save!

At Cobalt Power Systems, we take pride in delivering the best customer experience in the industry. We have installed over 2,800 quality solar systems throughout Silicon Valley, and are getting new referrals from our customers every day.

Thinking about energy storage? We have installed over 300 residential battery backup systems all over the Bay Area. There are currently great rebates and tax credits available from the Federal government and State of CA.

Let us know when we can visit your home and show you how much you can save by going solar.

Contact Cobalt Power Systems for more info:

Cobalt Power Systems, Inc. cobaltpower.com  
2557 Wyandotte Street 650-938-9574  
Mountain View, CA

CA Contractors Lic. #820697





## TABLE OF CONTENTS



### 5 WASTE NOT

How to achieve sustainability through organizing



### 8 LAWN GONE

Revitalizing the garden with native plants



### 14 SAFE HAVEN

Native plants protect pollinators



### 21 TIMELESS VINTAGE

Finding pieces that fit your style and budget

#### EDITOR

Bruce Barton

#### MAGAZINE EDITOR

Jennah Pendleton

#### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Michel Y. Echeverría

#### WRITERS

Lyn Rogers  
Jennah Pendleton  
Tanya Kucak  
Celeste Randolph

#### COPY EDITORS

Mary Larsen  
Colleen Schick

#### MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING SALES

Janice Fabella  
Kathy Lera  
Alo Mano

#### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Melissa Rodriguez

#### PRODUCTION STAFF

Michel Y. Echeverría

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CO-PUBLISHER

Dennis Young

#### CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, CO-PUBLISHER

Howard Bischoff

#### CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, CO-PUBLISHER

Kathy Lera

Circulation: 16,000. Mailed directly to households in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and select areas of Mountain View.

Hundreds of subscribers receive the Town Crier in neighboring communities as well as out of state. The Town Crier can be purchased at newsstands in Los Altos, Mountain View and Palo Alto.

#### ON THE COVER:

A dark-eyed junco enjoys the native plants in a local drought-resistant landscape.

PHOTO BY SHELLY BOWERS



# WASTE NOT

## HOW TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ORGANIZING

BY LYN ROGERS  
SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Organizing isn't just about having your shelves and cupboards looking "Pinterest perfect," it's also about sustainability, minimizing and recycling.

So many factors go into each of these three main components. At the end of April, we celebrate Earth Day. Organizing goes hand-in-hand with making the world a better place now and for future generations.

First, think about sustainability and ask yourself: Do I have the correct systems in place to consistently stay organized? Am I aware of what I own and in what quantities? Are

my belongings easy to see and keep track of, or are they hidden away and forgotten? Do I keep rebuying the same items because I have no idea if I already own them?

When you own more than you actually need, it creates waste. At some point, you will have to throw out expired foods and medications, products that have decomposed or become unusable and scented products that now have a very unpleasant odor. Not everything can be composted or recycled – much of what we throw out ends up in a landfill, most likely for many years.

When we have sustainable organizing systems in place, there is little to no waste. We know exactly what we own, where it's located and only own what we will actually use on a regular basis. If someone were to go to our cupboards looking for a particular ingredient, for example, they would find an unexpired can, box or bottle of what they need, not 12 of the same product in various stages of quality.

Minimalizing is very powerful and empowering. It can literally change your life and your world. It doesn't mean that you have to become a minimalist. You don't have to have a spartan wardrobe, starve yourself or walk everywhere. It does mean that you are mindful of what you buy and why. ➤



REUSE, RECYCLE, REGIFT

Consider your purchases this week: Were they for absolute necessities or retail therapy?

Retail therapy means you are shopping because you may feel lonely, bored or filling something else in your life that may be missing. It's very common and not impossible to overcome. When we buy more than we can actually use on a regular basis, it becomes waste.

Spend this week shopping from your closet and wearing different outfits every day until you have worn everything (except maybe that outfit from the wedding that the bride insisted you wear and you're holding on to it because she might ask about it. Trust me, she won't).

Try creating new dishes from what you have in your pantry and fridge. Use up before you shop for more.

I love recycling. It makes me feel good to know that I am helping the world become healthier by doing the following: limiting the garbage



I throw out, shopping at thrift stores (giving items a second, third or more life), donating what I can so it can be reused many times over and, finally, recycling the few items I can't regift.

I imagine cardboard food packages becoming books for kids, plastic becoming park benches, rags being turned into tote bags.

Being completely organized changes how you live, shop and think. It affects you physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. It may seem hard to start, but it's so worth it in the end. 🌸

*Los Altos resident Lyn Rogers, a professional organizer, is owner and CEO of Lyn At Your Service. For more information, visit [LynAtYourService.com](https://lynatyourservice.com).*

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 80 YEARS



**Bruce Bauer**  
**LUMBER & SUPPLY**

E V E R Y T H I N G T O

**BUILD**

A N Y T H I N G

LUMBER   SHEET GOODS   HARDWARE   TOOLS   WINDOWS   DOORS  
SKYLIGHTS   ATTIC FANS   MOULDING   DECKING   CUSTOM GATES  
**AND MORE**

[brucebauer.com](https://brucebauer.com)

650-948-1089

134 San Antonio Circle Mountain View

## STAR ONE HOME LOAN SOLUTIONS



*Welcome Home*

Whether you want to achieve your goal of home ownership or put your house to work for you, **Star One can help.**

- Various flexible loan terms, fixed and adjustable rates
- First-time homebuyer programs
- Fast approvals and quick closings on purchases
- Jumbo loans up to \$5 million
- Excellent rates on Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit

EASY ONLINE APPLICATION @  
**[www.starone.org](http://www.starone.org)**



(408) 543-5202  
Toll free (866) 543-5202





# Lawn Gone

## Revitalizing the garden with native plants

BY JENNAH PENDLETON  
STAFF WRITER | JENNAHP@LATC.COM

Over the past century, the front lawn has become an American home staple, with millions of homeowners striving to maintain the perfect, green, grassy landscape that will impress neighbors.

The decorative lawn as we know it has Victorian aristocratic origins – once upon a time, the lawn was a symbol of opulence, as only very rich homeowners could afford to maintain one. By the mid-20th century, the lawn became associated with the idyllic suburb, the white picket fence and the American dream.

The American obsession with lawns is real. In 2005, a NASA satellite study found that grass lawns took up 49,000 square miles of the U.S. – roughly the size of the country of Greece.

Despite their popularity, lawns have huge fiscal and environmental costs, with not enough utility to make up for it. Lawns are the most irrigated crop in the U.S., and lawn care requires the use of up to 80 million pounds of pesticides and 90 million pounds of fertilizer per year.

That's why efforts to get rid of lawns in favor of landscaping that features native plants are expanding, especially in California. GreenTown Los Altos is among the organizations encouraging residents to plant California natives that will ultimately use less water and promote needed biodiversity.

There are several benefits to planting natives in the garden. Plants native to California tend to be both drought-tolerant and fire-resistant,



Los Altos homeowner Susan Moss removed her front lawn and relandscaped with native plants that are adored by birds like dark-eyed juncos. PHOTO BY SHELLY BOWERS



meaning they can survive with very little water once they have matured, assuring that the yard stays beautiful and hospitable as an ecosystem throughout dry periods.

By replacing some or all of a lawn, a homeowner will be conserving water, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating the need for gas mowers and reducing the consumption of pesticides.

In addition to the aesthetic and environmental benefits, Cal Water offers a rebate of \$3 per square foot of replaced landscape.

Of course, grass lawns hold social value, as many families use their yards to play sports and host gatherings. Grass also serves a vital role in keeping urban temperatures down. GreenTown recommends relandscaping with native plants rather than other popular alternatives like a rock garden, because rock gardens can trap heat and drive temperatures higher.

However, the goal of the effort is not to get everyone to totally replace



GreenTown volunteers, at left and above, work to ready the newly revitalized Woodland Branch Library garden for its unveiling at the end of the Lawn-Be-Gone Bike Ride April 9. PHOTOS BY SHELLY BOWERS

their lawns, GreenTown board member Glenda Chang said, but to teach people about the options they have to incorporate attractive plants that are both drought- and fire-resistant.

### DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

Among GreenTown’s major projects was the recent revitalization of the garden in front of the Woodland Branch Library in Los Altos. A local Girl Scout planted a demonstration garden in 2017, but many of the plants did not survive due to a lack of upkeep during the pandemic and problems with ➤

The logo for Ladera Garden and Gifts features a white, stylized tree with many branches against a black background. Below the tree, the text "Ladera Garden and Gifts" is written in a white, serif font, with "Ladera" on the first line, "Garden" on the second, "and" on the third, and "Gifts" on the fourth.

# Get your garden ready for Spring!

VISIT US FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING NEEDS

A small, ornate decorative flourish or scrollwork element.

Full Service Nursery, Florist and  
Premiere Home Décor.

Come and see us at our two locations  
in Portola Valley & Belmont!

**PORTOLA VALLEY**  
3130 ALPINE ROAD • 650.854.3850

**BELMONT**  
2029 RALSTON AVENUE • 650.232.7154



Susan Moss' Los Altos home was used as a picturesque stop on the GreenTown Lawn-Be-Gone Bike Ride.  
PHOTO BY SHELLY BOWERS

the original irrigation system. The garden was due for an enhancement, and Chang saw it as a learning opportunity.

“Some things survived, others didn’t,” she said. “Now we know what works.”

GreenTown brought in drought-garden expert Nikki Hanson of California Sisters Landscapes to direct the reconstruction of the garden, from revamping the irrigation system to designing an intuitive and appealing layout for the new plants.

Hanson said the methods they used to revitalize the garden can be used to plant drought-resistant native plants at home as well. In fact, the ultimate goal of the garden is to teach people about local flora and how to care for them. The garden was fully unveiled in early April as the final stop on GreenTown’s Lawn-Be-Gone Bike Ride, a tour of Los Altos homes that replaced their

lawns with native plants.

According to Hanson, creating a drought-resistant landscape is not as difficult – or as expensive – as it sounds.

Hanson and GreenTown volunteers began the process of replanting at Woodland by placing cardboard over the soil to smother weeds and then adding a layer of compost. Eventually, the cardboard will break down and add to the soil. They then spread a woodchip mulch that helps the soil retain moisture and nutrients. Next, they created do-it-yourself cages out of chicken wire, which they placed in the ground before the plants to protect the roots from gophers.

The revival of the Woodland garden has been a community-driven effort, with volunteers turning out every weekend to help relandscape. The renovated garden serves as an education tool, with signage displaying QR codes people can scan to learn more about each plant and how to care for it. ➤





**EXPERT TREE CARE  
NATURALLY**

**Specializing in  
All Phases of  
Professional Tree Care**

- Trimming & Pruning,
- Tree Removals,
- Crown Reduction,
- End Weight Pruning,
- Spraying & Feeding

**Stump Grinding & Removal**

**PREVENT DISASTERS!**

Call for an evaluation to determine if any hazards or diseases are present in your trees.

**SAME  
DAY &  
24 HOUR  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICE**

**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR  
FREE ESTIMATE / EVALUATION**  
**650.477.8995 • 408.898.2199**  
**www.naturalarborcare.com**  
FULLY LICENSED • BONDED & INSURED • LIC. #714671

MENTION THIS AD FOR  
**10% OFF**  
New clients only. Valid when presented at time of estimate.  
Not valid with other offers.  
**Expires 08-01-22**



# Attic and Crawl Space Cleaning Services



# AtticPros

CLEAN • INSULATE • PROTECT

*Call or text for a complimentary inspection*

# 408-547-9923

**95% of attics have these problems**



RODENTS AND THEIR WASTE

MOLD

BAD ODORS

## Services Include:

- Insulation removal and replacement
- Attic clean up
- Attic ladders and fans install
- Attic radiant barrier
- Rodent proofing
- Sanitation
- Air duct repair and replacement
- Air duct cleaning
- Crawl space insulation
- Crawl space moisture barrier
- Crawl space cleaning
- Sump pump installation
- Crawl space dehumidifiers
- French drain, waterproofing

# \$199 OFF

## ATTIC CLEAN-UP SPECIAL

Attic subject to inspection. Price per single attic space. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 06-30-22

**\$50 OFF**  
Seniors,  
Veterans &  
expectant  
Moms

– **BOOK A FREE ESTIMATE ONLINE** –

**[www.atticprosinc.com](http://www.atticprosinc.com)**

Licensed • Lic #1022608



DOING IT YOURSELF

Following are a few tips from GreenTown’s Woodland garden overhaul that can be implemented when planting and maintaining a garden at home.

- Many of the materials needed for the process are cheap or free. Los Altos residents can obtain up to 150 pounds of compost at no charge on Compost Days throughout the year. The next Compost Day is scheduled June 4 at the Los Altos Maintenance Service Center.
- Reuse the cardboard from broken-down shipping boxes or gather some from a big-box store like Costco.
- Instead of purchasing pre-made gopher cages, buy a roll of chicken wire to make them yourself.
- When choosing plants, consider not only which plants are native to California, but also those that are well-suited to your garden’s landscape. Some low-maintenance plants in the Woodland garden include sunset manzanita, California buckwheat, deergrass and California poppies.🌻

*For more information,  
visit [greentownlosaltos.org](http://greentownlosaltos.org).*



California native plants naturally tend to be both drought and fire-resistant — in addition to being gorgeous additions to your garden. PHOTO S BY SHELLY BOWERS



SHOP  
DINE  
PLAY  
+ MORE

Since the 1950s, Rancho Shopping Center has offered a wide selection of restaurants and shops to the Los Altos community.

**Rancho** SHOPPING CENTER

Large Enough To Serve You...Small Enough To Know You!

Foothill Expressway at Magdalena | Los Altos | [VisitRancho.com](http://VisitRancho.com)



sereno

# YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS!

We are here to help you fulfill your  
real estate dreams.

Whether buying or selling a home,  
we will guide you every step of the  
way.



**ALICE & ALICIA NUZZO**  
Loyalty • Integrity • Local knowledge

650.947.2902  
TeamNuzzo.com  
anuzzo@sereno.com  
DRE 70059392

THE  
*Nuzzo*  
TEAM

# Safe Haven



## Native plants protect pollinators

BY TANYA KUCAK  
SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

**S**ome standard gardening practices don't help the pollinators you're trying to attract.

In a talk titled "Bring on the Pollinators," Suzanne Bontempo of Our Water Our World suggests being aware of the following things as you make your garden more welcoming to pollinators and other beneficial wildlife. ➤

### GRIMES NATURAL LANDSCAPE

~ Serving Los Altos Hills, CA & Beyond Since 1949~

**RENOVATE YOUR YARD TO A FAMILY FUN ZONE**



LIC# 1073046



Design Services • Hardscape • Softscape • Pool • Spas • Ponds • Waterfalls  
Outdoor Kitchens • Carpentry • Irrigation • LV Lighting • Planting Schemes  
Fire Features • Water Management • Bobcat • Underground • Special Services

**650.948.6326**

Visit our website at [grimesnaturallandscape.com](http://grimesnaturallandscape.com) to see more.



# IMAGINE.

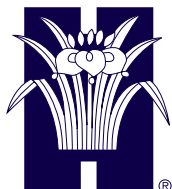


Appliances that  
look as good as  
they work.

Material choices  
so sleek they beg  
for attention.

A sink so sexy  
you'll want to  
wash dishes.

At Harrell Remodeling,  
we never forget it's your  
home®. That's why we  
work to combine your  
imagination with our  
expertise to unleash  
endless possibilities.



**Harrell Remodeling, Inc.**  
Design+Build

**For a deeper look into the customization  
of this modern kitchen, visit [Harrell-Remodeling.com/Imagine](https://www.harrell-remodeling.com/Imagine)**

Award-winning home remodeling and design + build since 1985.

Woman founded. Employee-Owned.

License No. B479799 650.230.2900

# MAKE YOUR HOME HAZARD FREE, INSIDE AND OUT

*Come learn from the experts*

**April 30, 2022**  
**10:00 am–1:00 pm**

**Los Altos Hills Town Hall**  
**26379 Fremont Road**  
**Los Altos Hills**

- Bring the whole family
- More than 15 local vendors
- Meet local firefighters, police officers, and emergency volunteer groups!

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

### 10:00 am—New Wildfire Insurance Legislation

Learn about new legislation and wildfire mitigation measures

- Peter Meza, Associate Insurance Compliance Officer Community Relations & Outreach Branch California Department of Insurance



### 12:30 pm—Reduce Dangerous Indoor Emissions

Learn changes you can make in your home to reduce indoor emissions and fossil fuel use

- Dr. Rob Jackson, Stanford University Professor and Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment & Precourt Institute for Energy



## AND MORE

**Shakeout trailer:** Ride out a magnitude 8 earthquake in the Big Shaker, an earthquake simulator inside a 24' trailer.

**Goats:** Come meet a goat and learn how they help reduce hazardous vegetation.

**Fire Safety:** Learn how to put out a small fire with extinguisher.



Hosted by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and the Town of Los Altos Hills  
Visit [www.lahcfd.org](http://www.lahcfd.org) for more information or call (650) 949-1044.

- **Maintain your garden with a light hand.** Let berries develop and let flowers go to seed for the birds, for example, and leave clematis fluff for birds to use as nesting material.

“Take a pause at the end of the season ... (during cleanup) so the garden ecology can benefit,” Bontempo said.

- **Keep some areas uncultivated and free of mulch to accommodate ground-nesting pollinators and beneficial insects.**

Approximately 70% of solitary native bee species need bare ground to build their nests.

- **Use rakes instead of leaf blowers.** Leaf blowers are detrimental to soil life and overwintering beneficial insects, and should never be used in planted areas.



The lowest-growing native buckwheats have the most intense colors. This red-flowered buckwheat grows 1-2 feet high and can spread up to 3-4 feet wide.

PHOTO BY TANYA KUCAK

- **Prune mindfully.**

Consider whether you are removing resources that pollinators use, or disturbing their life cycles.

- **Offer safe and secure places for butterflies to pupate.** For instance, let leaves accumulate under trees or shrubs, and check patio furniture for pupae before storing it away. ➤



DESIGN  
FABRICATE  
INSTALL

COUNTERTOPS  
& TILE  
CONTRACTORS



- Residential & Commercial
- Kitchen countertops and backsplashes
- Bathrooms showers stone and tile
- ADU Kitchens & Bathrooms
- BBQ outdoor stone and tile
- Fireplaces



NEW CONSTRUCTION | TENANT IMPROVEMENTS  
RESIDENTIAL REMODELS

[www.subias-granite.com](http://www.subias-granite.com) | 408-413-9080



# LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

CREATE A WELL DESIGNED SPACE AND CHANGE  
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUTDOOR LIVING.



MOUNTAIN VIEW SHOWROOM | 1064 W. EL CAMINO REAL  
TERRAOUTDOOR.COM 888.449.8325 NATIONWIDE SHIPPING

# WATER SYSTEM DESIGN



[dbladesign.com](http://dbladesign.com)  
 831.291.5253



## RAINWATER

- + CATCH & STORE ROOF RUNOFF
- + USE FOR TOILET FLUSHING, ETC.
- + USE FOR LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION



## GREYWATER

- + HARVEST & REUSE WATER FROM SHOWERS, BATHS, LAUNDRY, SINKS
- + USE FOR DRIP IRRIGATION

## > PROJECT-SPECIFIC

- + DESIGNED FOR YOUR SITE & NEEDS
- + STORAGE & AUTOMATION OPTIONS
- + ACHIEVE BUILDING PERMITS


DAKOTAH BERTSCH, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT LA-6218

- **Ignore or tolerate leaf damage.** Butterflies and moths lay eggs that turn into caterpillars, and “the No. 1 job of caterpillars is to eat,” Bontempo said. “Plants will recover,” she added, from munched leaves.
- **Monitor for pest problems and address the cause rather than reaching for a pesticide.** Identify insects, find ways to make your garden healthier and more resilient, and learn about integrated pest management.
 

“Pesticides are overkill,” Bontempo said.
- **Buy plants that have not been treated with neonicotinoids, and avoid using neonicotinoids at all costs.** They are “way more problematic than we once knew,” according to Bontempo, and are “a major factor in pollinator decline.” Neonics are absorbed into all parts of a plant and can travel from the root system through the soil to other plants, she noted.



Valley Violet ceanothus is one of the tough, reliable, drought-tolerant Arboretum All-Stars that does well in gardens. These “habitat heroes” bloom in spring. Mounding 3-4 feet high and wide, this shrub is a manageable size for small gardens. PHOTO BY TANYA KUCAK



## A&D Builders

- General Engineering & Construction
- Design & Blue Prints
- Permit Procurement
- General Construction
- Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Room additions & Remodels
- New Construction
- Lic #884681

408.868.0101

[www.andbuilders.com](http://www.andbuilders.com)  
[info@andbuilders.com](mailto:info@andbuilders.com)



## Cyprex Construction Landscapes

### Landscape Architecture, Design & Construction

- Drainage • Grading
- Soil Preparation • Patios
- Pavers • Concrete
- Stone • Low Voltage Lighting
- Retaining walls • Planting
- Interlocking walls • Decks
- Drip irrigation • Arbors
- WELO compliance
- Lic. #701749

408.971.4274

[www.ecyprex.com](http://www.ecyprex.com)  
[info@ecyprex.com](mailto:info@ecyprex.com)



HABITAT HEROES

For a healthy garden, “variety and diversity is key,” Bontempo said. Native plants provide more nutrient-rich food for pollinators than non-natives. Different shapes, sizes and colors of flowers will attract the widest range of pollinators.

- Flat arrangements of many flowers, such as California aster or seaside daisy, attract butterflies because they need to land before feeding.
- Clusters of tiny flowers, such as yarrow, ceanothus or native buckwheats, attract tiny native bees and beneficial wasps.
- Tubular flowers in all sizes, such as native sages, lupines, columbines or hummingbird fuchsia, attract hummingbirds.
- White flowers such as soap plant attract night-flying pollinators.
- Host plants attract butterflies to lay eggs, such as native milkweeds for monarch butterflies; lupines or mallows for West Coast lady butterflies; or yampah for anise swallowtail. ➤



Santa Cruz Island buckwheat blooms in the summer, then the flowers fade from cream to rust in the fall and remain neat-looking for a long time. Native buckwheats are “habitat heroes” that can fit into any garden. PHOTO BY TANYA KUČAK

**Serving  
Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties**  
*Here for our local community, no matter what, since 1981*

**PAZMANY BROS.**  
**LANDSCAPING**  
**650-941-8596**  
**www.PazmanyBros.com**

**Complete Property Maintenance &  
Yard Installation**

- Landscape Design & Installation
- Irrigation Installation & Repairs
  - Yard Demolition
- Curbing & Hardscape Services

**All Inquiries Responded Within 48 Hours**  
**Lic. #992858**

1505 Byron St., Palo Alto



Charming 4-bed + office, 2-bath beauty with ADU  
Offered at \$4,200,000 | Sold for \$4,730,000

1746 Selig Ln., Los Altos



Beautifully remodeled 4-bed, 3-bath Monterey Colonial  
Offered at \$3,495,000 | Sold for \$3,975,000

20 Madison Ave. #314, San Mateo



Bright 2-bed, 2-bath townhome in a stunning complex  
Offered at \$1,000,000 | Sold for \$1,122,000

18549 Bucknall Rd., Saratoga



Remodeled 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home in prime Saratoga  
Offered at \$2,400,000 | Sold for \$2,295,000

**Gretchen’s Recent Successful Sellers**

**Let Gretchen Put Her Industry Expertise to Work for You! Call her today!**

**Gretchen had the pleasure of representing the buyers of these lovely homes:**

10650 Magdalena Road, Los Altos Hills | 610 Magdalena Road, Los Altos Hills | 8 Kentfield Court, Redwood City

**Gretchen Swall**

650.810.5678 DRE# 01890796  
gretchen.swall@compass.com

**COMPASS**



# STERLING CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY



Reduce, Reuse & Redecorate  
**REUPHOLSTERY RECYCLES!**

**\$92<sup>50</sup>** **LABOR SPECIAL**  
Total Price For Labor On  
Standard Couch or Chair

Plus the cost of any fabric you select from our complete line of fabrics. Labor price of \$92.50 includes frame, spring and webbing repair. Additional charge for cushion filler, tufting and channeling. Customer supplied fabric charged at standard labor rate of \$70 per yard.

**650.961.8700**

1243 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View

**SterlingCustomUpholstery.com**

If you can plant only one plant for pollinators, consider a “habitat hero,” Bontempo advised. The following habitat heroes “attract a significant amount and variety of important wildlife, including pollinators and other beneficial insects,” she said.

- Native buckwheats are “gorgeous,” Bontempo said, and one of her “most favorites.”
- Manzanitas.
- Native oaks are large but incredibly important, and she said not to worry when you see oak moths decimating the leaves because it’s actually food for birds; and that oaks can “live through a little bit of damage (because) all these plants have adapted to the wildlife stresses they are in partnership with.”
- Ceanothus.
- Native sages.
- Any culinary herbs that go to flower. (Bontempo said she always lets her cilantro flower “because the pollinators love it.”) 🌸



The tiny fragrant flowers of ceanothus shrubs attract a wide variety of pollinators and other beneficial insects.

PHOTO BY TANYA KUCAK

*Tanya Kucak gardens organically.*

*Email her at [tanya.garden@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.garden@gmail.com).*

*Compass congratulates Lynn North on being  
featured in the 2021 Real Trends List of America's  
Best Real Estate Professionals!*

**Lynn North**

I am personally committed to  
your success in **selling or finding**  
**your dream home.**

Honored to serve  
the communities of  
**Los Altos**  
**Mountain View**  
**Sunnyvale**  
**Cupertino**

I draw upon my wealth of  
experience – *from concierge-level  
service to assisting families cope  
with the challenges of change* –  
to better aid my clients as they  
embrace new lifestyles.

There are more active buyers, as our guidelines  
are opening up with pent up demand and little  
inventory.

This is the ideal time to sell or find the right home!

**Let me help you with your real estate needs.**

**COMPASS**



**650.703.6437**

**[lnorth@compass.com](mailto:lnorth@compass.com)**  
**[www.LynnNorth.com](http://www.LynnNorth.com)**

DRE 01490039





INTERIOR  
DESIGN

TIMELESS VINTAGE  
FINDING PIECES THAT FIT  
YOUR STYLE AND BUDGET

BY CELESTE RANDOLPH  
SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Finding beautiful vintage pieces can feel a lot like a treasure hunt. For some, this is part of the joy of antique furniture shopping; for others, it can sound exhausting.

Adding gorgeous vintage pieces to your home is easier now than it has ever been.

Instead of spending your weekends scouring estate sales and garage sales looking for that perfect Milo Baughman or Eames chair, curated vintage websites and even local stores do the work for you. ➤

SHERRY SCOTT  
DESIGN

INDOOR KITCHENS   OUTDOOR KITCHENS   BATHROOMS  
LAUNDRY ROOMS   MEDIA WALLS   CLOSETS   APPLIANCES   LIGHTING



Almost endless options to  
elevate your  
modern home and lifestyle

Serving the SF Peninsula Region | 169 Main Street, Los Altos, California | 650.946.2094 | sherryscottdesign.com

IDENTIFY YOUR STYLE

It can feel intimidating to figure out what sorts of pieces fit your sense of style. The labels can be confusing: What's the difference between Art Deco, Mid-Century Modern, '70s boho and '80s retro?

Begin by searching for inspiration. Snap pictures of furniture and decor you love in your favorite restaurants and friends' homes. Notice when a piece of art or floral arrangement catches your attention. Flipping through a magazine or scrolling through Pinterest or Etsy can help you narrow down your style and find what resonates with you.

Your home and surroundings themselves can serve as a wonderful source of inspiration. Original details in your home – crown molding, built-in shelves and architectural or structural elements, including when the home was built – can lead you to vintage pieces that reflect the details. I love preserving the character and quirks of historical homes and complementing those elements with furniture and decor.

If you're not sure where to start, begin by playing with colors and textures. Incorporate subtle suggestions of burnt orange, moss green and warm neutrals. Wander your local flea market to see what catches your eye. Let your intuition guide you to pieces you love.

LET THE EXPERTS DO THE WORK FOR YOU

Websites such as Chairish and 1stDibs curate vintage and retro furniture and decor that can be shipped to your doorstep. Companies such as West Elm, CB2 and Article offer updated, brand-new options of retro styles.

After doing some research, I found a set of antique Chippendale chairs at an online vintage store. I love the juxtaposition of these retro finds with more modern pieces in my home.

An interior designer can help with actually finding the right piece. I love finding a real treasure that's authentic vintage, because it's often one-of-a-kind. Vintage pieces feel cool and original in all kinds of spaces, whether modern or more traditional.

SHOP LOCAL

If you're willing to do some digging, you'll find great deals at local thrift stores and yard sales. Facebook Marketplace and OfferUp allow you to look for more specific items available for pickup and delivery from others in your area.

I recently found a set of antique, 1930s silver and crystal andirons on 1stDibs for a client's fireplace. They're elegant and classic against the limestone surrounding the hearth.

OLD BECOMES NEW AGAIN

There are many ways to breathe new life into vintage pieces. I love overdyed rugs because the process takes the original rug's pattern and style and gives it a beautifully distressed look.

Reupholstering a chair, or adding a velvet tie cushion to an original wood or cane chair, both updates the piece and injects your own style into it.

Set vintage pieces against contemporary lines for a fun contrast. This interplay of elements emphasizes the character of each piece.

Vintage, antique and retro pieces need not feel stuffy or untouchable. These objects are meant to be part of the fabric of everyday life in your home, as they were for their previous owners. Each has its own story, which adds richness and texture to your space when combined with the elements that make your home uniquely yours. 🌟

*Celeste Randolph is an interior designer in Los Altos.  
For more information, visit celesterandolphdesigns.com.*



LIST OF ADVERTISERS

- A&D Builders 18
- Alice & Alicia Nuzzo | Christie's International Real Estate Sereno 13
- Attic Pros 11
- Bruce Bauer Lumber & Supply 6
- Christie's International Real Estate Sereno 2

- Cobalt Power Systems Inc. 3
- Cyprex Construction 18
- Dakotah Bertsch Landscape Architects 18
- Gretchen Swall | Compass 19
- Grimes Natural Landscape Inc. 14
- Harrell Remodeling 15
- Ladera Garden and Gifts 9
- Los Altos Hills County Fire District 16
- Lynn North | Compass 20

- Natural Arbor Care 10
- Pazmany Bros. Landscaping 19
- Rancho Merchants 12
- Rebarts Interiors 23
- Sherry Scott Design 21
- Star One Credit Union 7
- Sterling Custom Upholstery 20
- Subia's Granite and Marble 16
- Terra Outdoor Living 17
- The Welsh Group | Compass 24



Window fashions to match every design personality.

HunterDouglas 



From traditional to contemporary, Hunter Douglas window fashions enhance the beauty of any décor. Contact us to explore the wide variety of fabrics, textures, styles and colors for your home. Whatever you select, your rooms are sure to be inviting for years to come.

Ask us about:

- Complementary Design Consultation and Estimate
- Powerview Motorization and Home Automation
- Blinds, Shades, Shutters, Roman Shades and Draperies
- Special Savings on select Hunter Douglas Operating Systems
- The Hunter Douglas Lifetime Warranty



**Rebarts Interiors LLC**

LOS ALTOS  
253 State Street  
MENLO PARK  
865 Santa Cruz Avenue  
SAN CARLOS  
990 Industrial Road #106  
BURLINGAME  
1227 Burlingame Avenue

**650.249.6199**  
**rebarts.com**



HunterDouglas  Gallery



# COMPASS

**Denise Welsh**  
Broker Associate  
DRE# 00939903  
415.999.0727



**Jack Welsh**  
Realtor, MBA  
DRE# 02099304  
650.823.3180

**We know Los Altos Real Estate!**

**Check out our Los Altos website for up-to-date market reports for your neighborhood.**

**Call us for a complimentary analysis of your property!**



**There is nothing quite like springtime in Los Altos!**

**FARMERS MARKET: Begins April 21st and open every Thursday 4-8 pm**

**KIWANIS PET PARADE: May 14th**

**DOWNTOWN BUBBLY STROLL: May 20th**