DAHLIA TIMES

May 2026

San Leandro Dahlia Society

Vera May

May 2026 Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Social Hour: 6:30 - 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Church of Christ

601 MacArthur Blvd

San Leandro CA 94577 (parking in the rear)

May 2026 Meeting

SLDS MEETING AGENDA TEMPLATE

Tuesday May 19, 2026

6:30 PM Social Time

7:00 PM Meeting
Church of Christ
601 MacArthur Blvd (parking in the rear)
San Leandro CA 94577

AGENDA **Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

- Welcome
- Introduction of visitors and members
- Announcements
- Approval of minutes and Treasurers report
- May 23rd Pop Up Sale
- June 6th Cherry Festival
- Program-Jim Heilig, Ph.D Huron Plant Technologies
- Growing Q & A
- Next meeting June 16, 2026

Next meeting June 16, 2026

Meet Our Guest Speaker

Jim is originally from Michigan and has been passionate about plants and gardening since childhood. He began gardening with his grandmother, who bought him his first dahlias, and went on to earn a B.S. in Horticulture from Michigan State University.

After working for the State of Michigan as an agricultural inspector, he returned to Michigan State to pursue a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology. His dissertation examined dry bean (Phaseolus vulgaris) performance under organic production and the genetics of symbiotic nitrogen fixation.

Following his Ph.D., Jim relocated to California to join Driscoll's in Watsonville as a Raspberry Prebreeder. There he focused on introgressing novel traits from exotic germplasm to improve commercial cultivars, evaluating material for disease resistance, flavor, and plant habit, and developing molecular markers to support commercial breeding. He also founded and managed the Rubus tissue-culture lab, developing
protocols to reliably propagate raspberry germplasm.

In 2025 Jim founded Huron Plant Technologies, LLC, building a tissue-culture laboratory informed by his experience germinating orchid seed and raising seedlings in sterile culture. He continues to work with orchids (sowing seed for other breeders) and runs tissue-culture projects for a range of crops. Jim applied meristem-culture techniques to learn virus-clean production for dahlias and now collaborates with dahlia breeders and hobbyists to clean and supply virus-free planting material. Huron Plant Technologies offers virus-free dahlias and tailored tissue-culture services to breeders and growers.

President's Message

May is here—finally! It's one of my favorite months, thanks to the warmer weather that brings tubers sprouting in our gardens. Many of us are busy planting the tubers and plants we purchased online or at our April sale. Be sure to stretch your back, knees, and joints before and after planting—gardening is a physical activity, as we all know. Personally, I take a few ibuprofen when I have a full day in the garden planned.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our April Tuber and Plant Sale a big success! The SLDS members truly showed up and shined—we surpassed last year's sales by $1,000. The layout was beautifully organized, giving buyers plenty of space both indoors and outdoors to search for their desired dahlias. The tubers and plants looked fantastic. Many of the buyers I spoke with were new to dahlias, which is always exciting to see. Evergreen Nursery generously provided 15% off coupons to all attendees, and Mack's Garden Supply donated samples of their latest non-toxic fertilizers while supplies lasted.

We still have a good selection of tubers and flats of plants remaining, so we've planned a "Dahlia Pop-Up Sale" for May 23rd at Danice Friend's home, located diagonally across from Casa Peralta—where we'll also have a booth at the Cherry Festival on June 6th. Conveniently, our remaining inventory is already stored in Danice and Earl's yard. Additional donations of tubers and plants are welcome if you have extras to share. See below for more details about both the Dahlia Pop-Up Sale and the Cherry Festival.

Our May 19th meeting program will feature Jim Heilig, the founder of Huron Plant Technologies, LLC, who will explain how tissue culture is used to produce virus-clear plants. He will have a selection of dahlia plugs available for sale. We are excited to learn more about the science to improve plant health.

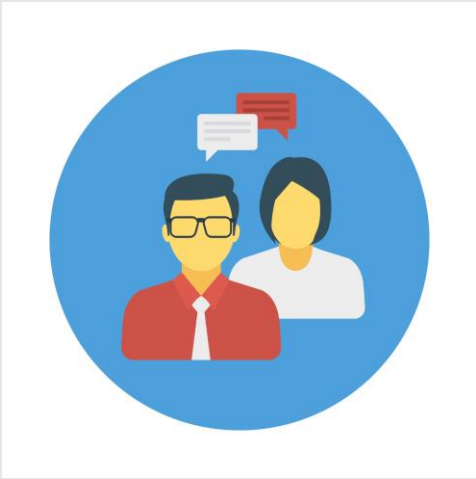
We look forward to seeing you soon.

Ellen

Meet Our Leadership Team

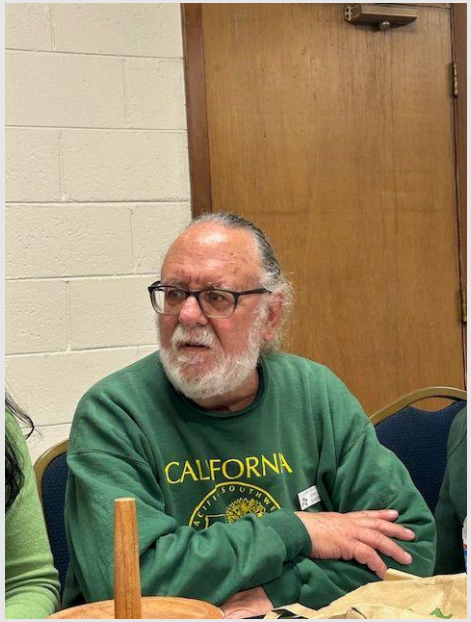
Ellen Muir, President

Chris Dix, Vice President



Secretary-Help Wanted

Frances Kawaguchi
Treasurer



John Morton
Board Member

Quamrun Eldridge
Board Member

Cristina Estrada
Board Member

SLDS Flowers of the Year 2026

JJ's Eliot

Venus

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 19, 2026	SLDS Monthly Meeting
June 2, 2026	*TBD, Proposed Quarterly Board Meeting*
Saturday, June 6, 2026	San Leandro Cherry Festival
June 16, 2026	SLDS Monthly Meeting
July 21, 2026	*SLDS Monthly Meeting*
July 25, 2026	Judge Training Seminar
August 8 & 9 2026	Central Coast Dahlia Show , https://www.centralcoastdahlias.org/
August 15 & 16, 2026	Dahlia Society of California Show, https://www.sfdahlias.org/
August 18, 2026	SLDS Monthly Meeting
August 22 & 23, 2026	Monterey Bay Dahlia Show, https://www.mbdahlias.org/
September 1, 2026	*TBD, Proposed Quarterly Board Meeting*
September 5 & 6, 2026	SLDS Dahlia Show, Lake Merritt,
September 15, 2026	*SLDS Monthly Meeting*
September 19, 2026	Sierra Nevada Dahlia Society Show, www.sierranevadadahliasociety.org
October 15-17, 2026	Autumn Lights Festival, Gardens at Lake Merritt
October 20, 2026	SLDS Monthly Meeting
Planning begins fall 2026	2027 February PSW Conference
November 17, 2026	*SLDS Elections and SLDS Monthly Meeting*

General Meeting Minutes: April 21, 2026

San Leandro Dahlia Society Minutes April 21,2026 The meeting started at 7:13

Announcements:
Erin showed the sign that Linda created for the public gardens.. Kristi would prefer it in dark green. People like the sign.
John told us about his new neighbor who has a landscape business named Dahlia.

Minutes:
Curtis moved and John seconded to accept the short minutes from the last meeting.
Treasurer's report: We are solvent.
Tuber sale plans: More people volunteered. Friday will be setup. Place your tubers in the proper place by size and shape.
Members only sale 9 - 10 AM Saturday. $1 discount on each item
Have your phone charged…bookmark ADS website to show people what the tuber flower looks like.
Square - ap. Everything will go through Square for tax purposes. Cash - check - venmo - credit
Jeff will store some of the leftovers as will Danice, so they will be available at the Cherry Festival.
Cherry Festival will be discussed at the next meeting.
Alameda County Fair - we will give away whatever plants are left.
San Leandro Historical Society wants to have a joint function on Thursday, August 27, at the Casa Peralta garden as a fundraiser for the casa and the Little Brown Church.
Kristi told us about the $1,500 grant application she applied for - for beautiful things in San Leandro..
Raffle of tubers - we all brought in tubers to raffle off.
Garden Q and A by Chris, John and Curtis Highlights:
** Use Slug Plus to prevent snails, slugs and earwigs from munching your sweet little plants.
** Fertigation is a cool word meaning you use a liquid fertilizer in your water system, thus watering and fertilizing at the same time.
**Sul-po-mag the three elements that are needed to grow plants - sulfur, potassium and magnesium. The ratio should be 3-1-2 proportion Water deeply for the roots to benefit.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted, Beverly Dahlstedt (not secretary)

Dahlia Talk

Subject: Dahlia Talk April 2026 from the American Dahlia Society

Here is timely information on fertilizing that Curtis Maxwell wanted to share from our last meeting.

Here is the link to the YouTube video directly from the Garden Fundamentals site. The link in the below article is problematic.
https://youtu.be/_NJK3LFeFhc?si=sd3oEyIUnWl_h20c

Many of us are trying to go as organic as possible. This is enjoyed. https://youtu.be/2rso_e_uBs0?si=sJUsfMCsVeOX0dXp
He has over 250 YouTube videos!

Enjoy, Ellen

Dahlia Pop-Up Sale May 23rd 11-2:30 PM

We have scheduled a “Pop-Up” sale at the driveway of Danice and Earl Friend’s, 1315 Clark Street and Estudillo, San Leandro.

Their home is a beautiful yellow historic Victorian that is easy to find across from St. Leander’s School. The driveway on Estudillo Avenue is where we will set up tables and canopies for the sale.

All hands are welcome to set up starting at 10 a.m. and clean up starting at 2:30. There will be no formal sign up.

Come as you can help buyers and with sales. Donations of extra tubers/plants are welcome. All tubers and plants will be $2.00 off the previous sale
prices.

HELP GET THE WORD OUT BY POSTING TO YOUR GARDEN GROUPS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

Quiet Improvements

From the Systems Desk: Quiet Improvements Behind the Scenes

Over the past few months, I have been working on a set of behind-the-scenes updates aimed at making it easier to join, stay connected, and participate in the society. Most of this work will not be highly visible day to day, but it should make a meaningful difference in how smoothly things run for both members and volunteers.

The main focus has been on three areas: how we handle payments, how we communicate, and how we welcome new (and renewing) members.

On the payment side, we are continuing to standardize around Square, a flexible payment service. The goal is simple: one consistent system for tracking memberships, sales, and event transactions. This helps us keep better records, reduces confusion at events, and makes it easier for volunteers to step in and help without needing to learn multiple processes. It also ensures that when someone joins or renews, we have the basic information we need to stay in touch.

On the communications side, we are building out our use of an email platform called MailerLite. This will allow us to send more consistent emails, including newsletters, event reminders, and occasional updates. More importantly, it gives us a way to organize our contact lists so that members receive what they need, while also keeping our broader community informed about things like the tuber sale and annual show.

The third piece is member welcoming. When someone joins the society (or renews), we want that experience to feel welcoming and clear from the start. We are putting together a simple email sequence that introduces new members to what we do, how to get involved, and where to find resources. Nothing complicated, just a friendly way to help people get oriented and feel part of the group.

All of this work is in service of a larger goal: reducing friction. The easier it is for someone to join, understand what is happening, and participate, the stronger the society becomes. In practice, our biggest challenge is not a shortage of willing or capable members, but making it easier for people to step in and help without things feeling complicated or unclear.You will continue to see small changes over time, but the intent is not to overhaul how we operate. It is to support what already works well and make it more sustainable.

If you have feedback as these pieces roll out, I would be glad to hear it.

— Kristi

dashboard.mailerlite.com/campaigns/status/ready

view.mailerlite.io/preview/2308333/e Copy URL

Desktop Mobile

MailerLite Dashboard for Renewal Email

Hello ,

It is time to renew your San Leandro Dahlia Society membership for the 2026–27 season.

If you have not yet renewed, please take a moment to do so here:
Click here to renew

Annual dues remain $10, and your membership supports everything the society does throughout the year — monthly meetings, the tuber sale

8:42 100

Tap to Pay

Items

Square Cashier Screen

Search items

31	31 - Tuber - Standard	$8.00
32	32 - Tuber - Premium	$10.00
33	33 - Plant - Standard	$12.00
34	34 - Plant - Premium	$14.00
35	35 - Seeds	$1.50
36	36 - Surprise tuber	$3.00
37	37 - Plant Virus Free	$20.00
	40 - Donation	7 Prices

Review sale

Chec... Trans... Banki... Notifi... 3 More

Volunteers Wanted

…for the Casa Peralta Dahlia Garden

The Casa Peralta dahlia garden has been part of San Leandro for more than 60 years and now includes about 200 plants. It is a rewarding space to work in, and I would enjoy bringing a few more people into the process.

I am looking for a small number of volunteers to help care for the garden. Work is organized in a guided way so that the garden stays consistent and healthy. Everyone starts with basic tasks such as weeding and cleanup, with opportunities to take on more detailed work over time.

When
I am usually in the garden:

- Saturday mornings
- Some weekday afternoons (generally 3–7 PM, timing varies)

There is no fixed schedule. You are welcome to join when it fits your availability.

Good fit if you:

- Enjoy careful, hands-on gardening
- Are comfortable following guidance
- Are interested in learning more about growing dahlias

No prior experience is required.

Interested?
Please reach out and share a bit about your availability.

--Kristi

San Leandro Cherry Festival

San Leandro Cherry Festival June 6th

2026 will be our dahlia society's 3 rd year at the San Leandro Cherry Festival. In 2025, over 30,000 people came out to see the San Leandro Cherry Parade and celebrate the San Leandro Cherry Festival! The parade starts at the San Leandro BART station at 10 a.m. and ends at the Main Library on Estudillo Avenue. There are multiple food and craft vendors, live entertainment and more.

https://www.facebook.com/sanleandrocherryfestival/ or https://downtownsanleandro.com/cherryfest/

Volunteers are needed to set up tables and our canopy starting at 9 a.m. at our booth at 384 W. Estudillo in front of the main gate to Casa Peralta. After the tables and merch is set up, we will transport tubers and plants by a "wagon train" to our booth from Danice's home kitty corner from Casa Peralta. The Cherry Festival ends at 5 p.m.

Volunteers who help with sales and buyer education and support will have breaks to visit the vendors and food booths, concerts or participate in the cherry pie eating and baking contests. Here is the link to sign up for shifts.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hGRSNPB62feTulY_Mqb-5cTQZxSD7S0m6mpS9e-h1m4/edit?usp=sharing

LATEST NEWS

We have some exciting news to share: the San Leandro Dahlia Society has been awarded a $1,500 Arts & Culture Grant from the City of San Leandro for our project, *"Art in Bloom: Five Months of Public Dahlia Displays Across San Leandro."*

This is a nice recognition of the work our members have been doing for many years to care for our public gardens in San Leandro to share dahlias with the community. From the Casa Peralta garden to the new garden at Mulford Garden, and our public events and displays, the society has become part of San Leandro's cultural and gardening life, and it is wonderful to see that acknowledged.

We plan to use the grant funds in several practical ways that will help us improve both our outreach and our public presentation. Some of the funding will go toward expanding our social media and email outreach so more local residents hear about our gardens, events, displays, tuber sales, and flower show. We also hope to improve signage in our public gardens and invest in a few event supplies, including a pop-up canopy for outreach events and public displays. We also plan to use some of the money to support the gardens themselves in the form of amendments, pest control and fertilizers.

These may be simple behind-the-scenes improvements, but they make a real difference in showcasing the gardens and helping the society look organized, welcoming, and visible to the public. A good sign, a shaded booth on a hot day, or a well-timed social media post can bring in community members who otherwise might never discover us.

Thank you to everyone who helps make these projects possible, whether through gardening, setup, outreach, cashiering, mentoring new growers, or simply showing up and supporting the society throughout the year. This grant really reflects the combined effort of many volunteers over a long period of time.

We are looking forward to putting the funds to good use and sharing more with everyone as the season progresses.

Kristi Whitfield

Time to renew. . . . Membership Dues

San Leandro Dahlia Society Annual Dues
Please remit by May 1, 2026
Term May 01 2026 - April 30 2027

Our local society dues are $10, collected annually. Please use these links, fill out the form, to renew your household membership. The national American Dahlia Society (ADS) dues are separate and collected directly through their own national website.

Links for memberships

New Member:
https://square.link/u/rUL8OLF6

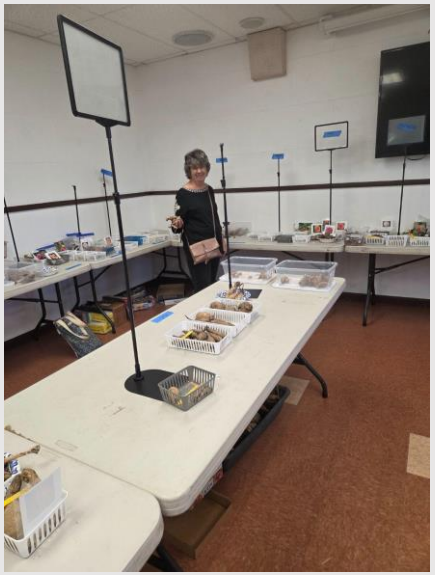
Membership Renewal:
https://square.link/u/jIWjWkvP

Considering that our annual dues are a bargain by most standards, we welcome additional donations and show sponsorships with sincere appreciation. We are a non-profit organization.

Annual Plant & Tuber Sale Thank You Volunteers

San Leandro Dahlia Soc

San Leandro Dahlia Society



AA

AA

Wanted: Volunteers to talk *DAHLIAS* at the Alameda County Fair!

SATURDAYS JUNE 20, 27 and JULY 18

Time: 11:30am-4:30pm

Shift times:

*11:30am-2pm (w/setup)

* 2pm to 4:30pm (w/take down)

Volunteers receive a parking pass and free admission (2)

Enter the weekly garden competition for fun!

2026-Adult-Gardening-Entry-Guide_Initial.pdf

Contact frkawaguchi@gmail.com for info or to sign up.

Do You Need A Name Tag? $10

Curtis Maxwell is graciously ordering name tags for our new members.
If you do not have a name tag, email Curtis with the correct spelling of the name you want on your tag. The price is $10. SLDS members wear them at conferences, shows, sales, and events so the public knows where to go for questions.
Contact Curtis at cgmax@sbcglobal.net.

Dahlia 2025 SLDS Show Photos

Jong Lee, Olivia Colt Lee's husband, volunteered to chronicle our 2025 SLDS Show. Here are the results of his hard work, incredible photos of the beautiful blooms and beautiful people. Please enjoy!
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mnmBiZqoihaOYCPfKjfSdaVnOOJrcYGd?usp=sharing

Pacific Southwest Conference News

Good Evening!

We'd like to invite you and your members to attend our society's Dahlia Show on Saturday, September 19, at the Reno Public Market in Reno, NV.

We're excited to host this year's show at the Reno Public Market, a vibrant venue centrally located in Reno, and we would love to have participation from the Pacific Southwest societies! We've secured a discounted hotel room block at the Aloft Reno located just 5 minutes from the show venue. You'll find the group rate link and additional show details below.

Sierra Nevada Dahlia Society Dahlia Show

- Date: September 19, 2026
- Location: Upper Mezzanine, Reno Public Market.
- 299 E Plumb Lane, Reno, NV
- Group Rate Hotel Link

Please feel free to share this invitation with your members.

Thank you!
Shannon

DISCOUNT QUALITY INN CENTRAL COAST SHOW

Thank you Ellen

Hi All,

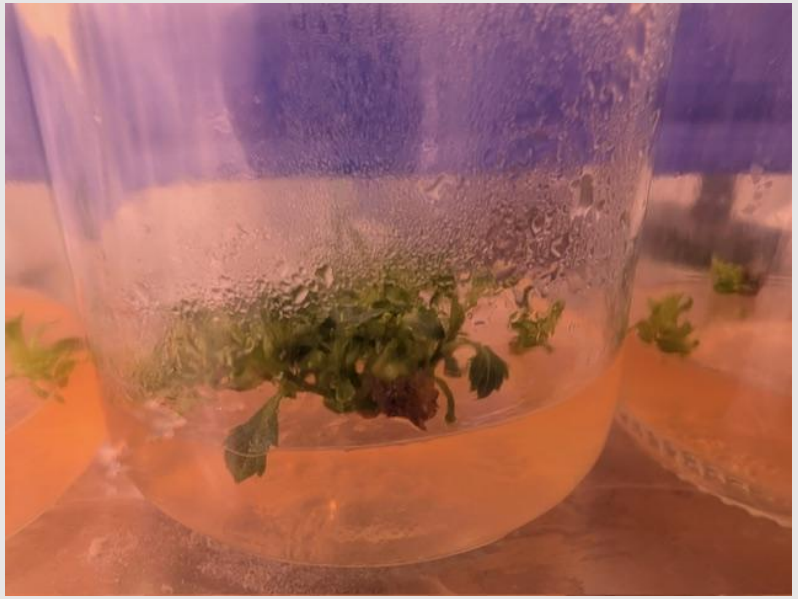
I contacted the Quality Inn in SLO who referred me to their corporate contact for a group rate, Casey Amoelib. She was very helpful and I saved on my previous reservation rate. How can we share this information with our members who will be attending the show? She suggested that people book early as the rates will go up the closer to the event.

Please use the link below to begin making reservations at the discounted rate.

http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/en-US/html/ArrivalInfo?hotel=CA702&srp=LSMERF&pu=no

CHOICE HOTELS®

Meristem Culture Project Recent News



Jim Helig sent this. These little sprouts are after two months of very careful scientific nurturing.

They are now nearly ready to begin more normal and rapid development.

The photo appears somewhat blurry as they are growing in a small glass jar

Curtis Maxwell

Diane Bond is spearheading a club project with her friend Jim at Huron Plant Technologies to propagate virus clear dahlia plugs via meristem cultures. Here is a link to learn more about the process. https://mybiologydictionary.com/meristem-culture-for-virus-free-plant-propagation/ The Board and members voted to invest funds for Jim to propagate virus free plugs for our two 2026 flowers of the year: Venus and John Morton's JJ's Elliot. Diane is transporting the chosen tubers to Jim to start the process.

Jim is also selling a handful of plugs of a handful of dahlia cultivars at Huron Plant Technologies. Diane is in contact with Jim frequently through their orchid community and offered to pick up plugs ordered by members.

American Dahlia Society Upcoming Shows

2026 – August 27-30 – Western Michigan Dahlia Society will host at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, 1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI. **Subscribe for show updates.** or https://westmidahlia.com/ads-2026-show-newsletter/

Upcoming Shows

2026 – August 27-30.

Western Michigan Dahlia Society will host at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, 1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI

Subscribe for show updates.

2027 – The Rochester N.Y. Dahlia Society is hard at work planning a great show.

2028 – The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society was recently chosen to host this show at Longwood Gardens.

May 1st is the membership anniversary date for many ADS members.

Those ADS members with a Paid Thru Date of May 1, 2026 date have about two and half weeks to pay their ADS dues and retain their membership.

Please talk to those members and encourage them to do so online.

https://www.dahlia.org/

WANTED, FOR SALE, MISCELLANEOUS

Anyone with Olivia Maureen tubers please bring them to the meeting on Tuesday.

Thanks, Chris Dix.

These glass panes , 22”x22”, could be used to construct a cold frame. Anyone who would like to have them, contact Curtis. 925-259-1816

NEEDED

Event Coordinators

Event coordinators are needed to take charge of each of our 2025 annual events, with the support of club members. Think about which interests you.

- Tuber/Small Plant Sale > April 25, 2026
- San Leandro Cherry Festival >June 8, 2026
- Judge Training Seminar >July 25, 2026
- Autumn Lights Festival > October 2026
- 2027 February PSW Conference >planning begins fall 2026

Meeting Raffle Volunteer

A popular feature at our monthly meetings has been a raffle of mostly garden related items donated by attendees. A volunteer is needed to distribute and collect raffle tickets (furnished) and depending upon the number of items donated, pull names from the raffle coffee can between meeting agenda items. It is an easy job, and you will earn plenty of smiles from the people whose names you call out. If you are willing, see Ellen before the start of the November meeting.

Send newsletter content, comments, suggestions by 5 pm 2nd Tuesday each month to LindaBailey137@gmail.com or

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JTFSWfKFXU7dL4SDdZrRtGIUC-9bZGDe?usp=sharing

SLDS Website: https://www.sanleandrodahliasociety.org/

SLDS Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/243574223716397

American Dahlia Society
https://www.dahlia.org/
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