It was with an optimistic spirit that Edwin Gamble, a son of the co-founder of Proctor and Gamble, led his family from their Kentucky farm to California. In 1902, they established a new home in Palo Alto near Stanford University. Elizabeth, one of the four children, after living in the family home her entire life, left the house and garden to the City of Palo Alto. In 1985, a group of energized citizens convinced the City to allow them to spearhead the revitalization of the property as a public garden with a horticultural and educational mission. Their optimism and hard work paid off; and now, thirty years later, the book, *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism*, celebrates the value of this community centerpiece, a model for others.

Our guest speakers are Susan Woodman and Jane Stocklin. Susan Woodman has volunteered at Gamble Garden for more than a decade. She is the author of the book *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism* and has devoted the last five years to its creation. Jane Stocklin is a long-time Gamble Garden volunteer serving in numerous Board positions during the last 25 years. Currently she co-chairs the Endowment Committee. Both Susan and Jane live in Palo Alto, love gardens, travel, reading and have learned a great deal about the publishing business in the last few years. Join us to discover how Gamble Garden continues to make Palo Alto a great community.
Before “Silicon Valley”

Long before April 1971 when Don Hoefler used the term “Silicon Valley” in his column in the *Electronic News*, there had been electronics in the Santa Clara Valley. The key element for radio and electronics was the vacuum tube, developed from a 1906 invention by Lee deForest, who lived and worked in Palo Alto in 1912 as an employee of the Federal Telegraph Company, founded by Stanford Graduate Cyril Elwell. The company had a research laboratory at the corner of Channing and Emerson streets, now memorialized there by a bronze plaque. Stanford’s Frederick E. Terman published a detailed book *Radio Engineering* in 1932 which was then a fairly complete description of the art at the time. The term “electronics” derives from the vacuum tube, also known as “electron tube.”

WWII and its aftermath sparked the valley becoming a major electronics research and manufacturing center. Hewlett-Packard Co. was already established in 1939 and was shortly enlisted to manufacture critical electronics equipment for the war effort. Eitel-McCullough (Eimac), incorporated in 1934, refined the use of high temperature materials and ceramics in the manufacture of high-power vacuum tubes and made enormous quantities in support of the war effort. Stanford physicist W.W. Hansen and graduate students Russell and Sigurd Varian developed the klystron tube during the war years which was manufactured by Sperry on Long Island. These tubes were used for radar, urgently needed for locating enemy aircraft and warships. Hansen, the Varian Brothers and other Stanford people founded Varian Associates in 1948 to further develop and manufacture klystron tubes.

With the Korean Conflict and the Cold War, electronics for military applications remained urgently needed after WWII. The industry continued to develop in the area with major firms like Watkins-Johnson, Applied Technology, Lockheed, Stanford Research Institute, and many smaller firms. Stanford’s 1951 development of the Stanford Industrial Park brought together a large collection of electronics firms with military and non-military products.

Semiconductor devices were developed, silicon replaced germanium as the material of choice for transistors and in 1958, Jean Hoerni at Fairchild developed the planar process to form highly reliable silicon transistors. Vacuum tube designs quickly migrated to transistors, due to their smaller size, lower power consumption and long operating life. Now the electronics and computer industry depend on integrated circuits, many of which have their origins in “Silicon Valley.” Specialized vacuum tubes continue to serve for high power microwave and x-ray applications.
The Archives Need Your Help

On an irregular basis I like to remind you that the Archives needs your help if we want to continue to build and maintain the collection of Palo Alto history material found there. For some of you, my constant reminders may seem repetitious but if my message reaches only a few of you at the right time, we may all benefit.

If you are cleaning out files, closets, basements or garages and find documents, photographs, maps or other printed material (and you or your family no longer wants it), please consider donating the stuff to the Archives. Remember, if we don’t need it, we will recycle the stuff.

We have a special need for school yearbooks and telephone books. Since the Archives is no longer in the old Main Library, their collection of yearbooks and old telephone books is no longer directly accessible to our researchers. Yearbooks from any of the local high schools, including the private schools, and junior high school (middle school) yearbooks are needed. If you or your children no longer seem interested in these books, please consider donating them. If you happen to have an old telephone book (even if it is “only” five or ten years old), we need them too.

I am always seeking photographs of Palo Alto scenes to add to the collection. It may surprise you to learn that we need photos of the last 25 years, perhaps even more so than earlier images. If your images are digital rather than prints, we still are interested. Please consider a download of your images.

A final request – the old standard from most non-profits — money. Last summer, we received a grant from the Palo Alto Weekly to assist in developing third grade curriculum for their study of Palo Alto history, as developed by high school students. Rachael Kellerman and I would like to expand upon last year’s effort by engaging several more high school students this summer. By appealing to you for a modest donation (tax deductible of course) we can avoid the grant writing process. We would love to accept several donations of $100, $200 or even $500.

I have been reminded that some of you may not be aware that the Archives is now located in the Cubberley Community Center, room K-7. Please feel free to drop in for a visit during our hours and see what treasures we have. We are open Tuesdays 4–8 PM and Thursdays 1–5 PM.
San Mateo County History Museum’s new exhibit, “Let’s Play Ball,” on view until September 2016, depicts aspects of semi-professional and professional baseball, 1900s to the present. About 92 teams existed at various times in the county. Also featured are professional players who grew up in the county or lived there after retirement. Presentations include films, photographs, historic equipment, uniforms, baseball cards, advertisements, and rare souvenirs. Open daily 10–4, closed Monday. www.historysmc.org or 650.299.0104.

Canopy and the City of Palo Alto will plant up to 50 trees in South Palo Alto’s Ventura neighborhood. To volunteer, email maika@canopy.org. Canopy’s goal is to bring life-giving benefits of trees to Mid-Peninsula schools, neighborhoods, and public spaces. This spring, the organization is a Community Partner with Palo Alto Adult School. Canopy is at 3921 East Bayshore Rd. More at info@canopy.org.

Museum of American Heritage sponsors “Repair Café Palo Alto” to encourage the reuse of goods rather than relegating them to landfill. The next event is scheduled for May 31 at the Museum at 351 Homer Ave. Call or check MOAH online for more details. Free admission, open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays 11 to 4:00 pm., 650.321.1004.

Palo Alto Art Center has a new catalogue of schedules and a quick guide for adults and children. Also, Foundation members only have a unique opportunity to take a private tour on May 9 of the Oliver Ranch in Sonoma County, home to 18 remarkable, site-specific installations by artists such as Ann Hamilton, Richard Serra, and Andy Goldsworthy. This former sheep pasture has become a renowned sculpture ranch, not open to the general public.

TheatreWorks is showing The Lake Effect by Rajiv Joseph until March 29. The online description mentions “a shuttered Indian restaurant...a spicy menu of family secrets...and mature language.” Lucie Stern Theatre is at 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto: box office 650.463.1960, check online for more information.