

FOR THE ARTS, HUMANITIES, RECREATION, EDUCATION AND ECOLOGY

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Community Supported Agriculture Conference Featured speaker Cathrine Sneed, The Garden Project. See article.
Photo: J. Patrick Forden

COMMUNITY & AGRICULTURE

Community Supported Agriculture West presents "Strengthening Our Communities Through Farming and Gardening," a discussion about creating a healthy and viable food system with three leaders of the movement. These inspirational women present their unique perspectives on community and agriculture.

Helena Norberg-Hodge, Director of the International Society for Ecology and Culture, works to promote human-scale alternatives to the dominant development paradigm. She is the author of *Ancient Futures*, co-author of *From The Ground Up: Rethinking Agriculture*, and co-editor of *The Future of Progress*.

Cathrine Sneed, Special Assistant to the San Francisco Sheriff and Director of The Garden Project, believes that taking care of and growing plants not only beautifies and feeds the community, but also saves lives. She has created one of the most innovative rehabilitation programs in California's penal system—an organic farm and garden for inmates as well as a garden program for her post-release students.

Alice Waters, a lifelong advocate for serving in-season, locally grown, organic produce, promotes the link between fine dining and ecological farming through her books, community outreach, and Chez Panisse, the renowned Berkeley restaurant.

The program is presented in conjunction with the first Western Region Community Supported Agriculture Conference, "On the Path to Partnerships Between Farms and Communities." The conference is open to anyone interested in CSAs and sustainable farming: growers, consumers, educators, students, community and rural development specialists, journalists, food security advocates and policy makers.

Community Supported Agriculture is a term for farms that have a direct relationship with a community of consumers. Individual farms are known as CSAs. The movement is spreading "like wildflowers across the West." The conference goal is to promote the environmental, economic and community-building benefits of CSAs.

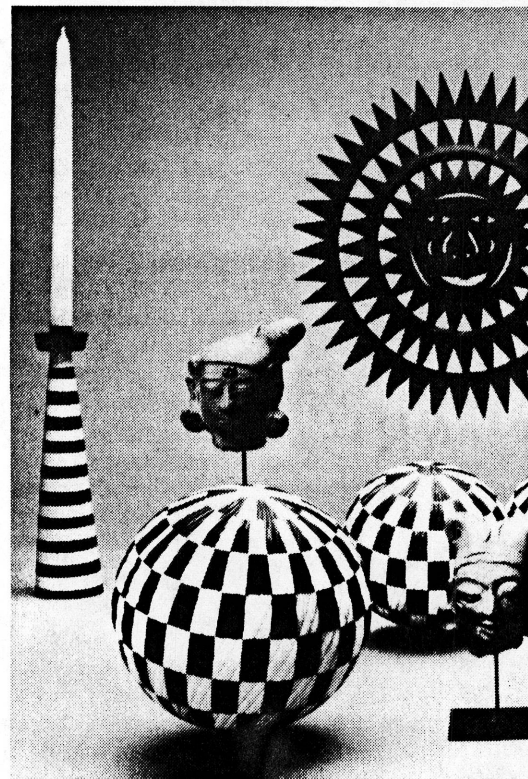
Since 1986, more than 450 CSAs have been established throughout the country. Each project tries to meet the unique needs of its farmers and members. In most cases, members pay a portion of production expenses at the beginning of the growing season, and in return receive weekly shares in the harvest.

Farmers get operating funds up front, secure a

market for the season, and develop a long-term community interest in the viability of their farm.

Consumers receive a diverse supply of fresh, in-season, organic produce, and are frequently invited to take part in life on the farm through events like workdays and potlucks. Reconnecting non-farmers with the land and the farmers that support them is an important part of Community Supported Agriculture.

The Conference takes place November 12 through 14. For details, see November 12. The public discussion is presented in the Cowell Theater on Monday, November 13 at 8pm. Admission is \$7 at the door, \$5 in advance. For tickets and information, call (408) 459-3964.



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