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# LEAF

## June 2020 Newsletter

### Letter from the President



Are you planting a tomato or two for the first time? Expanding your veggie garden? If so, you're not alone. LEAF's seedlings sold like hotcakes (sorry, all gone).

By growing your own food, assuming you're avoiding toxic chemicals, you are having a positive environmental impact. All those miles on a gas-guzzling 18 wheeler - poof! You're just walking out to your garden. Tomatoes processed into cans and bottles? You're making your own sauce these days.

The evils of monoculture are many, including surprisingly low productivity - despite expensive input. Studies have shown that home gardeners can produce four to eleven times more produce (by weight) than a farmer. Why? Because we can tuck in a basil here, some thyme there, thus plantly more densely. This variety attracts more beneficial insects, resulting in fewer pests. More bees and butterflies! Check. More worms and soil life! Check. Cleaner air and more healthy food. Check, check, check. Pat yourself on the back, dear Environmentalist.

By the way, did you know LEAF's website now has a blog? We've been posting frequently since shelter-in-place went into effect. Here are some of the latest topics:

- [Don't throw it; Grow it!](#)
- [Grow one serving of greens per day in your home](#)
- [Recipe: Beet, radish and onion greens](#)
- [The Finer Points of Slug Hunting](#)
- [Victory Gardens](#)

Please do leave a comment - our contributors would love to hear from you! And if you're interested in contributing, contact our [Blog Editor](#), Glenda Chui.

Finally, I'd like to give a big shout-out to LEAF volunteers, staff and board members, who've taken on the huge challenge of keeping LEAF operational by inventing new strategies during the pandemic. Thanks to them, LEAF is not just surviving, but thriving.

Be well and happy gardening!

Mia Mora

LEAF News



### Western Digital & SVCF partner to award LEAF \$10,000

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation joins Western Digital in this grant award. We've just received news that they're making this funding unrestricted, due to COVID challenges. This means we can spend funds on core operational expenses - vital at a time when some of our funding sources (like classes) have dried up, due to COVID.

Western Digital has two local facilities - one in Fremont on Osgood and another in San Jose. Their employees are looking forward to volunteering when LEAF resumes work parties. This is their second grant award to LEAF. We're thrilled by their ongoing support. Thank you, Western Digital and SVCF!

# THANK YOU



Funded in part by



East Bay Community Energy awards LEAF \$5,000 grant

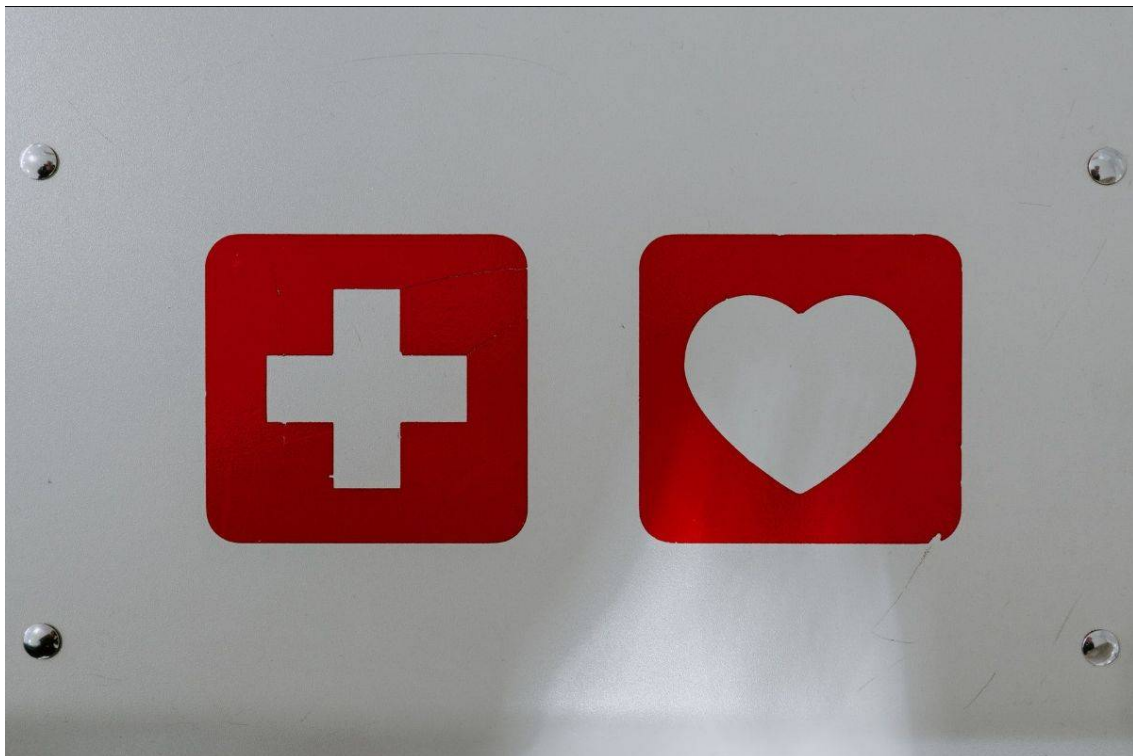
LEAF is happy to announce that we've been awarded \$5,000 from East Bay Community Energy, our local electricity supplier, in partnership with Clearway Energy. We are committed to responding to community needs at this time. Thank you for your support, EBCE and Clearway Energy!

EBCE is providing funds to support the COVID-19 health crisis by helping us to scale up production in our food gardens, providing gardening supplies, supporting operational funds such as utilities and water, and assisting education programs for community members.



LEAF is growing!

Know of anyone with marketing experience, interested in joining the LEAF Team as a part-time marketing/media manager? They'll be able to work from home. Check out the posting at [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com).



Health Advisory

LEAF members & volunteers:

In light of the recent heat wave on top of the pandemic, the Board wants to ensure the health and safety of all who visit our gardens, whether as you are volunteering or tending to your planter bed. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the local health officials regarding social distancing norms, including wearing face masks. Hand sanitizer may be available at some LEAF sites. Just to be sure, you may also want to bring your own, if possible.

Finally, with the hot summer sun upon us, it is a matter of LEAF safety policy, that all volunteers, visitors, and guests wear hats, apply sunscreen, and keep themselves hydrated. Please make sure to rest and avoid exerting yourself during the hottest part of the day.

Thank you!  
- The Board

## LEAF C. R. Stone Garden



Vegetarian War: Gopher 1: Stone Gardeners 1

A gopher snuck into Hugel Mound #2 by leaving his safe underground haven and climbing up and over the gopher wire barrier. It then did the unthinkable: it chomped on a melon plant and some almost-ready-to-harvest onions. Argh! We retaliated by harvesting all the onions and planting the rest of the melon plants in homemade gopher wire baskets. So there, you vegetarian foe!

## LEAF Nursery Plant Sale



**BIG THANKS** to everyone who purchased plants from our first No-Contact Plant Sale. Our kludged-together online process got a thumbs up from both plants and people. YAY!

### **Fun facts about the LEAF Nursery sales:**

- Over 120 catalog entries of veggies, herbs, flowers plus even one tree
- Our largest order was from a Stone Garden Volunteer for 101 plants. The second was 77 plants. WOW!

- Highest number of orders in one day was 38, our customer service and logistics skills were really tested that day!
- Customers came from as far away as east Oakland to the north and Saratoga from the south.
- Honey inventory sold out in 2 weeks. Our bees worked very hard but just couldn't keep up!
- 99% of our plants found a forever garden. The rest will be donated to a non-profit, a school, and a farm. That's happiness ; )

## LEAF Center



### **Gardener of the Month: Paul Sheppard - Planter #3**

Paul and his girlfriend are fairly new to the Niles community and have already jumped right in on the local garden scene. Paul is known for growing beautiful flowers and award-winning pumpkins. The planter rental was a Christmas gift from Paul's mother, who lives out of state. Isn't that sweet? LEAF Center Garden Manager Lisa Wills is pleased that he regularly tends to his garden.

There are still planters available for rent in both half and full sizes. If interested, contact [LEAF Center Garden Supervisor](#).



## Events - on hold

All LEAF events through June have been canceled.

Want to get involved? Become a Member of LEAF today!



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