

**From:** [Zohar Lavy](#)  
**To:** [Lavy, Zohar \[US-US\]](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: From Zo..Thank Earth Garden Group  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:25:11 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zohar Lavy** <[thankearth1@gmail.com](mailto:thankearth1@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sat, Dec 2, 2023, 9:25 AM  
Subject: From Zo..Thank Earth Garden Group  
To: <[zohar.lavy1@gmail.com](mailto:zohar.lavy1@gmail.com)>

Hey guys!

It's been a couple of weeks but the cool vibe still remains! I plan on getting something more organized together as far as newsletter/info sheet but for now, below are the some topics to check out:

- [Summary of Garden Walk](#)
- [Seed Bank - seeds for next year](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

### **Summary of Garden Walk**

I wanted to put a little summary together for what we saw and learned about on 11/19 so here goes:

- Chicken poop and chicken coop compost and direct application to a garden over the winter really good for super nutrients
- Leave some plants like Swiss Chard in the ground over the winter and watch them bolt to seed really quickly during spring
- Rich demonstrated a great way to aerate your compost heap with a hand crank auger - here is a [Link \[amazon.com\]](#) to one but I am sure there are many others on the market. Extending the season with a simple hoop/plastic sheet structure is so awesome! Rich also showed us that there is an innovative way to create a reservoir of water beneath the soil within raised beds though he senses that there may be a way to make this more effective.
- Mike and Melissa had an amazing way to create a "back 40" within a suburban backyard using a fence where chickens can hang (without messing with the parts of the yard that you don't want them to mess with). They also showed us an amazing way to repurpose/use a cattle fence for climbing veggies. The heavy gauge was super sturdy and allows for an easy and cool way to grow squash, cucumbers, etc. Here is a [Link \[tractorsupply.com\]](#) to one at Tractor Supply but I am sure there are others.
- Judy showed us that steady soil amendments over decades within a few relatively small raised beds can continuously generate a good amount of produce. Also, the use of local (on-property) material for mulch is all you need to do the job.
- Ron rocked the casbah with the quart size fermenter for his peppers! Also, the earth must be a bit warmer in Ron's backyard because some of those plants looked like they were still in growth mode! So cool to be growing flax right there along the sidewalk. The micro compost piles was also an interesting idea. The fact that food scraps were not being thrown in the garbage for so many years is planet saving. I say its always better to create some CO2 in the garden vs CH4 in the landfill.

- April and Tim demonstrated that it's possible to take the backyard veggie production to the next level. Separating off the garden area with a simple wire mesh with U-Posts and woodchips for walking lanes is brilliant. The use of poly-culture throughout the growing area along with natural microbe/fungus/pest deterrents is really the name of the game! Neem oil is a common one but there are tons of other methods that should be considered! Also, use of local flora in that perimeter garden is perfect for promotion of beneficial arthropods (and other insects) - pollination as well as integration of symbiotic co-evolutions is certainly working wonders!
- looking forward to more garden grounding before the next growing season.

### **Seed Bank**

The very next day after the garden walk, April inherited many seeds from her lab and has graciously offered to give seeds to the group. Just so everyone understands, when April says many seeds, she means A LOT of seeds:

1 lb of yellow zinnia, 1 lb of amaranth, 3 lbs of carrot (4 varieties, Danvers, scarlet nantes, tendersweet, imperator), 2lbs of Utah tall celery, 1lb daikon radish, 1lb cherry Belle radish, 1lb of cilantro, 1/4 lb hamburg rooted parsley, 1lb giant Italian parsley, 1lb curly parsley, 1/4 lb red creole onion, 1/4 lb each regular and garlic chives, 1/4 lb bouquet dill, 1/4 lb blue curled scotch kale, 1 lb Copenhagen market cabbage, 1lb golden acre cabbage, 1 oz bibb lettuce, about 1/4 oz catnip... and there is almost a full pound of broccoli microgreens (cultivar name is agnostic which made me LOL) which will be great for microgreens workshop. If anyone is interested, let me know and I will coordinate with April for a way you guys can get them.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **12/10:**

- 1200 - 1250 - Yoga with Melissa at the YMD Studio on Reimer
- 1pm - 4pm - Soap Making Session. You can find more info and sign up [Here](#) [\[signupgenius.com\]](http://signupgenius.com)

#### **1/6/24:**

- 1000am - 1045am - Yoga with Melissa at the YMD Studio on Reimer
- 1100am - 230pm - Clay sculpting/pottery - Voyage with master potter Simon Keller - get clay-cleansed and connect to the earth. You can find out more info and sign up [Here](#) [\[signupgenius.com\]](http://signupgenius.com)

#### **1/21/23:**

- 1200am - 1250am - Yoga with Melissa at the YMD Studio on Reimer
- 1pm to 3pm - Microgreen training session with expert Dave Greico - details to follow

#### **1/30/23:**

- Jazz Night in downtown Somerville. Thank Earth, Fresh Restorations, and Connies Music Shop will be sponsoring a fundraiser for the SHS Music program. Details to follow

If you know others who would be interested in joining the group please let me know.

Thank you and Thank Earth!